

Newsletter

June 2008

Volume 52 #6

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◆
www.mpla.us

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Program handouts from the ULA/MPLA Conference are available at
<http://www.mpla.us/documents/handouts/2008/index.html>

New MPLA Officers Begin 2008-2009 Term



Newly elected officers began their terms at the end of the ULA/MPLA conference in Salt Lake City, May 2. Outgoing President Wayne Hanway passed the association's two gavels to Rob Banks at the MPLA Membership Meeting.

See more conference photos on pages 8, 9, and 14. and on the website at <http://www.mpla.us/documents/photos/2008/index.html>.



l-r: Wayne Hanway, Past-President; Annie Epperson, Recording Secretary; Eileen Wright, President-Elect; Robert Banks, President

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KANSAS
OKLAHOMA

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President's Message



I hope everyone returned safely home from the conference in Salt Lake City. Even though I'm writing this before the conference is over, I'm sure everyone had a great time!

I think back over the various MPLA conferences I have attended and each one of them was a great experience. Fantastic programs, excellent exhibitors, speakers and authors and most importantly, the time spent networking with friends from the entire region. I remember at my very first conference, we were working on a strategic plan. I knew a very few people, but immediately felt part of the group, because everyone wanted to get to know me and were genuinely interested in what I had to offer. Those people are still good friends whom I enjoy seeing every year at MPLA and other library functions. We email and call each other for help, advice and when needed, a shoulder to cry on.

MPLA has grown and flourished for 60 years and each member has their reason for belonging. For me, the hundreds of members are why I join year after year.

So many of those friends have helped me get to this point. I want to recognize several people who have been especially helpful: Wayne Hanway, Past President, has been an excellent mentor over the past year; all of the folks associated with the conference in Utah have been great to work with, Dorothy Horan, ULA President and Jeff Belliston, ULA Conference Chair have been exceptional; Carol Hammond and her band of historians who wrote the history of the last 10 years of MPLA; the program committee for the Utah conference helped look through a huge number of program proposals and gave input in a relatively short time; the 60th Birthday Bash Committee were great with ideas and stepped forward whenever asked; Hikmet Loe at the Salt Lake City Public Library, Donna Jones Morris and Jeri Openshaw at the Utah State Library were my local eyes and hands for the 60th Party and played a huge role in numerous aspects of the party, it could not have happened without them; my Executive Director, Gina Millsap and lots of the staff at my home library have been great support and provided help whenever needed; and probably most importantly, Judy Zelenski, MPLA Executive Secretary, has been invaluable in keeping me current and making me look good. Thank you to everyone.

If you have comments or suggestions about MPLA, I really want to hear them. We need to make our organization the best it can be. My contact information is in Memberclicks and on the website whenever you need to communicate with me.

I am looking forward to a great year!

--Rob

State of the Association Report

by Outgoing MPLA President Wayne Hanway
May 2, 2008 - Hilton Salt Lake City Center, Utah

The current state of the Mountain Plains Library Association is healthy.

- we have had a successful conference, thanks to many great people cooperating
- we have a new logo and slogan
- our membership numbers are good, up slightly
- we are evolving. The new Communities Portal will continue to develop; the Leadership Institute will become sustainable; there are opportunities for adding one or two more states to MPLA
- the newsletter, which is already online in color, is likely to go entirely online, and we will be looking at how to supplement it, using the Communities Portal, perhaps using RSS feeds or other ways to help keep members up with what is going on in MPLA
- I am proud of the new Unsung Hero Award, which invites MPLA members to recognize some of the many impressive accomplishments that happen throughout the mountain plains area but mostly slide under the radar of the library and general media.

Here is my vision for MPLA's future. MPLA will:

- be known not just for great conferences and a great leadership institute, but as both a dynamic community and a showcase for great people, providing opportunities for growth and development
- develop continuing recognition of MPLA's regional authors. A good starting place would be a web page with information about each of the authors who have won our Literary Contributions Award
- expand our continuing education offerings. We especially need to reach out to paraprofessionals
- put the association's finances on a more adequate long-term fiscal foundation. We must think like altruistic capitalists
- use technology to help build and expand our community, while keeping it the warm, committed, caring community it has been and is now
- be responsive to the needs and challenges of our members, our libraries, our region, and all the people we serve.

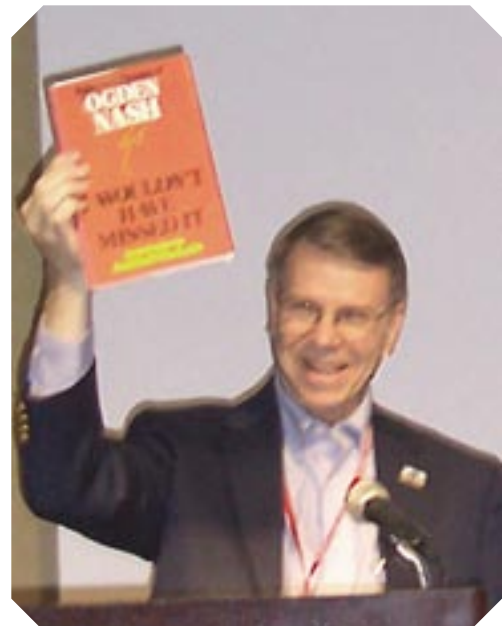
My charge to you is that each of you must be an advocate:

- telling people about MPLA
- recruiting
- selling the conference and other events
- seeking sponsors, presenters, and donors
- getting people involved and helping them succeed in their involvement.

It is an honor to have served as your MPLA President during this 60th year and time of change in the association. I am looking forward to future celebrations, including 70 years and 75 years.

As a dedicated librarian and book lover, I went shopping at Sam Weller's bookstore yesterday and found a used book, by Ogden Nash, that I have been wanting for years. I think the title expresses my feelings perfectly about the privilege of having served as President: "I Wouldn't Have Missed It."

Thank you.



MPLA History and Slide Show Presented for 60th Birthday Party



The History Committee with presentation copies: l-r: Judy Zelenski, Linda Rea, Marilyn Hinshaw, Dan Chaney, and Carol Hammond; with Birthday Party Emcee Rob Banks. Debbie Iverson (not shown) was also on the committee.

Annie Epperson with Jerry Hudson, MPLA members from Greeley CO, presented a slide show photo montage with historical photos from the association's archives at the Denver Public Library. Plans are underway for the slide show to be available on YouTube. Watch the MPLA website for future details.

MPLA: Expanding Horizons 1998-2008, an update of the history of the association's past 10 years, was officially unveiled at the 60th birthday party in Salt Lake City. The history is on the website at <http://www.mpla.us/about/MPLA%20History1998-2008.pdf>.



Jerry Hudson and Annie Epperson

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MPLA 2008 Award Winners

Winners of MPLA's 2008 Awards were recognized in April at the ULA/MPLA Conference Awards Banquet in Salt Lake City. They are:

The Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award was presented to **Mary Bushing** for the impact she has had on the MPLA region through her many programs to train staff at all levels in libraries of all kinds; her many years of service to MPLA on the Executive Board, task forces and committees, and conference presentations; and especially for her continued efforts in making the MPLA Leadership Institute one of the premier library leadership training institutes in the country.



MPLA Distinguished Service Award is presented to **Debbie Iverson**. As past president of MPLA, Debbie laid the ground work for a strong professional development emphasis in MPLA which continues today. She has given 32 years of outstanding service to the profession through her work in the Wyoming Library Association and MPLA. Debbie recently retired as Director of the Sheridan College in Wyoming. She was unable to attend the conference.

The MPLA Literary Contribution Award is given to **Kathleen O'Neal Gear** and **W. Michael Gear**, the authors of dozens of international best-sellers, which have been translated into seventeen languages including *The First North Americans* series, *Anasazi Series*, *Forbidden Borders Trilogy*, *Genetic Thriller Series*, and *Spider Trilogy*. Michael has published twelve novels under his own name and co-authored another seventeen with Kathleen.



The MPLA Beginning Professional Award is presented to **Bryan Tronstad**, University of Wyoming. He received his MLS in 2003 and has worked at the University of Wyoming since 2004. Bryan has embraced information literacy as an effective method for developing lifelong learning skills. He has had a

significant impact on library services and instruction at the University of Wyoming, which is influencing library instruction efforts in the region as well demonstrating a potential for continued influence on our profession for years to come.

MPLA Unsung Hero. The first year this award has been given, it has two winners:

Rosanne Siemens receives the Unsung Hero Award for her leadership of the Kansas Library Association after years of volunteer leadership. As Executive Director she guided the association to successfully operate with clear financial records, developed policies, presented information issues to legislators, and reorganized the organization.



Roger Carswell and **Liz Turner** of the Southeast Kansas Library System receive the Unsung Hero Award for funding and creating a showcase library that could inspire other libraries to do their own mini-makeovers.



Board Choice Award Winners were also recognized at the Conference during the Awards Banquet. They are:

Cheryl Walters, Head of the Digital Library Program at Utah State University (By-Laws and Procedures Representative's Award).

Sharon Morris, Director of Library Development and Innovation at the Colorado State Library (State Representative's Award).

Chris Hauser, Library Systems, Weber State University Stewart Library, UT (Committee Representative's Award).

Susan Stringer, Manager of the Tecumseh Public Library, OK (President's Award).

Marjorie Harrison, System Coordinator of the Panhandle Library System, Scottsbluff, NE (Past-President's Award).

Dr. Gwen Alexander, Dean, School of Library and Information Management, Emporia State University, Emporia, KS (President-Elect's Award).

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ULA/MPLA 2008 Conference



Webmaster Dan Chaney and Past President Jean Hatfield



Wayne Hanway with new MPLA lapel pin



Mary Ann Thompson at MPLA Reception in Presidents Suite



Patti Butcher promotes KU Jayhawks



Jane Hatch at Birthday Party



Judy Zelenski enjoys the History Slide Show



Dancing at the Birthday Bash: l-r Rob Banks, Laura Teske, Jean Hatfield, Camila Alire, Viola Wofford. Photo by Wayne Hanway



Jim Rettig, ALA President, Keynote Speaker

More Conference Photos



Executive Board Officers 2008-2009: l-r Past-President Wayne Hanway; Recording Secretary Annie Epperson; President-Elect Eileen Wright; President Rob Banks.



Dan Chaney shows off new MPLA display cloth



Sharon Osenga celebrates end of 3 years on Board



Keith Michael Fiels, ALA Executive Director, at MPLA Board Meeting



Wayne Hanway ends Presidential term at Membership Meeting

Holidays

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



**If all the year were playing holidays,
To sport would be as tedious as to work.**

--William Shakespeare

Americans celebrate a variety of religious, secular, ethnic, regional, local, and even international holidays; but there is no such thing as a 'National' holiday. The federal and state governments decide *legal* holidays which are marked by work closures and business transaction restrictions. Federal holidays (authorized by Congress) pertain only to federal employees and those of the District of Columbia though most states celebrate the same days with a paid legal holiday for state employees. Private employers are not bound to these laws.

In June of 1870, Congress authorized four legal holidays (New Year's Day, Independence Day, Day of Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day) for federal employees within the District of Columbia. It wasn't until 1885 that holidays were extended to *some* government employees working outside DC, and 1919 until *all* federal employees were included. Of over 1,100 proposals to Congress since 1870, only eleven permanent federal holidays were authorized:

New Year's Day – 1870

Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. – 1983
– The most recent federal holiday, this date was proposed every year after Dr. King's assassination in 1968, and didn't take effect until 1986. This holiday was controversial in several states as well - taking years to pass in legislatures; given alternate names (Human Rights Day), or combined with

other holidays (Lee-Jackson Day). It was not celebrated on its own in all 50 states until 2000.

Inauguration Day (DC Metropolitan Area Only) - 1957 – A traditional local DC holiday made permanent.

Washington's Birthday – 1879 – Never changed to *Presidents Day* for the federal holiday.

Memorial Day – (*originally* Decoration Day) 1888 – Many federal employees were Union civil War veterans who wanted to honor their fallen comrades without losing wages to do so.

Independence Day – 1870

Labor Day – 1894 – Proposed to honor the 'nobility of labor' and to allow rest and recreation so that workmen can be 'more useful' as craftsmen.

Columbus Day – 1968 – Officially marked in 45 states prior to 1968, this holiday celebrates the courage and determination of Columbus and all immigrants who have found freedom and opportunity in America.

Veterans Day – (*originally* Armistice Day) 1938 – The truce ending World War I went into effect on the 'eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month', hence November 11. On June 1, 1954, US involvement in WWII and Korea prompted the name change and the broadening of the scope to include all veterans.

Thanksgiving Day – (*originally* 'a Day of Thanksgiving') 1870/1941 – In 1789, George Washington issued a proclamation calling for 'a day of public Thanksgiving and prayer' on November 26th. In 1795 he called for a second such day, but on February 19th. President Lincoln started the tradition of celebrating the last Thursday in November in 1863 and went legal in 1870. The date was changed to the *third* Thursday of November by FDR in 1939, hoping to stretch out the Christmas retail season. Within two years, tradi-

tion won out and in 1941 Roosevelt signed the law fixing Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday in November.

Christmas Day – 1870

Monday Holidays – The 1968 legislation which created Columbus Day as the second Monday in October also changed the specific dates of Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day to specific Mondays within the month, a move supported by both labor and businesses. In 1975, Veterans Day was changed back to November 11th because many states (and veterans groups) never changed to Mondays. The MLK holiday was later 'Monday' authorized.

Sorry Punxsutawney Phil!



New Portal Administrator

MPLA member Roy Degler, Digital Library Services Librarian, Oklahoma State University is MPLA's first Community Portal Administrator. He will be responsible for managing, organizing, designing and maintaining the MPLA Community Portal, along with selection of Content Managers to be moderators for the forums. Watch for more information in upcoming newsletters and on the website: www.mpla.us.



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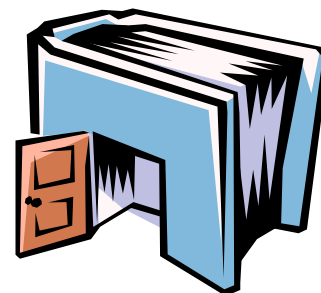
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New Mexico State University



Doña Ana Community College

Welcome New MPLA Members



Arizona

Tish Murphy
Library Furniture Consultant
Phoenix, AZ

Colorado

Cameron Duff
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Weld Library District;
Greeley, CO

Elayne Silversmith
Librarian, Fort Lewis College
Delaney Southwest Research
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Rebecca Paulson
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Grace Helm
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Nancy Schmidt
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CJI School
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Cloudcroft, NM

Susie McComb
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Moriarty, NM

Kathleen Teaze
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Kimberly Femling
Youth Services Librarian,
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Rio Rancho, NM

Theresa Valko
Instruction Coordinator, New
Mexico State University Library
Las Cruces, NM

Yvonne Marquez
Librarian, Gadsden
Chaparral, NM

North Dakota

Kathy Hintz
Trustee, Minot, ND

Oklahoma

Kathryn Plunkett
Cataloging Librarian, Southeastern
Oklahoma State Univ. Henry G.
Bennett Memorial Library
Durant, OK

Alice Rathe
School Librarian, Eugene Field
Elementary School; Tulsa, OK

Rosemary Story
Librarian, North High School
Oklahoma City, OK

Rhonda Donaldson
Access Services Librarian, Okla-
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Marvin E. McKee Library
Goodwell, OK

Linda Pye
Head of Technical Services,
Southwestern Oklahoma State
University Al Harris Library
Weatherford, OK

April Howenstine
Webpage/Graphic Designer,
Western Plains Library System
Clinton, OK

Christopher Elliott
Reference Librarian, Southeastern
Public Library System McAlester
Public Library; McAlester, OK

Alton (Tony) Hardeman
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College Library Resource Center
Altus, OK

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Tulsa, OK

Rebecca Howard
Literacy Coordinator, Tulsa City-
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Lake County Library Services
East Millcreek Library
Salt Lake City, UT

Claire Brisson-Banks
Sr. Staff Information Services Spe-
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Salt Lake City, UT

Tina Bartholoma
Youth Services Librarian, Salt
Lake County Library Services
Herriman Library; Herriman, UT

Fran Crookston
Library Technician, Salt Lake
Community College Jordan Cam-
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Jackie Brown
Library Director, Ephraim Library
Ephraim, UT

Mary Moore
Branch Library, Davis County
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Pamela Marshall
Cataloger, Grand County Library
Moab, UT

Miranda Rodriguez
Head Librarian, Brigham Young
University Salt Lake Center
Salt Lake City, UT

Shurrell Meyer
Director, San Juan County Library
Blanding Library; Blanding, UT

Wyoming

Janice Grover-Roosa
Head of Circulation and Refer-
ence, Sweetwater County Library
System White Mountain Library
Rock Springs, WY

Susan Worthen
Branch Manager, Uinta County
Library Lyman Branch;
Lyman, WY



60th Birthday Party!



MPLA Presidents Recognized: l-r: Wayne Hanway, Linda Rea, Carol Connor, Judy Zelenski, Blaine Hall (hidden), Sharon Osenga, Jerry Kaup, Beth Avery, Dorothy Liegl, Carol Hammond, Jean Hatfield, Donna Jones Morris, Marilyn Hinshaw, Jane Kolbe, Robert Banks (in back).



Rob Banks, Incoming President, emcees



Birthday Party Committee: l-r: Basha Hartley, Jean Hatfield, Wayne Hanway, Blaine Hall, Annie Epperson, Rob Banks



*Executive Secretaries
Joe Edelen and Judy Zelenski*



Presidents offer toast at cake-cutting: l-r: Linda Rea, Jerry Kaup, Jane Kolbe, Sharon Osenga (behind), Wayne Hanway, Marilyn Hinshaw, Blaine Hall, Donna Morris (behind) Jean Hatfield (behind), Judy Zelenski, Rob Banks.

Around the Region

Arizona

Arizona readers are currently using *These is My Words* by Nancy E. Turner for the 2008 *OneBookAZ*. Kids are reading *Danger in the Desert* by Terri Fields. See <http://onebookaz.org/> for more information.

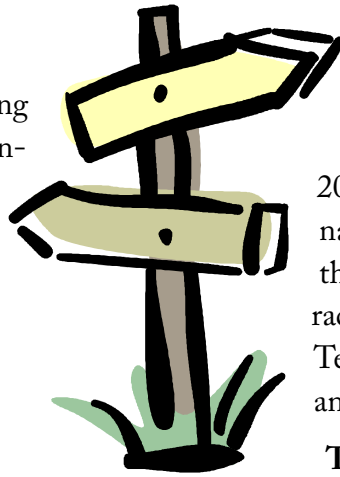
The Mesa School District proposed to eliminate all school librarians, nurses and speech pathologists in their school district. The Phoenix-area district has 87 schools and serves 74,000 students and has been one of the top school districts in the country. Librarians demonstrated at an April board meeting, carrying signs in support of the District's librarians.

Arizona is an active participant in TechSoup's *MaintainIT* project which produces *Cookbooks* that address common Library computer issues. The Cookbook Co-hort is a forum connecting librarians to discuss problems, projects and success stories. See <http://maintainitproject.org/cookbookcohort>

From June 5-8, 2008, the 23rd Annual Conference for the North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG) will be held at the Tapatio Cliffs resort in Phoenix Arizona.

Colorado

Collaboration in the Digital Age is set for June 24-25, 2008 in Denver. The program--organized in cooperation with Heritage Preservation, the Denver Public Library, the Colorado Historical Society, and the Denver Art Museum--is part of Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action, an IMLS initiative to save endangered collections in



the nation's museums and libraries.

Cameron Duff, MPLA member and a 2007 Leadership Institute Fellow, has been named Collection Resources Manager for the Weld Library District in Greeley, Colorado. The position manages Acquisitions, Technical Services, Collection Development and Inter-Library Loan.

The Bibliographical Center for Research (BCR) in cooperation with RUSA, (Reference and User Services Association), an ALA Division, is sponsoring A Reference Renaissance: Current and Future Trends conference August 4-5 in Denver. For more information contact Brenda Bailey-Hainer, bbailey@bcr.org.

Mary Katherine Katzer, Member Services



Manager for the Mar-mot Li-brary Net-work based in Grand Junction, is MPLA's new Colo-rado Rep-resentative. She is a pre-vious winner of a Board

Choice Membership Award and is a 2007 MPLA Leadership Institute fellow.

Liz Bishoff is joining BCR as Director of Digital and Preservation Services. She previously served as the first Executive Director of the Colorado Digitization Project.

Dr. Camila Alire, Dean Emerita of the Colorado State University and University of New Mexico Libraries, recently won the election for American Library Association President-Elect. Camila is a member of MPLA and resident of Salida, CO.



Camila Alire speaking at ULA/MPLA Conference. Photo by Dan Chaney.

The **Colorado Association of School Libraries** is partnering with Technology in Education to present a full-day preconference focused on school librarians' leadership role in the integration of technology and 21st Century skills. The T.I.E. annual conference is June 24-27 at the Copper Mountain Resort. See <http://www.cal-webs.org/associations2.html#1>.

Kansas

Representatives of the **Kansas Library Association** met to discuss and begin planning for the 2009 joint conference with MPLA to be held in Wichita on April 1-3. KLA has also recently implemented the association management system, Affiniscape. It includes the facility for conference management such as listing program schedules and online registration. It was used for the first time with the recently completed 2008 Kansas Library Conference.

The **KLA Educational Foundation** has received and issued payment of more than \$35,000 in donations from across the country to the **Greensburg Library** from the KLA Educational Foundation Greensburg / Kiowa County Library

Relief Fund. Ninety-five percent of the community of Greensburg, including the library, was destroyed by an EF5 tornado in May 2007.

The new **State Library of Kansas Board** held its first meeting on March 7. The 11-member board was created by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in response to legislation adopted in 2007 and represents a merger of the State Library Advisory Commission and the Kansas Library Network Board. Membership consists of seven professional librarians, a trustee of a public library, two representatives of the general public and one qualified member of the Kansas Federation of Women's Clubs. Additionally, the board includes the Executive Officer of the Board of Regents, the Commissioner of Education, and the State Librarian as ex officio members. Members will serve four-year terms.

The **Johnson County Library** uses word play to catch the attention of parents and caregivers and promote their program *Every Child Ready to Read*.



"Todally" ready to read

Kimberly Patton, Young Adult Specialist for the **Lawrence Public Library**, has been recognized as the recipient of the first Librarian of the Month Award sponsored by Macmillan. Ms. Patton recently served as chair of the Teen Manual Committee at the Collaborative Summer Library

Program, and is co-author of *A Year of Programming for Teens* (ALA Editions, 2006).

The **Dorothy Bramlage Public Library** in Junction City is celebrating its 100th anniversary of library service. **Susan Moyer**, MPLA Kansas Representative, is the Director.



Andeberhan (Ande) Tensae, formerly District Coordinator for Houston Public Library (TX), became Associate Director for Branch Services in March 2008 at the **Johnson County Library**, where he oversees 12 library branches.

Hats Off to Kansas Libraries. Ignoring the stigma of “hat-hair” Kansas library trustees, advisors, and librarians donned classy hats and stepped onto the catwalk for a unique fashion show at the Kansas Librarians’ Luncheon, April 10 in Wichita. The annual fundraiser was part of the Kansas Library Association’s 2008 Conference, April 9-11 at Wichita’s Century II Convention Center. The luncheon is an opportunity for the State Librarian, Christie Brandau, to promote the programs and work of the various divisions of the State Library of Kansas. More than 250 luncheon attendees purchased tickets and then added them to a drawing for the hat or hats they most wanted to win. Donations totaled \$1,700 for the Kansas Library Foundation. A total of 33 hats were donated for the fundraiser, notables including: KU National Basketball Championship cap autographed by Head Coach Bill Self; KU National Football Championship cap autographed by Head Coach Mark Mangino; Baseball cap autographed by the well-known Buck O’Neil; and A fabulous hat donated by country-singer Martina McBride. In addition to the promotional hats, attendees do-

nated more than 100 clean, soft hats and scarves to the American Cancer Society, Kansas. Photos celebrating the event can be viewed at www.kcflb.info



Kansas State Librarian Christie Brandau in hat



Roseanne Siemens, Executive Director of the Kansas Library Association

The 2008 Helbie Award winner is *I’m the Biggest Thing in the Ocean* by Kevin Sherry. The **Helbie Award** is named for its co-founders, Johnson County Library Youth Collections Specialist Debbie McLeod and Kansas City Public Library (MO) Director of Youth Services Helma Hawkins. First awarded in 2001, the Helbie recognizes the previous year’s picture book that best illustrates humor and is chosen annually in a spring

workshop delivered by Hawkins and McLeod that emulates ALA's Caldecott Award Committee process. This year's session was held on March 4 as part of the Kansas City Metropolitan Library & Information Network's Children's Workshop.



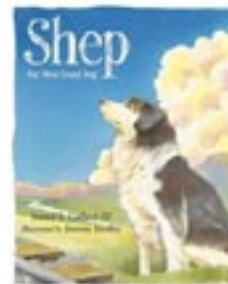
2008 "Helbie Award Committee" members were: Shelley Akins, Julie Brown, Melissa Brown, Dee Doll, Tammy Doughty, Kathy Enochs, Vicki Galvin, Rick Gath, Bethany Miller, Nancy Steva, Joni Talbott, Lois Terpening, Joyce Thebo, Amy Tittle, Beverly Walker, and Nancy Yeager - Mid-Century Public Library (MO); Dan Coleman - Lawrence Public Library (KS); Ann Reaves - Kansas City Public Library (MO); Matt Kraven - Olathe Public Library (KS); Patti Swartz - Rolling Hills Public Library, St. Joseph (MO); and Deb Reddy - Johnson County Library (KS). Seated at left front is co-founder Debbie McLous and at front right is co-founder Helma Hawkins.

The **Johnson County Library** won the American Library Association's 2008 Marshall Cavendish Excellence in Library Programming Award for its *Literature in the Justice System* program. It includes *Read to Succeed*, a literature program for teens incarcerated at the Juvenile Detention Center; *Changing Lives through Literature*, an alternative sentencing program for teens and adults; and *Stories about Women*, an adaptation of *Read to Succeed* for women in the Johnson County Corrections Adult Residential Center.

Montana

Missoula Public Library opens third branch library at Frenchtown High School. The Frenchtown Community and MPL embrace this opportunity. It joins with Seeley Lake and Swan Valley branches.

The 2008 *Treasure State* award winner is *Shep* by Montana author, Sneed B. Collard III. It received 6,996 votes. This is the first time in the 18 years of the award that a book by a Montana author has been the winner. *Humanities Montana* announced that the 2008



One Book Montana selection is *Hattie Big Sky* by Kirby Larson.

The **Billings Clinic Library** has been selected to be a pilot site for a new Health Information Literacy curriculum designed to increase health care providers' knowledge of HIL issues, increase patient and provider use of National Library of Medicine (NLM) and other consumer resources, and promote the role of librarians as key providers of HIL resources and support. Congratulations to Tori Koch and Kim Hart of the Billings Clinic Medical Library!

The Montana Library Association web site is changing with the open source software called "Drupal." There will be three levels of users: anonymous (only able to read), webmaster (does all,) and officer (able to edit content of their sections only). In addition various groups have created blogs, Wikis and a Google group.

When it was time for the books to be moved into the new **MSU College of Technology Library**, it was books and not patients that were wheeled around on gurneys. Emergency medical technician students volunteered their time and their gurneys to move nearly 10,000 books,

computers and more to a new library opening at the school.”



Boxes of books travelling by hospital gurney

Nebraska

The Nebraska Library Association held several spring workshops sponsored by its various groups including Para-professionals, the College & University Section, the Technical Services Round Table, the Public Library and Trustees Section, New Members Round Table, and the Diversity Committee.

ACLU Nebraska brought Barbara Bailey, one of the Connecticut librarians involved with a gag order as a part of the USA Patriot Act, as the speaker for their Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet in Omaha. The gag order prevented the group from talking, from telling their boards or mayors, from entering the trial together, from sitting together, and from talking to their lawyer in public.

Nebraska Legislative Day had around 146 attendees, including 33 senators and/or their staff. Six postcards designed by Mike Straatmann were delivered to senators five days before and the day after Legislative Day.

Nevada

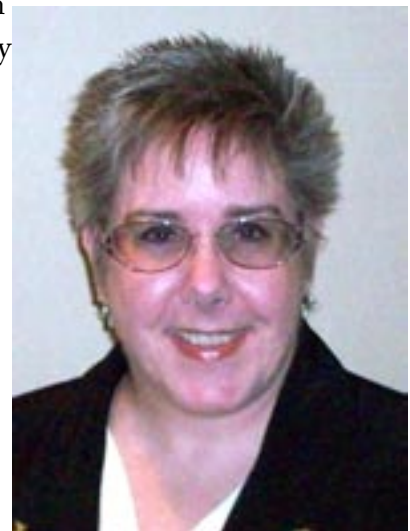
The **Southern District of the Nevada Library Association** will hold a social event in early June. Members, their families and friends will attend a *Super Summer Theater* presentation of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, at the Spring Mountain Ranch in Red Rock Canyon. The District also sponsored an adult programs showcase, *Best of the Best 2008* on March 27 at the Paseo Verde Library. Poster sessions and discussions highlighted successful programs presented by southern Nevada libraries during the past year.

Las Vegas-Clark County Library District kicked off their 7th Annual *Reading Las Vegas* program for adults on April 1 with a Big Read Book Festival. The District incorporated *The Big Read* into the program with their selection of F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, *The Great Gatsby*.

New Mexico

Lynette Schurdevin, Library Supervisor at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library in Las Cruces, is now New Mexico's MPLA Representative.

New board members of the **New Mexico Library Association** are Cassandra Osterloh, President; Dan



Kammer Vice President-Elect; Kathleen Teaze, Treasurer; Betty Long, ALA Councilor;

Paulita Aguilar, Susan Pinkerton, and Laurie Treat, Members-At-Large.

The **New Mexico Library Association's** new logo was unveiled at the Awards Banquet. James Carpenter of Farmington Public Library was the winning designer.



North Dakota

The EBSCO *Auto Repair Reference Center* database is a new addition to the collection of Online Library Resources with funding through the **North Dakota State Library** and the **North Dakota Library Coordinating Council**. It was chosen based on a survey which asked librarians from across the state for suggestions about new additional databases. The resource will be available to schools and libraries throughout North Dakota after July 1.



The 5th Annual **Statewide Summer Reading Kick Off** event takes place at the State Capitol Grounds with the governor proclaiming May 30th as Statewide Summer Reading Program Kick Off Day. Some of the free events include story time with the First lady, Secretary of State, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and others; face painting, craft projects, various bugs and insects on display from the Bismarck Zoo, live tarantulas at the State Library (in an aquarium, of course), and other fun things to do.

Carrie Scarr, Assistant Director of the West Fargo Public Library reports that her first book review was published in the April 15, 2008, *Library Journal*.

The **Mandree Public School** applied for and received a Reading is Fundamental grant which helped purchase 600 books for students.

Regional author Lauraine Snelling, best known for her series *Red River of the North*, is inviting North Dakotans to be part of a project called, "A Ton of Books" to aid the **Northwood School and Public Library** which was heavily damaged during a tornado last year. Snelling is leading a drive to literally send a "ton of books" to Northwood.



The **Bismarck Public Library** is at the halfway mark in raising \$600,000 for the renovation of the Children's Library. The fundraising drive began October 4, 2007.

Oklahoma

The **Oklahoma Library Association Annual Conference** was held April 21-23 in Tulsa. The theme was *Keys to the Future*. Banquet speakers were Attorney General Drew Edmondson and Linda Edmondson. American Library Association president, Loriene Roy, spoke briefly at the Opening General Session. George Needham gave the keynote address sharing the findings of the landmark reports on ways in which librarians and the public perceive, use, and evaluate information. The reports are available for free download at <http://www.oclc.org/reports>.

The 2008 **Sequoyah Children's Book Award** winner is *Angus and Sadie* by Cynthia Voigt. The 2008 **Sequoyah Young Adult Award** winner is *The Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson and the Olympians* by Rick Riordan. The winner of the **Donna Norvell Award** for 2008 is Antoinette Portis for *Not a Box*. Authors were at the conference and

gave their acceptance speeches to approximately 500 Oklahoma school readers. Their speeches will be available through pod casts from the Oklahoma Library Association web page.



Stormy welcomes MPLA Webmaster Dan Chaney back to Oklahoma upon his return from the ULA/MPLA Conference.

The membership committee of the **Oklahoma Library Association** held a reception for graduates in the school library media program at Oklahoma State University April 8. Students were encouraged to join OLA and attend the OLA Annual Conference.

Oklahoma librarians gathered at the capital May 11 for **Library Legislative Day**. The emphasis was on funding for public and school libraries.



Attendees brought messages and pieces of pie to senators and representatives and their secretaries. "I feel certain the pie helped get their attention!" said MPLA's Oklahoma Representative Barbara Ray.

South Dakota

The **South Dakota Library Association** Annual Conference will be held in Chamberlain September 24-26, 2008. The conference theme is "Your Passport to Success; Building Partnerships for Learning". Among noted speakers are Joseph Janes, Jim Rettig, Ken Davis, and Will Hobbs.

South Dakota young people recently selected their book award winners. The **Prairie Pasque Award**, selected by fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students, was won by **Ghost's Grave** by Peg Kehret. The winner of the **Prairie Bud Children's Book Award**, chosen by kindergarten through third grade students, was **I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!**, written by Karen Beaumont and illustrated by David Catrow. New this year is the selection of the **South Dakota Teen Choice Awards**. The winner for the Middle School category is **Copper Sun** by Sharon Draper. The High School category winner is **Fake ID** by Walter Sorrells.

Elvita Landau, Director of the **Brookings Public Library** and MPLA Representative from South Dakota tries out the new furniture in her newly remodeled library.



Elvita in the Alligator Seat

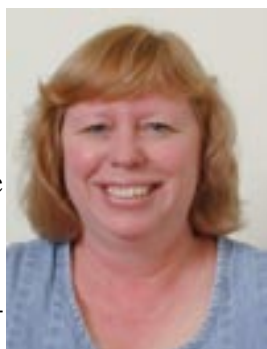
The **Rapid City Public Library** was one of ten libraries selected by Nancy Pearl and **USA Today** Newspaper as one of her "Ten Favorite Libraries

in the Nation. "The article appears in the March 7 edition of *USA Today*.

The **South Dakota State Library** has opened registration for the 2008 Library Training Institute, a four-year program of continuing education for library practitioners, support staff and trustees of small public libraries. Students earn college credit from Northern State University, and after completion are recognized as certified library practitioners.

Utah

Dorothy Horan is MPLA's new Utah State Representative. Dorothy is currently employed as the Metadata Coordinator in the Cataloging Unit of the Family History Library. She ends her stint as Utah Library Association President with the close of the 2008 joint conference. Dorothy has lived in Utah since her graduation from the University of Arizona Library School.



Elizabeth Elder is the new Director of the Salt Lake City Public Library. She was previously Planning Director with the Denver Public Library. Beth has a BA in Early Childhood/Human Development from the University of Vermont and the MLS from Emporia State University where she serves as an adjunct professor.

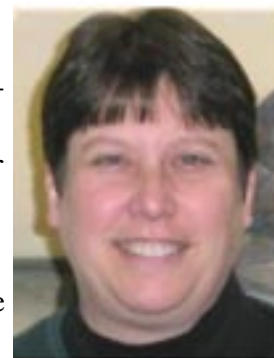


Beth Elder welcomes MPLA to the Salt Lake City Public Library for the Birthday Bash. Photo by Dan Chaney.

Renovation of the **University of Utah Marriott Library** is scheduled to be completed by the end of July. Construction began in March 2005 when the library was declared seismically unsafe, and the Utah State Legislature funded the \$48 million necessary to start the updates.

Wyoming

Deborah McCarthy is Wyoming's new State Representative to MPLA. Debbie is Head of Technical Services at the University of Wyoming Libraries and is a graduate of both the 2005 MPLA Leadership Institute and the 2004 Wyoming | Library Leadership Institute.



NPR book commentator Nancy Pearl, author of *Book Lust*, named the **Laramie County Library** in Cheyenne as one of "10 great places to find a nook and read a book" in an article in *USA Today*. The three story, 100,000 square foot library opened in September 2007.

The **Teton County Library & Library Foundation** presented renowned poet Mary Oliver in a program *Page to the Podium: Mary Oliver* on May 8.

The **Wyoming State Legislature** enacted the **Public Library Endowment Challenge Program** which will go in to effect July 1, 2008. This provides an endowment of \$9.1 million to provide matching grants to the foundations of the state's 23 public libraries. The money raised by county library foundations will be matched on a formula ranging from 1:1 to 3:1 depending on the county. It will provide ongoing support for the public libraries in the state.

The People's Republic of China's ambassador to the United States, Mr. Zhou Wenzhong, donated a collection of five hundred books to the **University of Wyoming** during a visit in 2007. The books, which have been inventoried by University Libraries and UW Associate Research Scientist Zhaojie Zhang, are expansive and cover a variety of topics that include Chinese history, culture, language, and cuisine. In addition to print material, CDs and DVDs are included in the collection.



From left to right) UW Graduate College Dean Don Roth, UW Libraries Dean Maggie Farrell, College of Health Sciences Dean Robert Kelley, College of Agriculture Dean Frank Gale, College of Arts & Sciences Dean Ollie Walter, Chinese Ambassador Mr. Zhou Wenzhong, College of Law Dean Jerry Parkinson, and Mrs. Wenzhong.

Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library presented *Two Girls Working*, a collaboration of artists Tiffany Ludwig and Renee Piechocki, and a program on their book *Trappings: Stories of Women, Power and Clothing*. The national multi-media project incorporated photography, interviews, and public art to explore power and its relationship to personal identity with the question: "What do you wear that makes you feel powerful?" More than 50 women from Wyoming have participated in *Trappings* and two from Sheridan are featured in the book.



State & National Conferences - 2008

- 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, Sept. 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

2009

- American Library Association Midwinter Conference; Jan. 23-28, Denver, CO
- KLA/MPLA Joint Conference March 1-3, Wichita
- American Library Association Annual Conference; July 9-15, Chicago, IL

MPLA Professional Development Grant Application Deadlines 2008

August 6 October 1 December 3

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

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