

Big Horizons



Close Community

Newsletter

June 2011

www.mpla.us

Volume 55 #5

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MLA/MPLA Joint Conference 2011 Highlights from Billings

In keeping with the conference theme of "Libraries: the Road to Everywhere," incoming President Dana Braccia provided checkered flag bandanas to all attending from MPLA. They were worn and waved with enthusiasm! See more conference photos on pages 3-6. Watch for the bandanas!



First board meeting at conference.

Board members (back row, l-r) JaNae Kinikin, Debbie McCarthy, Julie Huelsbeck, Elvita Landau, Eric Stroshane, Dorothy Horan, Wayne Hanway, Kate Plunkett, Eileen Wright, Dan Stanton, Mike Mullin, Basha Hartley, LeAnn Weller, Theresa Jehlik; (front row, l-r) Brenda Hemmelman, Judy Zelenski, Pam Henley, Dana Braccia, Ellen Fockler..

Photo by Dan Chaney

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

President's Message



Summertime and the living should not be so easy...

My father recently got the iPhone and immediately went in search of a book to tell him how to use it. What was he thinking? Apple products are EASY - just poke, prod and play! I initially blamed his desire to carefully slog through an owner's manual on age and the fact that he's a retired engineer (yes, their brains are wired differently). After more consideration though, I began to wonder if he was on to something. Here he'd made a substantial investment in a new item and wanted to maximize this investment by fully understanding all of the features and tools. So often we rush through the fine print or move onto the next new thing without taking the time to completely understand what we already have.

Unfortunately, this same Rush/No Fuss approach can happen with your MPLA membership. If you just send in your registration form and never take the time to get involved- it's like having a new iPhone sitting

in a drawer -so many great features and tools that you're not using. This summer, instead of taking the easy path, take time to dig deeper. For starters, send the MPLA newsletter editor a story about something great that's happening in your library. Next, reach out to a colleague, get involved with a project, or add to the conversation on the blog. Then, friend the MPLA facebook page and strike up a conversation. After that, let us know if you need a mentor or would like to mentor in a specific area. The list goes on - but it all starts with you. Don't worry, you'll still have time for lemonade and a good book.

I hate to admit it, but I did check out the iPhone for Dummies book at my library and there were a lot of great tips. Okay, okay - maybe my father did know best.

--Dana



Dana at MPLA Membership Meeting in Billings

Conference Candid



Webmaster Dan Chaney and Montana Rep Pam Henley at MPLA table



Outgoing President Elvita Landau passes gavel to Incoming President Dana Braccia



Cameron Duff, Wyoming; and Basha Hartley, Oklahoma Rep



Dan Stanton, Arizona; Leadership Institute Committee Co-Chair



Mike Mullin, South Dakota Rep



JaNae Kinikin, Utah Vice-President/President-Elect



*Eric Strohane, North Dakota;
Brenda Hemmelman, South Dakota*



l-r Ara Anderson, Wyoming; Jean Hatfield, Kansas; Diane Van Gorden, Montana; Mary Bushing, Montana



*l-r Dana Braccia, Arizona; Basha Hartley, Oklahoma;
Dan Stanton, Arizona*



l-r Adriane Juarez, Utah; Cameron Duff, Wyoming; Dan Stanton, Arizona; Dan Chaney, Oklahoma; David Alexander, South Dakota; Carol Hammond, Arizona

MPLA PEOPLE at the Conference



Jerry Kaup, North Dakota



Sue Knesel, Wyoming



l-r Wayne Hanway, Oklahoma; Basha Hartley, Oklahoma; Sharon Moreland, Kansas; Elvita Landau, South Dakota



*l-r Danielle De Jager-Loftus,
Julie Erickson, South Dakota*

Improv at Conference

by Wayne Hanway

The improv group that MLA had for the Friday night dinner was outstanding. They were creative, smart, energetic, and experienced. Everyone present got some good laughs. Their interaction with the audience was a key part of their act, and at one point they did a dating game skit. The young woman in the group was sent out of the room. Responding to audience suggestions, two guys in the troupe were instructed that their identities for the skit were to be Charles Manson as Bachelor #1 and Paul Bunyan as Bachelor #3. And they wanted a third man from the audience. Enthusiastic MPLA members railroaded me to be Bachelor #2.



The young woman returned and began asking questions. One was what bedtime story would you read your kids? I asked myself what would give my answer a library character, and inspired by I know not what, I said that it would be from the 940s (European history), and then I added point five. (That made it World War II. Hardly appropriate bedtime reading. I suppose I should have said 398.2, although 001.942 or 629.287 might have been funnier.)

Another question was “If my kisses were ice cream, what flavor would they be?” The only two words of the question that I heard clearly above the audience noise were ice cream. My answer was “butterscotch”, which turned out to be quite appropriate.

A third question was “If you were a jungle animal, what animal would you be?” Quickly trying to remember a character from children’s books and somehow not remembering the Jungle Book or various other stories, I said “The Tawny, Scrawny Lion.” Lions are African animals, but not jungle animals. However nobody called me on it.

The young woman correctly guessed the assumed identities of the other two contestants and eliminated them, which left me. My reward was a hug, not a date. If I had been thinking, I would have invited her to the next item on the evening’s agenda, the Hot Tub Roundtable, where we duly christened a new group of rubber ducks. With good food and good company, I think all present had a good time that evening.

MPLA Academic Forum

Winners of the MPLA Academic Forum, an annual program held at the MLA/MPLA Joint Conference, are MPLA members **Dennis Miles** and **Kathryn Plunkett**, Henry G. Bennett Memorial Library, Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Their paper and presentation, “Something Old is New Again or Innovation in Reverse,,” detailed their efforts to increase reference usage at their library. They shared a \$300 prize to be used for their library. Dennis is a new member of MPLA and Kathryn (Kate) is a 2010 Leadership Institute fellow and Chair of the MPLA Communications Committee. Other forum presenters were:

Megan Dazey, Catalog Librarian, University of Montana and **Samantha Hines**, Social Science Librarian, University of Montana presented “Engaging Learners Through Wikipedia.” Megan and Samantha are past MPLA Leadership Institute fellows. Megan is a member of MPLA.

Dana Braccia, Collection Development Coordinator Scottsdale Public Library System presented “READ Lopcal - Arizona Author’s Collection.” Dana is MPLA President.

Danielle De Jager-Loftus presented “Online Surveys: Gathering Vital Information and Conducting Research. Danielle is Technology/Fine Arts Librarian at the University of South Dakota Library and MPLA member.

Sally M. Patrick, **Susan Hamada**, and **Caren J. Frost**, “Public Libraries in Utah: Becoming Part of the Health Care Team. Susan is Associate Director of the Salt Lake County Library System and MPLA member.

Presentations are available on the MPLA Website under MPLA/MLA 2011 Conference Handouts: <http://www.mpla.us/documents/handouts/2011/index.html>.



*l-r Kate Plunkett and Dennis Miles receive
award from Mary Caspers-Draper*

Announcing MPLA Leadership Institute 2012!

The 2012 Leadership Institute will be held May 6 – 11, 2012, at the YMCA of the Rockies in beautiful Estes Park, Colorado.

The Institute will again be facilitated by nationally known organizational development consultant Maureen Sullivan, who has over 25 years experience in leadership development.

The MPLA Leadership Institute is not your average conference or classroom continuing education experience. The Leadership Institute is an intense program with long days filled with a variety of activities, active discussion, and critical reflection built around:

- Leadership
 - Principles
 - Strategies
 - values
- Communication
- Managing Differences
- Risk Taking
- Power and Influence
- Leading Change
- Commitment
- Groups and Teams
- Project Management
- Personal Planning



Application forms and guidelines will be available on the MPLA website beginning July 1, 2011 and completed applications are due no later than November 1, 2011.

Requirements for 2012 :

- Employed in a library organization in MPLA's 12-state region
- Current member (last 2 years) of one of MPLA's 12 affiliated state library associations
- Minimum of 5 years in a library-related job with progressive experience
- Record of experience that demonstrates leadership potential
- Expected continued contribution to the profession
- A thoughtfully completed application
- Two letters of recommendation

The MPLA Leadership Institute is designed to provide a high quality, affordable development experience for current and future leaders in the 12 state Mountain Plains region.

We are pleased to be able to offer our Leadership Institute in 2012. Stay tuned for more information on the MPLA web site, Facebook Page, and through your local State Association!

--Dan Stanton, Leadership Institute Co-Chair

Maureen Sullivan Elected 2012-13 President

Maureen Sullivan, an organization development consultant and facilitator for the MPLA Leadership Institutes, has been elected to the 2012-13 presidency of the American Library Association (ALA). She has agreed to facilitate the 2012 MPLA Leadership Institute during her presidential year.

As ALA president, Sullivan will be the chief elected officer for the oldest and largest library organization in the world. The ALA has a membership of more than 62,000 librarians, library trustees and library supporters. Its mission is to promote the highest quality library and information services and public access to information.

Sullivan will become president-elect in June 2011, and will assume the ALA presidency in June 2012, following the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, Calif. She will serve a one-year term as president and a one-year term as immediate past president.

Sullivan is a consultant to numerous libraries of all types - academic, public, school, law, health sciences and other special libraries - and library consortia.

In addition to her consulting work, Sullivan is a professor of practice in the Ph.D. program, Managerial

Leadership in the Information Professions, at the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

She spent 12 years as the human resources administrator in the libraries at the University of Maryland (1977-1980) and at Yale University (1983-1991). She was also the management training specialist at the Association of Research Libraries (1980-1983).



Sullivan is past president (1998-1999) of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). She was also president of the Library Administration and Management Association (now LLAMA) for the 1988-89 term.

Her other ALA activities include work as co-chair of ALA President Roberta Stevens' initiative, Our Authors, Our Advocates, co-chair of the Emerging Leaders Initiative (2006-08), chair of the Office for Library Personnel Resources Advisory Committee (1991-93) and chair of the Minority Fellow Program Advisory Board (1989-1995).

She was chosen the 2010 Academic/Research Librarian of the Year by the Association of College and Research Libraries. Her other honors include the American Library Association's Elizabeth Futas Catalyst for Change Award in 1999.

Visit the MPLA Website

www.mpla.us

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Doña Ana Community College

Technology Column

by Anali Perry

*Assistant Librarian–Collections & Scholarly Communications;
Arizona State University Hayden Library, Tempe. Anali is a member
of the MPLA Communications Committee and her special focus is on
MPLA's Twitter use*

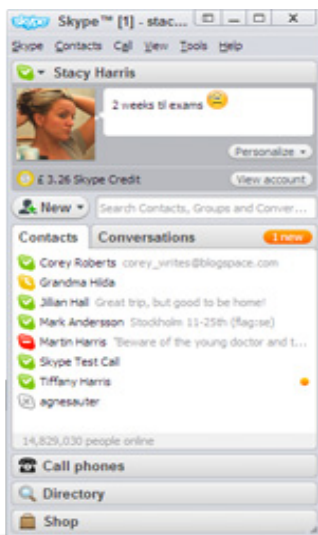


What is it?

[Skype](#) is a web service that uses [Voice-Over Internet Protocol](#) (VOIP) technology to allow users to call one another computer-to-computer, or computer-to-phone [for little \(or nothing\) cost](#). This is not a new technology, and Skype itself has been around since PW2 (Pre-Web 2.0) – 2004!

How does it work?

As with most online services, you make an account, with some username and password, and download a free client. This client is very similar to most instant messaging clients, so it should look very familiar. It's also compatible with Windows, Mac and Linux operating systems.



Once you've downloaded the client, you'll also need to make sure you have either a microphone and speakers, or a headset with a microphone – this probably goes without saying, but in order for people to hear you, you need a mike, and you can't hear them without speakers or ear-phones.



Making calls via Skype is totally free [Skype-to-Skype](#), as in from computer to computer. You can import contacts from many email services, and invite contacts to join. However, in order to call a phone number from Skype ([SkypeOut](#)), you must pay for an account with Skype – they give you a couple of options which offer different benefits and charges, so you'd need to evaluate what works for your situation. You pretty much set up an account with a certain amount of credit, which will cover the charges incurred by calling outside of Skype.

Some of Skype's other features include:

- [Conference Calls](#) for up to 9 people
- [Video calls](#) using a web camera
- [Instant Messaging](#) – works for groups as well
- [File Sharing](#) – with no limits on size
- [Screen Sharing](#)

Additionally, Skype has a [business account](#), which allows a central IT administrator to manage the account and gives some increased functionality, such as being able to set a [SkypeIn number](#) with which to receive calls, conference calls up to 10 people, and shared contacts lists and syncing capabilities with Outlook.

Skype is also compatible with most smart phones.

continued on next page

Skype, continued:

Possible Library Uses

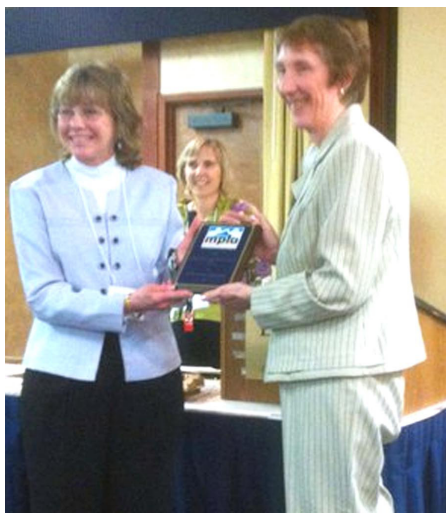
I see a lot of potential for internal use – especially with conference calling and video conferencing. I’ve used Skype for conference calls with colleagues from across the country – I think it is very helpful for online collaboration. The instant messaging window can work in conjunction with voice chat, so we could share webpage links with one another. I think the application of video chat and screen sharing greatly increases its use as a distance collaboration tool – it is particularly useful for virtual meetings.

On a personal level, Skype runs well along with other applications, so I’ve often used it to chat with friends while playing a video game. You can’t overlook the benefit of being able to make Skype calls anywhere, any time for free. I found out about Skype because a friend who moved to New Zealand used it to keep in touch with her family and friends here in the States – free calling is definitely worth downloading a little client to your computer. Additionally, Skype is easy to learn and they give lots of instructions on how to set up your equipment and adjust your controls.

(Revised and updated from the MCLC Tech Talk blog – Talking Tech Friday: <http://mclctechtalk.wordpress.com/2007/12/07/talking-tech-friday-skype/>)

MPLA 2011 Award Winners

MPLA Awards were presented at the MLA/MPLA Joint Conference in Billings. Recipients were Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award: Innovative Interfaces, for support of the MPLA 2010 Leadership Institute; MPLA Distinguished Service Award: Holly Van Valkenburgh, Nevada State Library and Archives; Unsung Hero Award: Judy Zelenski, MPLA Executive Secretary. Gene Shimshock, Director of Marketing, accepted the award for Innovative Interfaces. Because Holly was unable to attend the conference Ellen Fockler, MPLA Nevada representative, accepted the award on her behalf.



Judy Zelenski and Gene Shimshock receive award plaques from Elvita Landau





Hello! My name is Emily Z. Brown, and I'm the 2011 Community of Oklahoma Instruction Librarians (COIL) Chair. MPLA has asked me to discuss our mobile professional development program, COIL on Wheels (affectionately known as COW in these parts).

Our 2007 COIL Chair, Jason Dupree, first thought of COIL on Wheels during a particularly tough economic climate. COIL hosts a yearly workshop, but the 2007 workshop suffered low attendance due to budget cuts and rising gas prices. Jason came upon the idea of sending the workshop to the people: He recruited COIL mem-

bers from around the state to be a part of COIL on Wheels events. Members took a skills survey that determined their comfort level with different technologies and instruction methodologies. Using this survey, COIL could match members with the most experience to the requested COIL on Wheels event. COIL continues to use this system to match members to appropriate sessions.

Once an institution requests a COW session, the most capable of our local colleagues are selected to travel to the location and present a half-day workshop on a topic the institution desires. Often, the COIL sessions have more than one facilitator to cover different aspects of the session. Oklahoma is a fairly large state, so those two present must be willing to travel.

COIL's first COW session was held at Oklahoma State University in Tulsa. Tom Thorisch, a Reference and Instruction Librarian and COIL member, enthusiastically requested a COIL on Wheels on how to create tutorials using Camtasia software. Fellow COIL members Toni Hoberecht, Sarah Clark and Jamie Holmes hosted the event (though Jamie had to drop out at the last minute).

Following this workshop, Tom stated, "The instructional parts were well timed and organized; we had lots of hands-on practice and time to ask for help in individual situations. All participants expressed great appreciation for the workshop. We had one non-OSU Tulsa library colleague in attendance from the Tulsa area. Again that stresses the point, that we can use local expertise to train each other, under the umbrella of the COIL group."

Tom Thorisch and the staff at OSU Tulsa requested a second COIL on Wheels workshop, this time the focus was on LibGuides. COIL members Suzanne Haynes and Amy Norman coordinated and presented for this session. In a letter to the 2010 COIL Chair, Sarah Clark, Tom Thorisch thanked Suzanne and Amy, saying they provided "more than just excellent" training. He went on to say "It really filled our need for extensive hands-on start-up help. Even in the annual summer workshops you can't get a lot of personal attention. In our COW events we had between 8-10 people. Everybody asked questions all the time and got personalized answers."

I encourage you to contact me if you are interested in learning more. Each successive Chair of COIL has made COIL on Wheels a priority, and this year we are working especially hard to increase participation. We are proud of the COIL on Wheels program, and we know it could work well in many other places. As a group, we are interested in collaborating over state lines, and would love to get the conversation going. Please use my contact information below if you are interested in a session or would like more information about COIL on Wheels. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for inviting me to discuss our program here.

Emily Z. Brown
Reference and Instruction Librarian
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Rock Springs Library Holds Edible Book Contest

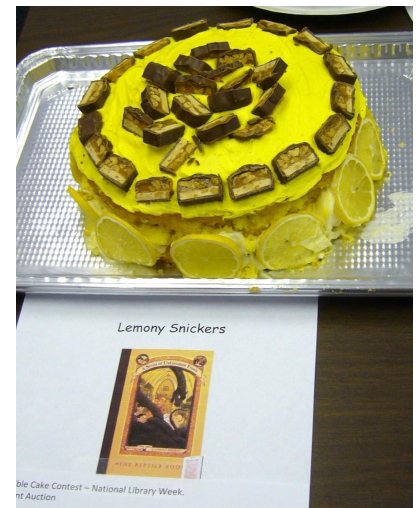
by Cindy Moore

This is the second year the Rock Springs Library has done an Edible Book Contest as part of National Library Week. The following is from books2eat.com:

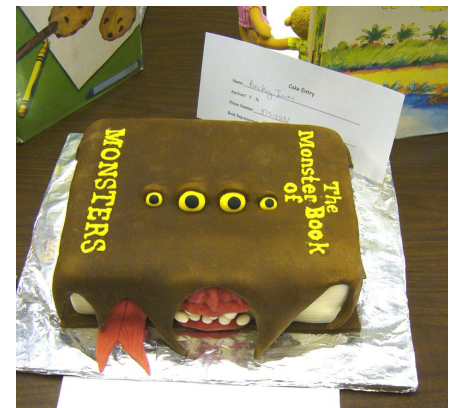


The International Edible Book Festival is held annually around April 1st. To our knowledge, the following countries have held this festival: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxemburg, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, United States of America, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Sweden.

April 1st is the birthday of French gastronome Jean-Anthelme Brillat-Savarin (1755-1826), famous for his book *Physiologie du goût*, a witty meditation on food. April fools' day is also the perfect day to eat your words and play with them as the "books" are consumed on the day of the event. This ephemeral global banquet, in which anyone can participate, is shared by all on the internet and allows everyone to preserve and discover unique bookish nourishments. This festival is a celebration of the ingestion of culture and a way to concretely share a book; it is also a deeper reflection on our attachment to food and our cultural differences.



The International Edible Book Festival is a creation of Judith A. Hoffberg and Béatrice Coron. Judith got the idea over a Thanksgiving turkey with book artists in 1999, and Béatrice created Books2Eat website where despite the distances everybody can enjoy worldwide's creations. They contacted friends and colleagues; their first event happened in 2000. Since then the festival continues as an annual sensation. The current Web Site Manager for the festival is Adage (www.diffusionadage.com).



Everyone is invited, individually and collectively, to this world banquet where delicious, surprising bookish foods will be consumed.

Summer Reading and Literacy in Wyoming

*By Marjorie Daley, Public Relations Coordinator;
Albany County Public Library/Library Foundation/
Friends of the Library*



Forty-two million adult Americans can't read. Illiteracy costs an estimated \$20 billion each year for American businesses and tax payers.

Literacy is defined as the inability to read or write. Literacy also includes the ability to make inferences, draw conclusions, and understand cause and effect. Learning to read,

comprehend and evaluate books supports the ability to make reasoned choices and to set and achieve goals. Illiteracy can lead to bad life choices including criminal behavior. Illiteracy affects not only adults but their children and spouses and their children's children and spouses.

According to Proliteracy, a not-for-profit organization that supports literacy in the U.S., adults need strong literacy skills in order to:

- Raise children who have strong literacy skills. Parents with poor reading skills generally have children who enter school less prepared to learn to read.
- Be good employees. U.S. employers look for employees with at least a two-year college degree.
- Keep themselves and their families healthy by understanding a doctor's orders, calculating how much medicine to take, and reading disease-prevention pamphlets.
- Be active in their communities. Low literate adults are less likely to vote than strong readers. Improving reading and writing skills leads to more community activity.
- Advocate for their right and avoid human rights abuse.
- Avoid crime. There is a clear correlation between adult illiteracy and crime.

The National Assessment of Adult Literacy, part of the US Department of Education, ranks literacy in the United States using three criteria: prose, document, and quantitative literacy. Prose literacy is the ability to comprehend and use texts such as editorials, news stories and instructional materials. Document literacy is the ability to use and understand job applications, food/drug labels, maps and complicated forms of communication. The final type, quantitative, has a math component, allowing people to balance a checkbook, figure a tip, or complete an order form. To be fully literate, a person must be able to function in all three categories.

In 2003, Wyoming had the second highest adult literacy rate (91%) in the U.S. but the fight for maintain this impressive literacy rate is ongoing, especially as more people move in from states with lower literacy rates. With summer coming up, every public library in Wyoming is gearing up to help maintain and improve the literacy rate. Children are the prime focus for most library summer reading programs, but there is room for all ages and reading levels to participate.

Summer reading is vitally important to a child's reading skills. Study after study indicates that children (and teens) lose literacy skills over the summer unless they read. Summer is a great time to improve your family's reading levels and your public library can help.

Here are some easy ways to participate in summer reading (adapted from PBSParents):

- Going on vacation, even just a camping trip? Choose books about your destination. Your child will connect what they are reading to what they experience.
- Have your child send postcards about their vacation.
- Don't read just books! Try children's magazines, graphic novels, and even the newspaper. Your library staff will always help you find something to read.
- Take books on vacation or short jaunts (audiobooks are great for travel).
- Let your child pick books to read using the five word method (read a random page, if your reader has trouble with more than five words, the book is too advanced).
- Staying home? Travel by book!
- Read yourself – your child will learn through example.
- Read aloud to your child from more difficult books. Children learn new vocabulary words, concepts and ways to present information.
- Read a book and watch the video – BookFlix is a great resource
- Check out summer programs at your local public library. Many feature special story times, sing-alongs, and puppet shows during the summer.
- For younger children, look at letters and words on signs, billboards and posters. By drawing your child's attention to print and letters, you teach specific letters and words and the many uses of print.
- Babies, toddlers and preschoolers who are read to on a regular basis show greater interest in books and reading, greater concentration for future school work, and greater grasp of a wider variety of words and concepts.

Make summer even better with a book, or two or more! Enjoy summer programs @ your local public library and help your family grow into the next school year as enthusiastic readers and learners.

Additional resources:

Proliteracy <http://www.proliteracy.org>

Sterling (KS) United School District <http://www.usd376.com/gs/staff/humphreysl/illiteracy.htm>

New England Journal of Medicine <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp058328>

U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences/National Assessment of Adult Literacy
<http://nces.ed.gov/naal/literacytypes.asp>

PBS.org

MPLA Professional Development Grant Application Deadlines 2011

June 1

August 3

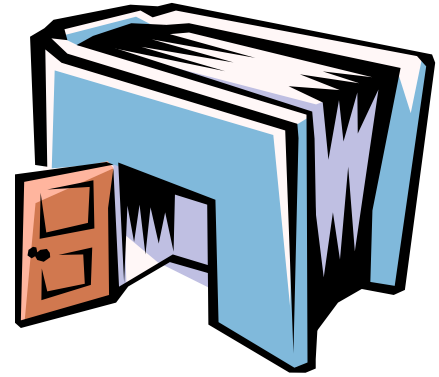
October 5

December 7

For complete information and eligibility requirements see

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

Welcome New MPLA Members



ARIZONA

Karen Cowee
Student,
Phoenix, AZ

COLORADO

Kate Skarbek
Library Services Manager,
Westminster Public Library;
Westminster, CO

University of Denver LIS
Mary Stansbury, Director,
Denver, CO

FLORIDA

Marjorie Hoomes
FSU Graduate Student, Master of
Library and Information Science
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL

KANSAS

Marla Chester
Librarian, Wright Career College
Overland Park, KS

Alison Farnham
Librarian, Cloud County Com-
munity College; Concordia, KS

Jessica Gagnon
Branch Manager, Wichita Public
Library
Wichita, KS

Denise Haas
Librarian, Pratt High School
USD 383 Pratt
Pratt, KS

Donna Hobbs
Coordinator Library Services,
Manhattan Area Tech
Manhattan, KS

Benjamin Howard
MLS Student, Emporia State Univer-
sity School of Library & Info Mgmt
Shawnee, KS

Daniel Ireton
Assistant Professor/Undergraduate &
Comm. Services, Kansas State
University Hale Library;
Manhattan, KS

Kristi Jacobs
Director, Bradford Memorial Library
El Dorado, KS

Janice Lyhane
Library Assistant, Marysville Public
Library; Marysville, KS

Caleb May
Director, Meade Public Library
Meade, KS

Jennifer Schroeder
Library Director, Cloud County Com-
munity College; Concordia, KS,

Kim Wiens
Director, Public Library Wellington
Public Library; Wellington, KS

MONTANA

Kacee Black
Librarian, Willow Creek School
Willow Creek, MT

Leta Clayton
Children's Librarian/Cat Tech, Glen-
dive Public Library; Glendive, MT

Denise Grewell
Librarian, Career Center
Billings, MT

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

Gloria Langstaff
Retired,
Missoula, MT

Kay Randall
Librarian, Troy Public Schools
Troy, MT

Mikki Taylor
Library Specialist II, Parmly Bilings
Library
Billings, MT

Elizabeth Waddington
Librarian, Billings Public Schools Lewis
& Clark Middle School
Billings, MT

NORTH CAROLINA

Mike Perrine
W.T. Cox Subscriptions
Shallotte, NC

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Mike Perrine,
Shallotte, NC

NORTH DAKOTA

Brenda Fischer
Circulation Manager, Jamestown
College Raugust Library
Jamestown, ND

Deborah Johnson
Trustee, Minot Public Library
Minot, ND

Christine Kujawa
Head of Circulation Services,
Bismarck, ND

NEBRASKA

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Terri Radburn
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Library System
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New Mexico -Los Alamo Learning
Resources Center
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Tim Anderson
Reference Librarian, University of
Tulsa Mcfarlin Library
Tulsa, OK

Sarah Burkhead
Instructor of Library Services,
Northeastern State University
Tahlequah, OK

Fay Dodwell
Grant Witer,
Stillwater, OK

Majic Fink
Children's Coordinator, Wagoner
City Public Library
Wagoner, OK

Linda Gens
Director of Library Services
Guthrie Public Library, OK

Jennifer McQuade
Youth Librarian, Tulsa City-County
Library Owasso Branch
Owasso, OK

Barbara Meehan
Supervisor, Acquisitions, Tulsa City-
County Library
Tulsa, OK

Shereen Rasor
Teacher -Mustang; Library Student
OUSLIS, Yukon, OK

Phillip Smith
Assistant Librarian, Western Plains
Library System Cordell Public Li-
brary; Cordell, OK

Cecily Tubbs
Library Director, Brown Mackie
College Library
Tulsa, OK

SOUTH DAKOTA

Leanna Bussell
Library Associate, Rapid City Public
Library
Rapid City, SD

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

Scott Olson
Library Association, Rapid City Pub-
lic Library
Rapid City, SD

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

Custer County Library
Marguerite Cullum, Director, Custer
County Library
Custer, SD

UTAH

Jacob Etter
Student,
Layton, UT

Jon Fackrell
Student, Emporia State University
Cedar Hills, UT

WYOMING

Lalia Jagers
Reference Services, Campbell County
Public Library
Gillette, WY

Rebecca Steffen
Youth Services Specialist, Campbell
County Public Library System
Gillette, WY



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**

**New personal
1st-time-member
dues are only
1/2 price for the first
year!**



**Join online at
[http://www.mpla.us/
forms/
membership.html](http://www.mpla.us/forms/membership.html)**

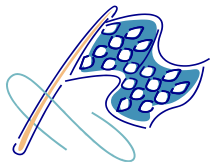
MPLA Librarian Road Warrior Contest

As a tie-in with the Joint Conference theme of “Libraries: the Road to Everywhere.” President-Elect Dana Braccia proposed a Facebook contest to recognize Librarian Road Warriors. She asked for submissions, in 150 words or less between March 17 and April 1. Because all nominees were deserving, the winner was drawn at random during the MPLA Membership meeting. She is Cara Romeo, Assistant Director/Community Services Librarian at the Alexander Mitchell Public Library in Aberdeen,, South Dakota. Cara received a “cool” kit.

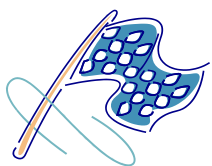


Cara was nominated by Kim Bonen., who said, “She started as a shelver and worked her way up to Assistant Director. This hard working gal... is our Community Service/Public Relations guru. Cara promotes and organizes all special events at the library, occasionally bantering with the local radio DJ while doing so. She... has such a bubbly personality a patron once told her she was ‘walking on sunshine.’ She has a way with tweens and teens, who are constantly stopping in after school to see if she is in her office.”

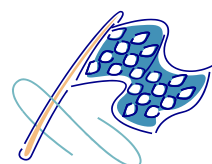
Other Road Warriors nominated:



Adriane Juarez, Library Manager Extraordinaire, Day-Riverside Branch Library, Salt Lake City, was nominated by Lucy Archer, saying “Adriane has been given tough assignments these last couple years at two new Salt Lake City branches. She has successfully improved services in both while earning the love and respect of her staffs. She has also become the planning and marketing spokesperson for a new library building in Glendale. She has been a positive and uplifting example of service, involvement and professionalism. Adriane is admired and respected for her willingness to be involved in creating solutions and evolving forward thinking. She is friendly to everyone and has a positive optimistic perspective.

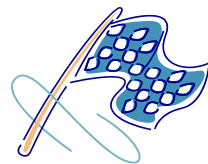


Donna Worth, librarian at Whitehall Community Library, Montana, is nominated by an MPLA member who said “She is fearless when it comes to trying new technologies, creative and energetic at promoting new library services and programs, and never hesitates to ask the collective wisdom when she needs help. Staff at small libraries everywhere could learn a lot from Donna - she is an inspiration!”



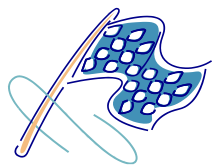
Lisa Waite Bunker is a seriously connected Librarian Road Warrior at Pima County Public Library, Arizona, nominated by Jen Maney. “She keeps the entire library system tuned in to

the outside world (libraryland and beyond!) by sending us info, links and insights on what’s happening in the world around us and how it affects libraries. It’s like she never sleeps! She takes her great personality and attitude out into the community, attending community events, joining community groups, and working at both the public library and a local museum library. She is a frequently-requested speaker because of her amazing ability to synthesize information into something that makes sense, even to someone who knows nothing about a subject. From e-books to art history, she’s our Librarian Road Warrior, who just like the own energizer bunny is always moving, always in high spirits, and always making us smile!”

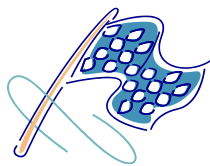


Julie Erickson of the South Dakota State Library, nominated by Daria Bossman. “Julie is literally a road warrior since coming to work as a West River Electronic Services remote coordinator in 2006. She has literally put thousands of miles on state vehicles since coming to work for us. Julie has called me countless times to tell me she has made an important contact or scheduled a training while attending a PTA meeting, sitting in the bleachers of a school athletic event or working a concession stand. Julie is a librarian 150% of the time! Julie Erickson is a walking/talking/breathing library/dictionary/encyclopedia! Julie’s mind is always on the go, applying what she knows about the past to be more effective in the future.”

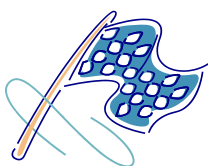
Road Warriors, continued



Peggy Whalen, Brookings Public Library, nominated by Elvita Landau “is a true road warrior. She excels at customer service, is willing to lend a hand anytime, anywhere, has a great sense of humor and an abundance of great promotional ideas. She also runs half marathons which makes her a real road warrior!”

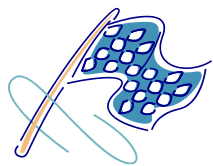


Donna Jones Morris, nominated by Dorothy Horan, “is a true road warrior. She is on the road or in the air almost all year as the Utah State Librarian. Donna is a fearless fighter for libraries and has accomplished many terrific things for libraries in our State. She has a staff that magically supplies anything she needs, whether it’s numbers or other facts, or programs. She is a master at choosing and developing staff. Donna is a wonder!”

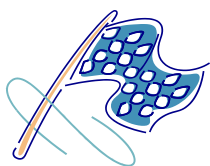


Pam Martin, nominated by JaNae Kinikin, saying “She has done a great job serving as the ULA Conference Chair.”

Aileen Plumb, a Library Supervisor in the Scottsdale Public Library System, nominated by Lindsey Donovan. “Over the years she has done just about everything - shelving, customer service, running a teen program, storytimes, supervising staff and volunteers, as well as numerous hours on desk giving our customers 100% and ensuring they leave with smiles on their faces. She can handle any situation tossed her way and she always does so with grace. She makes it look easy even when I know it’s not. She is one of my personal role models!”

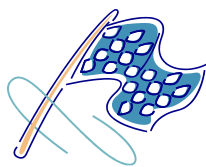


Royce Kitts, Kansas Library Association VP and 2010 Leadership Institute alumnus, nominated by Mickey Coalwell. “Royce was recently elected MPLA Secretary. He is a dynamic librarian who epitomizes the ‘new breed’ of tech-friendly (and just plain friendly-friendly) librarians.”

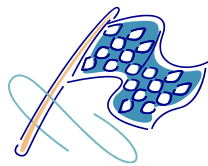


Dan Chaney, nominated by Judy Zelenski. “MPLA Web Wizard, OSU Super Reference Librarian, Gourmet Cook, Never-Give-Up-on-HTML

Guy, Great Photographer, Women's Basketball Fan, Collector of Thousands of Comic Books (all cataloged!), and my Life-Saver more times than I can keep track of! Dan works hours and hours, days and days, and years and years behind the scenes to make MPLA successful! I can't imagine MPLA being without him.”



Karen Neurohr, Oklahoma State University Library, nominated by Janet Ahrberg. “Karen is a dedicated warrior librarian in every way when it comes to promoting Oklahoma history, people, and places through programs. She has such enth...usiasm and is constantly working on planning events that remind us of our heritage. She’s been active in FOLIO, serving on the Literary Landmarks Committee that recognizes and dedicates historic literary sites to deceased authors. Some of her efforts include highlighting Osage writer, John Joseph Mathews, and Dust Bowl poet, Wilma Elizabeth McDaniel. She also helped bring The Big Read program on John Steinbeck’s, Grapes of Wrath during Oklahoma’s centennial celebration. Currently, she is planning a landmark for Wilson Rawls, author of Where the Red Fern Grows. Karen was instrumental in helping launch the library’s O’State Stories oral history project. The project’s preserves OSU history as told by its alumni.



Roy Degler, nominated by Dan Chaney. “Roy has the ability to take any question or idea I have (as MPLA Webmaster) and find a way to make it happen on the MPLA website, regardless of how “pie-in-the-sky” it may appear to me. But this attitude on Roy’s behalf doesn’t stop with MPLA. As one of our digital services librarians, he constantly seeks out ways we can improve our access and services for our students, faculty and staff. The OSU Library and MPLA are very lucky to have him!”



The Road Warrior “Kit” won by Cara Romeo

Around the Region

Arizona

The Arizona State Library is sponsoring a two day summit for Arizona public and academic librarians: *Adult Services for the 21st Century Summit: Living Longer, Living Better.* To be held August 4-5 at the Carnegie Center in Phoenix, attendees will learn how libraries can engage adults in new programs and services. Sessions will focus on brain health as a model for planning library programs and services in health; finances, online information, and storytelling and book discussions for adults. Participant will have the opportunity to network with potential partner organizations throughout Arizona.

Dana Braccia has been chosen by the University of Arizona School of Information Resources and Library Science student body to receive the Most Progressive Adjunct Faculty Award for the Spring 2011 semester. Students noted that “Dana has the most engaged, updated and flowing discussions and lectures; her assignments involve skill development, literature review, creative projects, and technology application in various formats. All of this packaged in a non-threatening approach.” Her promotion of MPLA membership and participation to library sciences students was also noted. Dana is President of the Mountain Plains Library Association.

Planning is progressing for the **Arizona Library Association’s** annual conference, scheduled for November 28-30 at the Westin La Paloma Resort in Tucson. Stephen Abram, Vice-President of Gale/Cengage and blogger of Stephen’s Lighthouse, will be the keynote speaker. The conference theme is “Imagine the Future.”

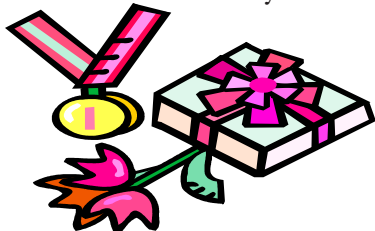


MPLA member **Amber Mathewson** is now Library Services Manager at the **Pima County Joel D. Valdez Main Library.** She leaves the Joyner-Green Valley Library branch where she was manager for the past 6 years.

For Arizona’s brief but brisk winters, **Pima County Public Library** Outreach Librarian **Ella Gomez** has created *Project Mittens* to gather donations of cold weather accessories for kids, teens and adults. Teen volunteers help size and sort items, and stuff them with library service and program information. Distribution is accomplished via book-mobile, November through February, to rural areas in southern Arizona.

With an April Fool’s Day theme of “Jest Foolin’ @ Your Library”, the annual spring conference sponsored by **Mohave Library Alliance** was a fool proof success. Keynote address on the activities of the State Library was given by Acting State Librarian Janet Fisher. Linda Montgomery, Talking Books Library Director presented the history of the department and the latest innovations in talking book technology. Mohave County Library Youth Services staff presented lots of ideas for programming, with live performances of storytelling, magic tricks, and their very own “kazoo-zer band! Rounding out the day was a panel presentation on Capturing Arizona’s Stories, MCL’s local history project. The Mohave Library Alliance, established in 1994 to further communication, training, and interest in libraries, has members from throughout the tri-state border region of Arizona, California and Nevada.

The **Scottsdale Public Library** was awarded an LSTA grant for its Community Collages Project. It includes the creation of a digital space in which people can explore, share and build community stories.



Utilizing a touch interface based on Microsoft's Surface technology, people will be able to assemble the Library's digital materials, digitize personal artifacts, and add their own info to build a historic collage.

Colorado

Marcellus Turner, executive director of the Jefferson County Public Library in Lakewood has been named the Seattle Public Library's new director. He will oversee Seattle's main library and 26 branch libraries. Turner has been with the library system in Colorado since 2002. He succeeds Susan Hildreth who now heads the Institute for Museum and Library Services in Washington, D.C.

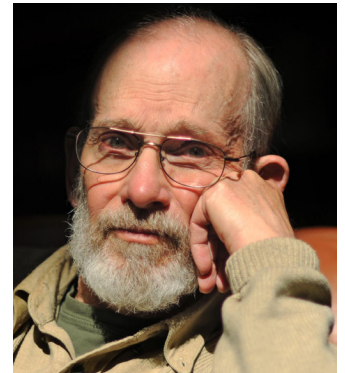


The **High Plains Library District** entered the second generation of its laptop checkout program. Implemented in early 2009, the service is highly successful and appreciated by patrons. Laptops, equipped with Internet connection and Microsoft Office, are checked out for a maximum of five days. Originally patrons could place requests on the Horizon ILS and would have to wait until their "hold" became available. Beginning May 1, the library switched to *Library Insight* software which allows patrons to reserve a computer for a specific timeframe. For more information on the project, contact Library Manager, and MPLA member, Cindy Osborne: cosborne@highplains.us.

Jamie Hollier, a 2010 MPLA Leadership Institute attendee, recently started a new position with the Colorado State Library as Project Coordinator for the Colorado Public Computing Centers. The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant, funded through federal stimulus money and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, brings more computer access and training to 76 libraries and Tribal Centers in communities throughout the state of Colorado. As

part of the \$3.3 million dollar project the State library and local libraries will be working with partners such as DBTAAC Rocky Mountain, National Network of Libraries and Medicine, Department of Labor and Employment, and the Colorado Community College System. The focus of the grant is to bring resources to some of the most underserved citizens of Colorado, especially the disabled, low income, and diverse populations. Jamie was most recently a branch manager for Delta County Libraries on the Western Slope of Colorado. She says she "is excited about the opportunity to work with so many libraries and organizations throughout the state and to be a part of a project that deals with one of her main areas of interest, bridging the digital divide."

George Blevins, Library Technician at the **Gilpin County Library**, was interviewed by the *Denver Post* on the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Riders. Blevins, 71, was one of the original group that challenged southern segregation in 1961.



Kansas

"*We Make It So Easy*," is a new weekly promotion on the **Johnson County Library** Web site www.jocolibrary.org, touting library services patrons can use on their own – either online or in the library. Big-screen digital signs in all the libraries have slides matching the Web site. Weekly promotions include:

- Online tax forms and Web pages for tax help.
- Self-check with checkout machines
- *ReferenceUSA* business database
- Renewing materials by phone or online
- Practice tests and test prep
- Placing holds online and picking them up
- Magazines and newspapers online
- The "For Later" list in Bibliocommons

In February the **Hays Public Library** celebrated its Centennial with a month's worth of activities and programs. Festivities kicked off with a Gala Birthday Party that included jazz, champagne, food, historic photographic exhibits and slideshows, and a great deal of fun. (Former HPL Director and most recent MPLA past president Elvita Landau is briefly featured in the slideshow, available to view at the HPL Kansas Room facebook page).



Hays Public Library Staff

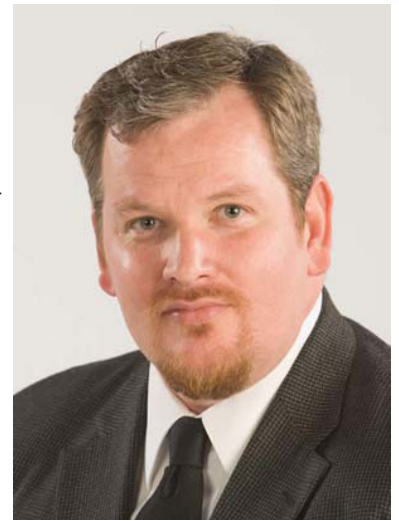


Revelers at the Centennial Celebration

Dan Ireton, Assistant Professor/Undergraduate & Community Services, Kansas State University Hale Library is the new MPLA Kansas Representative.



Royce Kitts 2010 graduate of the MPLA Leadership Institute leaves the Directorship of the Tongaonxie Public Library on May 27 to begin his new Position of Education Librarian at Washburn University in Topeka on June 1. Royce is also Recording Secretary on the MPLA Board.



“Understanding and Responding to Poverty among Children and their Families in Johnson County drew 81 people to the **Johnson County Library** on March 29 to hear five local experts discuss the significant increase in poverty in Johnson County, especially among children. The experts represented United Community Services, Head Start of Shawnee Mission, Kansas Social Rehabilitation Services, Kansas Action for Children, and Olathe Public Schools. Civic Engagement Librarian **Louisa Whitfield-Smith** facilitated, with assistance from Reference Librarian **Marty Johannes**. *NBC Action News* covered the event as well as reporters from the *Johnson County Sun*, *Kansas City Star*, and *Shawnee Dispatch*. Since the event, more than a dozen participants have reached out to network with each other, contact local policy makers, and get additional information to bring back to their work, places of worship, and social networks.

Nicole Penley recently accepted the position of Outreach Services Specialist for the **South Central Kansas Library System**. She will be responsible for coordinating the Rotating Collections Service and other outreach and support duties. Penley was formerly circulation librarian at the Andover Public Library; Bands Librarian at Wichita State University; and employed by Barnes and Noble Bookstores in Wichita and Tucson, AZ. She completed her Master of Library Science degree from Emporia State University in August 2010 and also has a Master of Music in Musicology from Wichita State University

Montana

The **Montana Library Association-MPLA** Joint Conference was held in Billings April 6-9. MPLA members from throughout the region wore and waved bandanas provided by incoming President Dana Braccia. See more photos from the conference beginning on page 1.



Dan Chaney and Pam Henley greet visitors to the MPLA Booth



Community historian Kevin Kooistra-Manning speaking at a history of the Parmly Billings Library at the Western Heritage Center during opening reception of MLA/MPLA Joint Conference

The **Parmly Billings Library** hosted Cara Lopez for a book talks and signing in March. Lopez is author of *They Only Eat Their Husbands: A memoir of Alaskan love, world travel and the power of running away*. The program was sponsored by the Writer's Voice.

Nebraska

The **Nebraska Library Association's** Public Library and Trustee Section, the six regional library systems, and Read

Aloud Nebraska pooled resources to bring Michael Sullivan, an expert on boys and reading, to Nebraska in April. Michael Sullivan presented the programs, Connecting Boys With Books and Breaking All the Rules in Alliance, Lexington, Norfolk,



and Seward. His thoughtful and thought-provoking presentations gave his audiences much to mull over about boys who read and the future of libraries. His website, <http://talestoldtall.com> has a wealth of book suggestions for boys and professional articles about connecting boys with books.

Terri Raburn was appointed as the Library Services Coordinator for the **Panhandle Library System** on April 1st. She brings a wealth of experience to western Nebraska. Previous library jobs include Director/Curator for the Nebraska United Methodist Archives; Reference Room Supervisor at Emporia State University; and Reference Assistant/Assistant Curator of Photograph Services at the Nebraska State Historical Library. Terri has also worked for the South Central District Library and the Holdrege Area Public Library. She has a B.A. in Art and Art History and an MLS from Emporia State University in Kansas.

The **Nebraska Regional Library Systems** are currently recruiting members for its 6th Library Leadership institute in July. This intense experience is designed to create future library leaders. Becky Schreiber and John Shannon will once again provide a

guided path for the selected class members to explore their leadership styles; gain effective leadership skills; identify goals; develop a professional network; and learn from experienced librarian mentors. The lucky participants will enjoy four days at the St. Benedict Center in Schuyler.

The Omaha Public W. Dale Clark Main Library recently became a Family History Center Affiliate of Family Search, the world's largest genealogy organization, which was established and run by the Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter Day Saints in 1894. For very modest fees, Omaha's patrons can order microfilmed records through the Family Search Catalog. More information about this new service can be found at <http://guides.omahalibrary.org/genealogy> (click on the FamilySearch Center tab). Omaha Public Library houses the largest genealogy collection (over 7,000 volumes) between Chicago and Denver. Friendly, human help is also available in the Genealogy Department.

Library Director **Amy Greenland**, Hastings Nebraska Public Library, was struck by a pickup truck while walking near the library in late April. She suffered two broken wrists and underwent surgery. Jim Connor, Trustee on the library board, reports "Amy is recovering well. Both arms are in casts to about the elbow, making it difficult for many tasks. She is a trooper. Back in the office doing the best she can. She expects to go to splints on one wrist soon with continued healing taking about another month, or so. Typing is not easy but she can text slowly. Food delivery and transportation help has been available from many of her 'volunteer nurses'.

Lincoln High School media center has been recognized as one of 35 outstanding libraries in country. A recent celebration included a jazz band and the International Baccalaureate theater students singing a well-known rap they wrote to shower praise on their school library. The students performed for a library full of people -- including Nebraska Education Commissioner Roger Breed, Lincoln Public Schools Superintendent Steve Joel and other school-related dignitaries -- to help celebrate the media center's mo-

ment in the spotlight. The Nebraska Educational Media Association chose it to represent Nebraska on a national "vision tour" of 35 outstanding school libraries. Nancy Everhart, president of the American Association of School Librarians, is visiting all 35 to showcase exemplary programs and what they can do for students and the community.

Nevada

Becky Ellis, librarian at **Sarah Winnemucca Elementary School** in Reno, is a recipient of the International Reading Association's 2011 Celebrate Literacy award, an annual award given to those who make significant contributions to literacy, who go above and beyond their job expectations to promote and encourage literacy within their school and community. The recipients were honored at a dinner at the Peppermill on April 27, sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Council of IRA. MPLA Nevada Representative Ellen Fockler said, "It's unusual for a librarian to be recognized with the Celebrate Literacy award, but Becky's outstanding contributions to her school and students prompted teachers to nominate her for the award."

The **Southern District Nevada Library Association** held a "Special Collections at the Clark County Library" event on May 11. Guest speakers were Shelly Weiner, Southern Nevada Non-Profit Information Center and Roger DeBlanck of the Patent & Trademark Depository Library. The association will also hold a Game Night Social Event on June 24 at the Paseo Verde Library. Games include a Wii, an Xbox 360, a Playstation 3 along with a library of board games.

New Mexico

New association officers were announced at the **New Mexico Library Association**. Vice-President/President-Elect: **Tina Glatz**, Library Media Specialist at Las Cruces Public Schools Onate High School Library; Treasurer: **Norice Lee**, New Mexico State University Library Head of Access Services;

and Members at Large: **Linda Keulen**, Albuquerque Public Schools Roosevelt Middle School, and **Janice Kowemy**, Laguna Tribal Community Librarian. The incoming President is **Mary Alice Tsosie** University of New Mexico Indigenous Nations Library Program Outreach & Liaison Librarian.

At the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System Pulitzer winner Geraldine Brooks, author of *People of the Book*, will discuss and sign Caleb's Crossing, her new novel about the first Native American to graduate from Harvard University. Another program features urbanologist and author Max Grinnell on "Why We Travel."

Ben Wakashige, currently the Director for Libraries and Educational Resources for Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque and Rio Rancho, will serve as interim State Librarian as a national search to permanently replace recently retired State Librarian Susan Oberlander is conducted. Wakashige, who served as State Librarian from 1998 to 2003, will be on loan to the State Library from the community college.

Several libraries presented programs for national El dia de los niños/El dia de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day):

- **The New Mexico State University Library** sponsored a children's program with award-winning author Benjamin Alire Saenz April 30 at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. Saenz, the author of the bilingual children's book *The Dog Who Loved Tortillas/La Perrita Que Le Encantaban Las Tortillas*, did a reading. The program, organized by Humanities Librarian and MPLA member **Mardi Mahaffy** and Education Librarian **Sarah Baker**, is part of the NMSU Library's annual celebration of the national event.



- **Farmington Public Library** sponsored a book reading by Uma Krishnaswami, author of *The Happiest Tree*. In addition, there was a "Tailgate Party"

with prizes and activities including storytime, face painting, movies, singing and dancing.

- The **Pueblo de Abiquiu Library** sponsored a garden. The "storytime" was from books that pertain to New Mexico vegetation and children helped plant the garden which will be nurtured and harvested as a library activity. A juggler and music along with refreshments also helped the celebration.
- The **El Rito Library** hosted a special guest, Indiana Bones and his Dragon Draco, who entertained kids with artifacts, fossils, lively puppets and a crack of his bullwhip.



New Mexico Library Association award winners were recognized at the recent conference.

- **Library Amigo Award** - **Louise Webb**, longest running community volunteer at the Farmington Public Library.
- **The Community Achievement Award** - **Margo Lamb**, Las Cruces Public Schools.
- **Library Leadership Award** - **Linda Keulen**, Roosevelt Middle School Library, Tijeras
- **Legislator of the Year Award** - Representative **Roberto "Bobby" Gonzales**, New Mexico House of Representative, District 42.
- **Honorary Life Membership Award** - **Linda Keulen**



- **Award** - **Ben Wakashige**, director of a variety of libraries including those at Zuni High School, University of Albuquerque, Albuquerque Academy, Western New Mexico University, New Mexico State Library, Nation American University, and currently Central New Mexico Community College.
- **Outstanding Elementary School Library Award** - **Judy Chandler**, Floyd Municipal Schools.
- **Outstanding Secondary School Library Award** - **Jolanta Feliciano**, Valley High School in Albuquerque
- **Marion Dorroh Scholarships** - **Cynthia M.**

Smith, Library Media Technician at Red Mountain Middle School in Deming to begin her Masters from Texas Woman's and **Jade Torres-Morrison**, Library Assistant at Albuquerque Academy to continue her masters in Library and Information Science through San Jose State University.

Ken Keeton, virtual services librarian at **Dona Ana Community College** in Las Cruces, NM has made a series of video tutorials that are posted on YouTube. Check out [Using Library Resources.mp4](#), [Wiki Tutorial.mp4](#), or [DACC Basic Database Tutorial.mp4](#).

Ashgabat Turkmenistan is one of Albuquerque's nine sister cities. When a delegation from Albuquerque visited Turkmenistan in October 2009, they brought books donated from Costco stores. These



books were then presented to the National Library of Turkmenistan at a ceremony in Ashgabat last spring. Recently a large shipment of books arrived from the Turkmen

National Library. They were presented to representatives from the **University of New Mexico Library**, Director of Collections Development **Steve Harris**; CNM Library Director, **Ben Wakashige** and CNM Outreach Coordinator **Olivia Baca**; and Albuquerque/Bernalillo Public Library System Director **Dean Smith**.

The **Institute of Museum and Library Services** "Making the Learning Connection" workshop was held February 18 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, co-hosted with the National Hispanic Cultural Center, Explora, and Central New Mexico Community College. Albuquerque was one of the national six-city workshops on the tour.

At the **University of New Mexico** the Inter-American Studies Program of University Libraries held an exhibition in the Herzstein Latin American Gallery: "Illustrated Identities: The Book in the Latino Imaginary" The exhibition which features histori-

cal texts and codices as well as, contemporary works from authors participating in the Latino/a Imaginary, challenges strict categorizations such as Latino, writer, artist and performer.

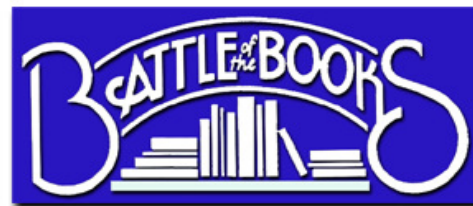
A lecture series on "Be Transformed by the Land, Light and Legend of Taos" began on May 14 at the **Taos Public Library**. The series is funded by Friends of Taos Public Library. For more information see <http://taoslibrary.org/Be%20Transformed.pdf>

The May art exhibits at the **Santa Fe Public Library** are "Contemplative Collage: From Symbol to Story" by Dante Jericho at the Main Library and "OZ: The Wizardry of L. Frank Baum: A retrospective in three dimensions" by Robert Powell at the La Farge Library.

New Mexico State University Library employee Jenny Lockwood recently received the 2011 Carl Fautbion Outstanding Library Staff Employee of the Year Award in a ceremony. A Library Specialist II in the Acquisitions Unit, she was recognized for her overall contributions to the Library, particularly in the area of electronic serials.



Artesia will be the site of the 2011 **New Mexico Battle of the Books**. This competition encourages the youth of New Mexico to read books, have fun, and compete by demonstrating their knowledge of books. Stu-



Students are quizzed about books that they have read from a designated reading list. Teams are sponsored by schools or public libraries, and will compete in either the Elementary or Middle School Divisions.

On May 5 the **El Rito Public Library** celebrated it's 25th Anniversary of being a full-service public li-

brary and the oldest independent library in Rio Arriba County

Residents of the **Alamogordo and Otero** communities celebrated the 111th birthday of the library on May 5. In 1899, ten women organized a “Woman’s Club with the mission to open and maintain a public library, to study the history of New Mexico and for self culture.”

Luli Sanchez is the new library director at **Tatum Community Library**. She replaced Carol Glover who retired in December 2010. Sanchez previously worked at the library for nine years, then attended New Mexico Junior College.

Marian Frear is the new Director of the **Placitas Community Library**. She has a Masters in Library/Information Science from the University of Washington (Seattle), and has worked as a medical librarian in Portland, Oregon and at Lovelace in Albuquerque. She also has been a public librarian in the Albuquerque/Bernalillo Library System and a school librarian at the Montessori of the Rio Grande Charter School (Albuquerque).

Betty Reynolds, former Director of **New Mexico Tech Skeen Library** died April 22, 2011 at her home in Deming.



Silver City residents will now be able to check out Kill A Watt devices, which measure electricity usage as part of PNM power utility’s “Check out Energy Savings at the Library,” program. **The Silver City Public Library** is the first in the state to get the devices. Library Director Eileen Sullivan was instrumental in acquiring the program .

New Mexico State Librarian **Dr. Susan Oberlander** retired 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.

North Dakota

North Dakota’s 62nd biennial legislative session wound to a close at the end of April and the **North Dakota State Library’s** budget survived the process intact. An additional \$200,000 in state aid to public libraries was also secured.

The 2011 **North Dakota Library Association** conference will be held in Minot at the Grand International Inn, September 21-24 and program proposals are now being solicited. See the conference website: [http://www.ndla.info/Conference/11conf.htm!](http://www.ndla.info/Conference/11conf.htm) The theme is “Librarians: Leadership for a New Decade.”

Thomas T. Jones, Director, **Bismarck Public Library**, has retired after 35 years. He was instrumental in multiple projects during his years of service including tripling the size of the library from 17,000 sq. ft. to over 70,000 sq. ft., launching a one million dollar endowment campaign through the Library Foundation, constructing a full-service coffee shop in the library with private donor funds and renovating the Children’s Library. A retirement reception will be held May 31 at the library.



Tutor.com will soon be available statewide in North Dakota. The **North Dakota State Library** has signed a one-year contract with the online homework help company to make their services available through ND libraries starting July 1.

The 80th Anniversary of the **National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped** was observed at an event during the legislative session. North Dakota first Lady Betsy Dalrymple, North Dakota Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerald VandeWalle, Superintendent of Public Instruction Wayne Sanstead, State Librarian Hulen Bivins, and NLS patron Lynn Iverson spoke at the event.

The **Grand Forks Public Library** received a \$93,200 grant from the Bremer Foundation to work with residents on a design for a proposed new library. The money will fund three workshops guided by architect Rick McCarthy (Dewberry PSA) and renderings of the new building.

The Jamestown Finance and Legal Committee voted 3-2 to prohibit the **James River Valley Library System** from proceeding to purchase property for a new library.

A Friends of the Library group has organized to support the **Harry L. Petrie Library** in Linton.

The **Bismarck Public Library** hired **Kristi Harms** to be their new director. She has served as library director at the Jefferson County Public Library in Madison, Indiana, since 2009, and previously served as the Switzerland County Public Library director in Vevay, Indiana. She will be replacing Tom Jones who is retiring as director after 35 years of service.

Oklahoma

Congratulations to MPLA member **Nicole Sump-Crethar**, who was named the Oklahoma Library Association's OLA Outstanding New Librarian.

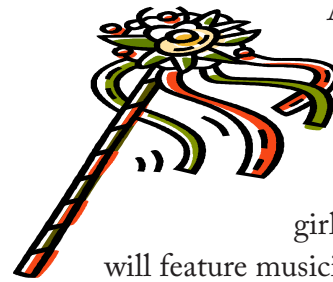
The keynote speaker for the May 25 dedication of Durant's new **Donald W. Reynolds Community Center and Library** will be **Susan C. McVey**, Director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL). Preceding the dedication is a 10 a.m. reception in the Center's large meeting room, with refreshments provided by the Durant Fortnightly Club. Steven Anderson, president of the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, which funded the \$8-million facility, will also speak.

The **Eufalula Library** held a fundraiser to "Celebrate Our Library" at the local VFW. Proceeds benefit programs of Eufaula Memorial Library, including children's and teens' summer reading programs. The evening's activities included a spaghetti supper,

crafts, games and more. The Eufaula Area Chamber of Commerce donated a free entry to the Whole Hawg Days Poker Run, which includes chances for winning thousands of dollars.



Tanya D. Finchum and **Juliana M. Nykolaiszyn**, oral historians and librarians with the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program at Oklahoma State University Library in Stillwater, have won a fellowship from the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. According to the center, the two will document, through oral history interviews, the occupational culture and traditions of the American "Big Top" circus in the southeastern Oklahoma town of Hugo. The Archie Green Fellowships are reserved for prominent scholars with a long track record in the study of occupational culture, according to the center.



A girls' night out will be held at the **Noble Public Library**. The free event, Queen of the May Flair, is open to girls of all ages. The evening will feature musicians, a Maypole dance and other family-friendly activities. Costumes are encouraged.

Thursdays at the **Oklahoma City Metropolitan Library** downtown feature Noon Tunes concerts with local performers. The concerts began a few years ago as a short run but have become a year-round program. The program is funded by grants from the Friends of the Library.



South Dakota

Officials in Rapid City broke ground on May 6 for the new **Rapid City Public Library East Branch**. The branch will be constructed and managed by a group of local entities including the City of Rapid City, the Rapid City area schools and Pennington County. The branch library will be constructed on the grounds of Western Dakota Tech and will serve as both a public library and an academic library.

Due to budget cuts at the **South Dakota State Library**, State Librarian **Dan Siebersma** announced that the State Library will no longer be funding the courier service that links many libraries within the state and to libraries in North Dakota and Minnesota. The State Library will no longer be paying the net borrower fees for libraries within the state when they borrow through MINITEX.

The **Watertown Regional Library** hosted Clifford the Big Red Dog and Super Why on May 5 with about 700 children attending.

South Dakota Prairie Bud Award was won by Robie Harris for *Mail Harry to the Moon*. The book was illustrated by Michael Emberley. The Prairie Pasque Award for 2011 went to James Deem for his book, *Bodies from the Ice: Melting Glaciers and the Recovery of the Past*. *Walking on Glass* by Alma Fullerton was the winner in the Middle School category of the Young Adult Reading Program. *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins won in the High School category.

Utah

MPLA Leadership Institute Co-Chair **Adriane Juarez** has been elected the 2011-2012 Utah Library Association Vice-President/President Elect. New members at large, elected for two year terms from 2011-2013, are **Ruby Cheesman** and **Lyndi Hatch**. Running unopposed, **Elizabeth Smart** and **Dianne Hirning** have been approved as Aca-

ademic Section Chair and Vice Chair respectively; **Randy Olsen** and MPLA member **Dorothy Horan** have likewise been approved as Special Libraries Chair and Vice Chair.

The **Utah Library Association** Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair Wanda Huffaker spoke to Fox News Channel 13 recently about the books that were burned in Colorado City, Arizona, a town located on the Utah-Arizona border that is populated by many members of the FLDS Church. Wanda spoke about the affects of censorship on society. Spokesmen from the FLDS Church have denied that undamaged books were burned, but have stated that they took possession of the books. The books were for a library to serve the people of that area of Utah.

The **Utah Library Association** 2011 Conference was held May 11-13, 2011 in Layton. The keynote speaker was Audra Caplan, current President of the Public Library Association. Luncheon speakers were "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*. Popular storyteller and author Katy Rydell presented a pre-conference sponsored by a MPLA grant. MPLA President Dana Braccia attended the conference.



l-r: Dorothy Horan, Adriane Juarez, Donna Morris, Dana Braccia, Britton Lund

Several Utah archivists received awards from the Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists (CIMA). **Max J. Evans**, of the LDS Church History Department received the 2011 CIMA Life-Time Achievement Award and **Stephen C. Sturgeon**, Utah State University, received the 2011 CIMA Service Award. They are acknowledged for their acts of service and leadership skills and contributions to CIMA or the archival profession.

The *Tooele Transcript Bulletin* reported that Grantsville will be able to build a new library using over \$2 million municipal bond funds. The funds come as a result of a lawsuit involving the cities of Tooele, Stockton and Grantsville. The library is currently housed at the local high school.

The Institute for Museum and Library Services recently featured the **Treehouse Museum** in Ogden for its family literacy program. Finding common cause during a chance meeting; local school principals and Treehouse Museum executive director, Lynne Goodwin started to explore a new idea. How could they use the museum as a venue to engage families in literacy activities? The program is simple and effective. Children and their families visit the museum's exhibits, attend readings and book signings with children's authors, and are knighted by King Arthur (sometimes their school principal in medieval armor) as "Readers of the Roundtable". With funding by an IMLS [Museums for America](#) *Engaging Communities* grant, the Treehouse Museum updated its exhibits for the program, offered the event at reduced cost to area schools, developed activity brochures and booklists to inspire families to read at home, and provided each participating school with seven free family museum memberships to present to low-income families. The program was also adapted as a kick-off event to encourage early-childhood learning and literacy among 300 local low-income families who had received free memberships to the museum from Head Start. The program continued during the summer months with



the recruitment and training of 13 young teens as "Special Participating Youth" who served as volunteer mentors and storytellers in the knight-related exhibit area at Treehouse and as assistants for the "Readers of the Round Table" reading quest for families. Formal evaluation of the program's effect on the Head Start families by Weber State University found "major improvements in the parents' daily literacy activities with their children, such as engaging with children in dialogic reading strategies, storytelling, rhyming activities, and letter and word identification. A Knight at the Museum positively impacted parenting behaviors in the establishment of routines, contributing to creating a special time for reading each day."

The *Utah Valley Daily Herald* reported that the **North Utah County Library Co-op** is planning to implement a single search for items found in libraries that serve the population of American Fork, Eagle Mountain, Lehi and Pleasant Grove. The consolidated search may be available as early as this spring. Catalogs for the various individual libraries will be searched at one time, returning a results set for all of the collections for members of the co-op. The co-op is a fairly new organization, created with the goal of offering better service to small communities located in the north portion of Utah County. Some of those communities did not have library service until recently.

Wyoming

The **Natrona County Public Library** is excited to be a participant in "We Read," a new community wide project focused on the importance of literacy.



Recent test results show that a high percentage of Natrona County K-3 students are not reading at grade level. Of particular concern is the fact that children not reading at grade level by third grade are likely future drop-out candidates. The Casper Star-Tribune, Natrona

County School District and NCPL have partnered to help establish reading and education as core community values through “We Read.” The 3-year program began in April in an effort to engage families in the reading development of their children, and is cosponsored by a number of local foundations and businesses. Every Natrona County K-3 student will be given an age-appropriate book every month during the 3-year program. As part of the “We” in “We Read,” parents will be encouraged by advertisements in local newspapers, radio, movie theaters and TV to spend time reading with their children. Each Tuesday for the next 3 years, the Casper Star-Tribune will include a special children’s magazine featuring book-related activities, tips for parents, stories, and pre-reading games to encourage literacy skills and parent-child interaction. For more information about the program and its goals, visit <http://bit.ly/eiHx8n>.

One of the world’s foremost authorities on bear behavior and bear-human interactions, Dr. Stephen Herrero



presented two free talks in April at the **Teton County Library** on the latest scientific discoveries into bear behavior and staying safe in bear country. Herrero is the author of *Bear Attacks: Their Causes and Avoidance* and says, “Bears very seldom seriously attack people although they act like they will. Following the talks, the Grand Teton National Park invited the public to a morning question-and-answer dialogue with Herrero that explored considerations for bear safety outside the bounds of the most typical bear-human encounters.

Amid choruses of “I love to clean!” 40 Coffee School first grade students volunteered at the **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** on Friday, April 29. Students were accompanied by teachers. After instruction, students cleaned carts of books and then spread out into the library to clean shelves. An hour and a half of elbow grease and enthusiasm produced lots of clean books and shelves, all ready for summer reading at the library. The volunteer project concluded a month of volunteer appreciation activities by the Sheridan County Public Library System. More than 80 people regularly volunteer for the Fulmer County Fulmer Public Library, the Clearmont Branch Library, the Story Community Library and the Tongue River Branch Library.



The **Laramie County Library System** in Cheyenne is presenting “In a Nutshell: the Worlds of author Maurice Sendak,” a traveling exhibit and a special guest for the kids – one of the Wild Things! -- who will sign copies of *Where the Wild Things Are* (copies will be available for sale.. The library is one of only 35 libraries in the country selected to host the exhibit



The **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** recently hosted a presentation by Kevin Bennage, Ghost Hunter of Wyoming. Bennage began his paranormal research in 2003 and has conducted more than 183 research cases. His presentation included audio and video clips and use of the Frank Ghost Box, similar to a digital radio which allows listeners to hear audio transmissions as a paranormal voice “speaks”.

Teton County Library celebrated National Poetry Month with a performance of live music by the Silver Roots duo, Juilliard graduates Shawn Wyckoff (flute) and Maria Millar (violin).

Early in May the **Laramie County Library System** presented “Free Comic Book Day.” In partnership with local comic book store, *Heroes Only Comic & Games*, the library gave away free comic books. Children and teens had their own Comic Book Day movies to watch, and teens and adults learned how to draw comic art from local artist, Yusef Abonahmah.

The **Teton County Library** invited children ages 4 to 7 with their caregivers, to celebrate Earth Day with a special storytime featuring puppet shows by Journeys School students. Second and third graders from Journeys performed three puppet shows, with hand-made puppets designed by the students, on educational topics from wildlife migration to how animals find shelter.



State & National Conferences 2011

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

2013

- South Dakota, North Dakota and Mountain Plains Library Association, September 25-27, Sioux Falls



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