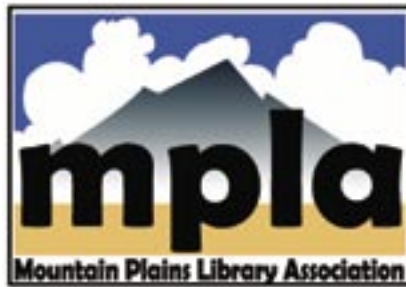


Big Horizons



Close Community

Newsletter

October 2010

www.mpla.us

Volume 55 #1

INSIDE

- 2 ... President's Message
- 4 ... Award Nominations
- 6 ... Grants
- 7 ... "Geek the Library" Project
- 8 ... MLA/MPLA Conference
- 8 ... Around the Region
- 23... Welcome New Members
- 23... Using Online Membership Directory
- 24... Member Reflects on ALA Conference
- 26... Professional Development Grant Deadlines
- 26... Conferences Calendar
- 26... MPLA Officer Candidates for 2011-12
- 27... MPLA Board and Staff
- 28... MPLA Membership Form



Two MPLA Member Libraries Receive IMLS Grants for Native American Tribes

The **Jemez Pueblo Community Library** in New Mexico was one of 17 Native American tribal communities chosen to receive Native American Library Services Enhancement grants. Library Director **Tamara Sandia** was a fellow in the MPLA 2010 Leadership Institute. In addition **Antonette Halsey**, Director of the MPLA member **Cankdeska Cikana Community College Library**, is project director for the Spirit Lake Tribe's community literacy program in North Dakota.

The **Jemez Pueblo Community Library** is undertaking a multifold project focusing on the preservation of the Towa language and Jemez Pueblo culture, traditions, and knowledge. The new "Towa Cultural Resource Center" in the library will serve as a centralized place to collect, house, and make resources available to tribal members. In collaboration with the Jemez Language Team and Cultural Preservation Officer, the library will offer quarterly workshops on cultural topics. Library staff will be trained by the local PBS affiliate TV station on how to create short videos and audio. These shorts will be produced in Towa, targeting children in early childhood to eighth grade, and based on the Towa Language and Culture School Curriculum already in place.



continued on page 3

Tamara Sandia, Jemez Pueblo Community library Director

ARIZONA COLORADO KANSAS MONTANA NEBRASKA NEVADA
 NEW MEXICO NORTH DAKOTA OKLAHOMA SOUTH DAKOTA UTAH WYOMING



President's Message

Another school year is upon us. Academic and school librarians welcome back students and public librarians breathe a small sigh of relief that the hectic days of summer reading programs are done. And the cycle begins again.

With MPLA's goal to "maintain a vibrant and ever growing membership base", the past couple president's columns have reviewed why people join and stay in an organization. This issue let's get down to the hard part, the commitment by the members of an organization to that organization to make that organization better.

All of us belong to groups where we lurk on the fringes, whether from a lack of enthusiasm or a lack to time. While some organizations are demanding and some are laid back, all benefit from active, engaged members.

Now what can you, as a member, do for the Mountain Plains Library Association to make it better?

*Attend conferences - Not only would other attendees have the pleasure of meeting you, but there is a monetary benefit for MPLA involved with this. When the income from a joint conference is divided between the host state association and MPLA, our portion depends on the number of MPLA members that attended. Since conference revenue is a fairly significant part of our budgeted income every year, every body counts.

*Volunteer for committees - The president-elect is responsible for appointing most of the committees, usually beginning that process in November/December and hopefully finishing before the conference in April. It sounds easy but actually takes more work than one would realize in order to spread the appointees among twelve states and various types of libraries. If you're interested in being considered, make sure your profile is up-to-date on MemberClicks (login found on the lower portion of the MPLA website). If you can't remember your password, Judy Zelenski, Executive Secretary, would be happy to assist you.

Occasionally people complain that even if their profile lists committees they would serve on, that they are never appointed. Bear in mind that not everyone is known to a president-elect even if he/she has been active in MPLA. I would encourage you to email the president-elect (this year Dana Braccia) and indicate you really would like to serve. With luck, there will be a spot open on a committee that you are interested in.

*Be active in online communications possibilities - Can't make it to a conference but still was to be actively engaged? Try using some of MPLA's 2.0 opportunities. I'll be the first to admit that I haven't been as active here as I should be, but it only takes a few to get the communication revved up and going. If you have trouble getting in or navigating, contact Roy Degler, MPLA's 2.0 guru, and he'll solve all your problems (with MPLA 2.0, at least)

*Tell your colleagues about MPLA and encourage their membership - nothing encourages a person to join an organization like the endorsement of a friend or colleague. Be sure to mention the value of MPLA to other librarians, and if you're wondering what the value is, go back and read the last issue of MPLA newsletter!

---*Elvita*



"What they don't teach you in library school"

Grants to Native American Tribes *continued*

The library will also participate in the SPARK Initiative (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids) for children transitioning from preschool to kindergarten, in partnership with other local service agencies. MPLA Member **Tamara Sandia** is Library Director.

Spirit Lake Tribe - Fort Totten, ND, will build a community literacy program. The program will focus on improving reading skills through an outreach campaign that will emphasize family literacy activities during library family reading nights; weekly story hour for the college childcare center; summer reading camps; Books for Babes for every new baby screened at Early Childhood Tracking; and Parent Getaway Nights, which will provide literacy activities and build family reading skills during a parents-only night. Leapfrog® learning aids will be used in library activities and will be available for check-out by families for home use. Project partners include Cankdeska Cikana Community College (CCCC) Childcare Center, CCCC Early Childhood Education, Four Winds Community School, Spirit Lake Head Start, and Early Childhood Tracking. **Antonette Halsey** is Library Director.

Other projects funded in the MPLA region include:

Ohkay Owingeh, New Mexico - San Juan Pueblo, NM will enhance its existing P'oe Tsawa Community Library services and activities for library patrons of all ages, particularly preschoolers, students, parents, caregivers, and educators, by strengthening their current literacy programs by adding storytelling events and initiating a "Newborn to Pre-school Literacy Program" based on Every Child Ready to Read @ your library.® A Literacy Program Assistant will be responsible for literacy programming, extensive outreach to the community, and extended hours at the library for easier community access. **Elena Arellano** is Head Librarian

Kaw Nation - Kaw City, OK, which recently opened its new Kaw Nation Library and Learning Center, built with a HUD Community Development Block Grant, will use this grant to get its facility off to a good start with a library coordinator who will establish policies and a long-range plan in cooperation with an advisory board. Library staff will purchase materials to greatly enhance the current collection and will implement a library automation system to organize it and make it accessible. Collection development will focus primarily on children and youth as well as reference materials, both in-house and online. Furnishings, shelving, and multimedia equipment for all ages will make the library a comfortable and engaging place to visit. The library will plan outreach activities for the local middle school and the tribally run daycare. Occasional newsletters will inform the community of ongoing services, upcoming activities, and special events. **Amanda Wamego Buffalohead** is Program Development/Project Admin.

Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma - Perkins, OK, will develop the "Starting Points" program that will establish a Literacy, Educational, and Employment Resource Office within the tribal library to assist community members in need of literacy and employment training. This project will allow the tribe to hire a full-time certified teacher to teach reading skills, conduct GED classes, arrange and oversee distance learning instruction, and provide access to vocational and technical classes. In addition, the library will provide and maintain tools necessary for participants to readily create resumes and easily access job-skills training as well as job-search opportunities. The Resource Office will reach a broad community audience and will share resources with six nearby community libraries. **Margaret Gibson** is Teacher, Starting Points.

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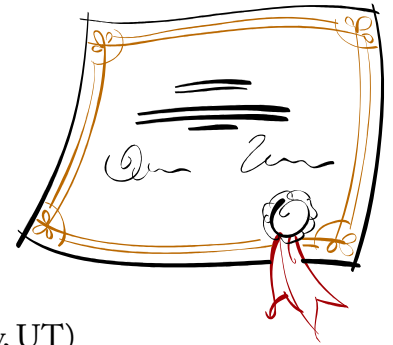
Grants to Native American Tribes continued

The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma **Cherokee Nation - Tahlequah, OK**, will establish the Virtual Library of Cherokee Knowledge, which is designed to provide Cherokee citizens and the general public access to a comprehensive digital repository of authentic Cherokee knowledge related to the Nation's history, language, traditions, culture, and leaders. This endeavor will enable the tribe to secure professional consultation services from digital library specialists, historians, and museum and library professionals and to obtain the technology, software, and equipment necessary for scanning, digitizing, and cataloguing many of the tribe's most significant documents. The Virtual Library will serve as a source for educational programming to promote cultural literacy among tribal members. **Corey Bunch** is Assistant Director, Education Services.

For a full list of Enhancement grant recipients, see: http://www.ims.gov/news/2010/090710b_list.shtm.



MPLA Awards Committee Seeking Nominations



It's not too early to be thinking about nominating coworkers and colleagues for an MPLA award. All nominations are due by January 31, 2011. Nominations may be sent to Award Committee Chair, Steve Decker (Cedar City Public Library, UT) at dsteve@cedarcity.org. Please clearly mark the subject line MPLA Award Nomination. The MPLA Awards Committee is seeking nominees for the following awards:

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

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

MPLA Literary Contribution Award: To be given to an author whose published writings have successfully furthered an understanding and appreciation of the Mountain Plains region. The author need not reside in the region, and the selection may be based on either a single work or a body of works. Published works will be evaluated on the basis of literary worth, readability, and evidence of responsible research.

MPLA Beginning Professional Award: To recognize an MPLA member who, as a librarian/media specialist within the first five years after receiving a library/media masters degree, has made a positive impact on the quality and role of library service. Factors such as innovative programming and planning, use of resources, and special projects will be considered.

MPLA Unsung Hero Award: To be given to any library individual(s) or group(s) in the MPLA region who have worked on a special project that has some significance to a community but which has not been eligible for a library award, or which has for other reasons specified by the nominator not been recognized to the degree that it merits, by any library organization.



SAVE THE DATES

Plan to attend the 32nd National Media Market, to be held October 24-28, 2010 at the Embassy Suites - Plaza, Kansas City, MO.

For 31 years, the National Media Market (NMM) has been a trusted source for librarians when it comes to the selection and acquisition of children's programming, documentaries and special interest films with public performance rights.

At the Market you can -

- Preview and evaluate without distraction.
- Save money with preferred pricing and Market discounts.
- Attend daily professional development sessions.
- Discuss hot topics with colleagues from across the country.
- Build and retain relationships.

The registration for four days, including luncheons and receptions, is \$190. First time attendees pay only \$95!

For details about exhibitors and activities at the Market, go to <http://www.nmm.net> or contact Ursula Schwarz, Executive Director, at (520) 743-7735, email director@nmm.net.

Grants Available

IMLS Releases Guidelines for Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries and Museums

Deadline for application: November 15, 2010

The Institute of Museum and Library Services announces the release of grant guidelines for Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries and Museums (<http://www.imls.gov/applicants/grants/SparksIgnition.shtm>). This new grant program will provide one-year grants of \$10,000 to \$25,000 for innovative projects that respond to the challenges and opportunities facing cultural heritage institutions in a rapidly changing information environment. The submission deadline is November 15, 2010.

Successful proposals will address problems, challenges, or needs of broad relevance to museums, libraries, or archives, will test innovative responses to these problems, and will make the findings of these tests widely and openly accessible. Grant funding may include all activities associated with planning, deploying, and evaluating the innovation, as long as the expenses are allowable under federal and IMLS guidelines.

The Sparks! Ignition Grants initiative is structured to encourage participation by museums and libraries of all types and sizes. Libraries and library organizations that fulfill the general criteria for libraries may apply (<http://www.imls.gov/applicants/libraries.shtm>). Museums and museum organizations that fulfill the general criteria for museums may apply (<http://www.imls.gov/applicants/museums.shtm>). Partnerships are permitted, but not required. No cost sharing is required for these grants.



Funds for ALA Annual Conference

Deadline for application: December 14, 2010

Are you looking for funds to help pay for your trip to ALA Annual 2011 in New Orleans? Apply by Tuesday, December 14, 2010 for the NMRT Shirley Olofson Memorial Award and you may receive a \$1000 check to help defray the cost of attendance.

Application requirements: 1. Be a member of ALA and NMRT; 2. Be active in the library profession; 3. Show promise for activity in the area of professional development; 4. Have valid financial need; 5. Have attended no more than five ALA Annual conferences. To apply, see: http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/nmrt/oversightgroups/comm/awolofson/ShirleyOlofson_Award.cfm



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ALA APA

“Geek the Library” Campaign

Awareness campaign aims to build support for public library funding across the U.S.

[Geek the Library](#), a community-based public awareness campaign, is now available for adoption by any U.S. public library. Designed by OCLC, a nonprofit library cooperative, with funding by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the campaign is designed to highlight the vital role of public libraries in today’s challenging economic environment and to increase local library support. Geek the Library has proven ability to improve public perceptions about local library funding needs in test communities.

“We conducted a pilot campaign in two library communities last year and we know that an awareness campaign like Geek the Library can positively impact public perceptions of libraries and library funding,” said Cathy De Rosa, global vice president of marketing for OCLC. The campaign has the potential to increase long-term funding for libraries, and we are pleased to be able to make the campaign available to any public library in the United States.”

OCLC helped libraries in central Iowa and southern Georgia pilot the campaign from June through December 2009. Nearly 100 libraries and library systems participated. Pilot libraries used the campaign to position the library as a critical asset—for individuals and for the community. The campaign served as a springboard for initiating and expanding relationships with influential members of the community and the media, and for starting important local library funding discussions.

Link to get.geekthelibrary.org to learn more about the program and how it can benefit communities. The site explains what the program is, how it works, and the time and resource commitments to implement the programs.



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Joint Conference!**

**April 6-9, 2011
Billings, Montana**

Around the Region

ARIZONA

Anna Mathews, Scottsdale Public Library System, is Arizona Representative to MPLA



reader bundles and gift cards back to their libraries to continue learning and sharing new skills with staff and customers.

COLORADO

Mary Katherine Katzer, Marmot Library Network, Grand Junction, is Colorado Representative to MPLA

Graduation Day! The 2010 **Arizona Library Leadership Academy** graduation ceremony was held August 18 at the Arizona State Library. Participants from eight library systems throughout the state presented their group projects to a full house. Projects are based on a service improvement to customers and are written in LSTA grant format. Each presentation was a five minute “pitch” to sell their projects. State Librarian GladysAnn Wells gave the graduation address. In addition to the group project, each participant worked on a personal outcome to further their leadership goals. The program is coordinated by Elaine Meyers and sponsored by the Arizona State Library and Institute of Museum and Library Services.



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E-Reader Summit and Technology Showcase. In a push to get E-Readers knowledge throughout the state, the **Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records Library** Development Division is offering a day-long summit on e-readers and technology. This program gives 100 library locations across Arizona a pre-selected bundle of e-readers (IPad, Nook, Sony, Kindle or Kobo) plus e-book gift cards to use at their branch. Registration was open to all, but each library is limited to one free bundle. The summit will take place on September 20th. Presenters will provide an overview of current trends and issues associated with e-reader usage in libraries. Participants will then spend the afternoon in hands-on sessions. After the conference, participants will take their e-

Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) announces the participants in the second CAL Leadership Institute. They are: Andrew Bregar, Colorado State University, Pueblo; Suellen Brenner-Bladek, Boulder Public Library; Angie Brown, Douglas County Libraries; Julie Carmen, Arthur Lakes Library & Carmen Information Consulting; Melanie Colletti, Denver Public Library; Kriska Daltonhurst, Louisville Public Library; Christopher J. Evjy, Boulder Public Library; Christine Kreger, Colorado State Library; Paul Mascarenas, Adams State College-Nielsen Library; Kimberly McNamara, Gunnison County Library District; Joanna McNeal, Lafayette Public Library; Tessa Michaelson, Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, Upper San Juan Library District; Joanna Nelson, Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library; Mary Olson, Ira J. Taylor Library, Iliff School of Theology; Erica Olivier, Douglas County Libraries; Crystal Schimpf, High Plains Library District, Carbon Valley Regional Library; Nancy Trimm, Mesa County Libraries; Sarah Wethern, Pueblo City-County Library District. The Leadership Institute is designed to develop outstanding leaders within CAL and the Colorado library community. Participants will engage in a year long-process of leadership development activities including self-assessment, networking, and skills development.

As a result of the study [From Awareness to Funding](#), the **Colorado State Library (CSL)** is leading the development of a statewide marketing campaign,

“What’s Next?!” , that focuses on the power of libraries to transform lives and that captures the hearts, minds and support of Colorado residents.

The State Library Management Team worked with Barnhart, a national marketing company based in Denver. Components include:

- Vision: Libraries move communities into the future. Every resident of Colorado will discover their library to be a place of curiosity & discovery, ideas & experiences, inspiration & imagination. Libraries are places of endless possibilities.
- Mission: Librarians are excited about patron questions. We assist patrons with their needs during transitional times in their lives.
- Goals: To shift the perception of the general public to an increased awareness that libraries change with the times, are not just books, and provide critical help to people during times of personal or community transition. *To reinvigorate the value of libraries and secure future funding of Colorado Libraries.
- Tagline: What’s Next?! Your future. Libraries help get you there



In partnership with Denver Water and the Thorne Ecological Institute, the **Rocky Mountain Land Library** has established the Kids & Educators Library at Denver Water’s Kassler Center in hopes of connecting kids to nature. With over 20,000 volumes focused on the land and communities of the Rocky Mountains, the mission of the Rocky Mountain Land Library is to encourage a greater awareness of the land.

Learn more about the library and its resources at <http://landlibrary.wordpress.com/>.

A recent **Colorado Association of Libraries** (CAL) survey of members and non-members, garnered many suggestions for improvement. For an overview and highlights of the survey results, see Col-

orado Representative Mary Katherine Katzer’s article online at <http://www.mpla.us/stories/index.html>. The complete results are available on www.cal-webs.org.

KANSAS

Mickey Coalwell, Northeast Kansas Library System, Lawrence, is Kansas Representative to MPLA

Web Junction’s new site design has been adopted by **Web Junction Kansas** (WJ-KS). New features of the design will help WJ-KS members find and navigate both new and popular content, courses and webinars.

The **Kansas State Library** is currently developing an online webinar series focusing on trustee core skills related to the trustee certification program. A second educational program, “Working with Your Library Board” is also in development and will combine on-line synchronous and self-paced learning opportunities for library directors. Rollout of these programs is planned for winter 2010-2011.

On August 26, librarians and trustees from the **Northeast Kansas Library System** went on a regional bus tour of eight libraries. This annual event allows librarians to see how their colleagues are doing to provide outstanding service to their communities, and to get new ideas for their own libraries.



Bus Tour - Silverlake



Bus Tour - Topeka



Bus Tour - Sabetha



Bus Tour - Effingham

Guest authors serving as judges for the Teen Book Trailer Contest at the **Johnson County Library** announced winners in a special *Book Trailer Screening*

Party. Local guest authors Brent Crawford (*Carter Finally Gets It*), Jennifer Brown (*The Hate List*), and Elizabeth Bunce (*A Curse Dark as Gold*) each talked about their books, took questions, and judged the video trailer submissions. The participating teens learned quite a bit about copyright and the Creative Commons license under which they had to operate. During the event, two of the authors – Jennifer Brown and Elizabeth Bunce – mentioned that they had their official book trailers created by teens. See all the entries at <http://www.jocoteenscene.org/>.

Melanie Miller, long-time MPLA member has taken an early retirement from her position as Hays Public Library Director. She states, “It has been a privilege to work as a library director in the State of Kansas and in the Mountain Plains Library Association region and to come into contact with so many fine professional librarians. Thank you all.”

MONTANA

Pamela Henley, Bozeman Public Library is Montana Representative to MPLA

The **Parmly Billings Library** is showing “Raging Flood Waters of 1937: Billings’ Gloomiest Night,” an exhibit based on the legendary and widely photographed flood.



The **Lewis and Clark Library** presented “Introduction to Group Projective Dream Work with Jeremy Taylor” on September 10-11. Taylor has been deciphering dreams for 30 years and is the author of six books about dreams, myths, and the symbolic world.

NEBRASKA

Theresa Jehlik, Omaha Public Library, is Nebraska Representative to MPLA

This year the **One Book – One Nebraska** selection is *The Home Place* written by Wright Morris in 1948. Every other page is a black and white photo. The “photo-text” was called “as near to a new fiction form as you could get” and could be seen today as a forerunner to the now popular graphic novels.

The Nebraska Unicameral cut state funding an additional 2% last spring. Another 5% budget cut occurred when the state’s new fiscal year began on July 1. The **Nebraska Library Commission** is 65% funded by the state and 35% by the federal government.

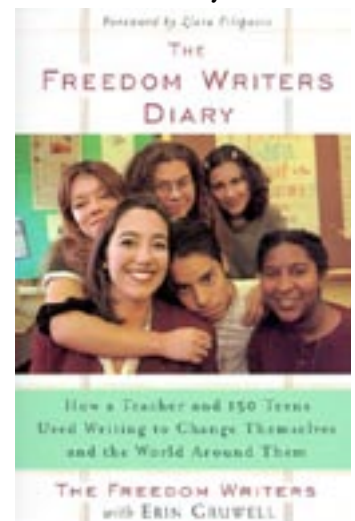
The **Nebraska Library Commission** is sponsoring Nebraska Libraries on the Web so that public libraries without web pages can have a presence on the Internet. Libraries that are open more than 15 hours a week have been invited to join the project. Phase 1 began in northeastern Nebraska with seven participating libraries. Founding members include **Clarkson Public Library, Hooper Public Library, Meadow Grove Public Library, Pilger Public Library, and Tekamah Carnegie Public Library.** The **Northeast Library System, the Panhandle Library System, and the Republic Valley Library System** are also founding members. Ten Panhandle libraries are now participating in Phase 2. The ultimate goal is for all public libraries in Nebraska to have library websites. See <http://libraries.ne.gov/projectblog/participants/>.



Tekamah Carnegie Public Library

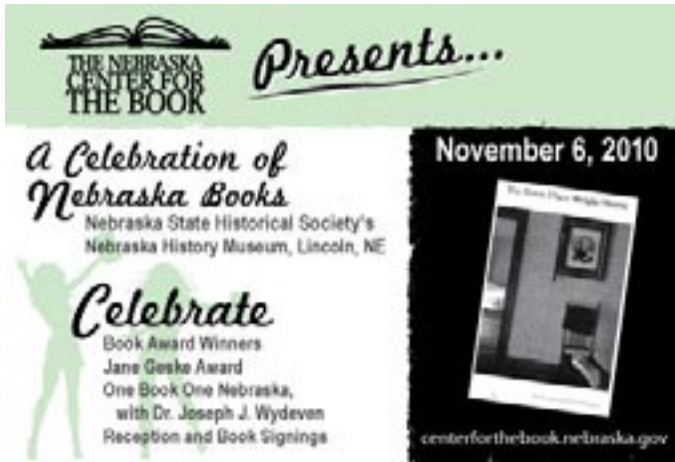
Governor Dave Heinemann recently appointed **Patricia A. Gross** from Bayard to a 3-year term on the Nebraska Library Commission. She has served as the Chair of the Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries and on the Panhandle Library System Board. Nebraska school librarians elected her to serve on the Nebraska Educational Media Association (NEMA) Board of Directors for 6 years. A retired school librarian and teacher, she worked for the Mitchell Public Schools for 5 years and the Gering Public Schools for 15 years.

The 2010 **NLA/NEMA Conference** will be held October 13 -15 in Grand Island. The theme is “Celebrating the Past Creating the Future”. Keynote speakers are two of the original Freedom Writers, Sharaud Moore and Maria Reyes. After speaking on their experiences, they will host a breakout session and sign books. Visit the conference website at <http://nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2010/> for more details.



The **Nebraska Library Association** has received a 2010 Laura Bush 21st Century Library Program \$721,033 grant. The Commission plans to use the money in its “Cultivating Rural Librarians’ 21st Century Skills” program to support Nebraskans who are studying in pre-professional and professional library science programs. The grant begins in November and is supported by Central Community College; Nebraska Educational Media Association; Nebraska Library Association; Nebraska’s Regional Library Systems; RSL Research Group; University of Missouri; University of Nebraska at Omaha. Nebraska received 1 of the 38 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awards that were made to libraries and education institutions across the U.S.

The “Celebration of Nebraska Books” will be held at the **Nebraska State Historical Society’s Nebraska History Museum** on November 6. The celebration is open to the public and will include a program by Dr. Joseph J. Wydeven on *The Home Place* by Wright Morris, the 2010 One Book One Nebraska selection. Other events include the Nebraska Book Awards and Jane Geske Award presentations and the announcement of the 2011 One Book One Nebraska selection.



In a first time collaborative event, the seven libraries in Sarpy County (**Sump Memorial, LaVista Public, Bellevue Public, Springfield Memorial, Gretna Public, Thomas S. Power at Offutt and Bellevue University**) are sponsoring an afternoon with *The Home Place* on October 2 featuring Dr. Joe Wydeven, author of *Wright Morris Revisited*. Wydeven is a Bellevue University emeritus professor of English and Humanities who personally knew Morris. The program will be held at Sump Memorial Library.

NEVADA

Florica Hagendorn, Henderson District Public Libraries, is Nevada Representative to MPLA

The **Nevada Library Association** 2010 Annual Conference “Thinking Outside the Buck” was held August 14, 2010 at Green Valley Ranch Hotel & Casino in Henderson Nevada. According to Nevada Representative Florica Hagendorn, “the one day conference was educational and a wonderful success!” Celebrity columnist, author and keynote speaker,

Norm Clarke gave attendees an “inside” look at Las Vegas with his celebrity “tell all” stories. Afterwards; Clarke signed his book, *Vegas Confidential: Sensational Celebrity Tales*. and continued his storytelling. Breakout sessions included; Salinas Public Library: Restored, Reworked & Renewed presented by Library Director Elizabeth Martinez, Dealing with Change: the 7 Essential Tools to Thrive presented by Timothy Noonan, Next Generation Discovery Platforms presented by Jason Vaughan of UNLV, Getting Boys to Read presented by Dan Verdick, ABDO Group, Letters about Literature (LAL) presented by NSLA’s Karen Starr, How to Leverage Social Media Technologies on a Low Budget presented by Nicole C. Engard.



The **Nevada Young Readers Award** luncheon featured children’s author Candace Fleming, author of *MunCha! Muncha MuNcha, The Great and Only Barnum* and *Lowji Discovers America*. Winner of ALA 2010 Best Books for Young Adults Fleming has also written biographies, historical books, and picture books. Luncheon attendees were surprised by receiving a free copy of her book *The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary* courtesy of PermaBound.

Nevada Library Association 2010 Award winners are:

- Librarian of the Year: Jim Hayes- Las Vegas- Clark County Library District
- Special Citation: Friends of Henderson Libraries
- Special Citation: Chris Britsch- Las Vegas-Clark

County Library District|

- Special Citation: Nancy Hutchinson- Las Vegas- Clark County Library District
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Wendy Stark-weather- UNLV Libraries
- Trustee of the Year: Colleen Bell, Chair- Henderson Libraries Board of Trustees
- Presidential Award: Jeanette Hammons-Elko County Public Library and Past-President, Nevada Library Association.

Nevada libraries will soon participate in the upcoming *Snapshot Day* on October 28. The Nevada Library Association will be collecting photos, stories and stats from libraries across the state of Nevada on this day. Statistics will be used for advocacy with Legislators, Commissioners, local elected officials, donors and the general public.

NEW MEXICO

LeAnn Weller, University of New Mexico Valencia Campus, Los Lunas, is New Mexico Representative to MPLA

The **New Mexico Library Association** 2010 Mini-Conference, "Today's Vision: Tomorrow's Reality," is October 15 at University of New Mexico-Gallup, including a reception and tours on October 14. Preliminary Program information is available at http://nmla.org/docs/2010_draft_mini_program.pdf. Registration is \$45 for NMLA/AZLA members and \$70 for nonmembers. See <http://nmla.org/mini-conference/>.



National and local storytellers of all ages will be featured at the tenth annual Four Corners Storytelling Festival October 9-10, sponsored by the **Farmington Public Library**, the festival includes traditional tales of the Navajo, Hispanic cuentos, some

cowboy poetry, and a few tall tales. See <http://www.infoway.org/storytelling/2010/index.asp> for more information.

In April 2010 MPLA member **Lynette Schurdevin** became the new Library Administrator of the **Thomas Branigan Memorial Library** in Las Cruces. She began her new position shortly before attending the MPLA 2010 Leadership Institute. Lynette moved from Minnesota in 2005 to begin her career as Circulation Supervisor at Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. She has also served on the MPLA Board as New Mexico's representative.



Historian **Bill Boehm**, a former **New Mexico State University Library** staff member, is the lead author of a new book, *In Katrina's Wake: The National Guard on the Gulf Coast, 2005*, with Renee Hylton and Major Thomas W. Mehl. The book was published by the U.S. Government Printing Office. Boehm worked in the NMSU Library's Archives and Special Collections Department from 2000 to 2006, and then accepted a position as an archivist for the National Guard Bureau.

A new meeting room, the Road Runner Room, has been added to the **Thomas Branigan Memorial Library** for public and library events. The old meeting



room will become a new, updated public computer lab. The Kiva Room in the Children's Department is

also being redesigned for programming. The library is moving to a RFID system which will allow faster and more accurate checking in and out of items, better security and an accurate inventory count. By the end of the summer, the public can expect to see a redesigned Circulation area and service model. Branigan will also open a small branch library in San Andres High School.



YALSA (Young Adults Library Service Association) will host the biennial Young Adult Literature Symposium, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 5-7! This year's theme, "Diversity, Literature, and Teens: Beyond Good Intentions," discusses today's generation of teens — likely the most diverse generation ever. For more information see <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/yalitsymposium/symposium.cfm>.

Ben Wakashige has joined the Central New Mexico Community College as the new Administrative Director for Libraries and Educational Resources. He has served in a variety of posts, including five years as Director of the New Mexico State Library and most recently as Director of the Fort Lewis College Library in Colorado. **Sharon Jenkins** has resigned as director of **New Mexico Junior College Library** to help operate Shiloh Lifestyle in the Cayman Islands.

MPLA member **Vaunda Micheaux Nelson**, Coretta Scott King Award winning author of *Bad News for Outlaws*, will be the speaker at the author luncheon of the YALSA Young Adult Literature Symposium in Albuquerque in November.



Lisa Beinhoff is the new director of the **Skeen Library at New Mexico Tech**. She was the director of the Learning Resources Center for Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, Ill.

The current exhibit at **University of New Mexico Health Sciences and Informatics Center** Special Collections takes advantage of the John H. Trestrail toxicology collection recently acquired by HSLIC and newly available to the New Mexico Health Historical Collection. Trestrail is internationally recognized as the foremost authority on criminal poisoning and murder by poison. For a little over thirty years, Mr. Trestrail served as the Managing Director of one of the nation's certified regional poison centers. He is currently the Director of the *Center for the Study of Criminal Poisoning*. The collection consists of artifacts on poisoning and memorabilia he has collected over the past thirty years.



The **University of New Mexico Libraries** recently received grant funding to digitize songbooks and archival resources from the New Mexico Federal Music Project. The New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board through the State Commission of Public Records -- State Records Center and Archives is funding the project. The Federal Music Project was established as part of the Works Progress Administration in 1935 and became the WPA Music Program from 1939-1943. The goal of the project was to employ musicians on the relief rolls during the Great Depression, and the New Mexico project, under the direction of Helen Chandler Ryan, documented the Hispanic-American folk music traditions in New Mexico and provided music instruction to children from low income families. The documents provide a valuable resource of Hispanic-American music traditions in the Southwest during the Great Depression and earlier. This digitization project coincides with the 75th anniversary of the New Deal projects and programs as identified by the National New Deal Preservation Association, and will complement other

New Deal exhibits presented by New Mexico cultural heritage museums. The digitization project will be led by Amy Jackson, digital initiatives librarian, with additional support from the Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections. For more information contact Amy at amyjacks@unm.edu.

The New Mexico Book Co-op, Reading New Mexico, LPD Press/Rio Grande Books, and Tradicion Revista Magazine are looking for the **100 Best New Mexico Books** ever written in honor of the upcoming state centennial. For information see <http://www.nmbookcoop.com/Projects/Best-Books/Best-Books.html>.

Lorie Mitchell is the new librarian at **Alta Vista Middle School in Carlsbad**. She returns to the library profession after a long professional detour as an educational technologist at New Mexico State University-Carlsbad. She was a technical services librarian at Carlsbad Public Library from 1995-1999 and the Interim Director of the New Mexico State University Carlsbad library in 2009.

After years in the planning, tremendous community involvement, land clearing, construction, weeks of moving and organizing, and an amazing effort by volunteers, friends and neighbors, the new **Placitas Community Library** is now open at its new location. The grand opening ceremony and ribbon cutting festivities included costumed alpacas, live music, a juggler, refreshments, and an exhibit and fundraising sale of photographs of local scenery.



Nancy K. Dennis is the Associate Dean of Facilities and Access Services for the University Libraries and an Associate Professor of Librarianship at the **University of New Mexico**. She has over twenty-five years of professional experience in management positions in technical services and library information technology departments in both public and academic libraries. She is the author of several articles and has

been the project manager and principal investigator for two large National Endowment for the Humanities grants that resulted in the creation of the Online Archive of New Mexico and the Rocky Mountain Online Archive. She is a member of the American Library Association (ALA) and the New Mexico Library Association.

Frances C. Wilkinson is the Deputy Dean of University Libraries and a Professor of Librarianship at the **University of New Mexico**. She has over twenty-five years of academic library experience. She is the author of several books and over fifty articles, chapters, columns, and reports; she has given numerous workshops and papers; and she has served as a column editor for a peer-reviewed professional journal and on several national editorial boards. She received the ALA-ALCTS Leadership in Library Acquisitions Award in 2000.

Linda K. Lewis retired this year from the University of New Mexico after nearly 40 years working in reference, acquisitions, serials, and collection development. She is the author of several books and articles in library science and women's studies. She is a member of the American Library Association and the New Mexico Library Association.

Fran Wilkinson, Nancy Dennis, and Linda K. Lewis wrote *Comprehensive Guide to Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Recovery* at the request of ALA's ACRL on emergency preparedness and recovery. After a fire and two floods at UNM's libraries, they became (unfortunately) the experts on what to do and not to do. The book, was just published. It is an essential toolkit for libraries of all types and sizes. The book is available for purchase through the ALA Online Store, by telephone order at (866) 746-7252 in the U.S. or (770) 442-8633 for international customers. ALA/ ACRL members receive a 10% discount off the list price of all ACRL books. ISBN-13: 978-0-8389-8548-9 Price: \$54.

The **Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System** is celebrating the 50 year anniversary of *To Kill A Mockingbird* with a series of events sponsored

by ABC Libraries, the Santa Fe Opera, and the Kimo Theatre which will take place throughout the City. For a more information and a calendar see <http://www.cabq.gov/library/bigread.html>.

The **Española Library** celebrated Disney's 55th Anniversary with a Mad Hatter Tea Party for families. The event hosted a cupcake walk, a pin the ear on the March Hare game, and a parade for the judges. Prizes were awarded for Maddest Hat. Participants were encouraged to wear a crazy hat, either hand constructed or bought. Library Director **Teddie Riehl** made her hat out of a recycled GO Bond signs and a Mother's Day gift bag. Local businesses and Library Board President Daniel Roybal donated prizes.



The work of **Molly Molloy**, a librarian at **New Mexico State University** in Las Cruces, caught the attention of Ana Campoy at *The Wall Street Journal* in a June 15 article about the librarian's efforts to maintain a tally of the killings in the drug cartel wars in Juarez, Mexico. The article reports that there is no official count of the numbers of people killed in Mexico's escalating drug wars – whether the victims are drug traffickers, police, or civilians (a government estimate puts the total at about 22,000 in all of Mexico since late 2006.) Molloy tallies the reports from Mexican newspapers and makes her findings available for free to anyone who wants them. Her material is used in news accounts and scholarly studies in the U.S. and beyond.

Stacy Zuzga is the new Adult Services Librarian at the **Octavia Fellin Public Library** in Gallup. She received her MLS from Wayne State University and most recently was with the Rochester Hills Library, MI.

The *Round-Up Digitalization Project* online archive database was unveiled at the **New Mexico State University Branson Library**. Archives of the newspaper from as far back at 1880 will be available online for anyone to access. The paper is now posted online-only. The \$15,000 project was sponsored by student fees from the Associated Students of New Mexico State University, a grant from the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board and private donations from former Round Up editors. **Elizabeth Titus** is the library dean.

NORTH DAKOTA

Al Peterson, North Dakota State Library, is North Dakota Representative to MPLA

Wilbur Stolt, Director of Libraries for the University of North Dakota was recently elected as a delegate to the OCLC Global Council for a three year term. There are 48 Member Delegates on Global Council who are elected by the Regional Councils and represent OCLC member libraries in their respective areas around the world. The OCLC Global Council supports the OCLC Mission by serving as a key link between member libraries and OCLC management, facilitating communication and responding to expressed concerns from Members Council members, general members, and others to help shape future directions of the organization. Wilbur Stolt is one of fourteen librarians chosen from North America, Latin American, and the Caribbean to represent the Americas region. In her announcement of this news, Carla Dewey Urban, Assistant Director for Bibliographic & Technical Services at Minitex, said, "Judging from his previous activity as Minitex Delegate to the OCLC Members Council, ARC's predecessor, we know that Wilbur will ably advocate for libraries in our region and especially for the needs of smaller libraries."

Marilyn Johnson, longtime Legislative Council Librarian and former NDLA President (1999-2000), has announced her upcoming retirement. In Mari-

lyn's words to her colleagues in the North Dakota Library Association, "NDLA friends, a librarian bites the dust. As of October 1st, I am retired. Thanks for your good company over all these years on the phone, in person, and at the NDLA conferences. Without NDLA, I'd have been walking the streets about 33 years sooner for the organization gave me the professional grounding I lacked. NDLA also allowed me, I hope, to make a difference in its business of making a statewide home for librarians. Giving up the annual meetings may take me a while so I could still show up...."

Congratulations to **Aubrey Madler**, recipient of the Freedom to Read Foundation's 2010 Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship. See her article on page 24 and online at MPLA Stories <http://www.mpla.us/stories/index.html>. As the third recipient of this scholarship, Aubrey received an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the 2010 ALA annual conference and was recognized at the FTRF annual member reception at the Washington Convention Center. She is an information specialist with UND's Center for Rural Health.

Stephen Banister has been hired as the new library director for the **Gordon B. Olson library at Minot State University**. Banister said it's been his long-time career goal to be director of a state university library, ever since he started his first job in acquisitions at a library in Louisiana. His last position was as library director at McKendree College in Lebanon, Ill.

Renee Paasch has been named Director of **Dickinson Public Library** after former director **Cheryl Tollefson** announced her retirement after 37 years of service with the library. Paasch started working at the library in 1984 as a part time shelver. She has done every job a the library, with the exception of cataloger. In addition to having her library degree, Renee also holds a degree in Business Administration.

The Bottineau County Public Library has installed wireless internet in its facility which now allows visitors to use their own laptops in the library. Because of an increasing number of requests from

patrons, the library went forth with the decision to go wireless. According to director **Beth Reitan**, since the wireless has been installed, the library has experienced an increase in foot traffic.

The NDLA Executive Board recently donated \$500 to the **Wadena Public School Library** after a June 17 tornado destroyed its building and contents. There will also be a "jar fundraiser" at the NDLA Conference. Visit <http://funds4books.com/fundraiser>, which ends October 4.



OKLAHOMA

Basha Hartley, Norman Public Library, is Oklahoma Representative to MPLA

The **Oklahoma Library Association's** 4th annual **Information Matrix Summer Camp**, aimed at **encouraging** middle school kids (ages 12-14) to begin to consider careers in libraries, archives, and museums, was held at the University of Tulsa campus. The campers and chaperones spent the week visiting a wide variety of libraries and museums, including several branches of the Tulsa City-County Library System (TCCL) both OU-Tulsa and OSU-Tulsa, McFarlin Library and the Mabee Legal Information Center at TU, the Tulsa Air & Space Museum, the Will Rogers Memorial in Claremore, and the Gilcrease Museum. Among the highlights of the week:

- A drumming circle at Connor's Cove, the children's theater at TCCL's Hardesty Library
- The opportunity to read to 3, 4 and 5-year-olds at TU's Child Development Center

- An afternoon of family history research at TCCL's Genealogy Center
- Storyteller Angie Kuhn, again at Connor's Cove
- A tour of OU-Tulsa's new library, still under construction
- Attending a Tulsa Drillers baseball game followed by fire-works

In addition to OLA, the camp was co-sponsored this year by Rose State College and The University of Tulsa. Many librarians worked hard during the week to make the camp work. More information about the 2010 Information Matrix Camp, including photographs, is available on the OLA website: <http://ola.oklibs.org/events/information-matrix-camp.htm>.

The *Mildred Laughlin Festival of Books for Young People* is a biennial event sponsored by the **Oklahoma Library Association**. Two authors and one illustrator for children and teens are invited to present to librarians, teachers and other educators. The festival is October 28 at Tom Steed Center at Rose State College in Midwest City.

Arika Bowles has been named reference/instructional services librarian at Oklahoma Baptist University. She assumed the role Aug. 16. Bowles earned bachelor's degrees in history and computer science from Huntington University and a master's degree in library sciences from Indiana University.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Mike Mullin, Watertown Regional Library, is South Dakota Representative to MPLA

The **Watertown Regional Library** is hosting the John Adams Unbound exhibit from August 21st through October 7th. The exhibit explores Adams's personal library – a collection of 3,500 books willed by Adams to the people of Massachusetts and deposited in the Boston Public Library in 1894. This remarkable collection of books provides first-hand insight into how John Adams shaped American history and how he was shaped

through his lifelong dedication to reading and books. Through photo-reproductions of these annotated volumes, viewers witness one of our founding fathers wrestling with intellectual and political ideas at every stage in his long life – as a boy, university student, Boston lawyer, revolutionary, diplomat, President and citizen of the early American republic. The exhibit



explores how the tough unyielding John Adams became our second president, how he saved the country from an unnecessary war, and whose marriage to Abigail Adams proves to be one the most amazing love stories in

American History. John Adams Unbound has been organized by the Boston Public Library and the American Library Association Public Programs Office. This traveling exhibition has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: great ideas brought to life.

Librarians from across western South Dakota have joined together to provide support and collaboration for their rural libraries. **West River Rural Libraries** has formally organized to share information and resources between small town public libraries serving populations of 50,000 or less. Began in October of 2009, the group will celebrate its first annual meeting on November 4 in Rapid City, South Dakota.

The **Brookings Public Library** will join community members and college students in reading *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson as a part of the new Community Common Read program. Mortenson will be speaking in Brookings November 3. Donations from the 1st Bank and Trust and the Larson Foundation enabled an age-appropriate copy of *Three Cups of Tea* to be purchased for every student attending the Brookings School District.

The SWIM Scholars and their mentors gathered at the **North Dakota State Library** on August 3 for a lively informal summit. Each of the scholars has been paired by SDLA and the State Library with an experienced librarian to aid in mentoring them as they go through the MLIS or SME programs over the next two years.

UTAH

Dorothy Horan, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, is Utah Representative to MPLA

Colorado State University announced the completion of **The Foundations of Western Water Policy** project. The project was led by **Brigham Young University** and the **University of Utah** research libraries, as well as **Colorado State University** library. The three-year project was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to add data to Western Waters Digital Library, which is a website about water issues in the Western U.S. The website address is: <http://www.westernwaters.org>.

At **Brigham Young University** Old Spice was made new. BYU psychology student and stand-up comedian, Stephen Jones created a riff on the Old Spice commercial that was also recently spoofed on the Emmys. Stephen's add is entitled "Study like a scholar, scholar. It begins with him at home with his A+ grades. He magically appears in the BYU Lee Library where he claims that studying in the library will increase grades. Being a college student, he also ends up with a sandwich, laptop and it ends with him on a cart. It's gone viral. The link is: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ArIj236UHs>

The Main Branch of the **Salt Lake City Public Library** was featured on TV news when a man was discovered viewing porn in a crowded area. He was arrested. This has stirred up the debate about filters in the library which allows patrons the choice to have filters removed from a computer by a library employee. The issue will probably be considered by the library board.

The **Brigham Young Library** internship program was recently featured in *American Libraries* in an article entitled "Reaching Out to Undergrads: Recruitment via Internship." The article discusses the semester-long internships that the library offers, with the hope of attracting some students to the library profession. **Quinn Gailbrath**, the Manager of Human Resources at the Harold B. Lee Library speaks in the article about having many queries about library science careers. Galbraith obtained a grant to fund the internships, which later turned into a program that the University now funds. The article states: "This program is a good model for other university libraries as they consider reaching out to and recruiting among their own undergraduates." The link to the online article is: <http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/features/08102010/reaching-out-undergraduates-recruitment-internship>.

WYOMING

Deborah McCarthy, University of Wyoming Libraries, Laramie, is Wyoming Representative to MPLA

Starting in August, the **Tongue River Branch of the Sheridan County Fulmer Library** hosts "Writing Wyoming," a reading and discussion series in the Wyoming Humanities Council's Reading Wyoming program. Participants will read and discuss *Rising From the Plains*, by John McPhee, *Where Rivers Change Direction* by Mark Spragg, *What You See in Clear Water* by Geoff O'Gara, and *Windmill* by David Romtvedt. All books depict what it means to live in Wyoming and explore the myth and the reality of the people and the place. Norleen Healy returns to lead the discussions. The program is offered by the Wyoming Humanities Council. Reading Wyoming provides reading and discussion series to nonprofit organizations around the state and is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Teton County Library has completed the final phase of a five-year solar project, one year ahead of schedule, thanks to generous support from grants, especially through the Teton County Library Foundation. "As a result of outstanding grant and com-

munity support, we finished the project in four years, allowing the library to save more electricity sooner, which increases the benefits of the project,” said **Dail Barbour**, Facility Manager for the library. The library’s rooftop now houses 197 solar panels, generating approximately 30,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year – enough to power three average American homes. By harnessing energy from the sun, the project will reduce emissions of CO₂, a greenhouse gas, by an estimated 48,000 pounds per year. Through the life of the solar array, as much as half a million pounds of CO₂ emissions will be eliminated. The goal of the project is to generate about 30 percent of the library’s electricity through solar power. Lower Valley Energy is measuring the project’s energy generation, and the library is receiving credit against its electricity use for the amount the panels produce. In addition, the library has installed software to monitor the amount of electricity produced and to provide a continuous graphic display of those statistics on the library website (TCLib.org/green) for citizens to observe. The software also collects and stores solar information specific to Jackson Hole, which will be available for other installations, research and as a source of long-term weather data. The library continues to research opportunities to assist with providing solar information about this region. As part of this demonstration project, the library has been sharing alternative energy and conservation information with patrons through library and community programs, ranging from a compact fluorescent light bulb giveaway with Lower Valley Energy to workshops on green building and sustainable investing.

the eighth title published by Vannoy-Rhoades. Her other work includes four books on the martial arts, two personal narratives and a history of knives in America.

The fall book discussion series at the **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** focuses on education as a change agent. The titles include both fictional and biographical accounts, which examine how culture is expanded, repressed, fulfilled and overcome by education. The series opens with Tobias Wolff’s *Old School*, followed by Maxine Hong Kingston’s *The Woman Warrior*, Richard Rodriguez’s memoir *The Hunger for Memory* and Annie Dillard’s *An American Childhood*. Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout.

Library staff, Foundation and volunteers of the **Teton County Library** are celebrating the success of their Specific Purpose Excise Tax proposition, which was approved by voters in the August primary election. The proposition requested \$8.45 million for an addition and renovation to the main library. The voter-approved library project includes building an 11,000-square-foot addition and renovating the existing 24,000-square-foot building, parking lot and outdoor areas. The building project will create more space for books and other library materials, reading and study, computers and technology, community meeting rooms, and dedicated teen and children’s areas, which will be separated from quieter library spaces. The Library Board is planning for green building LEED certification. The library’s existing building systems will be replaced or modified to increase energy efficiency and to handle increasing loads from growing library use, especially in new technologies.

Anita Weisheit became the Information Services Manager of the **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** on August 1. She worked at Fulmer Library for three years as the Programming and Young Adult Coordinator. Prior to her work at the library, Anita taught Ninth and Eleventh Grade English in Lodge Grass, Montana. Anita is originally from Indiana and has a Bachelor’s degree in English Education. Anita’s Masters is in Library and Information



Local author **Cynthia Vannoy-Rhoades** gave a book talk and take questions about her newest book, *Spirit of the Owl* on September 15 at the **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library**. *Spirit of the Owl* is

Services and was recently earned from Florida State University.

Judy Slack is transitioning to Wyoming Room Manager of the **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** after having worked as the Wyoming Room Assistant for several months. Well known among local history buffs, Judy is an active participant in the Big Horn City Historical Society, Sheridan Community Land Trust, Sheridan County Historical Society and writes regular articles for *Sheridan County... Then and Now* column in the Sheridan Press. She has also been digitizing several pioneer family collections of diaries, photographs, letters and slides.

MPLA member **Debbie Iverson**, has been appointed Programming Coordinator for the **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** after being a substitute library employee for two years. Debbie's long term library career was at Sheridan College where she retired as Library Director in 2008.

The **Lyman branch of the Uinta County Library** officially opened on August 21, having moved across the street from their old site. Uinta County Library Director, **Dale Collum** and Branch Manager, **Suzi Worthen** were on hand to preside over the ceremony. The town of Lyman donated the land and the Uinta County Commissioners donated money. Others helping with the construction cost were the State of Wyoming and the Library Foundation Board.

The **Wyoming Center for the Book**, a program of the Wyoming State Library, recently donated 2000 copies of *Little Wyoming to Raising Readers*, a program that distributes books to Wyoming children at their well-child health care visits at doctors' offices throughout the state.

Sid Stanfill is the new library director at **Sublette County Library**.

The **Northern Wyoming Community College District** has named two new administrators. **Katrina Brown** is the library administrator at the **Griffith Memorial Library** in Sheridan; and **Diane Adler** is the library administrator at the **Daly Memorial Library and Testing Center** in Gillette.

Patricia Aufflick has been named the new library director at the **Casper College Goodstein Foundation Library**.

Beginning in August, the **University of Wyoming Libraries** will host their first Art Invitational. Using a proposal process, the libraries have invited local Laramie artists to loan their art for display in W. R. Coe Library, for a minimum of one year. The artwork can be any media, and artists can submit multiple pieces for consideration. The invitational will give W. R. Coe Library patrons an opportunity to see a variety of local art in a heavily used public building. In addition to the benefit of having art throughout the building, the invitational also provides the artist with exposure to sell their art, either for personal collections or as a donation for permanent placement in UW Libraries. Organizers hope to make the Invitational an annual event.

The **Albany County Public Library** in Laramie is debuting a new series of events just for 20- and 30-somethings. Currently planned: bad art night, craft night, make your own graphic novel...with beer and snacks.



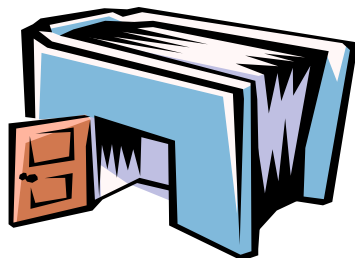
Become a "Fan" of MPLA on Facebook

Join the MPLA Page! It 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.

Welcome New MPLA Members



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Nancy Deegan
Librarian, Central Arizona College
Library
Coolidge, AZ

COLORADO

Rick Kerns
Library Technician III, University of
Northern Colorado James A.
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MISSOURI

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Executive Director, Kansas City
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Network
Independence, MO

OKLAHOMA

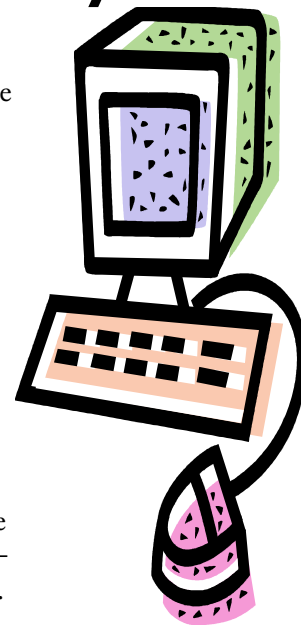
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Using MPLA's Online Membership Directory

MPLA uses MemberClicks, an online membership maintenance service, for its Directory, which is accessible only to MPLA members. This begins a series on how to use specific features.



How to Search the MPLA Database

- At the MPLA website: www.mpla.us, go to the login section at the lower left of the homepage.
- Login with your user-name 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 for MPLA).
- General Search:
 - Either use the Directory Search options or at the top left of the search page, or select "Directory" and from the fly-out menu select "Simple Search" or "Advanced Search" and proceed.
- Using a "Saved Search"

From "Directory" select "Simple Search." Go to the "Use a Saved Search" section.

From the "Use a Saved Search" drop-down list select one of the searches.

Click on the "Search" with the magnifying glass icon to its left. You will retrieve business card profile displays.

Questions? Contact Judy Zelenski, MPLA Executive Secretary, execsecretary@mpla.us. For instructions on using all the features of the database, see <http://www.mpla.us/mclicks.html>.

MPLA Member Reflects on ALA Annual Conference

by *Aubrey M. Madler*

2010 Gordon M. Conable Scholarship Recipient

During the past few years, I have learned a lot about and taken a great interest in the principles of intellectual freedom and what a great gift it is that we provide for our communities. Many of North Dakota's libraries are located in rural communities and oftentimes, only one librarian staffs the library, making it difficult to travel to conferences and to partake in training opportunities. Utilizing electronic means of communication and information dissemination is an integral part of their networking capacity. I am a current member of the North Dakota Library Association Intellectual Freedom committee. Through this role, I maintain a blog that serves as a dissemination tool for news and issues surrounding intellectual freedom, and I have read many articles about banned materials, censored information, and efforts taken to challenge our basic rights. Other countries are not so lucky, as they have strict censorship practices for electronic material, the China/Google topic is a prime example. I consider the right to information an entitlement that our Constitution promises and I find it extremely important to preserve this right for American citizens.

My goals while attending the 2010 ALA conference, were to learn more about privacy, censorship, and free speech rights as they relate to library services. I also wanted to learn about ways in which to share this information to libraries in North Dakota through blogs and other electronic means. I hoped for opportunities to exchange information with colleagues, develop contacts across state lines, and build relationships with a mentor that can help me contribute on behalf of intellectual freedom issues as I venture further into my professional career.

At the conference's close, I achieved these goals and more. I felt so welcomed by members of the ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom, the Freedom to Read Foundation, the Intellectual Freedom Committee, and the Intellectual Freedom Round Table (of which I am also a member). Everyone was eager to mentor me and to discuss ideas and issues surrounding First Amendment rights. I came away from these conversations with the confidence to continue and enhance my dissemination and advocacy work

through blogging.

I am glad I was able to sit in on several meetings. In addition to learning about issues facing various types of libraries, I got a feel for what each of the four groups (OIF, FTRF, IFC, and IFRT) do on behalf of intellectual freedom and how I might get involved with some of them. For example, I found that these issues encompass more than just libraries as attorneys also serve actively on the FTRF. They work to maintain our right to read by defending court cases and offering legal council to libraries. On that note, the Merritt fund plays an invaluable role in supporting libraries during lawsuits. I love that ALA provided for me, a seat at the 40th Anniversary [Merritt Fund](#) dinner where I heard an emotional story from a librarian who was under scrutiny for hindering an investigation because she would not relinquish computer use records. It is unfortunate that we need this fund in place, but it is a wonderful form of support for those standing up for intellectual freedom and our right to privacy. I hope that one day, such a fund is no longer necessary, but until then, I will become a contributor and will share information about this important fund to fellow librarians and First Amendment advocates.

In addition to the FTRF meetings, I sat in on one of the IFC's meetings as they discussed an important new interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights: Prisoners' Right to Read. I appreciated witnessing the complex editing process undergone to disambiguate terminology and phrasing so that the document best represented its intent. I had not before considered the freedom to read issues faced by those incarcerated, and I am glad that this group took the initiative to make sure librarians serving the incarcerated have a guide to follow and a support system in place through ALA.

Another discussion during the (IFC) meeting regarded placing labels on books. The IFC looked at [Common Sense Media's grid](#), used by online booksellers to label

continued on next page

MPLA Member Reflects on ALA Annual Conference

continued

books by their content. One might see this form of labeling as a strict form of censorship by authoritative entities, thus affecting the book's success. The IFC is in the process of exploring the pros and cons of using this grid system to label books and discussing ways that librarians can use it effectively or offer additional sources, such as <http://www.storysnoops.com>, as selection tools. This labeling system has the potential to prevent minors from accessing information on various ideas and learning about their world as well as the potential to inflict self-censorship.

I was able to view one “celebrity” session and I chose it because it celebrated the 50th anniversary of “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee. This novel faced frequent scrutiny in libraries for its racial content among other sensitive themes and instances. Mary McDonagh Murphy recently wrote a book and produced a documentary on the novel's influence since its publication 10 decades ago. Nancy Pearl's interview with [Mary McDonagh Murphy](#) was entertaining and moving. There was not a dry eye in the auditorium as reflections from Oprah Winfrey, Rosanne Cash, and Tom Brockaw projected on the screens. I heard them describe reading this novel as young adults; then again, at later phases in life, they got deeper and deeper into the novel's experience. I could not help thinking repeatedly of what we would miss if we did not have the freedom to create such works, publish them, and experience their personal meaning generation after generation.

My conversations with fellow right-to-read advocates reiterated similar thoughts when we identified that reading a novel as a youth is a completely different experience than reading the same novel as an adult. Children and adolescents will absorb from the story what they are able to at that phase in their life, which makes these novels so appealing to all ages. As member and secretary of my local Friends of the Library group, I hope to explore ideas in which to celebrated banned books week, including telling them about the grant available to support readouts and similar activities.

By about mid-conference, I felt quite tired and considered that an excellent sign that I was making the most of every moment and taking in everything possible. This was

also a time when I realized I heard several times—including [Sunday morning's session about a high profile book challenge](#), and in the [afternoon session regarding self-censorship](#)—that it is easy to talk or read about things that are easy—things that are accepted by the majority. Yet, the First Amendment helps us work through topics and issues that may not be so comfortable to accept. It gives the minority a voice—a chance to be heard and understood. I love this concept, as it is the basis of the democracy within which we live. Libraries play such an important role in giving the minority the gift of a voice and in helping them to share this voice so that others may understand and learn.

I heard this concept once again during Monday afternoon's session, Blasphemy!: When Religious Values Clash with Intellectual Freedom. Both speakers ([Irshad Manji](#) and [Paul Sturges](#)) were excellent—they entertained me—they captured my undivided attention. as spoke about our right to offend and that by not acting upon that right, we destroy our own intellectual freedom—our freedom of speech. As Irshad said, offense is not bad. It creates the opportunity for deeper thought. . It takes brave people to exercise their right of free speech and ask the arduous questions (not only write about them) with the utmost of respect and clarity.

After days of sessions and making valuable contacts, I had the chance to meet Irene and Ted Conable, wife and son of the late Gordon M. Conable, who were both so welcoming and generous—after all, they are the reason I am here. They affectionately reminisced about their life with “Gordie”, whom I am disappointed to have never met. More than ever, I am energized and motivated to continue acting on behalf of intellectual freedom and the freedom to read in honor of his legacy. I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to learn about defending our right to read, share ideas, and access information, and to meet those that Gordon had to leave behind.

I must say thanks again to all those that welcomed me into their circles. I value my newly formed connections as well as all that I learned surrounding intellectual freedom issues, and I will continue explore ways in which to ensure our democratic freedoms.



MPLA Officer Elections

MPLA members who have agreed to run for 2011-2011 offices are:

Vice-President/President-Elect:

JaNae Kinikin
Tamara Meredith

Recording Secretary:

Royce Kitts
Connie Lamb

Online voting will take place early in 2011. Watch for candidate information on the website. The December Newsletter will also have candidate statements.

Professional Development Grant Deadlines 2010

October 6
December 1

For mini-grants (up to \$150) Applicant must be a current member of MPLA and must have been a member for the past full calendar year.

For regular grants (up to \$600) Applicant must be a current member of MPLA and must have been a member for the past two calendar years (total of three consecutive years).

For additional eligibility and application requirements

see <http://www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grants.html>

State & National Conferences 2010

- South Dakota Library Association Conference
September 22-24, Sioux Falls SD
- Wyoming Library Association Conference
September 29 -October 2, Casper WY
- North Dakota Library Association Conference
September 29-Oct 2, Grand Forks, ND
- Nevada Library Association Conference
October 6-9, Henderson, NV
- Colorado Association of Libraries Conference
October 7-9, Loveland CO
- Nebraska Library Association Conference
October 13-15, Grand Island, NE
- Association for Rural and Small Libraries
October 14-16, Denver CO
- Arizona Library Association Conference
November 15 -17, Fountain Hills, AZ

2011

- ALA Midwinter Meeting
Jan. 7-12, San Diego, CA
- Kansas Library Association
April 6 - 8, Capitol Plaza Hotel
Kansas Expocentre Topeka, KS
- MLA/MPLA Joint Conference
April 6-9, Billings, MT
- New Mexico Library Association Conference
April 27-29
- ALA 2011 Annual Conference
June 23-29, 2011; New Orleans, LA
- South Dakota Library Association Conference
October 5-7, 2011 - Spearfish
- Colorado Association of Libraries Conference
October 13-15

2012

- Nebraska Library Association-Mountain Plains
Library Association Joint Conference
Fall - Omaha

MPLA Board & Staff



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

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