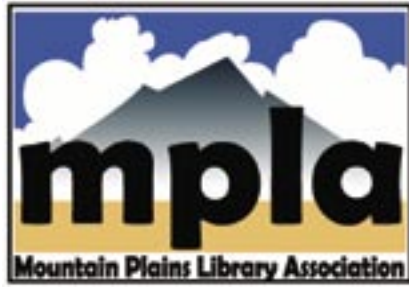


Big Horizons



Close Community

Newsletter

October 2009

Volume 54 #2

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◆
www.mpla.us
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MPLA 2010 Leadership Institute Application Deadline: December 1, 2009

The application for the Mountain Plains Library Association 2010 Leadership Institute is now online. This 7th MPLA Institute will be held April 25-30 in Estes Park, Colorado. It will again be facilitated by nationally known organizational development consultant Maureen Sullivan.

Anyone employed in a library in the MPLA region with a minimum of five years in a library-related job with progressive experience is invited to apply. Education requirements of previous institutes have been removed.

Find more information at <http://www.mpla.us/leadership/index.html>;
Application form at <http://www.mpla.us/leadership/leadershipapp2010.doc>

For more information contact Institute Coordinator Judy Zelenski, mpla_execsecretary@operamail.com, or Leadership Institute Committee Chair Dan Stanton, danton@asu.edu.



YMCA of the Rockies - Estes Park, Colorado

ARIZONA
NEW MEXICO

COLORADO
NORTH DAKOTA

KANSAS
OKLAHOMA

MONTANA
SOUTH DAKOTA

NEBRASKA
UTAH

NEVADA
WYOMING



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| May 1 | November 1 |

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Eileen in Australia on Hamilton Island within the Whitsundays Great Barrier Reef area

President's Message

While summer was in full swing, we had our annual in-person Executive board meeting. It was a thrill for me to work with so many brilliant minds that have such enthusiasm for MPLA. I encourage you to read about what we are accomplishing within our organization. Follow what each of the committees is achieving and read about the important issues and concerns from each State Representative. Check out the board reports and meeting minutes on our MPLA webpage: <http://www.mpla.us/documents/reports/index.html>.

The focus of our meeting was the 2010 Leadership Institute. We had several decisions to make in regards to the Institute. Three important decisions discussed and passed by the board were:

- Judy Zelenski is our coordinator, which is a big savings to MPLA
- The cost of the institute is not increasing; it will stay the same at \$450 for MPLA members and \$550 for non- members
- The education requirement has been removed.

Check out the new requirements on the website now: <http://www.mpla.us/leadership/index.html>. The Leadership Institute is an invaluable experience, so consider applying now for the 2010 Institute.

A big thanks to my committee chair, Dan Stanton, and the committee for all the hard work they have accomplished. I look forward to working with all the amazing people within MPLA this coming year.

--Eileen

New Mexico State University | Doña Ana Community College

15TH ANNIVERSARY

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NM STATE **DACC**
Doña Ana Community College

MPLA Leadership Institute Rides Again!

After a 2 year hiatus, the MPLA Leadership Institute is back!

Many people within the MPLA organization have worked diligently to keep this wonderful program alive, and we stand on the shoulders of giants. I thank them all for their effort and dedication in support of this program, past and present.

We have made some big changes: by moving the Institute from Ghost Ranch to YMCA of the Rockies, we are able to keep costs down and provide participants with easier access; by opening up the applicant criteria, we envision a greater mix of library leadership experience within the Institute, and providing many more colleagues to share this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

We have kept many things the same: renowned library trainer and consultant, Maureen Sullivan, will be facilitating this Institute, as she has all previous; a group of experienced leaders will be serving as mentors, representing a variety of library organizations; each state will have the opportunity to recommend at least 2 participants for the Institute; and the cost to participants will stay the same.

On behalf of the Leadership Institute Committee, I hope you will help us to continue the success of the MPLA Leadership Institute by applying or encouraging current and potential leaders to apply.

Dan Stanton
Chair, Leadership Institute Committee
Leadership Institute 2002 Fellow

YMCA of the Rockies
Site of 2010 MPLA Leadership Institute
Photos by Jerry Hudson



Apply now for the **MPLA 2010 Leadership Institute**

April 25-30, 2010; Estes Park, Colorado

DEADLINE for Applications is Tuesday, December 1, 2009

The 7th MPLA Leadership Institute will again be facilitated by nationally known organizational development consultant Maureen Sullivan. Ms. Sullivan has over 25 years experience in leadership development. She helped establish the ACRL/Harvard Leadership Institute and is a faculty member for its annual program.

Criteria for applicants:



- Employed in a library organization in MPLA's 12-state region
- Current member of one of MPLA's 12 affiliated state library associations
- Minimum of 5 years in a library-related job with progressive experience
- Record of experience that demonstrates leadership potential
- Expected continued contribution to the profession
- A thoughtfully completed application
- Two letters of recommendation
- Note: Education requirements of previous institutes have been removed.

Registration cost for MPLA members is \$450; non-MPLA members \$550. This includes room and all meals. Attendees pay for their own transportation costs. Individual libraries, state libraries, and state associations have assisted attendees with registration and/or transportation costs in the past. It is up to the individual attendees to pursue these or other sources of financial assistance.

Thirty participants will be selected through a process involving states and the MPLA Leadership Institute Committee. Notifications will be sent February 1, 2010.

The online link to application form: <http://www.mpla.us/leadership/index.html>

continued on page 6

MPLA 2010 Leadership Institute – *continued from page 5*

Mentors for the 2010 Institute will be:

Jeffrey Belliston

Scholarly Communications Librarian; Brigham Young University Library, Provo, Utah
2005 Leadership Institute Fellow; MPLA member since 2000

Amelia Shelley

Executive Director, Garfield County Libraries; Rifle, Colorado
MPLA member since 2000

Brian Greene

WYLD Program Manager, Wyoming State Library; Cheyenne, Wyoming
MPLA member since 1991

Judy Zelenski

Institute Coordinator, MPLA Executive Secretary; Lakewood, Colorado
2007 Leadership Institute Mentor; MPLA member since 1980

Comments from past institute participants:

- *The MPLA Leadership Institute turned out to be the single most gratifying and relevant experience of my library career.*
- *The MPLA Leadership Institute reenergized me professionally and personally, and best of all, it reminded me why I love being a librarian.*
- *What an extraordinary opportunity for learning, laughing and leadership!*
- *The Institute validated my reasons for remaining where I am and offered me the impetus to analyze my present world and see if or how I need to make changes for the better.*
- *The Institute was one of the most amazing experiences that I have ever participated in during my lifetime.*
- *The most invigorating program I've ever attended*
- *I feel very gifted to have had the opportunity to participate in this wonderful Leadership Institute and not only develop my leadership skills, but to form many wonderful, lasting relationships with a group of very committed and passionate librarians.*
- *I discovered insights about myself that should not only make me a better leader but also a better librarian and a better person.*
- *I was able to focus on my own leadership strengths and weaknesses, solidify my professional goals, learn strategies for better workplace communication and ways to help myself and my coworkers manage change.*

continued on next page

MPLA 2010 Leadership Institute – *continued from page 6*

- *The Leadership Institute was a welcome opportunity for me to disengage from the day-to-day bustle and think about the big picture with a group of engaged and engaging librarians.*
- *It was energizing to work with both new professionals and seasoned veterans to consider issues like empowerment, morale and managing conflict.*
- *I could not have asked for a more empowering experience than this Institute.*
- *It was amazing, inspiring and instructive on many levels, sometimes all at once!*

The Institute will be held at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. Located in the heart of the Colorado Rockies, the 860-acre facility is 65 miles northwest of Denver and is surrounded on three sides by the magnificent Rocky Mountain National Park. See <http://www.ymcarockies.org/home/our-locations/EPC>.

For more information contact Judy Zelenski, mpla_execsecretary@operamail.com or Dan Stanton, danton@asu.edu.

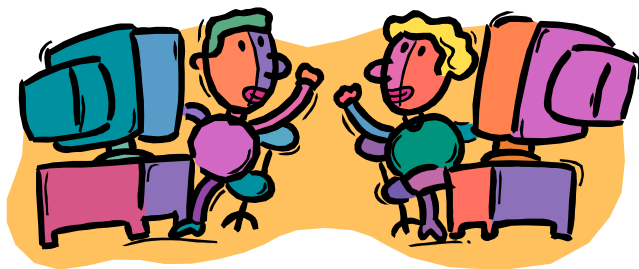
Explore
the Possibilities



OLA/MPLA Joint Conference
April 19 - 21, 2010
Oklahoma City, OK

Never Talk About Religion or Politics

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



Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his god, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, thus building a wall of separation between church and state. - Thomas Jefferson

There is no doubt that religion is a force that shapes who we are individually and collectively. We have a right to choose and practice our religion. Government is there to make and enforce rules, laws, and regulations, and to make sure that individuals and groups in the minority are protected. There has always been, and will continue to be tension in the way they coexist and the interpretation of the roles they should and shouldn't play in our lives as Americans. Jefferson's famous quote is an interpretation that places religion in the realm of individual rights

to be protected; but, recognizing the varieties of religious experience, not endorse any particular means of worship lest in infringe on the individual rights of others.

Because religion and government are such powerful forces for so many people in the United States, interpretation of rights and policies is a very delicate matter. How is religion taught in schools, how do schools address the rights of individuals of differing religions (or those with no religion)? And how have religion and the role of government shaped politics? What do we expect from our elected officials with regards to this balance? I've got my opinion, but since you should never talk about religion or politics, I'll just give you some resources...

Context

- *Religion and the Founding of the Republic* <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/> - Based on a Library of Congress Exhibition this resource examines the role of religious faith in public life early on in our nation's history.
- *Religion in the Eighteenth Century* - http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=696 - A lesson plan for grades 9-12 from the National Endowment for the Humanities looking at the role the First Great Awakening may have had in the war for American Independence.

Interpretation

- *First Amendment - Religion and Expression: Analysis and Interpretation of the Constitution, Annotations of Cases Decided by the Supreme Court of the United States* - <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/constitution/pdf2002/019.pdf> - Not for the squeamish, this rather large file examines the context and interpretation of the First Amendment over time.

continued on next page

• *The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life* - <http://pewforum.org/> - The Forum pursues its mission by delivering timely, impartial information to national opinion leaders, including government officials and journalists. As a nonpartisan, non-advocacy organization, the Forum does not take positions on policy debates.

• *Religion and Public Schools* - <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/religionandschools/index.html> - Policies related to religious expression in schools from recent presidential administrations.

• *Religious Discrimination in the Workplace* - <http://www.eeoc.gov/types/religion.html> - What is it? Worker rights, employer best practices, and charge statistics...

• *Talking Faith Blog* - <http://blogs.americagov/religion/> - Talking Faith explores the complexity of life in a religiously diverse nation. Encourages discussion on topics like freedom of faith and choosing a religious identity.

Information

• *Religions: CIA World Factbook* - <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2122.html> - Brief summaries of world religions and religious information by country.

• *Census Bureau* - <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/religion.htm> - The Census can no longer ask about religion, but does provide links to those who can and do.

• *Religion and Society* - http://free.ed.gov/subjects.cfm?subject_id=130&toplvl=177 - Teaching and learning resources from Federal Agencies.



COMING SOON RENEWAL TIME FOR 2010 MPLA MEMBERSHIPS



MPLA Memberships are on a
Calendar Year
January-December

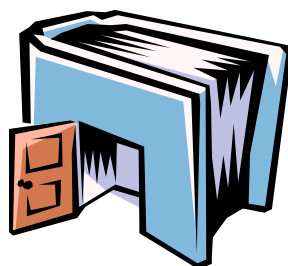
Renew Now and you'll be
ready for next year!

It's easy to renew online at
[http://www.mpla.us/forms/
membership.html](http://www.mpla.us/forms/membership.html)

*

CHECKS OR CREDIT CARDS

Welcome New MPLA Members



Arizona

Nancy Ledeboer
Library Director, Pima County
Public Library
Tucson, AZ

Kansas

Mary Hester
Director of Learning of
Resources, Barton Community
College Library
Plevna, KS

Richard Brookman Jr.
Director, Kearny County Library
Lakin, KS

Nebraska

Toni Reese
Youth Services Manager, Sump
Memorial Library
Papillion, NE

Bethany Dabbs
Student, Clarion University
Lincoln, NE

New Mexico

Carlsbad Public Library
Carlsbad, NM

James Pawlak
Campus Librarian, Eastern New
Mexico University -Ruidoso
Branch Campus Library
Ruidoso, NM

Nevada

Debbie Jacobs
Librarian, Washoe County School
District; Reno, NV

Utah

John Eye
Interim Dean of Library Services,
Southern Utah University Gerald
R. Sherratt Library
Cedar City, UT

Wyoming

Mary Fumento
Library Director, Washakie
County Library System
Worland, WY

Coralina Daly
Director of Library Services,
Central Wyoming College
Riverton, WY

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year!**



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forms/
membership.html](http://www.mpla.us/forms/membership.html)**

MPLA 2.0

MPLA 2.0 is the new bulletin board and blog server created for members to meet, discuss, get news, collaborate, and communicate. MPLA 2.0 features three workspaces:

Soapbox - MPLA officer's blog for announcements, news, and articles. Members can post comments.

Talk - A threaded discussion board for library related topics, conferences and off-topic discussions at the water cooler.

Photos - The conference image gallery.

How to Get There

- * From the MPLA homepage www.mpla.us, select MPLA 2.0 at the top left.
- * Registration Invitation Code: The registration invitation code is 'mpla20'.
- * You must enter the invitation code when registering for Soapbox and Talk.
- * Registrations will be activated after verifying MPLA membership.
- * The invitation code is required to eliminate spam attacks in the MPLA 2.0 community.

Around the Region

ARIZONA

Arizona Library Association Conference will be held in Glendale, December 7-9. This year's theme is "Libraries Lighting the Way."

Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records is offering a *Brain Boxes and Infant Brain Development* program on October 9. Rachel Lam, Program Coordinator for Curriculum Development at New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development, will present early brain development in the context of early literacy, based on the Brain Box learning system. Ms. Lam will then model Brain Time programming and give participants time to share ideas about circulating Brain Boxes and using them with families of children 0-5 in the library.

Arizona State University Libraries – Check out the cool "Library Minute" hosted by Anali Perry. Library Minute: Fun Things To Do At The Libraries will give you ideas on how to kick back with fun and relaxing things you can do at the libraries.



The **University of Arizona** presented the Robert Mapplethorpe: Portraits exhibit at the Center for Creative Photography. Robert Mapplethorpe (1946-1989) became known for his focus on several subjects, from portraits to still lifes, from classical sculptures to contemporary nudes, some of which made him at least temporarily notorious. His most lasting legacy,



however, is his portraiture, which reflects and embodies the New York cultural milieu of the late 1970s and the 1980s. This exhibition is organized by the Palm Springs Art Museum, Palm Springs, California, with the assistance of Guest Curator Gordon Baldwin and sponsored in part by the Helene & Lou Galen Exhibition Fund and the Faye & Herman Sarkowsky Exhibition Fund.

COLORADO

The **Colorado Association of Libraries** (CAL) will hold its second Events & Service Auction to benefit scholarship funds through the Colorado Library Educational Foundation (CLEF). Unlike other auctions of actual items, an events & service auction offers events such as an authentic Chinese dinner cooked in your home or a guided wildflower hike, and on services such as personal shopping assistance or custom knitted clothing. The event & service providers will be generously donating their time and materials, with all the proceeds going directly to scholarships for CAL events. The auction will be held during the 2009 annual CAL conference.

In July the **CAL Leadership Institute** participants gathered for a full day session that included attending part of the CAL Board Retreat. Participants observed the CAL Board in action and spent the remainder of the day in a session on Ethics. In the coming months, the participants will be exploring their final learning topics; facilitation, project management, and future casting. The final session is in November at the CAL Conference.

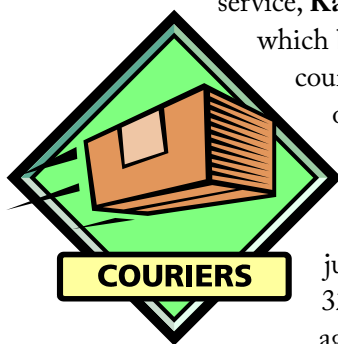
The CASL (**Colorado Association of School Libraries**) Kick-off to the Colorado Technology in Education Conference (TIE: <http://www.tiecolorado.org>) was a huge success, with over 120 librarians and educators in attendance. Guest presenter, Dr. David Loertscher spoke about his book *The New Learning Commons Where Learners Win! Reinventing School*

Libraries and Computer Labs. Dr. Loertscher's presentation and links to more ideas and conversations around the topic can be found at <http://caslworkshops.pbworks.com>.

The journal **Collaborative Librarianship** has just published its latest issue at <http://collaborativelibrarianship.org>. Ivan Gaetz, dean of the Regis University Library in Denver is the editor.

KANSAS

Libraries across Kansas collaborated on the development of a new interlibrary courier delivery service, **Kansas Library Express**, which began service in July. The courier service replaces the use of the US Postal Service to exchange and loan books between more than 200 libraries. In just one month, there were 32,000 items sent – an average of 215 per library, based on reports from 150 libraries. Many smaller libraries have already sent as many items in a month as they sent in all of 2008. In Kansas, the average cost of delivery per item by courier for July was approximately \$1. Use of the postal system would cost approximately \$2 per item, representing a 50% savings.



The **State Library of Kansas** continues to be a hub for homework help through **HomeworkKansas**, the popular contract service for online homework assistance through Tutor.com. The service has been renewed by the Kansas legislature with funding from another state agency. In addition to providing help for all students—kindergarten through adult education and college students—the service has greatly expanded hours—8 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day. Subjects for assistance include math, science, English and social studies. Assistance in Spanish is offered in the subject areas of math, science and social studies. New to the service are college entrance practice tests like ACT and SAT, graduate school exams like GRE and LSAT, Advanced Placement, ASVAB and TOEFL,

and GED prep tests. HomeworkKansas will also offer assistance with job searches, sample resumes and cover letters, financial literacy and assistance with proofreading of papers.

Over 300 people attended ceremonies to mark the opening of the new **Bonner Springs City Library** on July 12. Features of the new library include 12 new computers and a Kansas Room for history and genealogy. Bonner Springs City Library's director is **Kimberly Martin Beets**, who was a 2004 alumna of the MPLA Leadership Institute.



The annual Readers' Advisory Conference hosted by **Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library** and co sponsored by **NEKLS** will be November 6. Opportunities are available for those who would like to share their enthusiasm for a genre, reading related technology, or readers' advisory topic. For information about being a breakout speaker or for general conference questions contact Deb. Valerie, or Tanya (785-580-4553) at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library.

The **Johnson County Library**, with 13 public outlets and nearly 1.2 million items, started floating collections in September. After a successful summer pilot with audiovisual materials, managers decided to float all materials – with very few exceptions – to gain efficiencies and savings. This means that items will be shelved in the library facility where they are returned, rather than being couriered back to an owning facility.

One hundred and twenty-eight Kansas public library trustees have been certified to date, largely through the **Statewide Trustee Training** sessions available through the ELMER video network. The

statewide video training will be offered again in October 2009 and October 2010. Both training seasons will cover five trustee core skills in two workshops and attendance at both will qualify a trustee for certification. Trustees are also qualified to enroll in courses on WebJunction Kansas. Access to these courses has been paid by the **State Library of Kansas** and is offered free of charge to Kansas library workers and trustees.



The authors of *Four Ordinary Women: A Gathering at the Cedar Roe Library* (Seven Locks Press, 2009) convened their writing group at the branch of the Johnson County Library to share reflections on their lives – culminating in this book. All four women had grown up using that library, still lived or worked nearby, and turned to it as a venue for their group meetings. A Meet-the-Authors event at the library honored the authors and introduced the book to their neighbors.



Four Ordinary Women authors signing books for attendees of an event in their honor at their “home” library, Cedar Roe Neighborhood Library of the Johnson County Library. Left to right: Shawna Samuel, Pat Antonopoulos, Jo Ann Stanley, and Patti Dickinson. (Photo: Johnson County Library)

Sixty-five Kansas educators attended the 13th Annual *Kansas Summer Institute for School Librarians* in June at **Emporia State University**. Eighty educators, including reading specialists, classroom teachers and school librarians, spent two days covering strategies to benefit students through more individual attention,

better-designed lessons, access to information at the point of need, access to multiple resources, deeper investigation into concepts and topics, integrated learning, expanded opportunities for creativity, and acquiring reading skills for lifelong learning.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has recognized the **Johnson County Library’s Leadership Development Program** with an Achievement Award, presented at the NACo national conference in July. This program is currently in its second two-year cycle and has graduated 40 staff members. The library also won six Awards of Excellence from the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) for various programs.



Associate Director Jennifer Mahnken, Johnson County Library, accepts from County Commission Chairwoman Annabeth Surbaugh a National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award certificate recognizing the library’s Leadership Development Program. (Photo: Johnson County Government)

MONTANA

More libraries will be joining the **MontanaLibrary2Go** downloadable audiobook project in the coming months. Patrons from subscribing libraries can download audiobooks to their MP3 players or iPods, with costs shared among all participating libraries.

The **Montana State Library** again sponsored a Fall Workshop in Great Falls September 11 and 12.

The free workshop offered learning opportunities on many topics, including working with tribal nations, customer service, and conflict resolution.

Lewis and Clark Public Library hosted two Mark Twain programs as part of their Foundation's Stephen Ambrose Memorial Lecture. *Mark Twain in Montana*, chronicling Mark Twain's Montana experiences, and *The Banning of Huckleberry Finn* are both first-person presentations by Michael Delaney. The programs are part of the Humanities Montana Speakers Bureau, and are funded in part by a legislative grant from Montana's Cultural Trust and NEH's "We the People" program.

The **Hearst Free Library** in Anaconda hosts their 4th Reading the Greens golf scramble. This year



they obtained sponsorship from Debra Gorman-Badar of Anaconda Physical Therapy (cost of food and beverages); the Morris Family Fund of Anaconda Community Foundation (major prizes and prize money for winning teams); and Covenant Aviation Security (all of the greens fees and goodie

bags containing tournament hats and a sleeve of personalized golf balls for every golfer).

Western States and Territories Preservation Assistance Service (WESTPAS) is offering a free 2- part workshop "*Protecting Library & Archives Collections: Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery*" in Bozeman and Great Falls in September & October. The workshops are offered free in cooperation with the **Montana Historical Society** and supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Bozeman Public Library offered a series of *Wii Wednesdays* in August to introduce the new technology to patrons. Separate middle school, high school and adult sessions were offered, with such titles as *Wii Sports*, *Mario Kart* and *Guitar Hero* available.

Following the summer MPLA board meeting MPLA President **Eileen Wright** recently with her family to Australia for an extended vacation.



Eileen at Maguk in Kakadu National Park East of Darwin



Eileen in Front of the Sydney Opera House

NEBRASKA

Central Community College is offering a new statewide online program for Nebraskans who want to work in libraries. Students in the new library and information services (LIS) program will develop practical skills in acquisition, processing and circulation of all types of information resources. The focus will be on library management in small rural libraries as well as assistance in large more urban resource centers. The LIS program replaces one that was

offered jointly by Nebraska's six community colleges, with each college offering one or two courses online. By completing additional requirements from Central Community College, students can earn an associate of arts degree designed to transfer to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, which offers three options for LIS transfer students.

The *100 Years of Fashions* Event and an afternoon tea was held at the **Lyons Public Library**. Many ladies came in hats and several teens helped as servers for the event. It was sponsored by Friends of the Library as part of the town's 125th anniversary celebration.



The year 2009 marks 125 years for **Bruun Memorial Library** in Humboldt, and is celebrated with a variety of contests, guessing games and events. In May, the month the library originally opened, 29 quilts were on display, book-bling (a beaded book mark) was given away and several visual scavenger hunts were held.

The **Nebraska Library Association** Board of Directors approved the move of the association's print journal, the *NLAQ*, to become an electronic journal. Member surveys supported the move. The change should occur with the Spring 2010 issue.

The **Nebraska Leadership Institute** was held in July. Participants worked together to compile their 2009 vision statement:

- We, the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute class of 2009, work collaboratively to bridge the gap among all types of libraries to achieve the goal of enriching lives and the communities we serve. With one voice, we commit ourselves to the following actions to reach this vision:
 - We develop libraries as community hubs, bringing together resources and facilities at a cost savings to our constituencies
 - We recognize the need for sustainable, eco-friendly design as we grow to meet our consumer's needs
 - We cultivate community partnerships to maximize the return on financial investments
 - We enrich lives by providing recreational,

educational, and literacy services

- We celebrate the changing diversity in our communities with our staff, collections, and programs
- We foster lifelong learning, encouraging customers to transform information and ideas into usable knowledge
- We attract, train, and retain exceptional leaders
- We actively seek new ways to harness the Internet so that all citizens can find the information and entertainment they seek without going to library school
- Nebraska's libraries - school, academic, public, and special - serve as gateways to an ever-growing world of information. Through our service, we guide our citizens, students and leaders in their pursuit of knowledge, enjoyment and lifelong learning.



Participants in Nebraska's Leadership Institute Class of 2009

A note from **Julie Beno**, Nebraska's representative to MPLA: "My term as MPLA rep ends in October. I want to thank all the NLA members for electing me. It was an honor to represent Nebraska."

NEVADA

Henderson Libraries James I. Gibson Library

— named for the former resident and state senator who was instrumental in obtaining funding for the branch's current building next to Henderson City Hall — is expected to move next April from its current site to the new one. Ground breaking for the new library was held in July with Henderson dignitaries and officials turning the first shovels of dust and rocks to launch construction of the new downtown library branch. The new site will increase the branch's square footage by 5,000 to almost 20,000 square feet,

which will allow for a 25-station computer lab, classrooms and increased parking. It will also offer a drive-through service for patrons to reserve materials online and collect them at a pick-up window. The new branch has a price tag of about \$2.6 million, which is roughly \$2 million less than what the district estimated a couple of years ago. Henderson Libraries Executive Director Tom Fay said the lower price tag was made possible by lower construction costs brought on by the recession — the same recession, he said, that has pushed library usage to unprecedented levels and necessitated a bigger facility.



Henderson Libraries Executive Director Tom Fay, center, joins distinguished guests and contractors in breaking ground for the new James I. Gibson Library.

The **Las Vegas-Clark County Library District** held a groundbreaking ceremony in June to mark the onset of the construction of the new Southwest Library and Service Center. It will be built on a 15-acre site containing a 27,096-square foot library, a 300-seat auditorium and additional shell space of 11,342-square feet for future growth. An 86,617-square-foot service center will house District administrative offices, support functions and centralized materials processing center. The library will open in March 2011.

Carson City Library

Foundation's Annual Oktoberfest was held September 19 and featured several changes to the annual fundraiser. It took place at the Carson City Library on the library's parking lot, the



library's front lawn and the library's Secret Garden. A major sponsor, the **Carson Nugget**, oversaw the sausage grilling. Friends provided the Carson City version of *die Budenstrasse*, the famous fairway at the Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany, by hosting their own *Buchenstrasse*, a pathway of hundreds of gently used books.

North Las Vegas Library recently conducted a survey for citizen feedback. Results showed an increased interest in e-books. Most agreed with a twenty item check-out limit. Location was a major factor in not using the library, along with lack of materials, lack of interest, restrictive circulation policies, and fines.

The Downtown **Reno Library** is currently reorganizing the physical layout of their building by consolidating service desks and moving computers and furniture to better utilize staff.

Dianne Varnon, Associate Library Director of Operations and Services for **Washoe County Library** expressed her appreciation to **June Burton**, retiring Library Trustee and current Chair of the Library Board, adding that she has been a superb advocate of the library and instrumental in convincing the State Legislature to place the State Grant in Aid funds into the regular budget.

NEW MEXICO

Two New Mexico tribal libraries will receive Native American Library Services Enhancement grants from Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) this year. **Pueblo of Santa Clara** will have an award of \$150,000 and **Pueblo of Pojoaque** will get \$132,466 to carry out literacy-related programs in their communities.

Dainetta Kroeker is the new director at **Tucumcari Public Library** following **Mary Ann Molinas'** retirement. She was formerly the youth services librarian. Dainetta started as a temporary employee, then moved to Library Clerk Aid, to Children's Librarian, to Assistant Librarian, and now Library Director.

NORTH DAKOTA

The blue sky that hangs overhead now has clouds. These clouds will not produce rain, but awe and amazement in the eyes of young children when the new children's library opens at the **Bismarck Public Library**. The children's section is getting a makeover. The new children's library will feature carpeting that depicts blue meandering "river" and "green grass" as well as



artist Ric Spryncynatyk's famous blue sky and cloud ceiling paint job. In addition, the new children's library will have a story room and

crafts area, a tiered mini-amphitheatre, reading areas, as well as study rooms. The project is on schedule to meet its completion dates.

For many years the **North Dakota State Library** has supported the education of professional librarians in North Dakota. Until now, individuals who were interested in pursuing a career as a librarian only had a few chances throughout the year to apply for the State Library funded Master of Library and Information Science grant, but now all that has changed. The Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) grant is now being offered on an ongoing basis, with applications being accepted at any time throughout the year. This change allows the State Library to be more accommodating to students who are overloaded with deadlines and workloads. The grant, which requires that recipients be North Dakota citizens and also be enrolled in an American Library Association accredited school, may be used to pay tuition, university fees, and textbooks required to complete the course of study. Grant recipients must work full-time in a North Dakota library for two years following the completion of their degree.

The **Bowman Public Library** received quite a shock recently. During one of this summer's severe rainstorms, the library took a direct hit from a lightning bolt which took out their internet connection.

With the help of Consolidated Telcom, their local telephone and networking cooperative, the Bowman Public Library got their service restored with only a few minor glitches.



The **Grand Forks Public Library** held a "Celebrate Librarians" event and invited the community to meet **Wendy Wendt**, the new library director, and **Aaron Stefanich**, their new children's librarian. It featured refreshments, door prizes and a slideshow

depicting the Grand Forks Public Library past and present. The public welcomed their new director and children's librarian, and also showed their appreciation for the staff at the library.



Wendy Wendt



Aaron Stefanich

In June, the **Logan County** Commission approved a bid for a new bookmobile to serve LaMoure and Logan Counties. Matthews Specialty Vehicles of North Carolina will build the new bookmobile.

OKLAHOMA

The **Oklahoma Library Association** is sponsoring an October workshop in Oklahoma City on "Working Together Apart: Using New Technology to Improve Organizational Communication." Topics include hands-on presentations following communications methods: Blogs, Facebook, Twitter, RSS Feeds & Readers, Airset, and ThinkFree.

The **Oklahoma Department of Libraries** U.S. Government Information Office has launched a new monthly feature. **Oklahoma Data Lasso** is a file of recent federal information relevant to the Sooner State. The debut list includes access to information on H1N1 flu, health insurance for Oklahoma counties, the latest energy profile of the state, and an online tool for finding private schools.

Oral History for the 21st Century, a two day symposium is scheduled for November 12-13 in Oklahoma City. Donald Ritchie, Historian for the U.S. Senate, past president of the Oral History Association, and author of **Doing Oral History: A Practical Guide**, will be joined by oral historians in the state to share expert advice on conducting meaningful interviews and better managing oral history projects.

SOUTH DAKOTA

According to MPLA South Dakota Representative **Mike Mullin**, some 40+ library people have been attending summer school from home and work thanks to the South Dakota State Library. They have been doing a series of web 2.0 exercises and having a lot of fun. Check out their blogs and the exercises at <http://sdlibrarychallenge.blogspot.com/>.

Laura Olson is the new Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the South Dakota Library Association. She was previously a librarian at Mears Library, University of Sioux Falls. She replaces **Brenda Hemmelman** who served in the position for almost 10 years.

Michelle May, Oglala Lakota College Library Director, is a 2009 ALA Spectrum Scholarship recipient. Spectrum specifically addresses the under-

representation of librarians of color within the current workforce. To this end, over 560 students from traditionally underrepresented groups have received scholarships, leadership training, professional networking and mentoring in order to build a diverse pool of talented and trained individuals reflective of the populations served by all libraries.

UTAH

The **12th Annual Utah Humanities Book Festival** will be held October 21-25 in Salt Lake City. The celebration kicks off with **Edward Abbey, Earth First! The Monkey Wrench Gang and Me**, a twentieth anniversary rumination on Edward Abbey by bookseller and friend Ken Sanders. The 5-day event features performances, authors, Rare Book Roadshow, and screening of the film **The Hours**, followed by Q&A with Michael Cunningham. Most events will be held downtown at The Salt Lake City Library. For more information, visit the Utah Humanities Council website: <http://www.utahhumanities.org/BookFestival.htm>

WYOMING

The **Ben Franklin Traveling Exhibition** spent several weeks at the **Laramie County Library** in Cheyenne. The library also offered additional Franklin-themed events for a variety of age groups. The programs include invention challenges, craft sessions, weather programs, guest speakers, book clubs, film series, and colonial ancestry workshops.

Award winning librarian, author and reviewer **Nancy Pearl** spoke at the **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** in September. She gave an evening presentation for the public and a daytime Readers' Advisory workshop for staff members of Wyoming libraries. The programs were sponsored by the Friends of the Library Board.

The **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** hosted an art exhibit in September, **Two Takes on Landscapes** by Alice Fuller and Dr. Charlie Walter.

The **Natrona County Public Library** is helping patrons with financial matters through the second portion of a “Smart Investing @ your library” series. The series is part of a two-year grant program received from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) with support from ALA. This October, NCPL will offer a series of investing workshops taught by local financial professionals covering topics such as investing for retirement, stocks, bonds and mutual funds. Special workshops just for seniors will cover estate planning and how to avoid investment fraud. New topics include living within your means and making investing easier for those hoping to move from paycheck-to-paycheck living to saving and investing for the long term. Youngsters learn investment basics and the importance of saving, and teens learn the pros/cons of credit cards. Door prizes include jump drives, *Money Magazine* subscriptions and financial books.

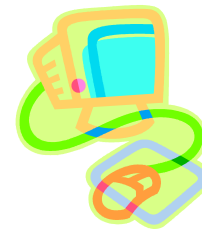


Teens and parents learn the ins and outs of credit cards in an interactive game show format during last year's "A Teen's Guide to Plastic" event.

The **Teton County Library** in Jackson presented a bilingual introduction to and virtual tour of Facebook.com for English and Spanish speakers. Library Instructor Steve Whisenand lead the free workshop, which was also translated into Spanish.



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, 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.

**Poster Presentations
At OLA/MPLA
April 19-21, 2010**



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robin.leech@okstate.edu

Please include your name, library, and abstract.

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available at most crafts stores.**

**Tables will be provided for poster, handouts, laptops, etc. ,
but no internet or outlets are available**

**for those flying in to OKC, tri-fold boards will be provided
please state this need in your proposal – so we can have materials ready for you**

Proposals due October 16, 2009

Final decisions will be made by the OLA/MPLA Joint Program Planning Committee

Call for Papers

MPLA Professional Forum

Mountain Plains Library Association's (MPLA) announces a call for papers to be presented, with the co-sponsorship of Oklahoma Library Association, at the OLA/MPLA Joint Conference, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, April 19-21, 2010.

The deadline for submitting papers for the MPLA Professional Forum is Friday, February 1.

The MPLA Professional Forum is designed to present new ideas, innovations, and case studies in librarianship that would benefit the profession. Research methodology is encouraged, but not essential. School and public librarians, as well as those from academia, are encouraged to participate. The papers are peer reviewed; a prize will be awarded to the winning paper presentation.

Guidelines for Papers

- * Problems are clearly identified and solutions proposed
- * Themes can include locally implemented experiences (successes or failures), theoretical models, statistical studies, or state of the art reviews.
- * Although formal research methodology is not required, papers should develop clear positions or concepts.

Evaluation

Papers will be judged on:

- * Significance of topics (15 points)
- * Development of concept and quality of organization (20 points)
- * Clarity of ideas and objectives (10 points)

Final presentations will be judged at the annual conference on:

- * Objectives evident, with clear ideas and concepts (15 points)
- * Quality of organization (15 points)
- * Quality of presentation, use of visuals, etc. (15 points)

Submission Requirements

- * Authors must be current members of MPLA
- * Papers must be original-not published or presented elsewhere
- * Selected authors will make presentations at the conference
- * Papers (2-6 pages in length) must be submitted electronically to mary.caspers-graper@sdstate.edu no later than 1 February 2010.

For more information contact Mary Caspers-Graper, Hilton M. Briggs Library, SDSU, Box 2115, Brookings, SD 57007-1098 mary_caspers-graper@sdstate.edu (605) 688-5565





MEMBERSHIP ENCOURAGEMENT CORNER

Members

Planning


Leadership

Activities

1. something somebody does
2. physical exercise
3. state of doing something
4. potential for chemical reaction
5. natural process
6. learning experience
7. radioactivity

Figure out which activities fit you in MPLA!

--Rita Severt, Chair, MPLA Membership Committee



We are MPLA

The Mountain Plains Library Association
Join us! www.mpla.us

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

OCTOBER 7
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

- 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

- ALA Midwinter Meeting
January 15-19, Boston MA
- Montana Library Association Conference
April 7-10, Bozeman MT
- New Mexico Library Association Conference
April 7-9, Ruidoso NM
- Kansas Library Association Conference
7- 9, Wichita KS
- Oklahoma Library Association /MPLA Joint
Conference, April 19-21, Oklahoma
City OK
- Utah Library Association Conference
May 12-14, St. George UT
- ALA Annual Conference
June 24-30, Washington, DC
- South Dakota Library Association Conference
September 22-24, Sioux Falls SD
- Colorado Association of Libraries Conference
October 7-9, Loveland 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