

# Newsletter

October 2008

Volume 53 #2

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◆  
[www.mpla.us](http://www.mpla.us)

## Web Design in Progress



*Kate Blalack and MPLA Webmaster Dan Chaney discuss logo design.*



See Dan's article and more images beginning on page 6.

ARIZONA  
NEW MEXICO

COLORADO  
NORTH DAKOTA

KANSAS  
OKLAHOMA

MONTANA  
SOUTH DAKOTA

NEBRASKA  
UTAH

NEVADA  
WYOMING



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

ISSN 0145-6180

Material of regional interest may be submitted to:

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**Submissions:**

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

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

**Advertising:**

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

**MPLA Membership or Subscription Business:**

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

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Domestic Subscription Fees:  
1 yr./\$25  
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## President's Message

Dear MPLA,

Where has the summer gone? It seems like we were just in Salt Lake City and now we are already registering for the fall round of conferences. I am planning to attend conferences in North Dakota, Wyoming and Arizona this fall. I hope to see you there.

Connie Lamb reports that the Professional Development Committee still has money left for this year. Look at the requirements on the MPLA website. If you know someone who has a qualifying event, help them put in an application.

As MPLA looks ahead from our 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday, we have to determine what our members need and how we can remain an active part of their professional lives. I will be blogging about member benefits on the MPLA Portal and talking with you at the conferences. I need your input on this subject.

Eileen Wright has been working hard with the Kansas conference committee and will be announcing exciting information about the 2009 conference soon.

The Awards Committee, chaired by JaNae Kinikin, has met and is planning for awards for 2009.

The Executive Board met by phone in July and will meet in-person in Denver on October 11<sup>th</sup>. We wanted to wait until after the Democratic Convention was completed before we invaded Denver! I don't think we will have quite the same impact on Denver, but MPLA people are fun!

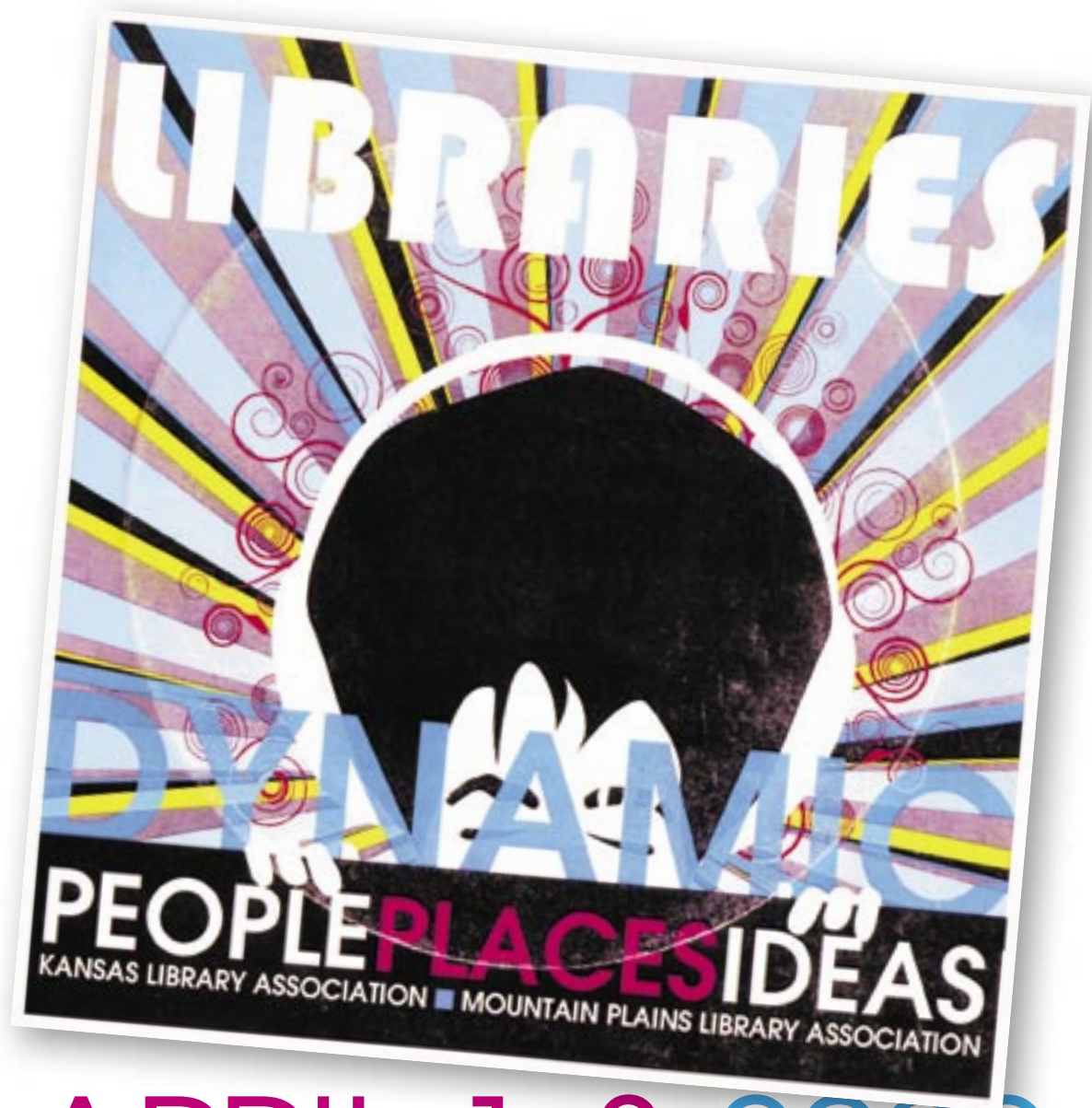
---Rob

### **Conference Program Proposals 2009 KLA - MPLA Joint Conference**

***Libraries: Dynamic People, Places & Ideas April 1-3, 2009  
Hyatt Regency / Century II Convention Center Wichita, KS***

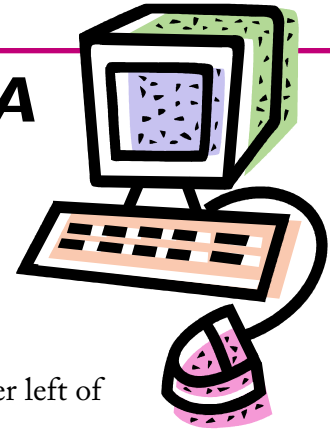
Libraries are filled with dynamic PEOPLE, both staff and patrons. Libraries are unique spaces with an increasingly unique sense of PLACE.. Libraries are filled with IDEAS. Start thinking about how YOU can contribute to the most fabulous, entertaining library conference of 2009! Tracks include: administration, advocacy, archives/preservation, children, collection development, electronic resources, government resources, instruction, marketing/outreach, professional development, reference, reader's advisory, technology, technical services, trustees/friends, and young adults.

Program Proposals for the 2009 KLA - MPLA Joint Conference will be accepted from Sept 2 - Oct 31, 2008. <http://www.kansaslibraryassociation.org/displayemailforms.cfm?emailformnbr=94133>. Those accepted will be notified in November.



APRIL 1-3 2009  
WICHITA KANSAS

# How to Update Your MPLA Directory Profile!



- MPLA uses MemberClicks, an online membership maintenance service, for its Directory. The information is available only to members, not to the public.

- At the MPLA website: [www.mpla.us](http://www.mpla.us), use the login section at the lower left of the MPLA homepage.

- Login with your username and password. If you don't remember these, click on "Forgot Your Password" (be sure to enter the e-mail address which you originally used in the directory).

- Upon arrival at the MPLA Membership Website, click on "My Profile" at the top left, or use the "Quick Name Search" to find your profile. To make changes to your profile click on "Edit."

- When your profile information appears you may add or change contact information, indicate your preferences, and change your username and password. "Save" the changes to your profile before exiting.

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# Redesigning the MPLA Website

by Dan Chaney, MPLA Webmaster

As MPLA Webmaster, I deal with a variety of issues in managing and administering the MPLA website. Most of the issues are routine, automatic. I update the website as needed, but there aren't a ton of changes to be implemented most of the time. The exception to that generalization is when new executive officers take over and appoint committees. So, as webmaster, I busy myself most of the time with finding something to fix on the website, or seeing if I can make something work better or look better. And every now and then, when I'm really tired of looking at the website's design and style, I go into "web designer mode" and play around with colors, images, style elements on the website. If anyone has ever done web design, you know every now and then you like to shake things up and change things. My problem invariably is I choose a bad time to redesign the website. My "day job" is Social Sciences Librarian (psychology subject specialist) for the Edmon Low Library at Oklahoma State University, and that keeps me pretty busy. This past spring, I started to get the urge to redesign the MPLA website.

For those who perhaps didn't know – MPLA adopted a new logo a year or two ago, a logo which replaced the old "MPLA globe." As Webmaster, I plastered that logo all over the website – it was our brand. But I kind of got the urge to tweak the style and make the website look a little sleeker and less cluttered. As you might have noticed (or not noticed, as the case may be) the website still looks exactly the same as it always has. Trust me, I know, I'm working on it as fast as I can ☺

If anyone has ever done web design, you know every now and then you like to shake things up and change things.

When I redesigned the website a couple of years ago with the new logo, my plan was to do a two phase implementation, as there were some things I needed to do behind the scenes before I could consider the task complete. In the meantime, I got tired with the new look, and started playing around with the design again, putting aside the behind the scenes things I needed to work on.

As webmaster, I've never been shy about admitting that I know relatively little about creating and manipulating graphics. In fact, I know just enough about creating them to make what I do create look really really bad. So, when I took this notion to redesign the MPLA website with a sleeker banner image, it would only happen if I forced myself to learn Adobe Illustrator. So, I started playing around with the banner image.

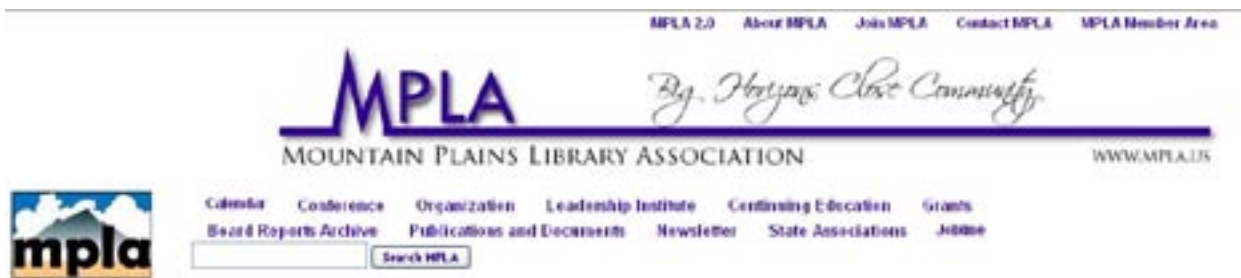
Eventually, this is what I came up with:



I liked the sleek design, it was crisp and clean (and no caffeine.) My thinking on it was the M in MPLA represents the mountains and the plains – the M is the mountains, while the horizontal line represents the plains. My initial thoughts on the M to represent mountains and plains called for the M to be colored grey and the plains line to be tan. After looking at the design it was pretty ugly. So, I had to make it one color. What colors did I consider, you ask? Just about all of them, with the big consideration being what color or colors would look best at the size and screen resolution I was creating to. I kind of picked purple because it wasn't blue or red (which were colors we hadn't used on the website before.) As Judy can attest to, when I was designing the banner, I was shooting emails to her, sometimes by the hour, asking her opinion on samples (thank you for putting up with that, Judy!) Eventually we came to the design above. However, there was a new issue -- the new banner for the website did not incorporate or make use of the MPLA logo, which looks like this:



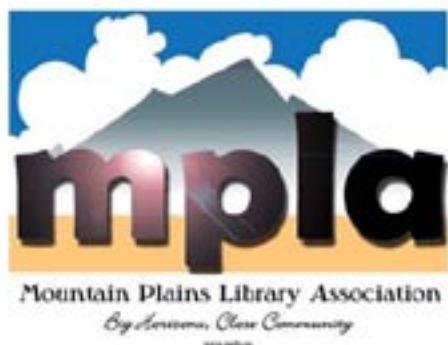
My solution? Put the MPLA logo elsewhere. Here is a little preview of what the new MPLA homepage will look like:



Part of the reason why you have not seen the redesign of the MPLA website is because I was working to solve the issues behind the scenes, which I mentioned earlier. That issue is largely the use of tables on to layout information. Use of tables in HTML is common practice, but not particularly good code. We have ways to lay out information on web pages using cascading style sheets, which we already use on the MPLA website. The problem is the CSS layout elements are pretty alien to me – I’m speaking of float. This has necessitated vast hours of trial and error and trail and error. That was how I spent my summer vacation, and I still have not completed the task yet but we’re getting there. Further complicating the issue is the coming of the Electronic Community Portal, and the need to make both parts look like each other. So, I’ve been working with Community Portal Administrator Roy Degler to make sure there are design elements in common between the two sites.

One of the things I did this summer was to look at the MPLA logo and see if we can tweak it to make it visually more different. I had thought it might be kind of cool to “google-ize” the logo to reflect the seasons across the MPLA region. For example, in the spring, we might place some flowers coming up in front of the mpla, while in the summer, we might have the sun shining brightly, while in the fall, we have leaves blowing across the logo, and in the winter, we see snow falling behind the mpla.

As I mentioned, I have little skill with graphics, so this was far and away beyond my limited capabilities. So, I enlisted the assistance of a talented colleague of mine here in the OSU Library. Kate Blalack is a recent MLS graduate and works in our Special Collections and University Archives department. I asked Kate to “play around” with the MPLA logo to see how we might spice it up a little. She spent some time in PhotoShop, playing around with our logo, and I thought I would share a couple of the ideas she had – one is pretty similar to what we currently use with the addition of some flares in the mpla. The other idea is a more muted color scheme, with some purple in keeping with the banner color scheme.



This remains an ongoing project, one I hope is completed sooner rather than later. But as anyone in school or academic libraries knows, once school starts all free time seems to evaporate. I wanted to share some of our website plans with you, and give you a little insight in the process. If anyone has any suggestions or questions, please feel free to contact me at [dan.chaney@okstate.edu](mailto:dan.chaney@okstate.edu).

---

# More than Readin', Writin', and 'rithmetic



by Dan Stanton,  
Arizona Local Documents Librarian &  
Coordinator, Organizational Development;  
Arizona State University Libraries [danton@asu.edu](mailto:danton@asu.edu)

*Education is when you read the fine print.  
Experience is what you get if you don't.*  
- Pete Seeger

I'd like to use this month's column to say thank you and welcome back to K-12 educators. Here are some government-sponsored educational resources to support the folks who work so hard to educate our future leaders and fellow citizens:

**Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids** - <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/> - This **Government Printing Office** site provides learning tools for K-12 students, parents, and teachers. Resources teach how our government works, how to use primary source materials, and how to carry out civic responsibilities.

**Edsitement** - <http://edsitement.neh.gov/> - **National Endowment for the Humanities**-sponsored educational partnership featuring online humanities resources from museums, libraries, cultural institutions, and universities.

**National Atlas** - <http://www.nationalatlas.gov/>  
**United States Geological Survey (USGS)** site specializing in maps – printable/orderable/customizable/static/topical/political maps.

**The Learning Web** - <http://education.usgs.gov>  
USGS site geared towards exploration of the Earth and its systems.

**World Wise Schools** - <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/> - **Peace Corps** program which links classrooms with the Peace Corps Volunteer experience worldwide.

**The Learning Page** - <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/> - **Library of Congress** offers online access to historical documents, photographs, maps, films, and audio recordings, along with lesson planning ideas.

**FREE (Federal Resources for Educational Excellence)** - <http://www.free.ed.gov> - **Department of Education** oversees this project to bring together teaching and learning resources from over 50 federal agencies.

**Educational Resources** - [http://www.constitutioncenter.org/ncc\\_edu\\_Educators.aspx](http://www.constitutioncenter.org/ncc_edu_Educators.aspx) - The **National Constitution Center** was established by the Constitution Heritage Act of 1988 and is dedicated to increasing public understanding of, and appreciation for, the Constitution.

**Gateway to Educational Materials** - <http://www.thegateway.org/> - A **Department of Education** initiative to improve the organization and accessibility of materials that are available on various federal, state, university, non-profit, and commercial Internet sites.

*continued on next page*



**FirstGov for Kids** - <http://www.kids.gov/> - **Federal Citizen Information Center** portal to Federal kids' sites along with some kids' sites from other organizations - all grouped by subject.

**NASA Education** - <http://education.nasa.gov/home/index.html> - **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** site designed to motivate students to pursue careers in science, math, and engineering and provide educators with teaching tools by engaging experience of exploration and discovery.

**Smithsonian Education** - <http://smithsonian-education.org/> - **Smithsonian Institution** produces a variety of programs, services, and resources for the education and museum communities.

**Students.gov** - <http://www.students.gov/> - **Department of Education**-sponsored gateway providing students and their families with access to federal services and information for the transition to life beyond high school.

**ERIC** - <http://www.eric.ed.gov> - **Department of Education** funded database of journal and non-journal education literature.

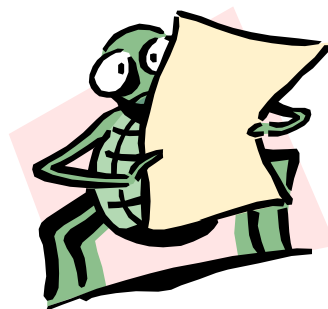
**CYFERnet** - <http://www.cyfernet.org/> - **Children, Youth and Families Education and Research Network** brings together the best children, youth and family resources of all the public land-grant universities in the country.



## MPLA Stories

### Tales from around the MPLA Region

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



**Energize Young Writers**

Enemy Pie as featured on: 

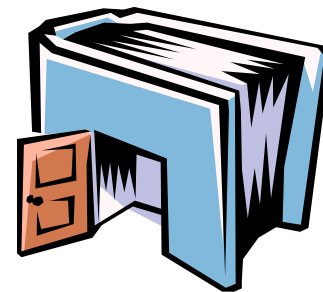
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# Welcome New MPLA Members



## COLORADO

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Denver Library & Information  
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## KANSAS

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Memorial Library; Salina, KS

Melany Wilks  
Library Director, Pioneer  
Memorial Library' Colby, KS

## NEBRASKA

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Stacks Manager, University of  
Nebraska - Lincoln Love Library  
Lincoln, NE

## NEVADA

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Adult Services Librarian, West  
Charleston Library; Las Vegas, NV

Rita Botzenhardt  
Project-Facilitator Library  
Services, Clark County School  
District-CPD; Las Vegas, NV

Sharon Cox  
Circulation Department Head,  
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Las Vegas, NV

Jennifer DeLett-Snyder  
Library Aide, Washoe County  
Library; Sparks, NV

Corinne Dickman  
Branch Manager, Washoe County  
Library Spanish Springs Library  
Sparks, NV

Kristina Drury  
Youth Services Specialist, Paseo  
Verde Library; Henderson, NV

Denise Gerdes  
Branch Manager, West Charleston  
Library; Las Vegas, NV

Florica Hagendorn  
Youth Services Specialist, Paseo  
Verde Library; Henderson, NV

Matthew Hortt  
ABS Specialist, Henderson  
District Public Libraries  
Henderson, NV

Sharon Stark  
Branch Manager, Lyon County  
Library; Yerington, NV

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Digital Library Services Librarian,  
Oklahoma State University  
Edmon Low Library  
Stillwater, OK

Pioneer Library System  
Anne Masters, Pioneer Library  
System; Norman, OK

## SOUTH DAKOTA

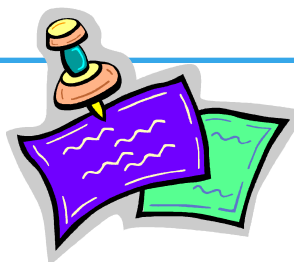
Sam Gingerich  
SD State Library Board Member,  
South Dakota State Library  
Pierre, SD

## UTAH

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State College Val A. Browning  
Library; St. George, UT

## WYOMING

Connie Hollin  
Associate Librarian, Western Wyo-  
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Library; Rock Springs, WY



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# Around the Region

## Arizona

**Jana Bradley**, Director of the School of Information Resources & Library Science at the University of Arizona, has announced that in June 2009 she will step down as director and join the faculty.

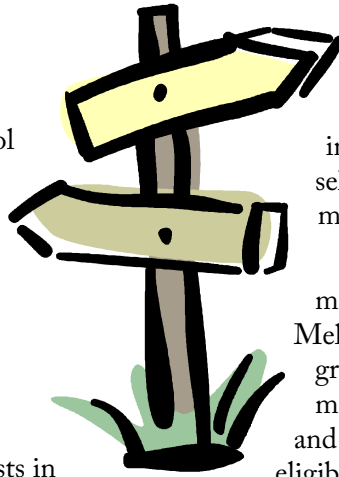
The **Mesa School District** made a final decision to go ahead with their original plans to eliminate all school librarians, nurses and speech pathologists in the district. Library Media Specialists will be sent back to the classroom. The Phoenix area district has 87 schools and serves 74,000 students. School librarians protested the initial decision in April and the school district had agreed at that time to re-visit the issue.

**Arizona State University Libraries** can now be found at the new address [lib.asu.edu](http://lib.asu.edu).

## Colorado

“Town hall” meetings focused on Colorado’s libraries, with eleven communities in Colorado participating during July and August. Representatives of the three major library organizations in the state - **Gene Hainer** from the **Colorado State Library**, **Valerie Horton** of the **Colorado Library Consortium**, and **Martin Garner**, President of **Colorado Association of Libraries** - were the principal speakers. They shared information on how these organizations support the work of libraries. Also discussed were the future of libraries in Colorado and the future of the library profession. The meetings were attended by library staff as well as library board members and patrons. Discussion ranged from what libraries are currently doing well to what can be improved.

The **Colorado Association of Libraries** is developing a Leadership Institute which will kick off at the 2008 CAL Conference and will continue as a year-long program including both face-to-face and virtual sessions. The vision is to develop outstanding leaders



within CAL and the Colorado library community. The mission is to create a culture of leadership at CAL by engaging its members in leadership development activities including self-assessment, networking, and skills development.

**BCR** has been selected to serve as intermediary to administer and manage the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Opportunity Online grants in three states, partnering with the BCR member state library agencies of Alaska, Oregon and Washington. The grant program will help eligible public libraries in each of these states upgrade computer hardware in communities with high concentrations of poverty.



*During a recent visit to her daughter’s home in Salt Lake City, MPLA Colorado Representative Mary Katherine Katzer took her grandchildren to the Sprague Branch of the Salt Lake City Public Library System, which is in their neighborhood. Here they are at the front door – Kylee is three and Bryson is 16 months old. Because of Labor Day, the library was closed. Mary Katherine says she’ll plan better the next time she goes to visit.*

---

**Cindy Eubank**, MPLA member and Leadership Institute Fellow, is now Reference Librarian at the Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library in Broomfield. She was previously with the Grand County Library in Granby.

**Teri Switzer**, previously interim university librarian/director of the Auraria Library in Denver, began July 21 as Dean of the **University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Kraemer Family Library**.

MPLA member **Shelley Walchak** is now Continuing Education Director/Regional Consultant for the **Colorado Library Consortium**. She was previously ILL Librarian with Fort Lewis College Library.

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine is offering three free classes at the **University of Colorado Denver Health Sciences Library** in October. For more information contact Dana Abbey ([dana.abbey@ucdenver.edu](mailto:dana.abbey@ucdenver.edu)).

The **Rocky Mountain Children's Literature Conference** October 3-4 at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley had as its theme "Books & Boys." Presenters included Jon Scieszka, Kadir Nelson, Nic Bishop, Mark Ludy, and Dr. Matthew Zbaracki.

## Kansas

The **Dorothy Bramlage Public Library** received a grant sponsored by Frontline/World and the American Library Association to host the Social Entrepreneurs Film Program in Junction City. The program is a grant opportunity that supports the screening and discussion of a selected short documentary film based on social entrepreneurship efforts around the world plus a related program. The program seeks to connect communities to the concept of social entrepreneurship and to promote dialogue on a local level. Funding for the Social Entrepreneurs program is provided through a grant from the PBS and the Skoll Foundations. The awards include a grant to support promotion and program expenses, copies of a DVD containing the entire 16-part Frontline/World Social Entrepreneurs Film Series compilation, and supporting materials including bookmarks for distribution to patrons and participants. MPLA member and Kansas Representative **Susan Moyer** is Library Director.



The **Kansas State Library** took its 2008 Road Show to seven locations in August and September. Presentations included new information about library standards, HomeworkKansas, Talking Books, Web-Junction, new databases, and more. Attendees also received five contact hours in the Library Certification Program for Public Library Administrators.

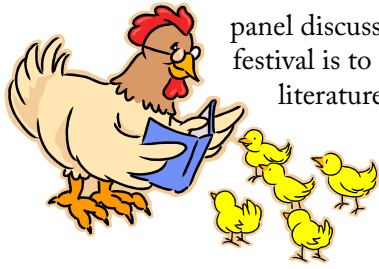
The Marshall Cavendish Award for Excellence in Library Programming was presented to the **Johnson County Library** at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim in recognition of its *Literature in the Justice System* programming for juveniles and adults. Deputy Director **Tricia Suellentrop** and Youth Outreach Librarian **Kathy McLellan** developed the Read to Succeed program at the Johnson County Juvenile Detention Center and Changing Lives Through Literature alternative sentencing program for teens in 1998-1999, and Outreach Services Coordinator **C.J. Sullivan** created the Stories about Women program with her Adult Corrections counterpart in 2005.

**Aurelia Jackson** is the new cataloger for the **Northwest Kansas Library System**. Coming from work in a variety of school settings, she received her MLS in Library Media K-12 from Fort Hays State University.

The **Kansas State Library** is presenting its second Statewide Training for Trustee Certification in October. MPLA members **Mary Bushing** and **Laura DeBaun** are presenters for the two workshops which will qualify a trustee to hold a three-year certificate.

## Montana

**Bozeman Public Library** hosted the first Children's Festival of the Book in August, featuring Caldecott Medal winner Paul O. Zelinsky as key note speaker. Other activities included readings by authors Nora Martin and Ben Mikaelson, a puppet show and



panel discussions. The goal of the festival is to celebrate children's literature, inspire children of all ages, and instill a life-long love of reading.

The **Montana State Library** held its annual Fall Workshop in Livingston September 19–20 with a wide variety of workshops. To help libraries offset rising gas prices, the State Library paid for the night's lodging, allowing participants to attend both days without having to travel twice. For new library directors, the State paid all travel expenses and included a special session for them.

Spanish Language Outreach (SLO) grants totaling \$4,200 have been awarded to public libraries in Belgrade, Billings, Bozeman, Dillon, Helena, Kalispell, Missoula and Stevensville. The libraries will use the grants, ranging from \$250 to \$785, for activities, programming, and materials for Spanish speakers in their communities. Also, the "Spanish Language Outreach in Montana Libraries" blog is up and running (*mtslo.blogspot.com*) – a great place where librarians can share their ideas and resources for SLO activities. Montana's SLO trainers, **Molly Kliss** and **Kathy Robins** will use this to post updates and special features.

## Nebraska

**Linda Rea**, Director of the Hastings Public Library, MPLA member since 1971, and a past president of MPLA, is retiring in October. Her plans include home organizing and travel.

In conjunction with the summer reading program "Catch the Reading Bug" the **Ashland Public Library** decorated the outside of their library with bugs, not insects, but Volkswagen Beetles (six of them.)



Nebraska held its second **Future Search Conference** in June. According to MPLA member **Kathy Tooker**, Eastern Library System administrator, the purpose of the Future Search Conference was to bring people together with the intention of bringing a fresh perspective to Nebraska library service

needs and fostering direction, partnerships and collaboration. Eighty people attended including four high school students, city administrators, a banker, an architect, attorney and a person from a social service agency. Funding for the conference was provided by Nebraska Library Commission, Peter Kiewit Foundation, Regional Library Systems, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. For more information a wiki had been created at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/wikis/fs](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/wikis/fs).

The new **South Omaha Library**, a joint venture between Metropolitan Community College and Omaha Public Library held its opening celebration on July 12th. The most recent building, completed in 2008, features Omaha's largest Spanish language collection plus a large collection hosted in partnership between the City of Omaha, the Omaha Public Library, and the Omaha Metropolitan Community College. The 23,300-square-foot building houses a computer lab, a state-of-the-art teen center, a larger reference and research space, and an enhanced children's area.



## Nevada

The **Nevada Library Association's** Annual Conference was held at the Santa Fe Hotel in Las Vegas August 14-16. Over 200 library employees attended the conference, with programs focusing on the theme, "Bridging the Gap @ Nevada Libraries". The exhibit space was filled by 37 vendors and library organization sponsors. At the President's Dinner, NLA President and MPLA member **Denise Gerdes** awarded Special Appreciation Certificates to **Debbie Hamilton** (Moapa Valley Library), **Sandy Marz** (Washoe County Law Library), **Nichole Steventon** (Mitchell Elementary School Library-Washoe County), and MPLA member **Laurie Orton** (Henderson District Public Libraries). A Special Citation Award was presented to **Joan Vaughan** (Henderson District Public Libraries) for her work as NLA webmaster. The Dorothy McAlinden Award for outstanding service by a member who is not a professional library employee went to MPLA mem-

ber **Florica Hagendorn** (Henderson District Public Libraries). MPLA member **Ellen Fockler** (Washoe County School District) was named Librarian of the Year. The President's Award was presented to 2007 NLA President, **Debbie Jacobs** (Washoe County School District). Honorary Lifetime Membership Award honorees are MPLA members **Nancy Cummings** and **Duncan McCoy, Joan Kerschner Tinker and Daniel L. Walters**. **Daniel L. Walters** (Las Vegas-Clark County Library District) was also presented a special Scholastic Publishing Award as their 2008 Library Director of the Year. The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District is an institutional member of MPLA. Entertainment was provided by Executive Director of Waukegan Public Library (IL) and Illustrator Richard Lee, and Killian's Angels.

*left to right: David Walters, Joan Kerschner Tinker,*



*Duncan McCoy, Nancy Cummings*

*Killian's Angels entertain at the NLA conference*



The **Paseo Verde Library** in Henderson was the site of University of North Texas School of Library and Information Sciences 2008 Summer Commencement. The ceremony on August 16 honored 32 Nevada area graduates. Dr. Yvonne J. Chandler, Associate Professor and Director of the Nevada Program, along with Charlotte Thomas, Web Institute Coordinator welcomed the graduates, their families and friends. Daphne DeLeon, Division Administrator of the Ne-

vada State Library & Archives welcomed the graduates to the profession. Verlia Davis Hoggard, a member of the Board of Trustees, Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, was the celebration's keynote speaker.



The **West Charleston Library**, a branch of the **Las Vegas-Clark County Library District** held a dedication for two bronze sculptures in memory of Joyce Dixon on. Mary Nelson Brown on behalf of the Sumi Laetz Foundation presented the works of art to the library to honor Joyce Dixon for her outstanding career with the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District and her dedication to the community. Joyce was a Youth Services Coordinator, Reference Librarian, Assistant Administrator, and a Regional Branch Manager during her 17 years with LV-CCLD. She passed away in August 2004. Joyce spoke often of the library's mission to connect children with books and served as a champion for children's programming. She was a community leader and proud of her association with both the ALA Newbery and Caldecott Award Committees. The sculptures will serve as a reminder of Joyce's legacy and her standard of excellence.



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**Janet Mastalir** of the Paseo Verde Library in Henderson, recently retired from the library profession. She will continue as Nevada State Representative to MPLA until her term ends in 2008. Janet has been a member of MPLA since 1979.



**David Baldwin** began in July as Associate Dean of the **New Mexico State University Library**. Most recently he was the Associate Dean for Reference and Instruction at Iowa State University. He has also worked at the University of New Mexico Libraries as the director of administrative services, the director of the Fine Arts Library and the director of Zimmerman Library.

MPLA member **Phyllis Reed** recently left her position as Director of the Ruidoso Public Library to take a position as New Mexico Library Sales Consultant with Davidson Titles.

## New Mexico

New Mexico's Fall Mini-Conference will be held on October 16 -17, 2008 in Socorro, NM. The conference theme is *NM Reads and Researches*.

The third annual National **REFORMA** conference was in El Paso, TX September 18-21. The theme was *Bridging the Gap: Juntos @ the Border*. MPLA Representative **Lynette Schurdevin** says many New Mexico librarians attended the conference.

The **New Mexico Library Association** website has a link to the *New Mexico Reads* posters featuring New Mexico authors, government officials and celebrities,



including Penny Raife Durant, author of *Make a Splash! Science Activities with Liquids*. For more on this feature go to [www.nmla.org](http://www.nmla.org) and follow the *New Mexico Reads* link.

MPLA member **Lois Ruby**'s latest book, *The Secret of Laurel Oaks*, was published by Tor/Starscape in September. Based on the true story of Myrtles Plantation, her novel for ages ten and up is a ghost story featuring a sister and brother from Albuquerque who visit a Louisiana plantation. They encounter the troubled ghost of a slave girl accused of murdering two children and their mother. Around the MPLA region, she has book signings at Watermark in Wichita, KS October 11, at Book Barn in Leavenworth, KS, on October 18, and at Page One in Albuquerque on November 1.

## North Dakota

Voters in Cando have united in support of their public library, with over 75% of Cando residents voting in favor of a measure to allow the city to levy a property tax of eight additional mills to help support the library. Without this support, the **Cando Community Library** would have closed down.

The **Divide County Library** is now home to the Divide County technology Center. A day after the Divide County Jobs Development authority decided to close the technology center, plans were made to move some of those services to the public library after a meeting between JDA President, Doug Graupe, and Divide County Librarian, **Leslie Deering**. The arrangement will provide four more computers to the Divide County Library and still maintain the same internet services that the Job Development Authority provided in their technology center. Not only will job seekers in Divide County have a place to go and use a computer to write a resume, search for a job online, or check e-mail, but the Divide County Library can also expect some residents to "discover" all the services offered by the Divide County Library.

Library Services on the **Turtle Mountain Reservation** will expand to serve the residents of the Turtle Mountain Retirement Home. Services include a "portable" library which will include large print books and magazines, audiobooks, and videos for use by residents at the home. Materials will be kept onsite and new materials will be brought in weekly from the **Turtle Mountain Community College**. Residents of Turtle Mountain Retirement Home can also sign up for a library card through Turtle Mountain Community

College. The service is being funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The **North Dakota State Library** once again staffed a booth at the 2008 North Dakota State Fair in Minot, July 18-26. The promotional booth highlighted the Online Library Resources, Disability Services, and library services in general. State Library staff had the opportunity to interact with thousands of fair goers and promote not only the services offered by the North Dakota State Library, but also encouraged people to use the library services provided to them by their local libraries. Many people who stopped by the booth expressed an interest in the Online Library Resources, especially the *EBSCO Auto Repair Reference Center* which was a huge hit with fair goers. Many people passing by the booth paid compliments to the quality of service that they receive from their local libraries and the State Library. Quite a few people were aware of the Talking Books program and commented on how it have made a positive impact on someone they knew who used those services.



*"Staffing a booth of this magnitude," says MPLA Representative Al Peterson, "is quite an undertaking, but the end results justify the work required for having a booth at the North Dakota State Fair."*

The State Bank of Lakota donated \$500 to the **Lakota City Library** for their reading program. For twenty eight years, the State Bank of Lakota has donated money to the library for the purchase of reading materials, book bags, and free books for a drawing used as incentives for reading programs.

The **North Dakota Library Association** is sponsoring its First Annual Innovative Book Cart Competition at NDLA 2008. Invitations are extended to send



photographs of innovative book cart uses, decorated or "pimped out," or bookcart or drill team regalia. Voting for favorites takes place at the conference. See <http://librarycartfitness.blogspot.com/> for particulars.

## Oklahoma

The second of three IMLS grant-funded **Information Matrix Camps** was held in July at Rose State College. Twenty-nine middle school students attended and had an opportunity to visit many different libraries including the downtown Oklahoma City Public Library, the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism library at the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, the Oklahoma Library for the Blind, the University of Oklahoma Libraries, the corporate record-keeping division of Devon Energy, and the library at Integris Baptist Hospital. Seven campers returned for a second year and participated in activities such as job shadowing at the Moore Public Library and visiting several law libraries. The camp is co-sponsored by the Oklahoma Library Association's Career Recruitment and Retention Committee and Rose State College. The hope is that many of the participants will consider entering the library profession in the future.



*Information Matrix Campers working on their scrapbooks.*



The **Oklahoma Library Association** and the **University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies** will host the Mildred Laughlin Festival of Books in Stillwater, October 30. The festival is made possible by a grant from the Kerr Foundation. Staff development credits will be available. Speakers will be Jacqueline Woodson, Susan Campbell Bartoletti and Eric Rohmann. For further information and registration see <http://www.oklibs.org/laughlin/Festival%20Flyer%202008.pdf>

The *Tulsa World* shared scenarios of libraries within the **Tulsa City-County Library's** Outreach Services. A mini bookmobile visits a retirement and health care center. One patron who is 88 years old, enjoyed reading *Rbett Butler's People*, the sequel to *Gone with the Wind* which she and her husband watched when the movie was first shown in theaters. Another bookmobile visits an apartment complex once a week where children have access to movies and books; very special to the families who do not have vehicles to drive to the library. "I for one," says MPLA Representative Barbara Ray, "often forget how fortunate we are to be able to visit a library as often as we like. Thanks to all of those librarians who go the extra mile to see that patrons are served!"



*As fall approaches and students return to school, library images are of libraries on college campuses or in schools. If you happen to live in Hugo Oklahoma, this circus theme will delight patrons of all ages. The circus winters in Hugo so why not have the circus year around!*

Louis Sachar won the 2008 **Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Reader's Literature**. This award is given through the **Tulsa City County Library Trust** with the purpose of recognizing authors who have

made a significant contribution to literature for children and young adults. While in Tulsa, Sachar visited a Tulsa elementary school at which many of the children were surprised to learn his first book was written 32 years ago.



*Meet 3-month old Wrigley, MPLA Webmaster Dan Chaney's new cocker puppy. According to Dan she's full of energy, chews on everything, and above all loves to play. "She is a bit of an imp," he says, "I tell her no, and she keeps right on doing it."*

## South Dakota

The **South Dakota State Library** announced several new additions to their staff. MPLA member **Jane Healy** is a new Electronic Resources Coordinator for the library development team and will specialize in electronic resources training at East River locations. Jane grew up East River and has teaching and library experience in East River schools. She is back in Sioux Falls after working for many years at Mesa State College Library in Colorado. MPLA member **Julie Erickson**, who has been covering the entire state, will remain as Electronic Resources Coordinator, specializing in electronic resources training at West River locations. Two new School Library Coordinators have also been added to the State Library staff. MPLA member **Joan Upell**, formerly of Tiospaye Topa School Library, and **Lee Crary**, formerly of Bison School Library, will

work with schools around the state to ensure that quality library information literacy skills and resources are an integral part of the educational process. The goal of the new program is to build excellent school libraries in every school district in South Dakota.

The **Black Hills State University Library** was chosen as the *College Library Website of the Month* for July 2008 by ACRL. The full story can be found at <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrlbucket/cls/websiteofthemonth/index.cfm>

The **South Dakota Library Network** recently updated the Ex Libris Aleph software for its seventy member libraries. Converted were records for more than 5.7 million items and 320,000 patrons. SDLN also provides access to commercial databases, a Kids Catalog, and email for member libraries. All functions of SDLN are funded solely by member libraries cooperating to share resources among school, public, private, academic, tribal, medical, government and corporate libraries.

The **South Dakota Library Association's** Legislative Platform for 2009 includes 1) the enhancement of the existing State Publications Distribution process to include guidelines for depositing electronic format copies with the State Library, the Library of Congress and other designated state publications depositories, and 2) the ability to create of Public Library Districts in South Dakota.



## Utah

**Elizabeth Elder** was introduced as the new **Salt Lake City Library** Director at the recent joint ULA-MPLA conference. She was featured in a very favorable *Deseret News* article about her stint at the library. Elizabeth was quoted as mentioning that she wants the city residents to feel that the library “belongs” to them, and that she is positively impressed with the city residents. Elizabeth is thrilled that many Salt Lake City residents visit the library often feel. She mentioned that a new library branch may be constructed soon, increasing the number of branches to six.

Utah State offices are currently open four days weekly as part of the **Working 4 Utah** program established by Governor John Huntsman. As part of this program, the **Utah State Library** hours are Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. The program began August 4 and is scheduled to last at least one year.



A nationally published article distributed by the Gannett News Service declared that library visits have increased around 10% and listed Utah and Wyoming as states leading the list of increased library visits.

The **Utah Library Association** Continuing Education Committee sponsored a Fall Workshop September 19 at the College of Eastern Utah in Price. It included programs on *The Utah Kids Ready to Read!* Program, Young Adult Services, Reference Services, Utah Pioneer Online Library, Health & Wellness issues, and Marketing Library Services and Establishing Community Partnerships.

The **Utah Library Association Childrens and Young Adult Round Tables** co-sponsored a successful summer program. The Summer Workshop in Cedar City was held August 14-15. Speakers included Fred Adams of the Cedar City Shakespeare Festival and author Jessica Day George.

## Wyoming

The **Natrona County Public Library** has been chosen as one of 13 grant recipients nationwide to participate in *Smart Investing @ your library*<sup>®</sup>, sponsored by ALA's Reference and User Services Association



and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation. NCPL is holding a 4-part investor education series in September and October, directed at young families and individuals, with all participants welcome. Topics include basic financial planning, stocks, bonds & mutual funds, investing for retirement, estate planning, and money & happiness. A special feature of NCPL's program is its focus on all age

groups. Programs about spending, saving, and credit cards will be provided for children, tweens (grades 4-6) and teens. A special seminar will be held for seniors and retirees as well, covering the unique challenges and investing strategies seniors and those nearing retirement can learn from. Numerous resources have been added to the library's collection as well, including online resources to assist patrons as they learn about financial planning and investment.

As part of the **Wyoming Newspaper Project**, Wyoming State Librarian **Lesley Boughton** and Digital Initiatives Librarian **Erin Kinney** trained nearly 50 people in Cokeville for metadata work. They also gave presentations at the Cokeville Town Hall, Green River, Afton and Kemmerer in August.



Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States* and *The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions*, presented an August program at the **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library**. The program focused on her work in the prison ministry that inspired her books.

The **Laramie County Library System** was featured in *The Economist magazine*, September 11, 2008, in an article "Why Cowboys Read." The article subhead: "The land of mountains and cattle boasts some of America's best public libraries." See the article at [http://www.economist.com/world/unitedstates/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=12208693](http://www.economist.com/world/unitedstates/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12208693).



The 2008 Annual Meeting of the **Midcontinental Chapter of the Medical Library Association**, "Open Spaces, Frontier Places" in Cody focuses on health information access in rural and urban frontiers, and offers free credit classes. See <http://www.mcmla.org/meetings/2008/index.htm> and the conference wiki: <http://mcmla2008openspaces.wetpaint.com>.

The **Teton County Library** and the Center of Wonder held an exhibition in September: Washakie: Through the Lens of Time from the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center. Washakie was Chief of the Eastern Shoshone from the 1840s until his death in 1900. He displayed prowess as both a warrior and statesperson – hunting and trapping with Jim Bridger, sitting in treaty council and negotiations with Mormon elder Brigham Young, and securing the Wind River Reservation from the U.S. government.

As an incentive to get students to read 20,000 pages this summer, the **Sweetwater County** librarians promised to dress up as the rock band KISS at the end of the summer. Children's librarian Ellie Davis also promised to dye her hair purple. The students almost tripled the goal, reading just under 60,000 pages. For more of the story and more photos see *MPLA Stories: Tales from around the MPLA region* at <http://www.mpla.us/stories/index.html>.

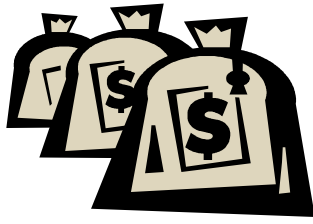


Ellie Davis, Assistant Youth Services Librarian, told the teens that if they met the summer reading goal librarians would dress up like the band members from KISS. Ellie also told them she would also dye her hair purple. (To see her purple hair in technicolor, view the newsletter online at the MPLA website, link: <http://www.mpla.us/documents/newsletter/index.html>)



*l-r: MPLA member Cindy Moore, Reference Librarian; Dee Ann Wilde, Circulation; Jo Winkel, Head of Circulation and Reference; Ellie Davis, Youth Services; Kaye Searle, Circulation; Micki Gilmore (back), Circulation; Leora Johnson, Youth Services.*





## MPLA Professional Development Grants

The final deadline to submit individual grant requests this year is December 3, 2008. Eligibility requirements:

- Resident of a state in the MPLA region
- Membership in MPLA (for mini grants of \$150 or less the applicant must be a current member of MPLA and must have been a member for the past full calendar year; for regular grants up to \$600 applicant must have been a member for the past two calendar years - total of three consecutive years.
- Currently employed in a library, be a student accepted in an advance degree program in library science or a related discipline, or hold a position or office associated with a library such as a trustee. Grant funding will generally not be awarded to a student unless that student was previously employed in a library or related position in the MPLA region and intends to pursue his or her library career in the MPLA region.
- A past recipient of a professional development grant may not apply for another grant until three years have elapsed following the end of the calendar year in which the previous grant was approved.

Grants are awarded to support the following:

- Attendance as a participant or a presenter at a library or scholarly workshop, seminar, or conference, including the MPLA annual conference.
- Visits to another library to receive or provide significant advanced training in library services or procedures.
- Library related research projects.
- Formal course work leading to an advanced degree in library science or a related discipline.
- Formal course work not leading to an advanced degree but directly related to an individual's library position.

For complete information and link to application form see <http://www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grants.html>.

Visit the  
MPLA Website  
[www.mpla.us](http://www.mpla.us)

## MPLA Libraries Receive Baseball Exhibition Grants

The American Library Association Public Programs Office, in association with the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, announced that 25 libraries have been selected to host "Pride and Passion: The African American Baseball Experience," a traveling exhibition telling the story of black baseball players in the U.S. over the past century and a half.

Libraries selected from the MPLA region are:

- Fort Scott Community College Library, Fort Scott, Kansas
- Omaha Public Library, Omaha,, Nebraska
- Natrona County Public Library, Casper, Wyoming

Libraries selected for the tour will host the 1,000-square-foot exhibit for six weeks. They will receive a \$2,500 grant from NEH for attendance at an exhibit planning workshop and other exhibit-related expenses. Participating libraries will present at least two free public programs featuring a lecture or discussion by a qualified scholar on exhibition themes. All showings of the exhibition and related programs will be free and open to the public.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) provided major funding to the ALA Public Programs Office for the traveling exhibition. "Pride and Passion" is based upon a permanent exhibition of the same name on display at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Cooperstown, N.Y.

## WebJunction Launches New Online Social and Learning Capabilities

WebJunction, the online learning community for librarians and library staff, has launched a new social and learning experience in collaboration with partners in 15 state libraries, including the Arizona State Library Archives & Public Records and the State Library of Kansas.

The new capabilities make it easier for librarians and staff to:

- Connect with friends, peers, and colleagues from across the library community using new social tools such as friends, public profiles, groups, discussions, tagging, and recommendations;

- Create their own content, conversations, and spontaneous communities;
- Learn skills with new and more flexible online courses covering general business, technical, and library skills.

Originally launched five years ago with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, OCLC, and partners from across the library community, WebJunction has grown to over 30,000 registered members and has delivered thousands of courses. See a complete list of links to WebJunction partner portals at [www.webjunction.org/partners](http://www.webjunction.org/partners).

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# Mountain Plains Library Association Awards

## Seeking Nominations for 2009

Do you know a deserving individual in the library field who should be recognized for his/her accomplishments? If so, please nominate him/her for an MPLA Award!!!

Awards will be given at the 2009 MPLA Joint Conference with the Kansas Library Association in Wichita, Kansas, in March 31-April 4, 2009. The MPLA Awards Committee is seeking nominees for the following awards:

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

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

**MPLA Literary Contribution Award:** To be given to an author whose published writings have successfully furthered 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. Published works 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.

**MPLA Unsung Hero Award:** 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.

The awards nomination form can be found at: <http://www.mpla.us/documents/procedures/appendix6-B.pdf>. Nominations need to be to the Awards Committee Chair, JaNae Kinikin ([jkinikin@weber.edu](mailto:jkinikin@weber.edu)), by **January 9, 2008**.

*Handouts from the 2008 ULA/MPLA  
Conference are available on the MPLA website  
See  
[http://www.mpla.us/documents/handouts/2008/  
index.html](http://www.mpla.us/documents/handouts/2008/index.html)*

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## Plan Now to Attend!

# **KLA/MPLA Joint Conference**

## Wichita, Kansas

## April 1-3, 2009

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### **AASL Seeking Program Proposals for 2009 Conference**

**Deadline December 1, 2008**

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) is currently accepting proposals for the concurrent and Exploratorium sessions at its 14th National Conference in Charlotte, N.C.

The conference, "Rev Up Learning @ your library," will be held Nov. 5-8, 2009. Those seeking to submit a proposal are encouraged to visit the National Conference pages at <http://www.ala.org/aasl/charlotte>. The conference will offer multiple 75-minute peer-reviewed concurrent sessions. Concurrent session proposals must address the three areas of responsibility as identified in "Information Power: Building Partnerships for Learning:"

- Learning and Teaching
- Information Access
- Program Administration

Proposals should try to inform conference attendees of the new "Standards for the 21st-Century Learner." The deadline to submit a proposal for a concurrent session is Dec. 1. More information on criteria and the submission process are available at <http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/conferencesandevents/national/charlotte2009/forpresenters/requestforproposal/rfp2009program.cfm>

### **State & National Conferences - 2008**

Wyoming Library Association Conference  
October 1-4, Casper WY

Nebraska Library Association Conference  
October 15-17, Lincoln NE

Colorado Association of Libraries Conference  
November 6-8, Denver CO

Arizona Library Association Conference  
December 8-10, Glendale AZ

### **2009**

American Library Association Midwinter  
Conference; Jan. 23-28, Denver, CO

Association of College & Research Libraries  
March 12-15, Seattle, WA

KLA/MPLA Joint Conference  
March 31 - April 3, Wichita KS

Oklahoma Library Association Conference  
April 20-22, Midwest City OK

New Mexico Library Association Conference  
April 22-24 Albuquerque NM

Utah Library Association Conference  
Apr. 22-Apr. 24, Sandy UT

American Library Association Annual  
Conference; July 9-15, Chicago, IL

Pacific Northwest Library Association  
August 5-8, Missoula, MT

North Dakota Library Association Conference  
Sept. 23-25, Jamestown

Wyoming Library Association Conference  
October 1-3, Laramie WY

South Dakota Library Association  
October 6-9, Aberdeen SD

AASL National Conference & Exhibition  
Nov. 4-8, Charlotte, NC

Colorado Association of Libraries Conference  
Nov. 19-21, Denver CO

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#### **MPLA Dues Schedule** (Membership is for calendar year)

**PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP** - Open to anyone interested in library services. \_\_\_\_\_ up to \$29,999 - \$40;  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$30,000 - \$49,999 - \$55; \_\_\_\_\_ over \$50,000 - \$65

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

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

_____ Under \$100,000 .....	\$50/yr	_____ \$300,000-499,999 .....	\$100/yr
_____ \$100,000-\$299,999 .....	\$75/yr	_____ \$500,000- up .....	\$125/yr

Name \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_  
Position/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution \_\_\_\_\_  
Address to appear in Directory \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address *if different from above* \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_; Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter Format Preference:     Receive Newsletter by Mail     View Newsletter Online Only

**I am interested in serving on the following committee(s)**    \_\_\_ Awards    \_\_\_ Communications  
\_\_\_ Leadership Institute    \_\_\_ Nominating    \_\_\_ Professional Development    \_\_\_ Membership

\_\_\_ I am willing to be nominated for an MPLA office

**For information on paying by credit card, go to the MPLA Website online form  
at <http://www.mpla.us/forms/membership.html>**

Mail to: MPLA ; Judy Zelenski, Executive Secretary; 14293 West Center Drive; Lakewood, CO 80228