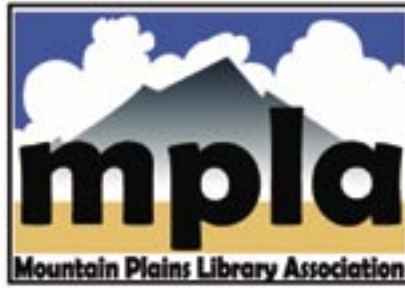


Big Horizons



Close Community

Newsletter

June 2009

Volume 53 #6

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◆

MPLA Officers 2009-2010



l-r: Robin Brooks Clark, Recording Secretary; Eileen Wright, President; Rob Banks, Past-President; Elvita Landau, Vice-President/President-Elect

Officers' terms began at the close of the KLA/MPLA 2009 Conference in Wichita and continue through the OLA/MPLA Conference in Oklahoma City, April 29-21, 2010.

ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO

COLORADO
NORTH DAKOTA

KANSAS
OKLAHOMA

MONTANA
SOUTH DAKOTA

NEBRASKA
UTAH

NEVADA
WYOMING



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*Cross-country skiing in the spring in
Yellowstone National Park*

President's Message

I visited my first state, Oklahoma, as President. I had several hosts that made sure that I was welcome to their state – Barbara Ray, Basha Hartley, and Wayne Hanway. I thank them and the Oklahoma folks for being such gracious hosts. To hear about some of the highlights from the conference, I blogged about the trip in the MPLA Soapbox area and in my MPLA “Facebook” page.

While I was in Oklahoma, I visited the site of next year's joint conference at Oklahoma City. I am very excited about the site. The conference hotel and convention center are within walking distance of many restaurants and excursions that will be available for all of us to take advantage of.

As I start this President term, I am working closely with our re-instated Leadership Institute Committee to get the Leadership Institute firmly established. We are scheduled for the Leadership Institute to take place in April 2010 at Estes Park – YMCA of the Rockies.

Everyone needs to check out the MPLA 2.0 area. I have seen some action within the new roundtables, but we need more of you to get involved within them. Sign into the MPLA Talk area and see what your friends are saying. If you are a Facebook fan, make sure to check out our MPLA Meet area. It is a “Facebook” like area just for MPLA folks. I would love to add you as a friend – the more the merrier.

--Eileen

MPLA Sponsoring “Literary Ireland” Trip

Ireland has produced four Nobel prize winners in one century: Yeats, Shaw, Beckett, and Heaney, and the Irish way with words is alive, alive-oh! Join us on a customized tour of the streets and fields that gave birth to generations of writers and explore the hidden places which colored their work.

Forget the summer schools with their intense concentration upon the finer points of allegory and hyperbole - we will design a tour to take you to the places which are the backdrop and the inspiration to so many modern Irish writers. In addition, we will tour some of Ireland's favorite tourist attractions, including tours of Guinness, the Bushmills distillery and Belleek Pottery.

Our trip will be two weeks during July, 2010. Anyone with an interest in Ireland is welcome to come along. The minimum number we must have is six. If you are at all interested in this trip, please send me an e-mail at: sosenga@frontiernet.net and I will forward the brochure to you. The brochure is also available on the MPLA website.



--Sharon Osenga

Meet MPLA's Newest Board Members

MPLA welcomes several executive board members who are currently beginning their new terms. They are:

Robin Clark **Recording Secretary**



“Where I’ve been in libraries – let’s see, how to type a whirlwind on paper – but I’ll try. I started out as a library para in a 600 student elementary school in Dallas Georgia. I’d volunteered for two years, when they had an opening, I was an already trained ready to go applicant. After finishing a computer degree in 1998, I moved back to my home state of Nebraska (I’d lived in Georgia for 25 years). I worked next for Keene Memorial Library in Fremont, Nebraska as a computer support tech, also doing senior outreach, new book newsletters, sent out collection letters. I was seriously bitten by the library bug at the 2001 Nebraska Library Leadership Institute and was encouraged to pursue an administrative career. I went back to school, obtained my bachelor’s in management in 2002, and landed my first administrative position as the Assistant Library Director and Youth Services Librarian at Kilgore Memorial Library in York, Nebraska. I wore two hats, and as a true Gemini, the position fitted me to a T. In 2005 I moved to Topeka to be with my intended and worked at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public

Library as a Public Services Specialist in the Bookmobile Department. I drove all three bookmobiles, including the 33 footer, became “Princess Pageturner” the storybook lady, worked with a group of people that were creative, hard working, knew their customers and how to serve them. I graduated from the University of Missouri in Columbia in 2007 with my MLS and was hired as the library manager for Turner Community Library in Kansas City, Kansas in 2008. My career goal was to make library director in 10 years after being bitten by the library bug, and I was pleased to accept the director’s position at Sump Memorial Library in Papillion, Nebraska, in 2009. Sump had everything that I was looking for - great building, great staff, good budget, large supportive Friends group located in the fastest growing county in Nebraska. Want to see my happy dance??

“As for what I do to have fun – you can see from above I’ve moved quite a bit in the past ten years. I prefer to stay home and play in my flower beds in my



yard or whip up a gourmet (or meat and two) meal. My husband prefers to travel, so we spend many weekends on the road camping in our 1984 vintage Scotty camper or our Casita. We have met many friends around the camp-

fire and always visit the local libraries when we travel – clean restrooms and computers! We have four grown sons between us that always keep us on our toes with one kind of drama or another. I have fun and am active in my professional organizations, wherever I might be, whether it is ALA, MPLA, NLA or KLA – in fact I did my practicum with the KLA executive director.

I love the beach and hope to retire within driving distance of one some day. As for reading, I'm a nonfiction reader; preferring regional spiral bound cookbooks, but lately I've had a taste for biographies - go figure?. More to know, catch me on MPLA 2.0!"

Mickey Coalwell **Kansas Representative**



*Mickey in 2006 after attending MPLA Leadership Institute.
Note his Ghost Ranch hat.*

Mickey Coalwell is the Library Development Consultant for NEKLS, the Northeast Kansas Library System, in Lawrence. He is a 2006 alumnus of the MPLA Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute. He has worked in several Missouri libraries, and received his MLS from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He also holds a Master of Liberal Arts from Baker University in Baldwin City.

Mickey has had a lifelong interest in comics and graphic novels, and shamelessly promotes GN collections at library conferences, workshops, and other professional gatherings. Aside from comics, Mickey's other passion is classical music.

He has reviewed classical concerts for the Kansas City Star since 1996, and is the weekday afternoon announcer on KXTR, Kansas City's HD Classical Station, www.kxtr.com. He has one wife, one daughter, and one cat.



"I grew up in Tokyo. My mother is Japanese. My wife, daughter (but not my cat) and I go back every two years to Japan to spend a few weeks with my mother and stepfather and to visit other family. We were just there in December 2008 and stayed until January 2009, spending Christmas and New Year's in Tokyo. "

Dana Braccia **Arizona Representative**

Dana Braccia has over 20 years experience in operational management and community relations both in the private and public sector working in the U.S. and Micronesia. She currently is the Collection Development Coordinator for the Scottsdale Public Library System. Her previous positions have included Branch Manager for the Mustang Library, Community Relations Coordinator for the City of Scottsdale; Event Coordinator for the Scottsdale Stadium - home of the San Francisco Giants Spring Training; and PR Manager for Guam Hilton International where she developed PR and customer service plans for Tokyo, Australia and islands in the Pacific. She has been involved in programs including OneBookAZ, the Arizona Book Festival and led a statewide grant project which brought together libraries, museums and historical societies. She holds a MLS from the University of Arizona and B.S. in Marketing from ASU.



Mike Mullin
South Dakota Representative



Mike Mullin is an active member of MPLA since 1991, serving on committees and as chair of the Public Libraries Section. He is a long-time member of the MPLA Hot Tub Roundtable and was glad to see the group officially recognized at the KLA/MPLA conference.



Mike is active in the South Dakota library community. He has served on the South Dakota Library Network Executive Committee, on SD Library Association committees and as president in 1999. His first library job was in junior high, stamping and gluing pockets in new books.

Mike has been the director of the Watertown Regional Library in Watertown, South Dakota, for 18 years. Active in his community, he has served on local boards including the Salvation Army Advisory Board, the Chamber Education Committee, United Way loaned exec., and the Arts and Culture Committee among others. Mike has been active with Boy Scouts for about 30 years; currently he serves on Eagle Scout Boards of Review.

Mike's leisure activities include gardening, camping, computer stuff, music and reading.

Jerry Hudson
Chair Nominating Committee



Raised in Albuquerque, Jerry has called Colorado home for the last 15 years. As a self proclaimed 'reformed technologist' he has expanded his interests into a variety of areas which includes academic training in Environmental Science, Anthropology, and Sociology. He completed the MLIS program at University of North Texas in 2003 and has worked with the High Plains Library District since 2007 where he is currently the Public Services Supervisor at the Centennial Park Branch. He enjoys working with the wide variety of patrons in the district and is actively involved with business and entrepreneurial outreach programs. One of his special interests is technology for Libraries. His leisure time interests include sport aviation (yes he has a pilot's license,) motorcycles, but most importantly; travel and gardening with his wife Annie.

Dan Stanton **Chair Leadership Institute** **Committee**



Dan with a halo

while getting his MLIS from the University of Arizona. Dan's professional work includes time as an instruction librarian at ASU's West campus library, before returning to the Tempe campus as the Arizona



Dan without a halo

Local Documents Librarian. Promoted to Associate Librarian with Continuing Appointment in 2006, Dan has recently been working on Personnel and Organizational Development projects.

Dan participated in the inaugural MPLA Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch in 2002. Since then he became a member and has served on the Continuing Education Committee, presented at 2 annual conferences, and most recently assisted in evaluating program proposals for the Wichita conference. Dan is very excited about

stepping up his involvement with MPLA with the goal of reestablishing the Leadership Institute.

Dan and his wife, Christy, have two boys Luke (13) and Riley (12) who keep him busy with baseball, movies, and music. Prior to moving to AZ in 1992, Dan worked for two years with the Peace Corps in Washington DC, after 3+ years in Honduras where he worked as a Peace Corps Volunteer and teacher. Dan grew up in Connecticut, and has a BA in Religion from Trinity College in Hartford.

Dan is a Pisces ♋.

Rita Severt **Chair Membership Committee**



"I am currently the Library Manager at Wichita Area Technical College in Wichita, Kansas and have been here for almost three years. Prior to that, I worked for eleven years at Newman University (Wichita private college) as the public services librarian

and way before that I worked at Friends University (Wichita private college) for three years as the circulation supervisor and four years as a student worker. In between those, I worked at RAF Mildenhall, England Library and Wichita Public Library.

“I like to laugh; travel with my husband; hang out with my kids; play with the three grandchildren; walk around our land with the dog; read (with my cat at my side) anything and everything, except really scary stuff; sew quilt tops; visit with my sisters via email; sing in the church choir; watch local plays; and go to lunch and events with my library buds. (Now you know my entire life---LOL).”

Ellen Fockler Chair Awards Committee

Ellen has been Program Coordinator – School libraries at the Washoe County School District, Reno, Nevada for the past 9-1/2 years. She was previously a Teacher and



Librarian at the District. Ellen began as a high school English teacher in 1963 and worked with the Northern Nevada Writing Project for many years after leaving teaching to raise her children. She began working in school libraries in 1986 and has worked in an elementary library, a middle school library and as Library Coordinator. Her specialities are Children’s and Young Adult literature and school library management. Ellen has her MA in English and is a Doctoral Candidate in Literacy Studies. Ellen coordinates the 90 school libraries in the district, providing hardware and software assistance and training, professional development



opportunities during monthly or quarterly meetings, and oversees the Nevada Reading Week Conference which is attended by 225 teachers and librarians from Washoe County and throughout northern Nevada and parts of California. Ellen was named 2008 Librarian of the Year by the Nevada Library Association.

“Hmmm.... for fun...,” she says. “Well, I’m an avid gardener, though certainly not a master at it. Each year I grow enough beans, tomatoes, green peppers, zucchini and potatoes to give many away. I enjoy quiet pursuits such as counted cross-stitch. But I also enjoy music-- jazz especially, blue grass, folk -- and I’m looking forward to my annual trek to the Strawberry Music Festival in California with my family. I enjoy musicals, and try to see three or four live productions each year. I love the mountains, the streams, the countryside. I enjoy traveling, and have been to New Zealand three times, and would go again at the drop of a hat; and someday before too long, I’d like to visit the Swiss-Italian Alps where my grandfather was raised and where some family members still live, and to see Ireland as well, where the other side of the family comes from. I do spend part of every summer in the Black Hills of South Dakota, a time of peace and renewal for me. And.... of course ... I am a reader.”



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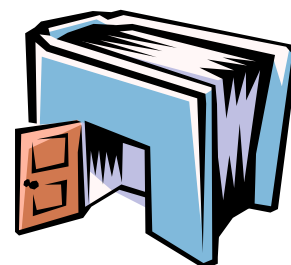
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Wheat Ridge, CO

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Take a Hike!



(Or Get Cultured)

It's a Walk in the Park

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

I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can out-wit Nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority. - E. B. White

Parks represent an unusual role for government: the setting aside of an area for public use. This public use varies from park to park and can include open spaces for recreation, historic buildings and other locations, ethnographic objects and other cultural resources, natural wonders and conservation laboratories, and the services and resources to allow us to learn from these locations.

National Park Service - <http://www.nps.gov/>

In 1872, Congress set aside land in the Montana and Wyoming territories to be forever “dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the

people.” President Ulysses S. Grant signed the law that created Yellowstone Park. Since there was no state government to manage it, the Department of Interior was awarded custody and the world’s first National Park came into being.

In 1906, Congress passed the Antiquities Act allowing Presidents to set aside “historic and pre-historic structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest” in as national monuments. Aside from three sites in California, fifteen of the first eighteen choices in this category, selected by President Teddy Roosevelt, were from the Mountain Plains region. <http://www.nps.gov/history/history/hisnps/NPSHistory/antiq.htm>.

The National Park Service was created in 1916 to manage the federal lands that were becoming an intersection of conservation and tourism. There are currently 388 park areas offering everything from coral reefs to wildflowers, camping to snow skiing, cemeteries to seashores, Alabama to Wyoming.

Recently, the federal government has created Recreation.Gov <http://www.recreation.gov/> as an e-government initiative to enhance customer satisfaction with recreational activities on public lands. In addition, the Preserve America Initiative <http://www.preserveamerica.gov/index.html> encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our priceless cultural and natural heritage.

States have stepped in, as well, seeing the value of preserving and providing access to history, natural resources, and recreation. Some state parks programs are tied to tourism, others to game and fish, or natural resources. All provide activities and opportunities that deserve a look:

Arizona State Parks - <http://www.azparks.gov/>

Colorado State Parks - <http://parks.state.co.us/>

continued on next page

Take a Hike! *continued from page 11*

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks - <http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/>

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks - <http://fwp.mt.gov/default.html>

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission - <http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/parks/parks.asp>

Nevada Division of State Parks - <http://parks.nv.gov/>

New Mexico State Parks Division - <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/PRD/>

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department - <http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/>

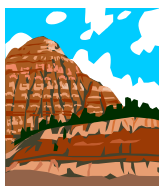
Oklahoma State Parks - <http://www.tourokla-homa.com/>

South Dakota State Parks - <http://www.sdgfp.info/Parks/index.htm>

Utah State Parks - <http://stateparks.utah.gov/stateparks/>

Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites & Trails - <http://wyoparks.state.wy.us/>

Why not think about a 'staycation' this year? Visit the National, State, and County parks where you live, contribute to the local economy, learn something, and have fun!



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Conference Handouts

Handouts from the KLA/MPLA joint conference presentations are available at <http://www.mpla.us/documents/handouts/2009/index.html>.

Visit the MPLA
Website
www.mpla.us

Around the Region

ARIZONA

The Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records has compiled a list of tools for tough times. Featured resources include one-stop career



**Tools For
Tough Times**

centers and job search tools; information on bill paying, food banks, and family assistance as well as links to foreclosure assistance, homelessness prevention, health services, seniors, and parenting.

Culture Pass is a partnership between the Phoenix metro public libraries and area museums. The Cul-

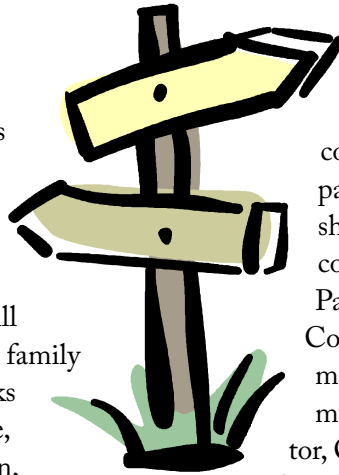


ture Pass gives card holders free admission for up to 4 people at participating organizations when they “check-out” the admission at their library. Participating Museums include:

- Mesa Arts Center
- Phoenix Art Museum
- Phoenix Zoo
- Desert Botanical Garden
- Heard Museum
- Heard West
- Heard North
- Arizona Museum of Natural History
- Arizona Museum for Youth
- Children’s Museum
- Arizona Science Center
- Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art
- The Bead Museum
- Taliesin West
- Cave Creek Museum

COLORADO

The CAL Leadership Development Institute (CALLI) is about half-way through the year-long



leadership development program. CALLI was designed to develop outstanding leaders within CAL and the Colorado library community. Since November, the 24 participants have received an introduction to leadership styles, explored their strengths, learned communication tools and advocacy strategies. Participants represent a cross-section of the Colorado library community and are paired with mentors, current leaders in the library community. During a recent lunch with her mentor, CALLI participant Terri Mondschein (Delta County Library District) said she has really been enjoying the variety of opportunities to network with other library professionals within the state. Participants also have a presence on Facebook and a ning has been established. The current reading assignment is *Managing Transitions: Making the Most of Change-2nd ed.*, by William Bridges.

Visit the new Colorado Libraries blog: <http://www.coloradolibraries.org/>. Some recent postings include: Successful LSTA grants; AIRS and \$1M cut, Online catalogs – what users and librarians want.

Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC) spring workshops were well-attended, even with driving distances, budget crises, and the unstable winter-to-spring weather. The CLiC staff recruits presenters for a wide variety of topics for quality workshops.

Planning for the annual conference of the **Colorado Association of Libraries** is in “power up” mode. The conference is November 19-21, 2009 at the Marriott Denver Tech Center with the theme “Power on: Avenues for the future.”

BCR and Safe Sound Archive have partnered to help libraries and cultural heritage institutions preserve their historic, obsolete or damaged audio recordings. Safe Sound Archive can recover and reformat many types of media, including virtually all analog formats, as well as early and current digital formats. Safe Sound Archive also was a primary partner during BCR’s CDP project, *Sound Model: Collaborative Infrastructure for Digital Audio*.

KANSAS

MPLA member **Jean Hatfield** received the Kansas Library Association's Library Personnel award at the KLA-MPLA conference in April. Jean is Branch Manager of the Alford Regional Library Branch Manager, Wichita Public Library. She has served on the Newbery Award Committee and chaired the Pura Belpré Award Committee. Her encouragement to staff participating in a project by *Trees for Life's* education wing, *Books for Life*, enabled the Wichita Public Library to share their storytelling best practices worldwide.

Librarians Have Talent show at the KLA/MPLA conference featured several individuals and groups competing to win the competition by encouraging donations to the Kansas Library Educational Fund. Judges were **Christie Brandau**, Kansas State Librarian, and MPLA members **Eileen Wright**, MPLA President; and **Gwen Alexander**, Dean of the Emporia School of Library and Information Management.



Rap artists from the Kansas State Library won. The Talent Show raised over \$700 for the Foundation.

MPLA Member **Mary Ann Thompson**, Kansas Room Librarian at the Hays Public Library, wanted to see the Churchill, Manitoba polar bears for a number of years. So she spent her birthday in late October on the tundra next to Hudson Bay watching polar bears and other arctic animals.



Said Mary Ann, "We lived in a train-like contraption with two sleeping cars, a lounge car, and a dining car and took day trips in the polar rover vehicle. Both the lodge and the rover were about 12 feet above the ground and the rover would dock with the lodge, so we never stepped foot on the ground for the week. Which is good, because there were lots of bears around. Looking back at my 1000 or so photographs, it looks like we saw about 70 different bears. We also saw arctic fox, an arctic owl, ptarmigan (an arctic bird), arctic hares and some red fox. It was truly amazing. The weather turned colder and there was a blizzard and 3 feet of snow fell in areas so the bears became very active, play fighting and tussling around on the ground together."
Mary Ann is in back, third from right.

MONTANA

Several awards were presented at the recent Montana Library Association conference in Kalispell. The Montana Book Award was given to *Full Court Quest* by Linda Peavey and Ursula Smith during a reception at the **Flathead County Library**. Family members of the Fort Shaw Indian School basketball team profiled in the book were present at the reception.

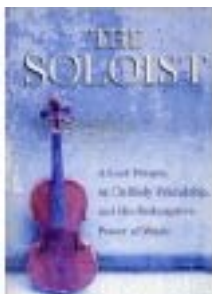
Librarian of the Year was presented to **Vaun Stevens** of Missoula Public Library; **Judy Hart** and the Board of Trustees of Lewis & Clark Library in Helena received the Pat Williams Intellectual Freedom Award for their handling of a book challenge, and the *Montana Book Babes: Librarians under the Big Sky* calendar won the Media Award.

Another group of libraries has joined the **MontanaLibrary2Go** project, allowing members to download audiobooks to MP3 players and iPods.

Titles “check out” just like regular library books and are automatically “returned” at the end of the borrowing period. There are almost 30 libraries participating, enjoying titles that include nonfiction and fiction for all ages. In other resource-sharing news, more libraries have applied to join the Montana Shared Catalog, bringing the total of participants to 99.

The *Treasure State Award*, the book voted most popular by students in kindergarten through 3rd grade, was *Library Lion* by Michelle Knudsend, surpassing Jim Arnosky’s *Grandfather Buffalo* by 2 votes. The Montana State Reading Council sponsors the award.

The Soloist by Steve Lopez has been announced as the selection for *One Book – One Bozeman*, the community-wide reading event sponsored by several partners including the **Bozeman Public Library**, the Library Foundation, Friends of the Library, **MSU-Bozeman’s Renner Library**, and others. Complete information and event schedule is available: <http://www.onebookonebozeman.org/>



NEBRASKA

Julie Beno, MPLA’s Nebraska Representative says “Thank you to MPLA and KLA for a wonderful conference. Nebraskans attending had a great time and learned lots!”

Robin Brooks Clark, Director of the Sump Memorial Library and newly elected secretary for MPLA, authored an article in the March/April Eastern Library System newsletter *Eastern Express*: “The Nebraska Library Leadership Institute: What it means to me.” See <http://www.elsne.org/> The next Leadership Institute in Nebraska will be held July 20-24, 2009 at the St. Benedict Center in Schuyler.

Stacey Aldridge, Deputy Director, California State Library, was guest speaker for the Spring Colloquium sponsored by the **Southeast Library System** and **Eastern Library System**. See her “must reads” at <http://www.elsne.org/>.

The **Freeman-Lozier Library at Bellevue University** now provides students with access to the 24/7 Librarian. Students can converse with a live reference librarian using Question Point. This service allows the librarian and student to view the same web pages.

The **Gretna Public Library** received a grant from the Toyota Motor Corporation of a set of 50 translated books of modern Japanese fiction and non-fiction.

The **Lincoln City Libraries** held its first interactive in-service. **Michael Sauers**, Innovation Librarian from the Nebraska Library Association, filmed, photoed and flickered, etc. the event. See photos at Flickr. tag lcl 09.

The *Pioneer Project* received funding to develop an ILS (Integrated Library System) for member public libraries in Lincoln, Omaha, Bellevue, Gretna, Holdrege, Grand Island, and St. Paul. **Greg Mickells**, Lincoln City Libraries, is Project Director.

Current NEBASE libraries will be moving to **BCR** for their OCLC products and services starting July 1, 2009, as the result of a recommendation from the **Nebraska Library Commission** and an agreement between BCR and OCLC. The move is the result of a decision made by the Nebraska Library Commission to dissolve NEBASE as an OCLC network. By obtaining OCLC services through BCR, Nebraska libraries automatically become BCR members. To assist with the move to BCR, **Regan Harper**, BCR’s Director of Training and OCLC Services, who is heading up the transition team, will be meeting with Nebraska libraries at a “Farewell to NEBASE” event in June.

The **University of Nebraska-Omaha School Library Media** program received the status of “Nationally Recognized” from the American Association of School Librarians and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education programs. Only 40 programs nationwide have been awarded this status by AASL in conjunction with NCATE. The award celebrates the excellence and commitment of the programs’ outstanding students, dedicated faculty, and supportive department and college administrators.



NEVADA

The Nevada State legislature is currently making a decision on the future of the **Nevada State Library** literacy office. The Department of Cultural Affairs will soon suffer a 35 percent reduction in its budget, meaning museums will be closed four out of seven days. The state Arts Council and Historic Preservation Programs will see a 50 percent reduction in their budgets.

Possible funding options for a new **Carson City Library** were discussed at the April Library Board of Trustees meeting. The meeting provided information on public funding options through taxes and a discussion of partnerships with other entities. A Library Services Calculator has been added to the libraries website allowing patrons to calculate the retail value of services obtained from books borrowed to children's programming.

Washoe County Library System is anticipating a 36% reduction in their budget as a result of the current economy, requiring a cut of over \$4 million for the next year. The Library system currently has 36 vacant positions which have been frozen. Many employees are voluntarily reducing their hours, compensation, or retiring. Fewer resources will be offered while libraries will be open fewer days and shorter hours with operations suspended at some libraries.

The RFID tagging project deadline for **Boulder City Library** has been extended to December 2009. Boulder City also announces online access to Consumer Reports. This service is provided through Ebsco and includes all products reviews.

Douglas County Public Library is in the process of changing computer systems. Since 1981, they have been part of the Cooperative Libraries Automated Network (CLAN). The migration to the Polaris system (DCPL) will occur May 6, with the expectation that the customized system will provide better service to their patrons and save money.

The City of **North Las Vegas** opened the **Alexander Library**, its third full-service library and adjacent 2-acre park, on March 11. The \$12 million Alexander Library and park includes 16,400 square-feet of library space and meeting rooms with a children's area, public access computers and thousands of books.

The **Las Vegas-Clark County Library District** began its 8th annual *Reading Las Vegas* reading program. The month-long free reading program for adults ages 18 and older was held in April. This year programs and events are designed to entertain and educate around environmental sustainability. The city also plans to open a full-service Southwest Library in March 2011.

The Grand opening of **Henderson Libraries Green Valley Library** was May 2. The full service library was transformed in both services and design. The library features the one service desk concept where all departments of the library are located in one central area. The Green Valley Library will also provide patrons with self check machines and self registration computers plus a state of the art computer lab.



Green Valley Library

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico State University – Doña Ana Community College has announced the addition of two more certificates in Library Science, available online:

- Certificate of Specialized Topics in Library Science – 12 credits
- Certificate of Customized Study in Library Science – 36 credits

These join the existing Certificate of Fundamentals in Library Science (24 credits), and the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Library Science (66 credits), also available completely online. The college also offers online undergraduate and graduate courses to fulfill the requirements for the School Library Media Specialist Endorsement. See the complete listing of

upcoming courses, for both summer and fall, at <http://dacc.nmsu.edu/lsc>. For more information visit <http://dacc.nmsu.edu/lsc>. or request a packet of information by emailing Dr. Susan Pinkerton, at spinkert@nmsu.edu, or calling 1-800-903-7503, ext. 7567.

The **New Mexico State University Library** is sponsoring "Soul of a People: Writing America's Story," a series of free public programs about the New Deal Federal Writers' Project during April and May. The programs are cosponsored by the Branigan Cultural Center and the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library.

The **New Mexico Coalition for Literacy** will host its 21st Annual Meeting June 19, 2009 at Nativo Lodge in Albuquerque. **Nancy Pearl** will deliver the keynote address to about 150 adult literacy volunteer tutors, board members, administrators, and learners from all over New Mexico.



NORTH DAKOTA

The **Ellendale Public Library** announced the completion of their new computer room. The room, formerly as storage room, was renovated with new ceiling, walls, lighting, and wiring for up to six computers. Currently, there are four computers available for patron use in their new computer room. A generous donation from the local Herman Schlinker American Legion Post #137 made the project possible.

The **North Dakota Library Coordinating Council** and the **North Dakota State Library** are inviting all citizens of North Dakota, including librarians, library staff, students, and library board members to participate in a day-long Think Tank to further develop the long range vision for libraries in North Dakota. The Think Tanks will be held in three locations: May 28 in Dickinson, May 29 in Minot, and June 5 in Fargo. The goal to further develop the vision for libraries in North Dakota with input from a broad section of librarians, board members and the public.

The **North Dakota State Library** is offering Advanced Online Research classes in two locations for one graduate credit this summer. Classes will be

in Devil's Lake at Lake Region State College on June 15-16 and Bismarck at the Bismarck State College on June 18-19. One graduate level continuing education credit is available for teachers from Minot State University, the University of North Dakota, and North Dakota State University. Credit is available for Library Media Specialists from Valley City State University.

The **Grafton Public Schools** were awarded a grant in September 2007 from the State Library and the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council to become automated on the ODIN system. The cataloging phase will be completed by May 2009. The Statewide Catalog Development Department of the State Library has been adding the titles to World-Cat and ODIN since the cataloging phase began in December 2007. The high school has 6,600 titles, the middle school has 4,800 titles and the elementary has 12,100 titles. During the next phase, the librarians and aides at the Grafton schools will load records for their patrons into the circulation system and learn to use the system to check out their materials. "It will be great to have everyone in the database and to be able to quickly check if a title is already checked out. I can't do that now without going through every single card!" says **Lynda Brady**, the librarian at Grafton Elementary. **Wendy Bina**, a library aide at the high school, is also looking forward to sharing books within the school district since this is the first time they will easily be able to see what the other schools own.



Grafton School students. Grafton will transition from catalog cards to an automation system.

Share a Story Family Literacy Event, a first time event at Minot State University-Bottineau campus was a rousing success thanks to a partnership with Prairie Public Broadcasting and the work of many volunteers, donations from local businesses, the energy of enthusiastic kids, the support of parents, and Curious George. Around 425 people showed up at the campus and each child received a free book. **Tanya Mooney**, MSU-Bottineau Care Giver Service Program Advisor, coordinated the event. Mooney said the focus of the event was the importance of early literacy and families reading together.

Community Entrepreneurship was the focus of a unique community-university forum in Rugby in April. Community members from across the state and University of North Dakota faculty and students met to discover common interests and learn from each other. It featured discussions about funding for community projects, community planning and evaluation, community information gathering, promoting community arts, and youth and senior citizens as assets for North Dakota communities. **Wilbur Stolt** is Director of Libraries at the University of North Dakota.

OKLAHOMA

MPLA Portal Administrator **Roy Degler** was awarded the Outstanding New Librarian Award at the Oklahoma Library Association conference in April. This award is granted to an individual librarian who has been in the library field less than 5 years in recognition of significant contributions to the profession of librarianship and potential for professional development. Both MPLA and OLA have benefited from Roy's talents and dedication to the library profession.



The Sequoyah winners for 2009 include *Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker, Children's winner; and *Runaway* by Wendelin Van Draanen, Intermediate winner. Susie Hinton was awarded an honorary Sequoyah award at the **Oklahoma Library Association** Conference banquet for the *Outsiders* since the Young Adult Award did not exist at the time the book was written. Susie shared her years growing up and her writing at the banquet.



A horse lover, she did not want to have a pony, she wanted to be a pony. She wrote the *Outsiders* because she wanted something to read. Notice that the book would be published came on her high school graduation.

The **Oklahoma Library Association** carefully monitored a recent Senate Bill which would have allowed the State Department of Education to exempt any school district that participates in the School District Empowerment Program from current mandates. Mandates affecting school librarians include exempting the hiring of qualified school library media specialists, providing school library facilities, or providing for school library budgets. The bill was passed but Governor Brad Henry vetoed it. Teachers associations had opposed the bill.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The **South Dakota State Library** is starting the process of revising the existing accreditation and certification standards for public libraries. Daria Bossman, the Assistant State Librarian, is currently in the process of forming four subcommittees of public librarians to make recommendations for changes to the four major parts of the standards. The existing standards were created by the South Dakota Library Association a number of years ago as voluntary standards for ac-

creditation and certification. In June 2008 the SDLA Executive Board voted to transfer the administration of the standards to the South Dakota State Library.

The **Mikkelsen Library at Augustana College** in Sioux Falls had its renovation ceremony on April 17 after a more than seven million dollar renovation. The renovation project incorporated the latest in technology, including a state-of-the-art video production and editing suite. Other enhancements include reconfigured study areas, an inviting fireplace seating area on the main floor and the addition of 80,000 theological volumes from the Sioux Falls Seminary as part of a new collaborative agreement. See pictures on their Flickr page at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/mikkelsenlibrary/sets/72157614745973991/>

The **Whitewood Public Library** teamed up with the **Rapid City Regional Hospital Library** to get an NIH display for the Whitewood health fair to show fair goers what libraries could offer them.

UTAH

Utah Library Association officer election results were announced: President-Elect, Andy Spackman; ALA Representative, Debbie Short is new ALA Representative; Members At Large, Deb Greathouse and MPLA member Peter Kraus; Academic Section Chair, MPLA member Erin Dini-Davis; Special Section Chair, Susanne Clement.

The 2010 ULA conference will be held in St. George, Utah.

Utah librarian, **Kenning Arlitsch**, Associate Director for Information Technology Services at the Marriott Library of the University of Utah was among *Library Journal's* annual list of "movers and shakers."

The new **Pleasant Valley Branch of the Weber County Library** is being built "green". The environmentally efficient building includes using recycled materials, preferred parking spots for alternative-fuel vehicles and charging stations for patrons to use for their electric vehicles.

Mother-daughter authors Mary Higgins Clark and Carol Higgins Clark appeared at a program sponsored

by the **Davis County Library** and "Davis Reads" April 21.

The **Washington County Library System** opened a new branch in April as one of eight construction projects funded by a bond approved by voters in 2001.

The *Salt Lake Tribune* reported that Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* series of books have been removed from the shelves at Deseret Bookstores because of a parent's complaint about "sexual content" in the novel *Breaking Dawn*.

The **Grand County Public Library** in Moab was named the first annual Utah State Library of the Year. Along with the recognition, Grand County will receive \$1000.

The **Utah Library Association** held its annual conference in Sandy, Utah April 22-24. MPLA member **Steve Decker** presided over the conference as President of ULA and introduced the confer-



ence theme "Utah Libraries: Turning Up the Volume". See photos at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dljsfam/sets/72157617395648788/>

ULA President Steve Decker, "turning up the volume." Photo courtesy of Dale Larsen

WYOMING

The **Laramie County Library System's** new library in Cheyenne became the first LEED Gold Certified building in Wyoming and the first publicly funded facility in the state to receive any kind of LEED certification. During the extensive planning process, LCLS took "green" steps in a number of ways – from recycling post-construction waste to managing storm water to optimizing energy performance. LEED points were also gained by utilizing native landscaping, encouraging carpooling, educating the public about LEED, and offering a regular recycling program to staff and

patrons. The certification was made possible in part from a grant from the Wyoming Business Council's Energy Office, which uses funds from the Stripper Well Petroleum Violation Funds program. The grant — about 1% of the total project cost—helped cover some of the costs relating to engineering, designing, LEED consulting, modeling, and fundamental building commissioning.

Sheridan County Library System received checks totaling \$10,000 to the Sheridan County Library Foundation's endowment campaign from the First Interstate Bank in Sheridan. MPLA member Cathy Butler is the Library Director.



Bill Huppert, president of First Interstate Bank in Sheridan, presented two checks totaling \$10,000 to the Sheridan County Library Foundation's endowment campaign. The contributions from First Interstate Bank and the First Interstate Bancsystem Foundation were accepted by Cathy Butler, Sheridan County Public Library System Director, and Karen Miller, Sheridan County Library Foundation Endowment Chair.

The **Teton County Library** invited teens and 'tweens in grades 6 to 12 to perform in a live **Poetry Slam at Hard Drive Café** in May. Teens could perform original or existing works of poetry in up to three rounds of competition. Poetry books were on hand for last-minute contestants who preferred to choose a poem on the fly. A panel of judges awarded cash gift-card prizes worth \$50, \$30 and \$20 to the top middle school and high school performers.

The fourth annual **Wyoming Reads** event to celebrate first graders' ability to read was held throughout Wyoming on May 19. Governor Dave Freudenthal also proclaimed May 19 to be Wyoming Literacy Day

to coincide with this community event. Over 7,200 students in all 23 Wyoming counties received their very own hardback books during this annual event. This literacy celebration began as "Casper Cares, Casper Reads" in **Natrona County** in 1996, and was expanded statewide for the first time in 2006. This year's Natrona County celebration included 1,175 first graders from public, private and homeschools throughout the county. Over 125 received their first library card. Business, media and political "Celebrity Readers" showed their support of the program while children were treated to a dramatized fairytale about "The Good Queen Sue."

Wyoming Reads honors Sue Jorgensen and her commitment to literacy and children. "Sue had two great passions in life – children and literacy," says her husband, John. "She believed children needed to be able to read to fulfill their potential in life."



CSCL

Become a “Fan” of MPLA on Facebook

The Facebook group for the Mountain Plains Library Association is transitioning to a Facebook Page.

According to MPLA Webmaster Dan Chaney, “The Facebook Page offers the association more options for posting and interacting with MPLA members. The MPLA Page is an actual page for the association that you can all become a “fan” of, and one benefit is you will know about postings on the MPLA page, be it an event for conference, a video, whatever.”

The new MPLA Facebook page is at: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=logo#/pages/The-Mountain-Plains-Library-Association/55122193140?ref=mf>. Any Facebook member can become a fan of MPLA.



2009 REMAINING DEADLINES FOR MPLA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS

AUGUST 5

OCTOBER 7

JUNE 3

DECEMBER 2

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE

[HTTP://WWW.MPLA.US/COMMITTEES/
PROFDEV/GRANTS.HTML](http://www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grants.html)

State & National Conferences 2009

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 ND

Wyoming Library Association Conference
October 1–3, Laramie WY

South Dakota Library Association Conference
October 6–9, Aberdeen SD

Nevada Library Association Conference
October 7–10, Elko, NV

Nebraska Library Association Conference
October 28–30, La Vista NE

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

Colorado Association of Libraries Conference
Nov. 19–21 Denver CO

Arizona Library Association Conference
December 7–9, Glendale AZ

2010

OLA/MPLA Joint Conference
April 19–21, Oklahoma City, OK

2011

MLA/MPLA Joint Conference
Spring, Billings, MT

2012

NLA (Nebraska)/MPLA Joint Conference,
Fall, Omaha, NE

2013

NDLA/SDLA/MPLA Joint Conference,
October, Sioux Falls, SD

KLA/MPLA Conference Moments



Robin Clark from Sump Memorial Library in Papillion, Nebraska, and Laura Loveless, from Kansas City Kansas Public Library collaborated across state lines to host a social event for all MLS grads and students from the University of Missouri at Columbia.



Rob Banks passes gavel to Eileen Wright at Members Meeting



From the Hot Tub Roundtable



Former Presidents Wayne Hanway & Marilyn Hinshaw



Donna Morris & Dorothy Liegl at Awards Banquet



Dan Chaney & Roy Degler updating MPLA website



Eileen Wright presents gift (wrapped in stapled catalog cards) to Rob Banks



MPLA New Members Breakfast



New members Lori Snyder & Vaunda Nelson



New Members Tom Taylor & Adam Emter

*Visitors from newly
formed Hot Tub
Roundtable*

*Incoming President
Eileen Wright*



New Member Kay Johnson

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(Membership is for calendar year)

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_____ \$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

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