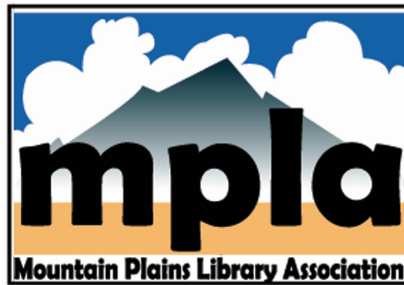


Big Horizons



Close Community

Newsletter

April 2011

www.mpla.us

Volume 55 #4

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MLA/MPLA Conference

April 6-9, 2011

**Libraries:
The Road to Everywhere!**

MPLA Facebook Contest Do you know a Librarian Road Warrior?



Do you know a librarian who is prepared for anything... can navigate resources at high speeds...

and doesn't believe in stopping until the job is done?

To enter, visit the MPLA Facebook Page between March 17 and March 31st, 2011, and in 150 words or less,



tell us why you or your nominee is a Librarian Road Warrior. Be sure to include their real name and library where they work.

The winner will be announced at the MPLA General Membership meeting at the MPLA/MLA Annual Conference on April 8, 2011 (need not be present to win) and receive a very cool "Librarian Road Warrior" kit.



**Vrrrooommmmm!
Start your engines!!!!**

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

MPLA Officers for 2011-2012

President



Dana Braccia

Scottsdale Public Library System, Arizona

Vice-President- President-Elect JaNae Kinikin



Weber State University
Stewart Library, Ogden, Utah

Recording Secretary Royce Kitts



Tonganoxie Public Library, Kansas

Past-President and Administration Committee Chair



Elvita Landau

Brookings Public Library
South Dakota

*These officers begin their terms at the MLA/MPLA Conference, April 6-9, in Billings, Montana.
Their terms run through the Nebraska Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association
Joint Conference, October 17-19, La Vista, NE .*

Outgoing President's Message

I'm getting ready to pack my bags to start the trip to Billings, MT for the MPLA/Montana Library Association joint conference. The theme: *Libraries; the Road to Everywhere*, is especially appropriate this year because, thanks to Mike Mullin, our South Dakota MPLA representative, we're going to drive to Billings. There will be six of us in the van so we should have a jolly time for the 10+ hours it takes.



"Decorating for the Library's 'We're sick of winter event.' We've had a tough winter here and the staff just had enough, even if spring is officially a couple weeks away."

I hope to see you at a number of fun events at the conference. The Billings Buzz at Carter's Brewery and the Welcome Reception at the Western Heritage Center begin the conference with the right blend. The Montana planners have done a great job.

I'm looking forward to the educational sessions also - just so you know I won't just be going to the parties.

I want to take this opportunity to thank a number of people who help me during my presidential year. The twelve state representatives (plus two from states who changed reps during the year) have been supportive of the efforts made and could be counted on to express opinions and offer solutions. The nine committee chairs: Awards - Steven Decker, Communications - Kate Plunkett, Membership - Megan Tomo and Brenda Hemmelman, Nominating - Mike Mullin, Professional Development - David Alexander and Lori Phillips, Leadership Institute - Dan Stanton, Bylaws - Wayne Hanley, Administration - Eileen Wright, and Program Council - Dana Braccia, all deserve praise and thanks for a job well done. Thanks also to Dana and Eileen for all the conference planning emails we exchanged as the year progressed.

Judy Zelenski, who wears the multiple hats of executive secretary, newsletter editor, and Leadership Institute Coordinator, deserves special praise and thanks for patiently answering all my questions and for keeping the organization on top of its deadlines.

Thanks also to Dan Chaney, webmaster, and Roy Degler, portal administrator, who continue to keep our online presence up-to-date and spiffy.

Being president of an organization such as MPLA is a challenging and rewarding experience, from which I've learned a great deal. I thank all of you for the opportunity to be your leader for a year. The organization shortly will be in the very capable hands of incoming president Dana Braccia and I look forward to working with her for the benefit of MPLA.

--Elvita

Incoming President's Message



Parada Del Sol – circa 1950s

These boots were made for jumping in with both feet!

During the month of February, Scottsdale celebrates its West's Most Western Town roots with rodeos, the [Hashknife Pony Express](#) and the famous [Parada Del Sol](#) (a truly awesome parade filled with horses, cowboys, high school bands, and zany floats). I've had the honor of being a parade judge for the past 9 years. There is no better way to spend a warm sunny day than watching the heart and spirit of the community go past in full glory. I get so excited about this event that every January for the past 9 years I've been telling my husband I was going to connect with my inner cowboy and go shopping for a pair of real cowboy boots and a hat. But things would come up, I'd get busy and before you know it, the next parade date would arrive and I'd be stuck wearing a pair of preppy jeans with a polo shirt, swearing to myself that the next year would be the year I'd get all duded up.

After nine years of listening to me dream and procrastinate, my wonderful husband took matters into his own hands and gave me a gift card to [Saba's Western Wear](#). I was committed – there are no refunds on a gift card. The first pair of boots I tried on was the basic browns. They seemed comfy, but before deciding, I had to try on at least 40 other pairs. In between fittings I would slip basic browns back on and they kept feeling better and better. Two hours later I was out the door with basic browns in a box and a hat on my head. I'm here to tell you, there is no better way to celebrate Parada than in full western wear. Whoo Hooo! You should have seen me sashaying down Main Street.

These boots are now my joyful reminder to jump in with both feet and get going on the things that are important to me. Now here's the big question – what's important to you? If every year you've been saying someday you'll get more involved with your profession, learn some new skills, and start to do more professional networking –that someday is here.

This is the year to pull on your boots and join the fun. You can start small by giving MPLA a shoutout in facebook or commenting on the blog – today! Next, volunteer to help with an MPLA project or nominate a deserving colleague for an MPLA award. Then, join a committee, sign up for the annual conference, run for office...the sky's the limit! Yee Haw!

--Dana

MPLA Professional Development Grant Recipients 2010

Sarah Baker, Education Librarian, New Mexico State University Library, received \$150 toward attending ERIC Users Groups EBSS consolidated meeting June, 2010, in Washington DC.

Sarah reports: *The committee met with representatives from ERIC and the National Library of Education at ALA's 2010 annual conference, offer recommendations regarding the changing interface of the ERIC database and receive updates at the ERIC forum on the microfilming project, peer-reviewed field project, and additions to the ERIC.gov Website to bring back to faculty and students at committee members' home campuses. By attending these meetings I was able to share questions and concerns from librarians at NMSU, Education faculty and students directly with the ERIC contractors and representatives from the National Library of Education. I also learned important information about updates to the ERIC database and website to bring back to my faculty and the librarians at NMSU.*



Robin Brooks Clark, Director of the Papillion Public Library, Nebraska, received \$558 toward expenses of the 2010 MPLA Library Leadership Institute, April 2010, in Estes Park, Colorado.



Robin reports: *I was one of two representatives from Nebraska. I participated fully in all aspects of the institute. The relevance of this institute to my position and overall goals was to hone my leadership skills and also network with others in similar positions. My roommate and I shared a similar career path, with many of the same issues and obstacles to overcome. It was very positive for me to be placed with her. One positive aspect of the program was being able to have appointments with the mentors, especially the Institute Facilitator, Maureen Sullivan. My goals are to develop this library into a fuller community participant, which is what Maureen helped me understand. The quality of my experience there was excellent, not only on a professional development level but a personal level. I made friends that I hope to continue to have for many years. I would certainly recommend and encourage others to participate in this experience.*



continued on next page

Brenda Hemmelman, Research/Government Information Librarian, South Dakota State Library, received a \$600 grant to attend the Reference Renaissance Conference in Denver, Colorado in August 2010.

Brenda reports: *There were 318 attendees from 39 states, as well as many from Canada and keynote speaker Andrea Walsh from the UK. I was able to make contact with other state library employees from other states and get ideas on how to educate our legislators on the importance of what the SD State Library does. In addition, it was great to hear how libraries are using LibGuides to make it easier for patrons to find information and listen to library movers and shakers like Marie L. Radford, Steven Bell, Wayne Bivens-Tatum and Jean Costello (Radical Patron Blog).... Attending a national conference is so important for obtaining ideas and making contacts that one cannot do at a state conference.*



Adriane Herrick Juarez, Branch Library Manager, Salt Lake Public Library, received \$600 to develop and present a program on “New Spaces in Old Places” at the OLA/MPLA Conference, April 2010, in Oklahoma City.

Adriane reports: *I am currently Chairing a committee for the Salt Lake City Public Library called, “The Innovations and Ideas Committee for New Libraries”. We are developing two new branch libraries for Salt Lake City. My involvement in developing “New Spaces in Old Places” has contributed to my knowledge as I move into working with the public in new developing new facilities. I have developed state-wide trainings that will be sponsored by the Utah State Library on the same subject. Developing “New Spaces in Old Places” has launched a new way in which I am able to help libraries and the communities they serve, by providing effective facility planning and development. This is a realization of my personal long-term career goals. Many thanks to MPLA for sponsoring my program. It was a rewarding experience, for which I have received positive feedback. This program comes as a result of personal career planning designed during the MPLA Leadership Institute in Ghost Ranch New Mexico in 2007, when I spoke with mentors about my career goals and began down the path of leadership that now includes a specialization in facilities planning.*



Carrie Scarr, Assistant Director, West Fargo Public Library, received \$600 to assist with online course in Managerial Finance in the University of Mary MBA Program.

Carrie reports: *Managerial Finance covered topics such as risky ventures, employee compensation, and maximizing shareholder value. The online discussions were the most positive part of the class. Classmates often share work experiences, which often make the class materials relevant to real world situations. . My overall objective is to gain education in management, so I can expand my career options in library management. I would recommend this program to my colleagues, however online education isn't for everyone. I enjoy the online environment of posting discussions, emailing questions, and studying on my own schedule.*

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MPLA Continuing Education Preconference Grant Recipients 2010

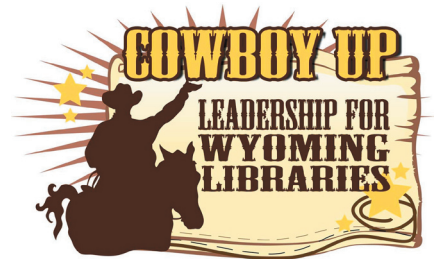
Oklahoma Library Association received \$500 for a Pre-conference Program, “The Future of Technical Services: Exploring the Possibilities,” April, 2010 in Oklahoma City.

Louisa Payne reports: *We had an audience of around thirty. Our keynote speaker was Janet Swan Hill from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She spoke about the growing complexities of the field and the need sometimes exercise caution when adopting new technologies. She was followed by Adri Edwards-Johnson, the manager of the Virtual Library for the Pioneer Library System. Adri spoke about the future of the OPAC and social tagging. We had a catered lunch and begin again afterward with two speakers talking about open source ILS's. Heather Braum, the Technology Librarian for Northeast Kansas Library System, spoke about Koba and Virginia Dietrich, the Librarian for the National Weather Center Library spoke about Evergreen. Our last speaker, June Abbas, the Chair of the ALA RDA Programming Taskforce gave us a run-down on the status and possible ramifications of RDA.*



Wyoming Library Association received \$500 for a Pre-Conference Program “Building The Better Future for the People You Serve/What Might Your Library Look Like Tomorrow” September 2010 in Casper.

Sue Knesel reports: *Pat Wagner did an overview and thoughtful program about libraries and their future. She guided us through the major changes libraries face. The program addressed the questions how to balance collection, programming, and stay in touch with our stake holders. All attendees left this program with ideas to strive for and a working list with changes for the future. The Wyoming Library Association thanks MPLA for the financial support of this pre-conference program. There were 51 attendees and on the post conference evaluation this workshop was rated in the top three best programs by 18 attendees. Also the evaluation requested we have Pat Wagner as a presenter again at future conferences.*



MPLA Professional Development Grant Application Deadlines 2011

April 6

June 1

August 3

October 5

December 7

For complete information and eligibility requirements see
<http://www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grants>.

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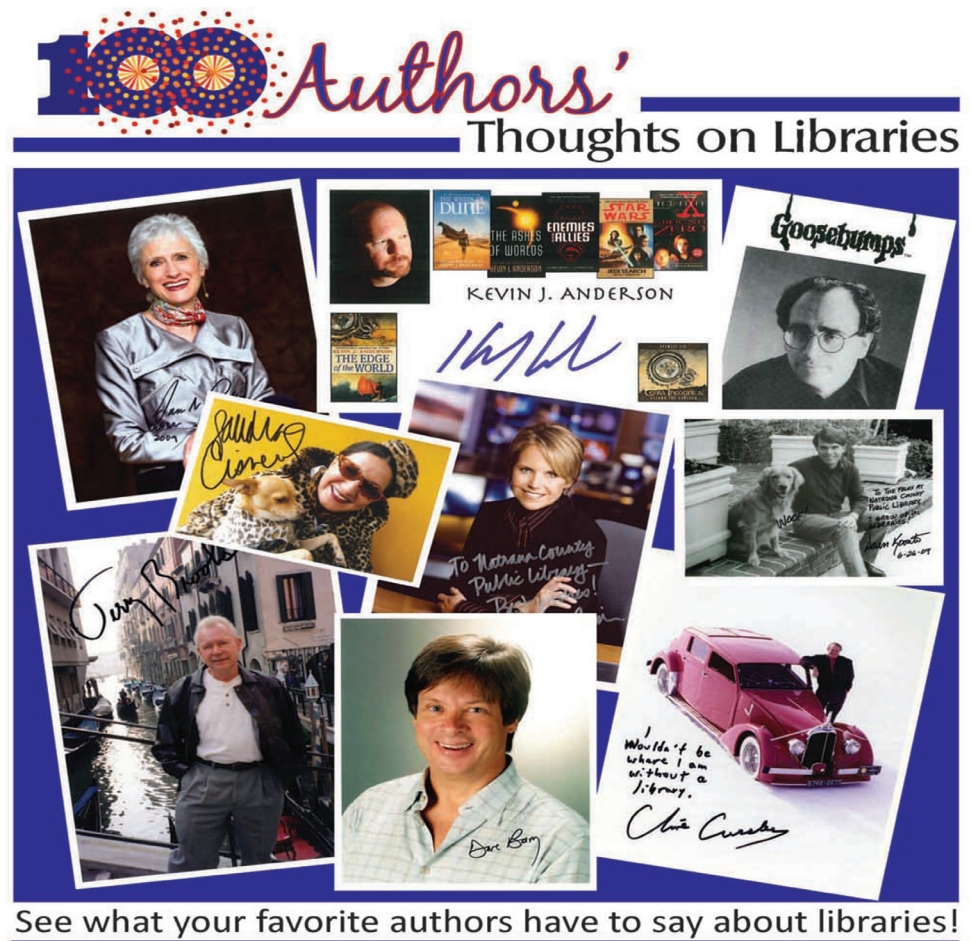
Wyoming Library Exhibit 100 Authors' Thoughts on Libraries

By Debbie Iverson

A new exhibit opened at the Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library on March 1 featuring photos, signatures and comments about libraries from over 100 authors. Featured authors include national favorites Clive Cussler, Sara Paretsky, Ken Follett, Wyoming authors C.J. Box, Craig Johnson, W. Michael and Kathleen O'Neal Gear, Children's authors Eva Ibbotsen, John Erickson and Steven Kellogg.

Comedian and author Dave Barry wrote: "As a young person I spent many happy hours hanging out in the public library in Armonk, N.Y., where the librarians . . . [were] quite patient about explaining the Dewey Decimal System, which struck me as the most insanely complex idea ever conceived of by a human mind. . ."

Michael McGarrity's response reflects what the library has meant to many families in small communities: "I was a country boy, so going to town on Saturday always meant an eagerly anticipated trip to the public library. Never the best student, I loved to read. The town library helped prepare me for the day when I decided it was time to apply myself to learning and attempt a higher education. Do public libraries matter? Big time."



See what your favorite authors have to say about libraries!

For other authors, the library has served as an inspiration not only for the imagination, but for their careers. Wyoming artist and author Chris Navarro's story began at the library in downtown Casper: "It was 28 years ago when I walked into the Natrona County Public Library. I told the librarian in charge that I wanted to be a sculptor and she helped me find the books I would need to start learning and begin my career as an artist. It was at our library that I learned the real power and knowledge contained in books . . . The library serves everyone and anyone. There is no better investment than in our children's minds and our community's future."

The "100 Authors" exhibit was originally created by the Natrona County Public Library for its 100th anniversary and reproduced as a travelling exhibit with funds provided by the NCPL Foundation. For more information about the Sheridan library's exhibit contact Debbie Iverson at 307-674-8585 ext. 29.

High Plains Library District, Centennial Park Library Celebrates Remodel-Repurpose

by Cindy Osborne

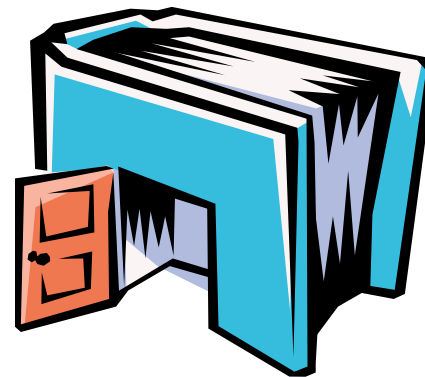
On January 8, the High Plains Library District's Centennial Park Library in Greeley, CO celebrated the library's remodel/repurpose with an Open House. In 2010, 9,000 square feet was gained for the public and patrons when all the District Support Services moved to new location. The palette of colors for the paint and carpet provides a welcoming, yet vibrant ambience for the library.

Our patrons enjoy a computer commons area with a separate area for classes, three new study rooms, a two-sided alcohol based fireplace and an additional room for meetings. The younger patrons have browsing bins for their easy fiction books. The staff has additional space for projects and processing. A 3-M sortation system was installed in January. The system is connected to the new drive-up materials return and is adjacent to the courier delivery space.

Furniture was re-used in new and different ways. Extra computer furniture will be used for the Public Computer Centers which will be located throughout the District as part of the Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program (BTOP) grant.



Welcome New MPLA Members



ARIZONA

Bonnie Braun
Student, University of Arizona
SIRLS, Tucson, AZ

Amber Kleefeld
Student, University of Arizona
SIRLS; Tucson, AZ

Virginia Pannabecker
Library Supervisor, Arizona State
University Noble Science &
Engineering Library; Tempe, AZ

Tatiana Hladky
Student, University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ

Karen S. Cowee
Student, University of Arizona
Phoenix, AZ

KANSAS

Taylor Worley
Student, Emporia State University
Lenexa, KS

MONTANA

Anne Kish
Trustee, Twin Bridges Public
Library, Twin Bridges, MT

NEBRASKA

Stephanie Maxwell
Student, University of Nebraska
Omaha, NE

Educational Service Unit 7
Beth Kabes, Media/Distance
Learning Coordinator,
Educational Service Unit 7
Columbus, NE

NEW MEXICO

San Juan College Library
Christopher Schipper, Director of
Library, Farmington, NM

Christopher Schipper
Director of Library Services, San Juan
College Library
Farmington, NM

NORTH DAKOTA

Wendy Wendt
Director, Grand Forks Public Library
Grand Forks, ND

Shari Mosser
Head of Interlibrary Loan, North Da-
kota State Library; Bismarck, ND

Sue Clark
Reference Librarian, North Dakota
State Library; Bismarck, ND

Terrance Halsey
Cankdeska Cikana Community
College Valerie Merrick Memorial
Library; Fort Totten, ND

Hulen Bivins
State Librarian, North Dakota State
Library
Bismarck, ND

OKLAHOMA

Gary Shaffer
CEO, Tulsa City County Library
Tulsa, OK

Dennis Miles
Technical Access & Public Services
Librarian, Southeastern Oklahoma
State University Henry G. Bennett
Memorial Library
Durant, OK

SOUTH DAKOTA

Lori Williams
Library Media Specialist, Flandreau
Public Schools Moody County Re-
source; Flandreau, SD

Jan Cederquist
Library Director, Huron Public Library;
Huron, SD

Nita Gill
Adult Services Librarian, Brookings
Public Library; Brookings, SD

Bea Hartwig-Stucke
Library Services Coordinator, Rapid
City Public Library; Rapid City, SD

Sean Minkel
Librarian I, Rapid City Public Library,
Rapid City, SD

UTAH

Susan Hamada
Associate Director, Salt Lake County
Library System; Salt Lake City, UT

Patricia Frade
Social Sciences/Sciences Cataloger,
Brigham Young University Harold B.
Lee Library; Provo, UT

WYOMING

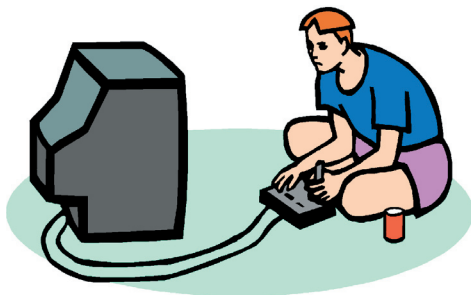
Mary Rhoads
Childrens Services, Johnson County
Library; Buffalo, WY

Marjorie Buchholz
Library Manager, Park County Public
Library; Cody, WY

Around the Region

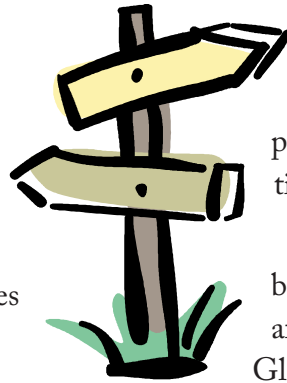
Arizona

Teens at the **Lake Havasu City branch of the Mohave County Library** participated in National Game Day in November. National Game Day promotes gaming by children and teens at the library, as well as bringing families together. Teens competed online for four hours against teens in other libraries around the country, playing Mario Kart racing and Rockband. The event attracted a total of 96 libraries around the country and Lake Havasu



City's teens placed number 18 overall! Next year they plan on taking the championship title!

The federal **Broadband Technology Opportunities Program** (BTOP) is funding two grants in the state of Arizona. 1) Arizona Public Access Computers (AzPAC) is providing more than 1,000 new computers and related equipment in 84 public libraries. The computers are intended to provide the public with additional access time on internet computers. More than half of the libraries have already purchased and received their equipment. 2) The Arizona Job Assistance Centers program (AzJAC) is focused on job seekers by providing both computers and supporting software and training. This project is administrated by the Arizona Governor's Office of Economic Recovery, with coordination of the work being done by the Arizona State Library. Two hundred libraries across Arizona will receive a Virtual Workforce Workstation (VWW) designed to mirror experiences at Arizona Workforce Connection's One Stop sites. Twenty-eight libraries will be receiving Job Help Hub (JHH) labs, which will include ten student laptops and one



instructor laptop. These labs will mimic the assessment and education curriculum that patrons experience with Workforce Connection.

Long time Director and Arizona State Librarian **Gladys Ann Wells** will retire in March after fourteen years with the State Library. Gladys Ann has been responsible for statewide collaboration of libraries, archives, public records programs, and, under the Library Services and Technology Act, museums. The Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records is a division of the Secretary of State with an annual operating budget of \$10 million and a staff of 115. Her accomplishments include obtaining more than \$64 million in grant funds for Arizona cultural institutions between 1997 and 2010 and leading efforts for the new, \$38 million, state-of-the art archives building dedicated in 2009 Julie Huelsbeck, MPLA's State Rep says, "We will miss Gladys Ann, but wish her well in this new phase of her life!"

MPLA member **Stephanie Gerding** will be a facilitator at Turning the Page 2.0 - a free public library advocacy training course developed and presented by the Public Library Association (PLA) with support from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. See <http://pla.org/ala/mgrps/divs/pla/plaevents/turningthepage/index.cfm>.

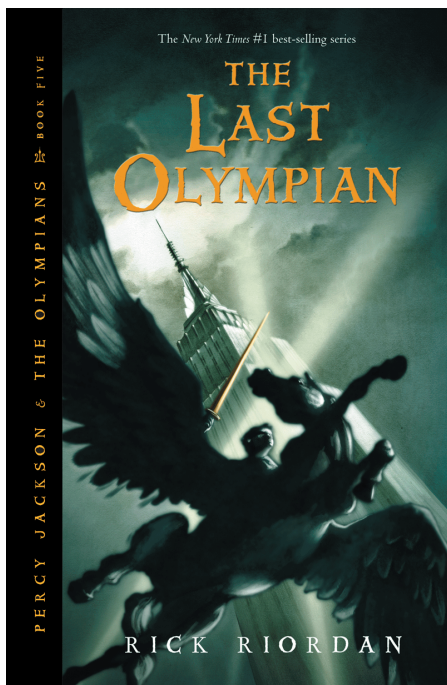
Acting State Librarian will be **Janet Fisher.**, currently the Division Director of the Law and Research Library Division. She came to the State Library in 1985 as Head of the Documents and Maps Section. She was appointed Assistant Director of the Research Division in 1991 and Director in 1998. She became Director of the Law and Research Library Division in 2001.

Currently available through the **Arizona Capitol Museum** is a traveling exhibit about the New Deal in Arizona. Titled "A Dose of Cod-Liver Oil." The

exhibit primarily consists of five display panels depicting Living, Working, and Playing in Arizona during the Great Depression, utilizing photographs, maps, drawings, and text. The exhibit, along with supplemental materials is available to hosting libraries for up to four weeks. Libraries pay only shipping costs.

Colorado

The 26th winner of the Colorado Blue Spruce 2011 Young Adult Book Award is *The Last Olympian* by Rick Riordan, book 5 in the Percy Jackson and The Olympians series. This year's Blue Spruce runners-



up were *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Roderick Rules* by Jeff Kinney, followed by *City of Ashes* by Cassandra Claire. In the 2011 voting, 36 schools and libraries participated; teens reported reading over 6500 books and cast 1567 ballots. Teens nominated over 600 titles for the new list. Of these, 540 titles

met the eligibility guidelines, and the 21 most popular are the nominations for the 2012 Blue Spruce YA Book Award.

According to a report by the **Library Research Service** library visits, circulation and program attendance all spiked by at least six percent in Colorado communities during the recession, From 2006-07, just prior to the recession, library use remained relatively flat. But from 2007-09, libraries serving communities of 25,000 or more increased per capita visits

by at least 11 percent. Activity in resort communities jumped anywhere from six to 28 percent. Communities under 25,000 weren't included in the study. See the report at <http://www.lrs.org/recession.php>.

Julee McGinnes was recently hired as a Library Assistant with the Las Animas-Bent County Library. She recently has moved back to Colorado after having lived in Montana for the past four years. She has a degree in journalism and is especially interested in photojournalism.

Kansas

Tom Holcomb, director of education at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson, presented two programs at the **Winfield Public Library**: "Living in Space" highlighted an astronaut's activities and responsibilities in a typical day in space. Following the program, astronaut ice cream made with the help of liquid oxygen was served. The Cosmosphere set up a Schmidt/Cassegrain reflecting telescope outside the library for an evening star party. The Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center is a Smithsonian affiliated space museum in Hutchinson.

Public Printer Bill Boarman has appointed **Donna Lauffer**, County Librarian for the **Johnson County Library**, to the

Depository Library Council (DLC) as one of five new members. The Council, composed of 15 members who serve three-year terms, advises the Public Printer on policy matters relating to the Federal Depository



Library Program (FDLP). The FDLP provides public access across the United States to the published in-

formation of all three branches of the government through partnerships with more than 1,220 libraries. The Johnson County Library was the 2010 Federal Depository Library of the Year.

See **Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library** staff members **Charity Rouse** and **Rob Banks** performing “Topeka,” an early 1900s song from the library’s John Ripley sheet music collection. Featured vocalist is Charity Rouse, Special Collections Public Service Specialist, and MPLA member Rob Banks, Deputy Director of Operations at the grand piano: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhCcwajiS6A>.

The Winfield Human Relations Commission in partnership with the **Winfield Public Library** hosted “Welcome to the Melting Pot: Kansas Immigrants and Westward Migration,” a presentation and discussion by Isaias J. McCaffery, professor of history and chair of the humanities and social sciences department at Independence Community College. McCaffery’s presentation looked at the social processes that drive communities as they appear, disappear, combine and sometimes resurface. The program was part of the Kansas Humanities Council’s Kansas 150 Speakers Bureau commemorating the Kansas sesquicentennial.

JoCoHistory.org – which is housed on the **Johnson County Library’s** Web site at www.jocolibrary.org – has been selected as a model project by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. It will be featured as one of six in-depth case studies on the IMLS Web site. JoCoHistory.org was developed between 2004-2006 by a partnership of Johnson County Library, Johnson County Museum, Johnson County Archives, and Olathe Public Library. The project has been partially funded by grants from the IMLS and the Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund. Web Content Manager Dave LaCrone administers the JoCoHistory.org site, working with area historical organizations to preserve and share their repositories via JoCoHistory.org. In addition to those collaborations, Dave also incorporated into the site the Johnson County Digital Cemetery database.

Montana

Computers! As part of the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) 42 Montana libraries will be receiving computers, software and increased broadband access. There will also be a mobile computer lab providing internet access to some rural areas. The program hopes to decrease waiting times by providing more equipment, and improve accessibility by offering ADA-compliant software and furniture. Once completed, 86% of Montana’s population should have easy access to high-speed internet. Equipment began arriving in February, thanks to the State Library and assistance from the Dept. of Commerce and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.



Pam Henley with stacked monitors at Bozeman Public Library.

See more photos at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/montanastatelibrary/>

The **Montana Book Award** winner for 2011 is ***Bound Like Grass: A Memoir from the Western High Plains*** by Ruth McLaughlin. Four honor books are ***Everything*** by Kevin Canty; ***Goodbye Wives and Daughters*** by Susan Resnick; ***The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of the Little Bighorn*** by Nathaniel Philbrick; and ***Visions of the Big Sky: Painting and Photographing the Northern Rocky Mountains*** by Dan flores. The Winners will be honored at the MLA/MPLA Conference in Billings on April 7.

Staff at **Bozeman Public Library**, along with other local yarn crafters, knitted and crocheted 28 scarves for the 2011 *Montana Scarves for Special Olympics* project. The idea came up in December, and needles started flying to create scarves by the February shipping deadline. Scarves had to be made of both required colors and be a specific size, but designs could be anything. The local UPS store shipped them for free! Colors for next year's project will be announced soon, and the goal is to make at least 50 for 2012. Link to the scarf project is online at <http://scarvesforspecialolympics.org/>



"Ginny Cowan, Pam Henley and Katy Lowder with the 28 scarves donated to the Montana Special Olympics"

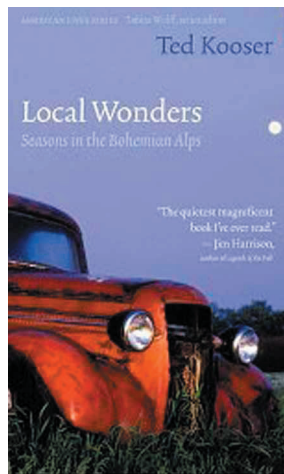
Nebraska

The **Pioneer Consortium**, Nebraska's new, open source, low-cost, local ILS and statewide union catalog, has approved an additional 19 applications for membership. The consortium will now serve 23 public libraries in communities ranging in size from 300 to over 30,000. The newest members are Atkinson, Beatrice, Bennington, Blue Hill, Cozad, David City, Gothenburg, Grant, Hastings, Hildreth, Kearney, Lexington, Papillion, Red Cloud, South Sioux City, Stromsburg, Superior, Sutton, and Valparaiso

Despite the wintry weather and barely moving traffic, Theresa Jehlik, MPLA Nebraska Representative reports the **Nebraska Library Association's** 2011 Legislative Day was held Friday, February 25th, in Lincoln. After briefings by Ken Winston, NLA's lobbyist; Rod Wagner, State Librarian; and Paul Hammel, The Omaha World-Herald's Lincoln Bureau Chief, the delegation visited their senators' offices.

Senators were then treated to lunch at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. The afternoon was spent touring the State Library, the oldest library in Nebraska, and the state capitol. Word has it that the state library tour included secret doors and a Narnia moment!

The **Nebraska Center for the Book** has chosen *Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps* as its



2011 One Book One Nebraska selection. Author is Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate (2004–6) and winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry, is University of Nebraska Presidential Professor. In addition to his many volumes of poetry, he is the author of *Lights on a Ground of Darkness* and *The Poetry Home Repair Manual*.

Dwaine Spieker, a teacher at Wayne High School, won this year's **Nebraska Book Award** for Poetry. Garden of Stars is his first published poetry compilation. Spieker's poetry focuses on rural life and has been published in *Plainsongs* and *Nebraska Life* magazines. The 2011 festival will be held on May 21 at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln. Workshops will be led by Timothy Schaffert (*The Coffins of Little Hope*); Jim Reese (*Ghost on 3rd*); and Matt Mason/Dwaine Spieker/Jeff Lacy (Nebraska poets). Confirmed writers who will read from their 2010 works include Sue Bauman (writing as Laura Landon) – *Shattered Dreams* and *When Love Is Enough*; Ted Kooser – *Bag in the Wind*; Greg Kosmicki – *New Route in Dreams*; James Solheim – *Born Yesterday*.



Dwaine Spieker

The **Nebraska Library Commission** has received IMLS grant money to further library science education for legal Nebraska residents. There are three application cycles in 2011. Further details can be found at www.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/Scholarships.asp.

Denise Harders became the **Republican Valley Library System** Administrator in January. She replaces Sherry Houston who retired and moved to Omaha. Although Denise had been living in Allen, Texas since 2004, she has a long library history in Nebraska. She has worked in libraries at Grand Island Public Schools; the Public Library System of Holdrege; and Central Community College Grand Island and Hastings campuses. Denise completed her MLS at Texas Woman's University in May 2010.

A new black cart with brightly painted flames recently rolled into the **Seward Public Library**. Extra copies of high-demand books were purchased and placed on its shelves. "On Fire" titles have a 14-day checkout period and cannot be reserved. Lucky readers can now find the latest novel without being on a long waiting list.



The **Omaha Public Library** invites young professionals to Board Silly evenings. Board Silly is free, but pre-registration is required. People 21 years or

older are welcome to play Catch Phrase, Scattergories, card games and more. Snacks are provided along with a cash bar.

Nevada

Author Annie Barrows will speak at the **Douglas County Public Library's Community Read** which features The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. Other events include a panel discussion, movies, dramatic reading. MPLA member **Linda Deacy**, Library Director, spearheaded the project. Funding for the project comes from the Institute of Museums and Library Services, and grants from Nevada Arts Council and one from Nevada Humanities. Partners include the Western Nevada College where a professor will moderate the panel discussion, Gardnerville is providing a banner, Minden is supplying the CVIC Hall, Kiwanis are popping corn for the events and the Carson Valley Arts Council is supplying a venue. The school district is using the book in honors English and history classes in high schools and middle schools and 12 books clubs are part of the project.

Ellen Fockler is the new Nevada representative to the MPLA Board. Ellen was previously Chair of the MPLA Awards Committee in 2009.



New Mexico

Dr. Susan Oberlander, New Mexico State Librarian, will retire April 1, after serving the state for 25 years as Director of Libraries at Northern New Mexico College, at the Public Regulation Commission and for four years at the New Mexico State Library. She received her Ph.D. from the School of Information at the University of California, Berkeley.

DigIn II -- Digital Preservation Issues Conference, April 13-14, 2011. It will be held at the University of New Mexico Continuing Education Conference Center, Albuquerque, NM. Keynote speakers are Jason R. Baron, National Archives, Director of Litigation and Laura Campbell, Library of Congress, National Digital Stewardship Alliance. The conference is presented by: ARMA-Rio Grande Chapter, the NM State Library, University of New Mexico University Libraries, National Archives and Records Administration, New Mexico Archives and Historical Services Division, Special Library Association-Rio Grande Chapter, and the New Mexico Library Association.

The **Central New Mexico Community College Main Campus Library** is offering "Storytime" programming for young children in collaboration with the Tres Manos Child Development Center.

Olivia Baca, Outreach Coordinator for CNM Libraries, says, "CNM Libraries are excited about Storytime, as we see this as an extension of the CNM vision to change lives and build community. We want

to provide local families with more access to literacy programs



North Dakota

The **North Dakota State Library** has added MARC records for public domain downloadable e-books and e-audiobooks to its catalog, through E-Discover the Classics (<http://www.clicweb.org/e-discover-home>). The bibliographic records link to content hosted on Project Gutenberg.

North Dakota Library Association conference website is now up and running: <http://www.ndla.info/Conference/11conf.htm>! The theme of this year's conference is "Librarians: Leadership for a New Decade," and it will be held in Minot at the Grand International Inn, from September 21-24. Eric Stroshane, MPLA North Dakota State Rep, says, "We're currently looking for program proposals, so if you have one, don't hesitate to submit it!"



MPLA Representative **Eric Stroshane** reports that at the half-way point of North Dakota's legislative session, **North Dakota State Library's** budget is intact and an additional \$200,000 in state aid to public libraries has been approved by the Senate. Additional library-related legislation includes a bill relating to compensation/reimbursement of public library

board members and a bill that would allow public libraries, archives, and museums to designate donated records exempt from open records requirements for a specified period of time, at the request of the donor. More information can be found at the North Dakota Legislative Branch's website:



Eric Stroshane

<http://www.legis.nd.gov>.

The **Satre Memorial Library** in Milnor closed its doors on December 31 due to a lack of funding. The library had previously been operating principally on fundraising revenues and donations. A plan was devised at a January board meeting for a volunteer to open the library to the public one night per week and for a meeting to be held with the school board and teachers to try and work out a way for the library to remain available to students. The library is connected to the Milnor Public School Building.

The citizens of **Grand Forks** continue to debate the location and funding for a new public library building. Sites being considered for the location of the new library have been narrowed to the location of the current library, and a site to the north of the current location that is presently owned by Aatrix Software. A special election ballot is scheduled for May 3 to approve a 1% sales tax increase to pay for the building project. The proposed 62,300 square foot building will cost an estimated \$20.7 million.

Plans are moving forward for the construction of a new public library in Jamestown to replace the **Alfred Dickey Public Library** building. The old city library has been pressed for space since it was consolidated with the **Stutsman County Library**, forming the **James River Valley Library System**. A location and architect for the project have been selected.

The **Enderlin Municipal Library** is celebrating 100 years of service to its community. The centennial observance will include a display of the history of the library throughout March and an open house and celebration in conjunction with National Library Week in April.

South Dakota

MPLA Representative **Mike Mullin** reports that the State Legislature is in session and everyone is waiting to see what they will do this year. The Governor has proposed a 10% cut across the board for all state entities including the Department of Education, under which the State Library is located.

The **South Dakota Titles To Go** consortium on OverDrive has been formed and plans to go live the last week of March. The consortium was formed under the leadership of the **South Dakota State Library** by 21 public libraries, to provide downloadable audio books to patrons. After the Christmas eReader gifts bonanza, the consortium decided to expand the scope of the collections. The group will develop collections of audio books and ebooks for the consortium's customers while allowing the individual libraries to build digital movie and music collections under the consortium site if they choose. Mike Mullin says "Thank you Julie Erickson and Jane Healy for all your work!" Both are MPLA members.

Other fun happenings around the state mostly seem to involve cardboard:

Although students love technology, they continue to add imagination to cardboard too. The results are great reading spots for their libraries. At **Laura B. Anderson Elementary School in Sioux Falls**, the Boy Scouts constructed a reading castle for the library. Librarian Marilyn Henderson says students eagerly await their turn to read in the castle after they check out books.



In the spring of 2010, about to complete her fourth year with **Spearfish School District**, elementary li-

brarian **Dianne Hemminger** was honored to be named Teacher of the Year for Spearfish East Elementary School. Dianne reports library-sponsored activities like annual author visits, book fairs, participation in the Prairie Bud/Prairie Pasque



state book award contest, and the Sunrise Book Club, where staff members read aloud to 15-35 students each morning during winter months, which keep the library buzzing. To kick off this year's book fair, Di-



anne and her husband constructed a cardboard "car" where stu-

dents could sit and read—until the car, inevitably, fell apart from use by many, many reading riders. (From *SDSL Cornerstone* Feb 2011 issue)

Other programs include weekly story times, a Hunger Games activity for young adults, Iron Chef Cook-Off Teen activity and Oh Fudge, or Death by Chocolate. Library activities are advertised on the library blog: uintahcountylibrary.blogspot.com and the library Facebook page: facebook.com/uintahcountylibrary.



Librarian **John Ingersoll** was interviewed by The Tooele Transcript about the **Tooele County Bookmobile** having served Tooele County for over 50 years. MPLA member Donna Jones Morris, the Utah State Librarian explained that the bookmobile operates because of a cooperative effort between the State of Utah and Tooele County which allows residents of rural areas library access and services, including laptops and internet access.

The **Uintah County Library** in Vernal, Utah has sponsored several recent programs including Dr. Seuss Read Across America program which drew over 1500 children who turned in reading logs. A Fancy Nancy Tea Party was held for girls and their moms. They dressed appropriately and ate punch and éclairs and other treats. Another Fancy Nancy program is expecting over 150 girls and their mothers to attend the program, with three sessions planned. The Summer Reading Opening Activity was a Jane Austen Tea party for adults and teens. A Diary of a Wimpy Kid Book Club Party was held for ages 8-12, with approximately 40 children attended. They ate popcorn while filling out activity sheets, which included drawing their renditions of the book cover.



The Utah **Daily Herald** profiled the history of Carnegie libraries in Utah. Twenty three Carnegie libraries were originally built in Utah and are still libraries, like the Chapman Branch Library in Salt Lake City. Some buildings serve different purposes and other buildings are no longer structurally sound.

The Mount Pleasant Library is now undergoing a renovation which is financed by grants.

The **Utah Library Association** Conference Committee is finalizing the schedule of programs for the ULA 2011 Conference. It will be held May 11-13, 2011 in Layton. The keynote speaker will be Audra Caplan, current President of the Public Library Association. Luncheon speakers include “Gene Ambaum” and Bill Barnes, the authors of the Unshelved e-comic strip and Scott Douglas, co-author of the book *Quiet Please, Dispatches from a Public Librarian*. Other presenters include Adam Selzer, the author of *How to Get Suspended and Influence People* and Diane Tixier Herald, director of the Center for Adolescent Reading. Other authors include popular Utah teen author and newspaper columnist Ann Cannon, Emily Wing Smith, the author of *The Way He Lived*; Wendy Toliver, the author of *Lifted, the Secret Life of a Teenage Siren*. Popular storyteller and author Katy Rydell is presenting a pre-conference that is sponsored by an MPLA grant.

Wyoming

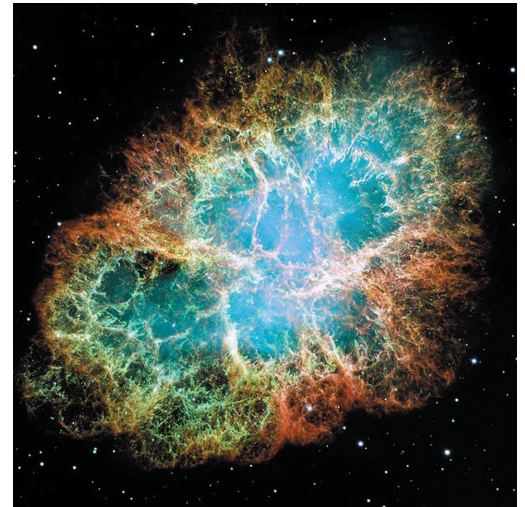
The **Sheridan County Fulmer Library** sponsored a free presentation of “Stories, Songs and Sodbusters” by Bill Rossiter. The program explored the songs of the homesteaders in the western United States. Rossiter is retired from Flathead Valley Community College in Montana and holds a master’s degree in English literature from Marquette University in Milwaukee.

The **Natrona County Public Library** is show-



ing the “Visions of the Universe” Exhibit through May 20. “Visions of the Universe: Four Centuries of Discovery” uses historical drawings and diagrams made by Galileo and other early astronomers. Additionally, dramatic images taken by the Hubble Space Telescope show how our understanding of the universe has changed over the centuries.

The traveling exhibit, scheduled to visit 55 U.S. libraries, is part of a multi-year global celebration of astronomy and its contributions to society and



The Crab Nebula is a supernova remnant, the gaseous remains of a star that exploded. Credit: Hubble Space Telescope, NASA

culture. “Visions of the Universe” is presented by the Space Telescope Science Institute, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and the American Library Association through funding from NASA. The library will sponsor a number of free programs and events for the public in connection with the exhibit, starting with a Family Night with Casper Planetarium staff presenting “Colorful Cosmos.” Special events will be held for children and teens as well.

Laramie County Partners are bringing Greg Mortenson to Cheyenne for a series of activities, including talking to school children and a public event in March. The partners include: Laramie County Community College Foundation, Laramie County Community College, Cheyenne Rotary, Laramie County Library System, Laramie County Library Foundation and Laramie County School District No. 1. Greg Mortenson is the co-founder of non-profit Central Asia Institute, founder of Pennies For Peace, and co-author of New York Times bestseller *Three Cups of Tea*.

The **Teton County Library** sponsored a talk by Matteo Pistono, author of the newly released book *In the Shadow of the Buddha*. Disillusioned by a career in American politics, Pistono left for the Himalayas. After encountering Buddhism in Nepal, Pistono's quest led him to Tibet and to a meditation master. Pistono not only became the master's student, but also couriered messages to him in Tibet from the Dalai Lama in India.

Cassandra Kvenild, assistant librarian in the University of Wyoming Libraries Reference and Instruction Department, has been named the 2011 recipient of the Routledge Distance Learning Librarianship Conference Sponsorship Award. The award, sponsored by Routledge/Taylor and Francis Group and the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Distance Learning Section, honors an ACRL member working in the field or contributing to the success of distance learning librarianship or related library service in higher education. Kvenild's publications relating to distance learning include *Embedded Librarians: Moving Beyond the One-Shot*, co-edited with Kaijsa Calkins, to be published by ACRL in spring 2011 and "Reference Without Borders: Serving Patrons at a Distance," also with Calkins, in *Colorado Libraries* (2009).

MPLA Events Coming in 2012

MPLA Leadership Institute
May 6-11, 2012
Estes Park, Colorado

Nebraska Library Association/
Mountain Plains Library Association
Joint Conference
October 17-19, La Vista, Nebraska

State & National Conferences 2011

- Oklahoma Library Association Conference
March 30 - April 1; Tulsa, OK
- ACRL Conference
March 30 -2; Philadelphia, PA
- 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; Albuquerque
- Utah Library Association Conference
May 11-13; Layton, UT
- ALA 2011 Annual Conference
June 23-29, 2011; New Orleans, LA
- REFORMA 4th National Conference
September 15-18; Denver, CO
- North Dakota Library Association Conference
September 21-24; Minot, SD
- Wyoming Library Association Conference
September 28 - October 1, Cheyenne
- Nebraska Library Association Conference
October 5-7, Lincoln, NE
- South Dakota Library Association Conference
October 5-7, 2011 - Spearfish, SD
- Nevada Library Association
October 7-8; Carson City, NV
- Colorado Association of Libraries Conference
October 13-15; Loveland, CO
- Arizona Library Association Conference
November 28-30; Tucson, AZ

2012

- ALA Midwinter Meeting
January 2-24; Dallas, TX
- PLA National Conference
March 13-17; Philadelphia, PA



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