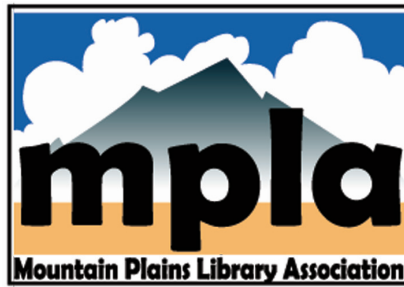


Big Horizons



Close Community

Newsletter

August 2011

www.mpla.us

Volume 55 #6

INSIDE

- 2 ... President's Message
- 3 ... Innovative Interfaces
Leadership Institute Support
- 3 ... Leadership Institute Message
- 4 ... Leadership Institute Details
- 5 ... Column: Edification by the
Byte
- 6 ... Column: But It's a Dry Heat...
- 8 ... Meet Your MPLA Board
- 13 ... Welcome New Members
- 13... Professional Development
Grant Deadlines
- 14... Around the Region
- 26... Flood Impacts Minot Public
Library
- 28... REFORMA in Denver
- 28... State and National
Conferences
- 29... MPLA Board and Staff
- 30... MPLA Membership Form

Advertisers Supporting MPLA

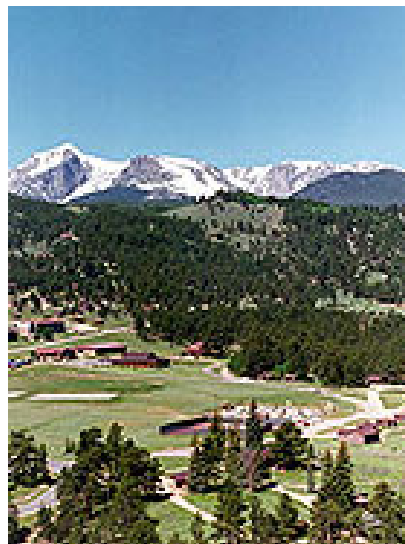
- 7 ... New Mexico State
University/Dona Ana
Community College



2012 MPLA Leadership Institute Applications Online

<http://www.mpla.us/leadership/leadershipapp2012.doc>

The 2012 MPLA Leadership Institute will be held May 6 – 11, 2012, at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. Application deadline is November 1, 2011. The Institute is sponsored by the Mountain Plains Library Association with major support from **Innovative Interfaces**, Jerry Kline, founder.



Other contributions to date include the School of Library and Information Management, Emporia State University, donor; and the University of Arizona School of Library and Information, advertiser.

The Institute will again be facilitated by nationally known organizational development consultant Maureen Sullivan, who has over 25 years experience in leadership development. Maureen has been elected to the 2012-13 presidency of the American Library Association (ALA) and will be facilitating the 2012 MPLA Leadership Institute during her presidential year.

The Institute is designed to provide a high quality, affordable development experience for current and future leaders in the 12 state Mountain Plains region. It is an intense program with long days filled with a variety of activities, active discussion, and critical reflection.

See more information on pages 3 and 4.

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

President's Message

Do It Now



*If with pleasure you are viewing any work a man is doing,
If you like him or you love him, tell him now;
Don't withhold your approbation till the parson makes oration
And he lies with snowy lilies on his brow;
No matter how you shout it he won't really care about it;
He won't know how many teardrops you have shed;
If you think some praise is due him now's the time to slip it to him,
For he cannot read his tombstone when he's dead...*

- Berton Braley

One of my favorite functions on [LinkedIn](#) is the “recommend” button. With one click and a few thoughtful phrases, you can let the world know how much you admire the work of another. It's a pretty easy thing to do, but I have to admit, when things get hectic, I don't always take the time. The same is true with award nomination forms. There's one sitting on my desk for the [AzLA Service Awards](#) and although I have a wonderful colleague in mind who is so deserving of recognition, I haven't found the time yet to fill out the form. Luckily, it's not too late (I have until August 19th).

Using the words of Berton Braley as inspiration, the right time to express gratitude and appreciation is now! As you read this newsletter and see some of the terrific things happening with MPLA including the upcoming Leadership Institute and the creative blog promotion, I hope you'll take a few moments to reach out to your fellow MPLA members and let them the positive difference they are making in the library world.

If you're not sure how to connect with your MPLA Colleagues – just log on to [memberclicks](#) for contact info. You can also give them a shout out on [facebook](#) or a glowing recommendation on [LinkedIn](#). Let's not wait for the tombstones!

---Dana

**THANK YOU to Innovative Interfaces, Jerry Kline, founder,
for their generous financial support of the
2012 MPLA Leadership Institute!**

Innovative
interfaces

MPLA 2012 Leadership Institute Recruitment

Dear colleagues,

We all know good professional development opportunities are hard to find. You read the session summary, you check out the presenter, you arrange for time to attend, you pay your registration fee, and you hope for the best. More often than not, the session ends up being not quite what you imagined, the presenter was having an off day, the attendees are so-so and you'd rather have had lunch alone. You get back to the office with a couple of handouts and ease back into the old routine. Not much has changed, but at least you got away from the office for awhile.

I want to make sure you are aware of an excellent professional development opportunity that was created just for you! The MPLA Leadership Institute was initiated in 2002 as a way of "growing" leaders for both MPLA and our member states. MPLA desired to help shape the future of libraries, and to fulfill its mission of "providing educational training and growth opportunities for all persons engaged in library activities in the region to enhance their skills and professionalism." MPLA recognized the need to ensure that libraries in its member states were able to remain "competitive" with more populous areas of the country.

To date there have been seven MPLA Leadership Institutes, each with its distinct personality, thanks to the incredible mix of participants and mentors. It's very likely that you know one or more of these folks, or at least know of them through their work or participation in MPLA or State Association activities. It's also very likely that if you were to ask them about their experience with the Leadership Institute, they would tell you it was one of the top (if not the top) professional development experiences they have had. I'll admit to being biased (having attended in 2002), but I don't believe I'm exaggerating.

There is no denying that times are tough. Professional development (even excellent professional development) may seem like a luxury rather than a necessity. MPLA has worked to keep the costs down, but it does cost the Association to offer 30 participants an opportunity to work with a trainer of Maureen Sullivan's caliber (not to mention President-elect of ALA!) at a decent place in a nice, MPLA-centralized location. Not to mention opportunities to share experiences with four outstanding MPLA mentors selected for their professional expertise and demonstrated leadership!

Good professional development opportunities are hard to find. But here at MPLA, we're coming to you because we can all but guarantee a busy, reflective, social Leadership Institute professional development opportunity that will stay with you throughout your career. It will be challenging. Think of it as Library Leadership Boot Camp or Immersion; four long days of active participation – listening, discussing, reflecting – learning. If this is what you have been looking for, we just need you to do your part and apply.

For more information visit the MPLA Leadership Institute site.: <http://www.mpla.us/leadership/index.html>.

Thank you,

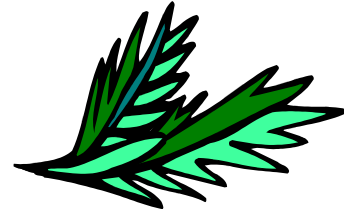
Dan Stanton, Co-Chair
MPLA Leadership Institute Committee



MPLA 2010 Leadership Institute - Details

General topics addressed during the Institute:

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



Application Requirements:

- Employed in a library organization in MPLA's 12-state region
- Current member (including last 2 years) of one of MPLA's 12 affiliated state library associations.
(Arizona Library Association; Colorado Association of Libraries; Kansas Library Association; Montana Library Association; Nebraska Library Association; Nevada Library Association; New Mexico Library Association; North Dakota Library Association; Oklahoma Library Association; South Dakota Library Association; Utah Library Association; Wyoming Library Association)
- 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

Cost: \$650 for state association members without a current MPLA membership; or \$550 for those who have also been MPLA members for at least two years in 2011 and 2012. Cost includes double occupancy room, all meals, facilitation and materials. Participants are responsible for transportation.

Application Form: The 2012 MPLA Leadership Institute application form is now available and completed applications and letters of recommendation are due no later than November 1, 2011. To apply, download and complete the application and return electronically as an attachment to Judy Zelenski, MPLA Executive Secretary and Leadership Institute Coordinator: execsecretary@mpla.us.

Questions: Contact Judy Zelenski, Leadership Institute coordinator: execsecretary@mpla.us; or Leadership Institute Committee Co-Chairs Dan Stanton: danton@asu.edu; Adriane Juarez: ajuarez@slcpl.org.

THANK YOU to the Emporia State University Graduate School of Library and Information Management for their contribution to the MPLA 2010 Leadership Institute



Edification by the Byte!

by Nicole Sump-Crethar, Digital Services Librarian; Oklahoma State University Edmon Low Library;
Member of the MPLA Communications Committee



Now you have another way to get news and talk to other MPLA members! Check out the Mountain Plains Library Association blog on Tumblr, <http://mountainplain-libraryassociation.tumblr.com>, to learn library news and share comments with your peers. Not only will the new blog pull together some of the most interesting and timely news stories from the library world, our very own Dan Stanton will share his expertise in his regular column, “Dan in the Desert.” There is no shortage of compelling, amusing, and heartwarming stories coming from libraries all over the region and the MPLA blog will share them with you in one convenient location.



Click here to comment

Tumblr members will be able to “reblog” and “like” posts. Not a Tumblr member? Don’t worry. You can still comment and link to stories. Click on the small gray box to the left of the post’s headline.

Then scroll to the end of the post and click on DISQUS to post your comment.



Maybe you are interested in being a guest blogger? Let us know. We are always looking for fresh, creative content!

To further encourage your participation we are hosting a contest designed to learn more about you and your library. You get to share your creative flair in the process. Tell us about your “Day in the Life!” Send us a picture or short video with a 3-4 sentence explanation and include your contact information. Tumblr members can send entries to us through Tumblr. You can also send entries to the Communication Committee email address, mplacomcom@yahoo.com. Did I mention there will be prizes? The winner will receive an “MPLA Summer Fun Kit!” And be sure to vote for your favorites! Voting will be counted through comments, “likes” and “reblogs.” Don’t miss this chance to share your library experience.



But It's a Dry Heat...



But It's a Dry Heat... is a series of occasional articles written by an MPLA member living in the Arizona desert. The desert is beautiful and full of life, if you know where to look. It's also hot, and that makes people cranky. What makes them even crankier is when others say, 'but it's a dry heat'. True. But over 110° is just friggin' hot, okay?

You know what else makes me cranky? There is no 'D' for 'Desert' in MPLA. I mean, really! We've already been passed over in [America the Beautiful](#), while **Mountains** show off their 'purple majesties' and **Plains** are 'fruit-ed' (and 'enameled', in a later verse). I'm not sure what that means, but at least it's a mention. And the 'amber waves of grain'? **Plains** again! I'm feeling a little Rodney Dangerfield here...

Just What *is* MPLA?

MPLA was founded in Estes Park, Colorado, in August of 1948, as a regional library association, already positioning itself between the national *American Library Association* and the local state associations. Like another (more famous) group of Founders, there were heated discussions about individual and state's rights and allegiances, and voices of reason for the common good as documented in [MPLA – The History](#) by Blaine H. Hall:

Mr. Esterquest...suggested the group was perhaps "giving too much thought to state lines and state associations and should concentrate any emphasis on organizing a regional association on the basis of common problems facing librarians."

Gordon Bennett prophetically observed that "state associations must get behind the regional association if it is to succeed."

Over the years, MPLA continued to define itself as a geographic and professional association, work that continues to this day. The original seven states – Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas are states clearly defined by their Mountains and/or Plains, as are three of the more recent additions – Montana (it speaks *mountain*), Nevada (as in *Sierra ...*), and Oklahoma (where the wind comes sweeping down the *Plain*). But Arizona and New Mexico as Mountain Plains? That's a stretch worthy of the Western Jackalope. But I digress...

Sixty-three years along, MPLA is still providing opportunities for individual members of our [state associations](#) to address the common problems facing libraries (and the good people who work in them) in the MPLA Region. We meet annually in [joint conferences with member states](#) on a rotational basis, and are governed by an [elected board of representatives from each member state](#). In addition to its board and its officers, MPLA activities, including the prestigious [Leadership Institute](#), are carried out by a number of [committees](#) and an executive secretary.

And sixty-three years along, MPLA is still refining its purpose and identity as a *regional* library association – how do we support libraries and library colleagues in ways the state and national associations don't (or can't), without taking away from what these valuable resources are and do? And while we can argue the value of membership, the reality is that there is a cost to membership, made more apparent by these difficult financial times.

continued on next page

But It's a Dry Heat... *continued*

But MPLA does [membership](#) a little differently, the cost is determined by your annual salary and your first year is half-price! Retirees, students, and trustees are eligible for reduced cost memberships, *and* we give away several free memberships at each state's annual conference. Why? We feel that if you experience MPLA, you will want to stay and get involved.

MPLA is not the obvious library association to join. It's definitely a choice, often made after experiencing a conference or networking with an existing member. When I'm proselytizing, I use the 3 Bears analogy:

If Goldilocks worked in a library and went out in search of networking, continuing education, and professional development opportunities, instead of a chair, porridge, and a bed belonging to the 3 Bears, she (or he) might find 3 levels of library associations. The state association is local and accessible, providing a way to jump right in and participate, but limited to the state association and locations. The national association is loaded with resources and specialization, but can be overwhelming and distant. The regional association has a dedicated membership that provides varied perspectives, experience, and opportunities on a personal level. This Goldilocks belongs to all three and gets a lot out of each. But, MPLA is what I do for *me*; it's...just...right.

And yes, we do have bears in Arizona. Now if we can just get that 'D' into MPLA...




New Mexico State University | Doña Ana Community College

LIBRARY SCIENCE PROGRAM

- Three Different Certificates Available
- Associate of Applied Science Degree
- School Library Media Specialist Endorsement
- Single Classes for Continuing Education

**For more information or a list of class offerings call 1-800-903-7503, ext. 7567 or email: spinkert@nmsu.edu.
<http://dacc.nmsu.edu/bis/libtec>**

P. O. Box 30001, MSC 3DA, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003-8001
(575) 527-7567 or 1-800-903-7503, ext. 7567 • Fax: (575) 528-7280



**ALL
COURSES
OFFERED
ONLINE**

New Mexico State University
NM STATE **DACC**
Doña Ana Community College

Meet Your MPLA Board



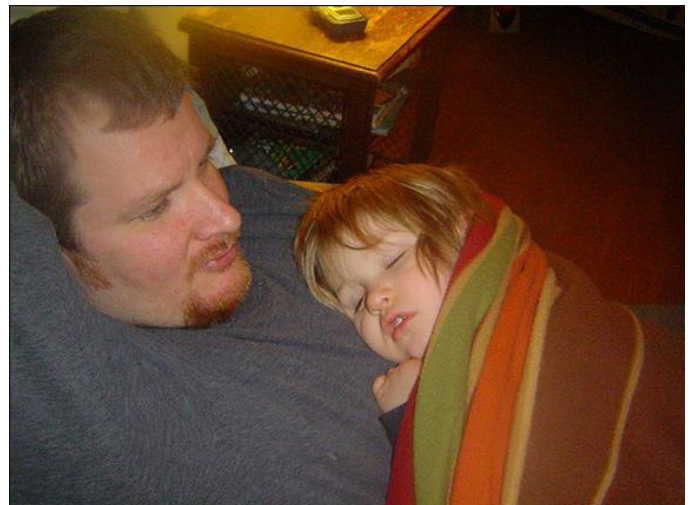
Dana Braccia, President. Dana took a long and winding road to librarianship. She graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in marketing and moved to Guam for five years to work in the resort business. After returning to the states, she continued in the hospitality industry at Carefree Resorts and then became the manager of the Scottsdale Stadium (Spring Training home of the San Francisco Giants). She re-careered into libraries in 2001 with an MLS from the University of Arizona and has worked for the Scottsdale Public Library as the Community Relations Coordinator, then a branch manager, and now oversee collection development.

At the MPLA membership meeting during the joint conference in Montana, Dana as incoming president prepared a presentation including little known facts about the incoming board. The following are excerpts from her presentation.

Elvita Landau, Past President. Elvita is a library conference junkie. She likes flying (gets lots of reading done), wandering around new cities, meeting people, going to exhibits to learn about things her library may never be able to afford.



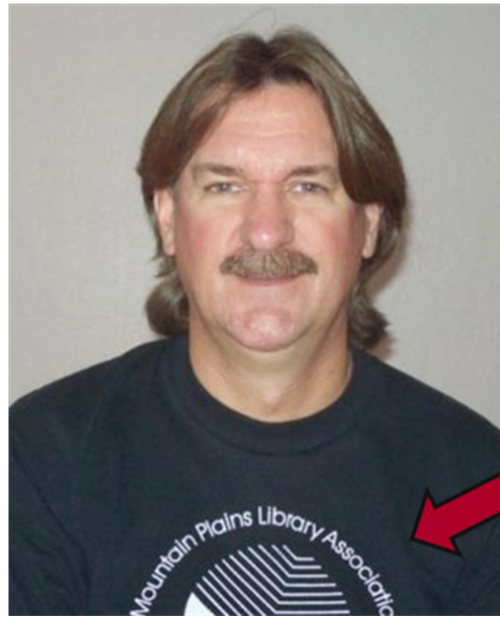
JaNae Kinikin, Vice-President/President-Elect. JaNae doesn't have a cell phone and has never text messaged.



Royce Kitts, Recording Secretary. When he was a kid and then teenager, he got thrown out of the library every day that he went. But he says his librarian was so awesome she just pretended each day that nothing had ever happened.



Wayne Hanway, Chair Bylaws and Procedures Subcommittee of Administration Committee. He once crossed the border into Iran without official authorization.



Dan Stanton, Co-Chair Leadership Institute Committee. He lived in Honduras from 1986-89, spending two+ years in the Peace Corps and one year as a bilingual teacher.



Katherine (Kate) Plunkett, Chair Communications Committee. She lives in a geodesic dome she and her husband built themselves from the ground up.



Adriane Juarez, Co-Chair Leadership Institute Committee. Adriane is Director of Utah Regional MLS program at Emporia State University and a triathlete.



Robin Brooks Clark, Nominating Committee Chair. Robin uses an antique card catalog for her jewelry box.



Deborah McCarthy, Wyoming State Representative. She is a native New Yorker. As one of 17 kids born on the same day in one hospital she was the only girl.

Lori Phillips, Professional Development Committee Chair. Lori was the Montana High School State Debate Champion and quarter finalists at the National Forensic Tournament in 1972.



Dorothy Horan, Utah State Representative. She was a Navy brat and she's hooked on Hulu.



Steve Decker, Awards Committee Chair. Steve loves to hunt, is a closet poet, current city council member in Parowan, Utah, and a descendent of Mormon pioneers to Utah.



Ellen Fockler, Nevada State Representative. Ellen recently retired and traveled to New Zealand.



Basha Hartley, Oklahoma State Representative. Basha likes hats, teaches water aerobics at 7 am, her favorite movie is Pop-eye, and she loves Helsinki!



Julie Huelsbeck, Arizona State Representative. She did a cruise/tour in the Galapagos in 2007 and loves to travel.

Theresa Jehlik, Nebraska State Representative. She spent the first year of her marriage living on the Pe-hakatanopewin Indian Reserve (Northern Cree) near Cut Knife, Saskatchewan, Canada. She and her daughter won “the hottest chili” medal at the 1st Annual Benson Chili Cook-Off in 2009



Mary Katherine Katzer, Colorado State Representative. Hiking is something she loves to do and doesn't get to do nearly often enough. Photo taken when she reached the summit on the sunrise hike during the MPLA Leadership Institute in October 2007.



Norma Glock, Montana State Representative. Norma is just beginning her term on the board. She is a past winner of the Montana Library Association's prestigious Shiela Cates Librarian of the Year Award.



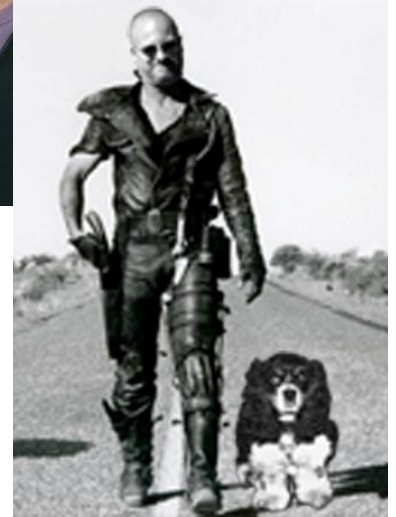
Eric Stroshane, North Dakota State Representative. He's visited the biggest ball of twine in Minnesota and the largest penny in Wisconsin.



Mike Mullin, North Dakota State Representative. He once worked in a prison...when he was in the Army he was in charge of the department that did all of the records processing for the prisoners.



Dan Chaney, Webmaster. Dan has 18,500 comic books - and he can recognize if he owns them on sight.



LeAnn Weller, New Mexico State Representative. LeAnn is a yarn addict (15 tubs and growing) and loom junkie (at least 16.) She's 3rd generation on both mother's and father's side of family born in Saline County, Kansas and is a KU Jayhawk

fan.



Roy Degler, Technical Assistant to Webmaster. Roy plays professional foosball and attends several tournaments each year.

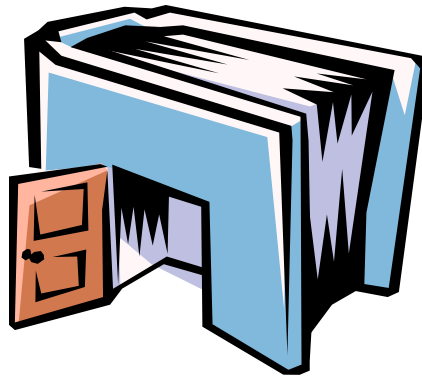


Dan Ireton, Kansas State Representative. Dan grew up on a farm and can still herd cattle from horseback and drive a semi-truck.



Judy Zelenski, Executive Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Judy knows how to vaccinate baby chickens and turkey poults.

Welcome New MPLA Members



INDIANA

Brandon Bowen
Bloomington, IN

OKLAHOMA

Jim Lucas Checotah Public Library
Katherine F. Smith, Branch Manager,
Eastern OK District Library System

UTAH

Joseph Anderson
Nonfiction Librarian, Logan
Library
Logan, UT

Stephanie Bertin
Senior Librarian, Salt Lake County
Library System Kearns Branch
Kearns, UT

Marilyn Getts
Branch Librarian, Davis County
Library
Salt Lake City, UT

Lyndi Hatch
Youth Service Librarian, Salt Lake
County Library System
Sandy, UT

Lorraine Jeffery
Branch Manager, Salt Lake County
Library System Tyler Library
Orem, UT

Corinne Oates
Technical Business Specialist, Weber
County Library -Main
Ogden, UT

Sam Passey
Library Director, Uintah County
Library System
Vernal, UT

Sharolynn Pyeatt
Cataloger, Brigham Young University
Harold B. Lee Library
Provo, UT

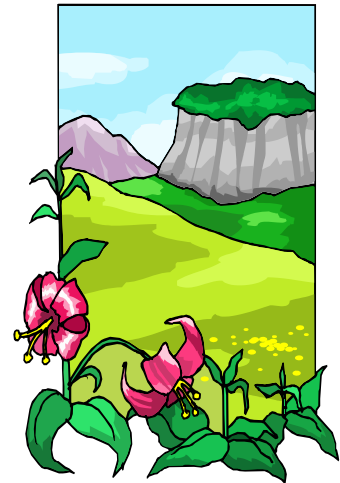
Anthony Sams
Digital Scholarship Consultant &
Project Mana, University of Utah J
Willard Marriott Library
Salt Lake City, UT

Cornel Thomas
Director, Duchesne Co. Library
Duchesne, UT

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

ORCA

Join online at
<http://www.mpla.us/forms/membership.html>



MPLA Professional Development Grant Application Deadlines 2011

August 3
October 5
December 7

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

Around the Region

Arizona



The **Arizona Library Association** (AzLA) is awarding five scholarships for free conference registrations to the 2011 Arizona Library Association's Annual Conference to be held at the Westin La Paloma in Tucson on November 28-30, 2011. Members of AzLA may be considered for a scholarship. Applications are now being accepted until September 1, 2011. The application process is easy; just write in 300 words or less how you will benefit from attending the conference. Send your composition in the body of an email to Bonny Bruce, a member of the AzLA Membership Committee. In the subject line, use: AzLA 2011 Conference Scholarship Application. Bonny's email address is: Bonny.Bruce@pima.gov Other information to include in the application is at: http://www.azla.org/associations/2837/files/2011_AzLA_Conference_Scholarship.pdf

Harry Courtright, Director of the Maricopa County Library District (MCLD) in Arizona, is retiring effective August 5. Courtright, 74, who has led the district since 1999, is best known for introducing a cataloging taxonomy at the district's Perry Branch in 2007 that does not rely on the Dewey Decimal Classification. Instead, Courtright decided to use BISAC subject headings from the Book Industry Study Group, which he felt would facilitate browsing, a part of his customer-centric approach to librarianship that emphasized customer service over tradition.

The seventh annual **Kingman Area Books Are Magic Fest!** (KABAM) took place May 14. KABAM promotes the joy of reading and literacy by bringing local and nationally renowned authors, poets and artists to the greater Kingman area. Throughout the week leading up to the festival on Saturday authors visited schools and libraries, conducted book discussions, and attended book signings. Poets and locals alike participated in a "KABAM Poetry Slam".

The week's events culminated with the Saturday festival in a Kingman park. The day was full of entertainment, local businesses and artists exhibiting, children's events, and poets and authors performing. Featured authors included Diana Gabaldon, Roni Capin Rivera Ashford, and Carolyn O'Bagy Davis. Ms Davis is the One Book Arizona winner this year for adults with her book *Hopi Summer: Letters From Ethel to Maud*. Many local and regional authors also participated.



Colorado

English teacher Sally Frostic and the **Vail Public Library** presented “Romeo and Juliet — Here and Now, A Shakespeare Reading Group,” on July 6 and 13 with discussion of Shakespeare’s timeless play “Romeo and Juliet.” “Never read Romeo and Juliet?” Vail Town Librarian, Lori Ann Barnes asks. “Not to worry. This reading group is for Shakespeare novices and veterans alike.”

The **Southern Peaks Public Library** in Alamosa offered a free “I’ve Never Touched a Computer” computer class in July.

CSU Libraries Associate Professor **Nancy Chaffin Hunter** has been selected to receive the 2011 Colorado State University Libraries Faculty Award for Excellence. The award recognizes a member of the Libraries faculty for outstanding contributions to the Libraries, to the University, and to the library profession

Kansas

What makes Wichitans passionate about and loyal to their community? That’s the question posed by “Soul of the Community,” a project by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in partnership with Gallup, which has surveyed residents in Wichita and 25 other communities for the past three years. Wichita’s report is now available in print at **Wichita Public Library** locations while supplies last or online at www.wichita.gov.

The **Northwest Kansas Library System** (NWKLS) recently announced the appointment of **George W. Seamon, Jr.** as Executive Director, effective June 8, 2011. George earned his B.A. at Kent State University in History and his MSLS from Clarion University of Pennsylvania. George has been with NWKLS since January of 2008 serving as Assistant Director and the System Consultant. During his tenure, George developed and implemented the auto-

mation plan of the System, which brought about the automation of 13 member public libraries and the system center. In addition, George serves on state wide committees, including the Regional Library Systems Consultants group, Regional Library Systems Administrators group, and Kansas Children and Youth Consultants group and development of the statewide New Directors training.

Melanie Miller, former director of the Hays Public Library received the Public Library Association Gordon M. Conable Award Intellectual Freedom Award to honor her vigilance and sacrifice in fighting community controversy regarding materials and her efforts to educate others on intellectual freedom. Sponsored by Library Systems & Services LLC, it is designed to honor a public library staff member, a library trustee or a public library that has demonstrated a commitment to intellectual freedom and the Library Bill of Rights. Melanie, a long-time member of MPLA was honored at a Public Library Association event at ALA in June. MPLA member **Jean Hatfield** held a reception in her honor.



The **South Central Kansas Library System** has announced that **Ken Warner** is new Automation and Technology Consultant and **Tram Nguyen** is new Technology Services Coordinator. Warner has been a twenty-year information services employee and technology trainer for the Wichita Public Library. Nguyen has served as the Director of the Mulvane, Public Library since 2008 and has taught technology courses for the Emporia State University School of Library and Information Management. Warner and Nguyen will provide technology training and support

to the 147 multi-type member libraries of SCKLS. They join a technology team that includes Larry Pa-penfuss, Information Technology Director; Sharon Barnes, Automation and Technology Consultant; and Lee Scott; Technology Consultant.

The 2011 **Kansas Library Association** Presidential Award Winners were Library Advocate - Senator Jean Kurtis Schodorf; Library Personnel - Jaime Prothro; Meritorious Service - Fred Atchison; Meritorious Service- MPLA member Laura DeBaun; New Professional - Megan Schulz; Duane Johnson Library Leadership Award; Jim Minges; The awards were presented at the State Librarian's Luncheon during KLA's annual conference in April

Celebrating National Library Week, "**The Curious Case of YOU... Create Your Own Story @ Your Library**" Writing Contest culminated with a visit from author Wendy McClure (*The Wilder Life*), attended by 118 people at the **Johnson County Library**. Selected from 135 entries, three winners of the contest were announced. The winning stories are available on the library's Web site at www.jocolibrary.org. *This contest continues the "Connect with a Classic" campaign from the library courier trucks, which includes a reference to F. Scott Fitzgerald's short story, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."*



The Overland Park Community Garden – the city's first – is opening on the lawn adjacent to the **Oak Park Neighborhood Library** in Overland Park. The community garden is a collaborative partnership

of the Overland Park Community Garden, **Johnson County Library**, and the Overland Park Parks & Recreation Department. Any resident of Johnson County is eligible to participate. Participants sign an agreement to abide by the OPG's rules – including using organic, sustainable growing methods – and pay a rental fee for the season. A total 64 plots comprise the garden.

Several **Kansas State University Library** staff members have been appointed to ALA positions. **Wendy Begay** was appointed for a two-year term to the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA) Using Measurement Data for Library Planning Assessment (MAES) Committee. **Laurel Littrell** was appointed to the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Academic or Research Librarian of the Year Award Committee. **Leo Lo** was appointed Assistant Chair of the American Library Association (ALA) New Members Round Table (NMRT) Liaison Coordination & Support Committee. Lo was also appointed member of the ALA Library Leadership & Management Association (LLAMA) LL&M Journal Editorial Board.

Matt Upson, Director, Kansas MLS Program – Emporia State University, and **Mike Hall**, Readers' Advisor for the Kansas State Library Talking Books Division, recently created a guide to Miller Library at McPherson College...in comic form. Available at <http://bit.ly/gFUNmd>, the guide utilizes the premise of a campus zombie attack to tackle library instruction and information literacy issues. Hall, who has substantial experience in the comic industry, illustrated the guide, while Upson provided the library tutorials. They both contributed to the story. The guide was created over a five month period and released online in late March. Since the release, the guide has been downloaded over 1.3 million times. Print copies have been produced and released to the McPherson College community. The comic has been featured in *Library Journal* (<http://bit.ly/huPXMB>) and on Lizz Zitron's blog *The Outreach Librarian* (<http://bit.ly/h5x7Z2>). Upson and Hall have also had a short article accepted for publication in an upcoming issue

of *College and Research Libraries News*. They are also preparing to create customized comic guides for other academic and public libraries. Contact them at matthewupson@gmail.com or cmichaelhall@cox.net



Montana

Norma Glock, Montana's MPLA Representative, reports: The Montana Library's annual board retreat leadership meeting was held the end of June. Most of the three days were spent consulting with Ned Cooney of Ascent Strategic Development from Big Fork, Montana. Ned has worked with other libraries in Montana and is familiar with problems all libraries face. The fourteen members began by doing a SWOT analysis of our association. Our brainstorming filled several pages of our perceived Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. After reviewing the mission statement, a focus question was formulated asking how can the Montana Library Association position itself to advocate for the profession so that librarians and librarians become indispensable in a challenging economic and political climate. The three-year strategic vision developed made us aware of what we wanted to accomplish and what things might get in the way of our desired di-

rection. Ned did an excellent job of consensus building by leading us through small/whole group discussions that led a final action plan for the next year. Three "buckets" were identified as possible goals that were "big enough to matter but small enough to accomplish." The first goal, "Focus and Follow Through" dealt with organizational problems of getting the handbook up-to-date detailing what was expected of each board member and communicating this to the general membership. The second goal, "Create and Earn a Positive Identity" was intended to start us on the road to branding our organization so people inside and outside our association would know what we were all about. The third item, "Engage, Involve, and Unify Membership" discussed practical ways to do this with definite goals of what we wanted to accomplish by the time our annual conference rolled around next April. The final outcomes sounded simple enough but the many discussions that took place brought the board to better understanding of our association. The Strategic Plan will be visited each year to see how we are progressing toward our final goals. All board members felt it was a positive retreat and gave us an optimistic look to the future.

The University of Montana has hired **Fritz Snyder** to serve as interim dean of operations for the **Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library**. Snyder, who recently announced his June 30 retirement as director of UM's William J. Jameson Law Library and professor of law librarianship, agreed to postpone retirement for a year to serve in the Mansfield Library interim position. In his new position at UM, Snyder will lead and manage the Mansfield Library while Dean of Libraries **Bonnie Allen** is engaged in a special assignment as academic information technology officer for UM Academic Affairs. In addition to her special assignment, Allen will remain involved in external development and coordination activities for the Mansfield Library.

MPLA member **Megan Dazey** is the interim Digital Initiative Coordinator at the **University of Montana Library**. Megan is a 2010 Leadership Institute participant.

Nebraska

The **Norfolk Public Library** will host its 17th Annual Literature Festival on Saturday, July 30, at Northeast Community College's Lifelong Learning Center. The Festival is for all ages and is sponsored by the Norfolk Library Foundation; the City of Norfolk; and the School, Children and Young People's Section (SCYP) of the Nebraska Library Association. The Festival features three award-winning authors that are nominated for 2012 Nebraska Golden Sower Awards: J. Patrick Lewis (*Spot the Plot: A Riddle Book of Book Riddles*), Sarah Prineas (*The Magic Thief*), and Jen Bryant (*Kaleidoscope Eyes*). The Festival also features previews of the thirty books nominated for the 2012 Golden Sower Awards; writer's workshops for young adults; book displays and sales by the Norfolk



Library Foundation; sales of Golden Sower items; an autograph session with the authors; and door prizes. Norfolk Pub-

lic teachers can earn five Professional Growth Points for attending the Festival and the Nebraska Library Commission will award five CE hours to all Nebraska school and public librarians and public library trustees who attend.

The **Nebraska Library Association** Scholarship Committee congratulates the 2011 scholarship winners: Munson Scholarship (\$250) to **Sarah Warneke**, Omaha Public Library; the Nixon Scholarship (\$1,000) to MPLA member **Debbie Aden**, UNL Libraries; **Brian Maass**, Bellevue University; and **Jennie Schneider**, St. Mary's Public, O'Neill.

Spotlight on National Library of Medicine resources free online training in May featured "Birds Do It, Bees Do It: Sexual Health Resources," which was presented by Siobhan Champ-Blackwell. The presentation offered reliable resources on sexual health,

tips on handling the reference interview, and includes sections on resources for teens, GLBT community members, adults, and older adults. For more information contact Marty Magee, National Network/Libraries of Medicine Education and Nebraska Liaison, McGoogan Library of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center: mmagee@unmc.edu.

Mentors for the 2011 Nebraska library Leadership Institute, July 10-14, 2011, include Nancy Busch, MPLA member Francine Canfield, Sherry Crow, MPLA member Brenda Ealey, Steve Fosselman, Wally Seiler, Kathy Tooker, and Rod Wagner. The mentors are librarians from academic, special and public backgrounds.

Nevada

June is the month for Chautauqua in Reno. Sponsored by Nevada Humanities, Chautauqua 2011 featured five days and evenings of Chautauqua performances, beginning with Young Chautauquans on Sunday, June 26. **Washoe County Libraries** hosted workshops featuring each of the performing adult Chautauquans. Henry VIII (played by Frank Mullen) met Harmony.com at the Downtown Reno Library and then a workshop at the South Valleys Li-



brary featured portrayals of Henry VIII and his wives on large and small screens, with an emphasis on historical accuracy and history as pop culture. Wednesday's performance at the Sparks Library in Sparks, Nevada featured Clay Jenkinson, whose performances as

Thomas Jefferson (and other historical figures) have earned him national acclaim. At the Incline Village Library, Incline Village, Lake Tahoe, Annette Baldwin as Coco Chanel guided visitors through Chanel's 50-year career with a visual shopping trip. Doug Mishler hosted a workshop featuring Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock, discussing their unusual friendship and artistic ties – a mentoring which eventually ended in Pollock's rejection of everything Benton once stood for.

West Las Vegas Library Author's Speakeasy will feature Leedell W. Neyland on July 23, 2011, speaking about his book *Unquenchable Black Fires*, a novel that recreates the Natchez, Mississippi fire of 1940, when a black-operated club burned, killing more than 200 people. The author, a student at the time, was at that dance. On August 27, the featured Author's Speakeasy author will be playwright, poet, and spoken word performance artist Ms. China. Ms. China will read stories from her *Spoken Word Artistry and Monologues*, "a look inside the spirit and soul of a performer."

The **Elko County Library** was the "place to be" on May 5. The Friends of the Elko County Library hosted their 23rd Annual "Just Desserts" fundraiser. Friends of the Library and library staff started working on this annual fundraiser in January. Local businesses and individual community members support the fundraiser through monetary donations, auction items, and dessert or wine donations or by working the event that night. Champagne and a chocolate fountain in the Children's Department; a Martini Bar in the Reference Department; Wine in the Circulation area; flavored beers between the Large Print and non-fiction; and 115 donated items for the Silent Auction! Attendees were able to eat, drink and be merry while being serenaded by local musicians.



MPLA member **Holly Van Valkenburgh**, who recently retired from her position as Consulting Librarian at the Nevada State Library and Archives, was awarded the Mountain Plains Library Association's Distinguished Service Award, at the joint MPLA – Montana

Library Association conference on April 7, 2011. Holly has worked in both school and public libraries in Colorado, Wyoming, and Nevada, where she has held a position at the Nevada State Library and Archives for nearly eighteen years. At retirement, Holly was the Consultant in Library Planning and Development. She created Nevada's first statewide Summer Reading Program, which later joined the Collaborative Summer Library Program, now sponsored jointly by NLA and NSLA. Her work has been central to creating and reviving Continuing Education for public librarians in Nevada.

At the **Clark County Library** on July 6 author Tess Gerritsen took the stage in the Main Theater to talk about her novel *The Silent Girl*, a suspenseful narrative that interweaves mythology and folklore with an examination of deepest fears and love.

New Mexico

The **New Mexico Library Association** Mini-Conference will be in Santa Fe on October 28 with the theme "Technology: Learning from the Past--Looking Toward the Future."

Any New Mexico resident now has free 24/7 access to popular electronic resource tools using "El Portal," the **New Mexico State Library's** new one-stop web page portal. El Portal's user-friendly access is available from any online connection - from home,

work, school, the library, and portable devices such as smart phones. Using Geo-IP authentication technology, it checks the IP address of the device used to access the resources and compares it to a database of all IPs known to originate within New Mexico. Once an IP address is validated as an IP address within New Mexico, El Portal's online resources can be accessed without being asked for any logon or password. For information on El Portal, email Mark Adams, State Library Access Services Librarian at mark.adams@state.nm.us.

MPLA member **LeAnn Weller** attended LOEX 2011 held at Fort Worth Texas on May 4-6 and described it as "exciting, informative, thought-provoking, and "edutaining"" LeAnn received a Professional Development Grant from MPLA to assist with her attendance. She says her "take-aways from the programs and the workshop can be summarized as au-

thentic assessment, better pedagogy, and cool stuff."

The Fastest Librarian in the West: **Health Sci-**



ences Library and Informatics Center (HSLIC) was recently named as first runner-up in a national video competition to promote information resources available through the National Library of Medicine (NLM). Its video, "The Fastest Librarian in the West," was filmed and produced entirely by HSLIC staff,

who also performed the music and did all the acting. The video will be highlighted on the NLM's web site and was shown at the Medical Library Association annual meeting in Minneapolis in mid-May. A link to the video on YouTube and a summary of this epic film follow: Tragedy strikes a pioneer couple in the Old West. Disaster is averted by the providential appearance of a mysterious stranger who uses the ultimate weapon - the most current biomedical information - to save the day. This powerful saga, filmed on location in Peralta, New Mexico, uses breath-taking scenery, hard charging steeds, heart-wrenching sufferings, sudden plot twists, and finely observed period costumes, to create a hopeful and life-affirming message - the ineluctable victory of knowledge over ignorance. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CpYvQAc8e4w>



At the opening ceremony for SALALM's 56th annual conference **Molly Molloy**, librarian at New Mexico State University, was honored with the 2011 Jose Toribio Medina Award. The award recognizes Molly's outstanding work with the **Frontera-List**. Victor Federico Torres, chair of the committee, noted that the list "has been hailed as the most comprehensive, up-to-date source of narco-related violence on the U.S.-Mexico Border" and used widely by congressional staff, US and Mexican human rights groups and many other Border observers. Torres added, "this electronic resource fills a much needed information gap on a subject of both scholarly research and binational concerns." Molly Molloy is well known, not only as a librarian committed to her immediate user constituency but also as human rights activist on Border issues. Her work has been featured by the *Wall Street Journal*, *In These Times*, and *National Public Radio*. Contact Jeanette Smith, NMSU Library, (575) 646-7492, jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu for more information.

The first annual *New Mexico Tribal Libraries Benefit Golf Tournament* will be held on Friday, July 22, 2011 at the Isleta Eagle Golf Course in Isleta, NM. This tournament will benefit New Mexico Tribal Libraries in continuing to provide library services, mate-

rials, and programs to their tribal communities. Contact Janice Kowemy at 505-552-6280, jkowemy@lagunatribe.org or Maureen Wacondo at 575-834-9171, mwacondo@yahoo.com for registration information, fees and deadlines.

North Dakota

North Dakota has become the sixth state to enter into a statewide online tutoring contract with Tutor.com. The local site is TutorND.com, where live tutors are available to help students of all ages, Sunday through Thursday, 6pm-10pm. There is also a resource library with homework help, test prep, and career resources available 24/7.



The **North Dakota State Library** partnered with the State Historical Society of North Dakota, the Morton Mandan Public Library, and the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library, to host a joint Summer Reading Kick-off Event on the State Capitol Grounds. The One World, Many Stories event marked the eighth year the Bismarck/Mandan kick-off was held here. Programming included readings by First Lady Betsy Dalrymple, Secretary of State Al Jaeger, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem;



songs and dances from around the world presented by the International Club of Bismarck-Mandan; live Shakespeare; peanut butter and jelly sandwiches; and a slew of other entertainments brought a wonderful turnout, despite the flooding Missouri River. Teeming hordes of local youths swarmed the stage when Miss Sparkles appeared at the Bismarck/Mandan Summer Reading Kickoff



Local sorcerer Steven Axtman entertained and bewildered children (Bismarck/Mandan Summer Reading Kickoff Event).



Rapsallions and scallywags visited the face painting station to adorn their cheeks with rockets (Bismarck/Mandan Summer Reading Kickoff) Photos by Adam Emter.

The **Dickinson Public Library** was named an affiliate library of FamilySearch, providing residents greater facility to do genealogical research.

The **Bismarck Public Library** began a program in which children can read to therapy dogs, to build their confidence and hone their literacy chops in a comforting, judgment-free environment. The program is called Bismarck Animals Reading with Kids (BARK).

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department partnered with the Central Dakota Library Network to allow public library card holders in Bismarck, Beulah, Garrison, Hazen, Max, Mandan, Riverdale, Stanton, Turtle Lake, Underwood, and Washburn to check out daily state park vehicle passes. The passes will allow patrons free access to any state park throughout the course of a week.

At the end of June, the **Minot Public Library**, **Gordon B. Olson Library - Minot State University**, and the **Velva School and Public Library** were closed due to record flooding of the Souris River. MPLA Past-President **Jerry Kaup** is the director of the Minot Public Library. See article on page

The 2011 NDLA Conference, “Librarians: Leadership for a New Decade,” is still scheduled for September 21-24, at the Grand International Inn in Minot. The program details and schedule will be posted soon—keep checking <http://www.ndlaonline.org/Conference/11conf.htm> for updates!

Funding matters throughout the state: Libri Foundation grants were awarded to the **Finley City Library** and the **New Rockford Public Library**. The Libiri grants were awarded for the purchase of children’s books. The **Griggs County Library** received funding from the P.E.O. Sisterhood to help cover the costs of automation. The **Stanton Public Library** has added a second public computer through a grant from the North Dakota State Library. The proposed 1% sales tax increase to fund a new building for the **Grand Forks Public Library** was voted down on May 3.

Oklahoma

The Friends of the Mustang Public Library raised \$30,000 to help buy a LED sign for the Town Center Complex. A local family foundation that asked to remain anonymous donated the last \$10,000 the group needed to meet its goal. The sign is a joint project with the city of Mustang, which also will pay about \$30,000. A 10-foot-by-4-foot double-faced electronic sign will alert passers-by to events sponsored by the Mustang Parks and Recreation Department, the Mustang Senior Center and the Mustang Public Library. The sign will be in front of the Town Center Complex. A variety of donors contributed to the fundraising campaign, including First National Bank and Trust, which donated \$10,000.

LaWalta “Wally” Turner was recently honored for her service to public libraries upon completion of her six-year term on Oklahoma Department of Libraries Board.

The **Oklahoma Department of Libraries** is sponsoring *Mission Critical Response and Recovery: Protecting Your Agency’s Essential Functions Before, During, and After an Emergency*, two days of training on Essential Records—July 20 and Emergency Planning and Response—July 21.

South Dakota

The flood that swept through Rapid City the night of June 9, 1972 left behind a path of destruction and changed the landscape of Rapid City forever. In commemoration of the 39th anniversary of the flood, the **Rapid City Public Library** hosted two events on June 9. The public was able to view the Library’s collection of flood information and online resources, talk to staff about the Oral Histories Project, look at enlarged before and after photos of areas impacted by the flood, check out the new Google Memory Map and add their own memories to the map. The Oral Histories Project is an effort to record

the memories and events of the night of the 1972 Flood, through the eyes and minds of those that experienced it first-hand, with recorded interviews and statements. Around 90 people attended. A panel discussion was held with Ronald W. and Lavonne Masters authors of *Some through the flood: A Story of one Family's Loss, Survival and Recovery from the 1972 Rapid City Flood*; Margaret Kavorik, a retired nurse who helped the DCI and managed incoming phone calls, DelRita Schouten who lost her home and everything inside it to the flood, and Charles Childs, a County Probation Officer who was involved in the rescue efforts and put in charge of the Missing Person/Body Identification process. 50 people attended the discussion and the question and answer session afterwards. The work of the Oral Histories Project is featured on the library's website. The website also includes the Dewall Collection, a large collection of digitally preserved transcripts and audio news broadcasts of the events of the night. The Library also hosts a Flood wiki that allows individuals to provide their own stories

and pictures by writing memories down in the wiki. The wiki also



features more than 100 pictures comparing the aftermath of the flood to the landscape 20 years later, comments from former mayor Don Barnett, and other reports from KOTA broadcasting. For the month of June the library had 3268 visits to the website and wiki pages.

The Friends of the Library for **Hot Springs Public Library** constructed a 30'x50' building. The new "Book Barn" will be home to the on-going book sales and also used for storage by the Library and the Friends.



The **Watertown Regional Library**, the Watertown Community Foundation, the Codington County Heritage Museum, the Boys & Girls Club, along with volunteers, sponsored a week-long History Camp for young historians in the community.

Dawn Johnson of the **Hot Springs Public Library** has attended & completed classes in Aberdeen, SD to attain her Certificate in Public Library Management

MPLA member **Marguerite Cullum**, director at the Custer County Library, retired June 24 with 30 years in the South Dakota Retirement System. Marguerite began working at the Custer School Library in early 1980 as a library aide and continued to work there for over 8 years. With a few assorted jobs in between, she then went on to work for the Custer county Library as its director in 1989 and continued for 22 years. She says she has loved seeing the library grow as well as the patrons who have come through the doors for story hour and are now returning as adults. Her accomplishments include expanding and automating



the Custer Library, adding a branch library on the eastern-side of the county in Hermosa, and most recently creating a foundation for the library. In August Marguerite will go on to yet another library in Custer County, joining the team at the Crazy Horse Memorial Library.

Doris Ann Mertz is the new Director of the Custer County Library. She and her family recently moved to Custer from the mountains of Northern Arizona. She was most recently employed as the library manager at Williams Elementary/Middle School and was active in various community service organizations in Williams.



Missouri River flooding left many displaced in South Dakota and other MPLA states. The South Dakota State Library and Rawlins Municipal Library in Pierre are high and dry, but many staff members in both Pierre and Ft. Pierre along with thousands of others have been displaced due to the flooding of the Missouri River. Super human efforts in both communities resulted in over a million sandbags being filled and placed, a series of levees built, and assistance provided to people needing to move completely out of their homes in a short period of time. The National Guard was called in along with additional law enforcement to provide traffic control as the levees were being built. As of June 20, the Oahe Dam at Pierre was releasing water at a rate of 160,000 cubic feet per second, which may continue to increase and remain high through mid-August. To view photos and videos of the flood areas in SD, visit http://www.disasterrecovery.sd.gov/flood_pics.aspx

Utah

As the **Utah** Shakespeare Festival celebrates its 50th season this year, the **Southern Utah University Gerald R. Sherratt Library** is hosting one of the first folios of William Shakespeare.

The **Salt Lake City Main Library** presented Nano Days, a free event to introduce children to nano-technology, the interdisciplinary field that explores ways to harness particles at the molecular level. Advances could lead to technologies to produce clean energy, treat diseases and many other economic drivers. Five scientists associated with the University of Utah's Nano Institute are participants. Demonstrations include memory wire, sand that can't get wet, and lasers that control nanoparticles, which are as small as a nanometer, or one-billionth of a meter. The Utah Museum of Natural History and the Leonardo are co-sponsoring the event.

From the **Salt Lake Tribune**: Parents of autistic children in Utah have a new refuge in a one-of-a-kind story time at the **Kearns Library**. Children's story hours are a regular feature for most libraries, but Special Needs Sensory Story Time at Kearns Library is the first in Utah created specifically for autistic children. The Kearns Library began the program it quietly built a following in the community. The Special Needs Sensory Story Time was created to give autistic children and their parents a place to go without worry. "Parents have trouble bringing their kids some places because they act out," said **Carrie Rogers-Whitehead**, a librarian at the Kearns Library and the creator of Special Needs Sensory Story Time. "They're afraid to bring their kids to library programs," she added. "Their kids might scream or run around. Then the moms will have to leave, and they're embarrassed." The program was designed after a similar one Rogers found in North Carolina. Special Needs Sensory Story Time engages as many senses as Rogers can incorporate. With every story, she uses music, pictures and items like beanbags and ribbons for the kids to touch. Engaging multiple senses is important, she said, because some autistic kids don't learn just by hearing. Rogers even incorporated two visuals to each story, the illustrations with her books and a board where she can act out parts of the story. "I think it's an emphasis on the visual and the tactile," Rogers said. "In a regular story time, I would just read the story and that would be it."

Wyoming

A unique art exhibit featuring photographs taken by people who were once blind but can now see because of a corneal transplant will be at **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** from June 30 through July 28. The exhibit is presented by the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank and is slated to tour Wyoming through the summer of 2011.

The **Teton County Library** invites parents and child care providers to learn how to get kids, ages birth-5, ready to succeed in school during two free June workshops, which will be presented in English and Spanish. Participants registered for the workshop will receive free copies of the books "Every Child Ready to Read" and "Every Child Ready for Math" by the Lee Pesky Learning Center and provided by the John P. Elloggen Foundation. The workshops are being presented as part of Systems of Education (SOE), a collaboration coordinated by the library and involving local schools and non-profits who share a common vision for the academic success of students in Teton County.

Several new faces have appeared at the library circulation desk of the **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library**. **Adam Benson** has added to his library responsibilities. On mornings, he works as the Foundation Assistant and on afternoons, he's at the circulation desk. **Anna Veinbergs** is returning to the library after a year working in the Washington DC area. Anna formerly worked at the Information Services desk at Fulmer Library. New to the library are **Crystal Valentine** and **Elisa Robbins**.

In May the **Teton County Library** and the Latino community celebrated "carnaval" with traditional dance from the Mexican state of Tlaxcala. Thirty dancers and musicians performed traditional dance, born out of 17th Century Mexico when wealthy European landowners refused to allow the native Mexican Indians access to their social parties and dances. Following the traditional style of performing in several locations in their neighborhoods, the group also performed at other venues throughout Jackson.

Congratulations are in order for two **Campbell County Public Library System** staff members. **Jackie Darnall** recently retired from CCPL after 30 years of service. She was one of the original employees at the present library in Gillette and managed the Circulation Department for the last 25 years. **Rebecca Steffen** was selected as Darnall's replacement as CCPL Circulation Department Manager. Steffen has worked at CCPL since 2008 as a Youth Services Specialist and prior to that served as Circulation Librarian at Rapid City Public Library in Rapid City, SD. She completed her Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Alabama in 2009. Steffen is a member of the Wyoming Library Association and the Mountain Plains Library Association.



Rebecca Steffen



Jackie Darnall

The Laramie County Library System in Cheyenne has a Facebook page "Laramie County Library Teens."



Photo from National Free Comic Book Day at the Library

Severe Flooding Impacts Minot Public Library North Dakota

Reported by Jerry Kaup, Library Director

The Minot Public Library closed Tuesday, June 21 and will be closed for at least two to three weeks because of the historic flood we are having in Minot.

The Corps of Engineers diked in all infrastructure which includes the Library and the City hall complex across the street from us. The dike on the west side of the library is about 15 - 16 foot high and the dike to the north and east will be about 5 to 8 feet high.

As a precaution and all contents were moved from the lower level and the first floor to the second floor and the west mezzanine as a fall back if the dike should fail. The bad news is that the library basement began taking on a lot of water early June 27. Luckily we had the National Guard monitoring and removing water from a leak. While they were there water began coming up the elevator shaft very rapidly. The water pressure from the river force the water in.

The Guard Sergeant gave me a call immediately about 1:00 AM and I called Dan J, assistant public works director, to meet at the public library with guard officers. Dan coordinated bring in large pumps to pump water from the elevator shaft. The National Guard Guys set up the large pumps and we were pumping in 1 1/2 hours. The basement got about 2 to 3 inches of water but after the pumps went into action the water began to go down. The pumps are keeping the water down and the guard is monitoring the pumps 24/7.

It could have been worse if we had not removed all of the contents to the 2nd floor. The water will be high for a week to two weeks. Besides the National Guard we had staff and volunteers who wet vacuumed the water which was leaking into the exit door on the lower level.

We have been very focused on recovery although many of the areas of the city are still flooded. The dike at the Library and our proactive stance in monitoring the basement saved the library from having substantial damage. Not that we did not have damage in the basement. Had we not monitored the basement it would have filled with water and potentially have threatened the first floor level of the library.

We began seeking bids for immediate cleanup and accepted a bid from SERVPRO to remove flood damaged sheet rock, insulation and carpet and disinfect the basement. They began their work on Friday, July 9th and as of Monday July 11 will have all of the physical damage removed. The basement will be disinfected later this week.



The Souris River flood waters begin to surround the Minot Public Library and in Minot, North Dakota, USA 23 June, 2011. Reports state that nearly 11,000 residents have evacuated. T



Cris Bieri/MDN • Since flooding began, the Minot Public Library has had water seeping into the basement in the southwest corner of the building. Volunteers are still needed to work the affected areas.

continued on next page

Severe Flooding Minot *continued:*

SERVPRO was very complimentary of actions taken by staff, volunteers, City Staff and the National Guard to save the basement from inundation. They indicated that our building was one of the few that kept water at check and humidity below saturation levels. We had around the clock removal of water and an enclosed system of circulation air in the basement. Mechanical air circulation in that portion of the building was completely locked down so air from the basement would not penetrate the rest of the building and the air duct work. We were able to maintain temperatures in the basement between 67 and 70 degrees for two weeks which kept mold to a minimum. Water is still up on the sides of the dikes while damaged material is being removed.

Prior to the flooding we already had an initial contact with SERVPRO. During the week flooding began National SERVPRO crews inspected the basement as well as two other companies that gave us a bids the following week. The Minot Public Library was one of the first buildings in the community to begin removal of damage.

We hope to have the library opened by this weekend to bring some more normalcy back to the community. Staff and volunteers have been moving books back to the first floor children's library since Thursday, July 7 with the approval of the Emergency Operation Council.

I served on the Emergency Operations Council as an assistant public information officer until the library started taking on water in the basement on June 23. I am still attending morning meetings with the EOC and have been able to communicate with City Staff, Corps of Engineers and National Guard to get assistance during this long flood event. Having direct communications at the EOC to me has been very beneficial for the library and keeping informed.

Below are just a few photos of the library which made state and national media.

And now for the good news..... It is not raining.



National Guard Soldiers pass sandbags to add to a clay levy around the Minot Public Library near the Souris River in downtown Minot, North Dakota June 24, 2011. Federal officials sharply increased plans to release more water on the swollen Souris River on Thursday, adding up to three feet to the expected peak of flooding at Minot, North Dakota, where thousands of homes already have been evacuated.





REFORMA's 40th Anniversary and 4th Annual Conference will be celebrated in Denver. The four day event September 15 – 18, 2011 is expected to draw over 500 participants.

The theme for this conference is “Elevating Latino Services to a Higher Level: Juntos in the Mile High City!” RNCIV will offer a multitude of opportunities, including timely and informative pre-conference seminars, author readings, continuing education workshops, enlightening panel discussions, vendor exhibits and fun pachangas!

Established in 1971 as an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA), REFORMA has actively sought to promote the development of library collections to include Spanish-language and Latino oriented materials; the recruitment of more bilingual and bicultural library professionals and support staff; the development of library services and programs that meet the needs of the Latino community; the establishment of a national information and support network among individuals who share our goals; the education of the U.S. Latino population in regards to the availability and types of library services; and lobbying efforts to preserve existing library resource centers serving the interests of Latinos.

For program and registration information see <http://www.reforma.org/content.asp?pl=6&sl=37&contentid=37>.

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





MPLA Board & Staff

The MPLA Newsletter is published by-monthly Online by the Mountain Plains Library Association at <http://www.mpla.us/documents/newsletter/index.html>

ISSN 0145-6180

Material of regional interest may be submitted to:

Judy Zelenski, Editor
MPLA Newsletter
14293 West Center Drive
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
(303) 985-7795
editor@mpla.us

Submissions:

Copy deadlines for articles, news, information, advertisements, and other copy:

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

Advertising:

There is no charge to MPLA personal or institutional members for classified advertising. Non-members are charged \$1.25/line. Display advertisement copy rates are available from the Editor (see address above).

MPLA Membership:

Matters pertaining to individual or institutional membership and address changes, and claims or orders for back issues should be sent to:

Judy Zelenski
Executive Secretary
14293 West Center Drive
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
(303) 985-7795
execsecretary@mpla.us

President
Dana Braccia
Scottsdale Public Library System
3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85258
(480) 312-7949
dbraccia@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

Vice-President/President-Elect
JaNae Kinikin
Weber State University Stewart Library
2901 University Circle
Ogden, UT 84408-2901
801-626-6093
jkikin@weber.edu

Past President & Chair, Administration Committee
Elvita Landau
Brookings Public Library
515 Third St.
Brookings, SD 57006
(605) 692-9407
elandau@sdl.n

Recording Secretary
Royce Kitts
Washburn University Library
1700 SW College Ave
Topeka, KS 66621
(785) 670-1010
roycekitts@gmail.com

Awards Committee
Steven D. Decker
Cedar City Public Library
303 North 100 East
Cedar City, UT 84720
(435) 586-6661 x1001
dsteve@cedarcity.org

Communications Committee
Kathryn Plunkett
Southeastern Oklahoma State University Henry G. Bennett Memorial Library
1405 N. 4th Ave PMB 4105
Durant, OK 74701
(580) 745-2302
kplunkett@se.edu

Leadership Institute Committee
Dan Stanton, Co-Chair
Arizona State University Libraries
P. O. Box 871006
Tempe, AZ 85287
(480) 965-1798
danton@asu.edu

Adriane Juarez, Co-Chair
Salt Lake City Public Library
Day-Riverside Library
1575 West 1000 North
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
(801)661.0457
ajuarez@slcpl.org

Membership Committee
Brenda Hemmelmán
South Dakota State Library
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
(605) 773-5075
brenda.hemmelmán@state.sd.us

Nominating Committee
Michael C. Mullin
Watertown Regional Library
160 6th Street NE
Watertown, SD 57201
(605) 882-6226
mmullin@sdl.n

Professional Development Committee
Lori Phillips
University of Wyoming Libraries
1000 E. University Dept 3334
Laramie, WY 82071
(307) 766-3859
lpil@uwyo.edu

Webmaster
Dan Chaney
Oklahoma State University
306 Edmon Low Library
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74075
(405) 744-9772
dan.chaney@okstate.edu

Technical Assistant to Webmaster
Roy Degler
Oklahoma State University
Edmon Low Library
215A Edmon Low Library
Stillwater, OK 74078
(405) 744-6541
roy.degler@okstate.edu

Executive Secretary
Judy Zelenski
14293 W. Center Drive
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
(303) 985-7795
execsecretary@mpla.us



State Representatives

Arizona
Julie Huelsbeck
Mohave County Library
julie.huelsbeck@co.mohave.az.us

Colorado
Mary Katherine Katzer
Marmot Library Network
mk@marmot.org

Kansas
Dan Ireton
Kansas State University
dli6873@k-state.edu

Montana
Norma Glock
Columbus High School
nglock@cablemt.net

Nebraska
Theresa Jehlik
Omaha Public Library
tjehlik@omahapubliclibrary.org

Nevada
Ellen Fockler
efockler@gmail.com

New Mexico
LeAnn Weller
University of New Mexico
Valencia Campus Library
wellerleann@yahoo.com

North Dakota
Eric Strohane
North Dakota State Library
estrohane@nd.gov

Oklahoma
Basha Hartley
Norman Public Library
basha@pls.lib.ok.us

South Dakota
Michael C. Mullin
Watertown Regional Library
mmullin@sdl.n

Utah
Dorothy Horan
Family History Library
Horandm@familysearch.org

Wyoming
Deborah McCarthy
University of Wyoming Libraries
mccarthy@uwyo.edu

MPLA MEMBERSHIP

Join Online at

<http://www.mpla.us/forms/membership.html>

or Print and Return form below

Special! 1/2 Price New Member Offer

New personal members calculate dues below, then reduce them by 50%

DUES SCHEDULE

(Membership is for calendar year)

PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP - Open to anyone interested in library services. _____ up to \$29,999 - \$40;
_____ \$30,000 - \$49,999 - \$55; _____ over \$50,000 - \$65

RETIREE _____ \$15/yr. **STUDENT** _____ \$15/yr. **TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP** _____ \$15/yr.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP - For Libraries, Business Firms, and other Institutions supporting the Association. Institutional members receive FREE advertising for job openings in the newsletter! Membership fee is based on total annual budget. Institutional Members receive one free personal membership as well.

_____ Under \$100,000 \$50/yr _____ \$300,000-499,999 \$100/yr
_____ \$100,000-\$299,999 \$75/yr _____ \$500,000- up \$125/yr

Name _____ New _____

Position/Title _____ Renewal _____

Institution _____

Address to appear in Directory _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mailing Address if different from above _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Primary Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

I am interested in serving on the following committee(s) ___ Awards ___ Communications
___ Leadership Institute ___ Nominating ___ Professional Development ___ Membership

___ I am willing to be nominated for an MPLA office

For information on paying by credit card, go to the MPLA Website online form

at <http://www.mpla.us/forms/membership.html>
Mail to: MPLA; Judy Zelenski, Executive Secretary; 14293 West Center Drive; Lakewood, CO 80228