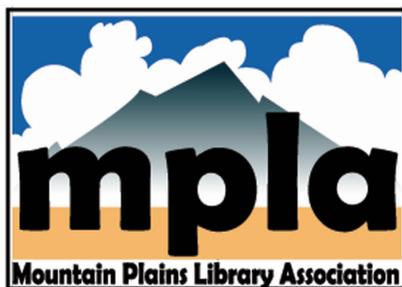


*Big Horizons*



*Close Community*

# Newsletter

October 2011

[www.mpla.us](http://www.mpla.us)

Volume 56 #1

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## MPLA Leadership Institute Reunion at Ghost Ranch



*Past Leadership Institute Fellows: Back row l-r: Harry Willems, Terri Pedersen Summey, Britton Lund, Mary Tuytschaevers, Mary Katherine Katzer, Janet Brennan Croft, Ara Anderson, Jean Hatfield, Micaela Ayers, Mickey Coalwell; front row l-r: Debbie Iverson, Jane Hatch, Jane Kolbe, Valerie Nye*

*See story and more photos on page 4*

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

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# President's Message

## Breathe In Digital With The Ten-Day Digital Diet Challenge

Michael Hart, founder of Project Gutenberg, died on September 6, 2011 at the age of 64. Following is an excerpt from his [obituary](#)- written Dr. Gregory B. Newby, CEO of the Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation and granted to the public domain:

Hart was best known for his 1971 invention of electronic books, or eBooks. He founded Project Gutenberg, which is recognized as one of the earliest and longest-lasting online literary projects. He often told this story of how he had the idea for eBooks. He had been granted access to significant computing power at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. On July 4 1971, after being inspired by a free printed copy of the U.S. Declaration of Independence, he decided to type the text into a computer, and to transmit it to other users on the computer network. From this beginning, the digitization and distribution of literature was to be Hart's life's work, spanning over 40 years...In July 2011, Michael wrote these words, which summarize his goals and his lasting legacy: "One thing about eBooks that most people haven't thought much is that eBooks are the very first thing that we're all able to have as much as we want other than air. Think about that for a moment and you realize we are in the right job."

As a tribute to Hart, I'm taking my relationship with digital materials to a new level. Starting on 10/10/11 – I'm going on a 10-DAY DIGITAL DIET. For ten days I'll get all of my content in a digital fashion - books, audiobooks, morning newspaper, music, recipes, TV shows, blogs, twitter, podcasts -the works! Total immersion. Of course I'll be using my library for a lot of content, but I also hope to discover new favorites (I still remember when Dorothy Horan, our MPLA State Rep from Utah got me hooked on Hulu). If you have tips – let me know at [dbraccia@scottsdaleaz.gov](mailto:dbraccia@scottsdaleaz.gov). I'll share the keepers on the MPLA blog.

By October 20th, odds are I'll be returning to some things that I just outright prefer in a physical format. However, I'll have dramatically increased my digital fluency and repertoire. This is especially important considering the new [report out from ALA Office for Information Technology Policy](#) that explores how emerging technologies combined with challenges, such as financial constraints as well as shifts in the nature and needs of library users, require libraries to evolve rapidly and make strategic decisions today that will influence their future for decades to come. According to ALA President Roberta Stevens, "Such changes present many new opportunities for serving the public as well as challenges in how to best serve them."

If you've been looking for an excuse to plunge in, then join in and share your experiences on the [MPLA blog or facebook page](#).

--Dana



# MPLA Leadership Institute 2012

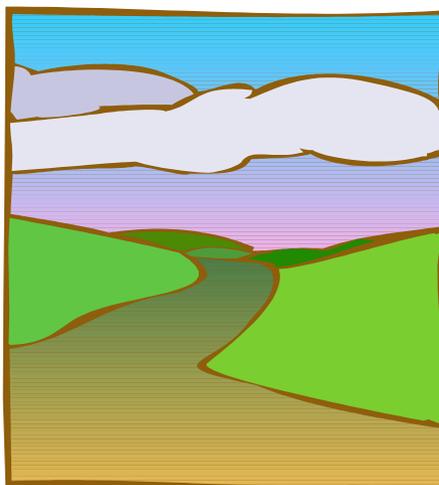
## Deadline for Applications: November 1, 2011

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. 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 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



Find guidelines and link to application form: <http://www.mpla.us/leadership/index.html>. 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. Cost: The cost \$650 for state association members without a current MPLA membership; or \$550 for those who are also MPLA members. Cost includes double room, all meals, facilitation and materials. Participants are responsible for transportation.

For more information contact Judy Zelenski: [execsecretary@mpla.us](mailto:execsecretary@mpla.us); Dan Stanton: [danton@asu.edu](mailto:danton@asu.edu); or Adriane Juarez: [ajuarez@slcpl.org](mailto:ajuarez@slcpl.org).

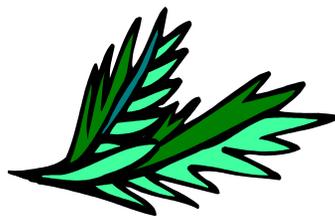
# MPLA Leadership Institute Reunion at Ghost Ranch

*by Debbie Iverson*

Ten graduates and four mentors gathered at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, NM from August 19 – 21. Those present (Jean Hatfield, Debbie Iverson, Harry Willems, Terri Pedersen Summey, Britton Lund, Jane Hatch, Mary Tuytschaevers, Mary Katherine Katzer, Janet Brennan Croft, Jane Kolbe, Ara Anderson, Val Nye, Micaela Ayers and Mickey Coalwell) represented attendance at the MPLA Leadership Institute in 2003, 2005, 2006 or 2007. Debbie Iverson and Jane Kolbe coordinated a brief program on Saturday morning. It was wonderful to catch up on career changes and advances, publications in the works and available for purchase, education in process, location changes, retirements and other news. The MPLA Leadership Institute clearly has had influence in the personal and professional lives of those who were able to attend. The remainder of the time was available to enjoy the company, trails and scenery.



The reunion was organized by Mary Tuytschaevers (Hobbs, NM). Another reunion is being considered for 2014 or 2015. Leadership Institute Fellows, find photos and comments on Facebook and share your thoughts about the schedule and location for another reunion.



**THANK YOU to the Emporia State University Graduate School of Library and Information Management for their contribution to the MPLA 2012 Leadership Institute**





## 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. Seen from above, the desert is a dry, barren wasteland. As the tray tables and seatbacks go up into their locked positions (you are in an airplane, aren't you?), the seemingly unending palette of browns gives way to swaths of lush green golf courses and bright turquoise oases.*

*Transformation. Just add water...*

Dear Dry Heat,

I've been working in a library for about 10 years and am interested in having some influence on how things happen in my organization. I may (or may not) supervise anyone, and I may (or may not) be in charge of units or services, and I may (or may not) have an MLS degree. How can I become a leader without having any real leadership opportunities?

Sincerely,

Motivated Person, Leadership Ambition

Dear MPLA,

First of all, you are good enough, you are smart enough, and dog gone it, sometimes you have to make the leap!

Now, the first key to leadership is getting the lead out... That's 'Lead' – Pb, Atomic Number 82, rhymes with Dead and Head. It's h-e-a-v-y and it's often used to weigh things down and keep them in place. You may feel like you're wearing it at work - a side effect of the hierarchy and/or standard operating procedure of the workplace. You've got some good ideas, but you don't have the authority to make changes, or you're limited by your 'position' and want to contribute at a higher level. And maybe you don't feel like anyone is looking out for your best interests, or and there aren't any opportunities for you to completely dive in yourself.

Just what is Leadership? - Management? Being in Charge? Making decisions? These can all be part of leadership, but aren't necessarily the defining factor. Leadership is all about influencing other people, hopefully (but not necessarily) in a positive, productive direction. To paraphrase Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart, 'Leadership is hard to define, but we know it when we see it.'

Somehow the word 'leader' has come to mean the person at the top, from whence all direction/power/responsibility flows. This is true to some extent; we would hope the person at the top has the ability to engage his people (leading) to action through trust, understanding, opportunity, and recognition. The 'followers' do better because their leader has given them reason to believe. But really, there is opportunity for leadership in every position at every level. And, for individuals in various contexts of their lives. Whoa! Deep...

Because leaders seek to influence people (who you may have noticed, are not a homogenous bunch) in an endless variety of situations, the most effective leaders are aware of themselves and others and have knowledge of options to choose from to achieve the desired results. Leaders aren't born, nor are they created through exposure to theory and case studies; leaders succeed through constant awareness and effort of what it takes to get others on board and active.

So, my friend, you've come to the right place! MPLA has an incredible opportunity for people who are interested in learning about themselves, librarianship, human nature, communication, and a whole slew of pragmatic approaches to leadership. 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

*continued on next page*

## But It's a Dry Heat - continued

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

**Deadline for MPLA 2012  
Leadership Institute  
Applications is  
November 1, 2011.**

**Application format online link  
from [http://www.mpla.us/  
leadership/index.html](http://www.mpla.us/leadership/index.html).**

Transformation. Just add opportunity...



New Mexico State University | Doña Ana Community College

# LIBRARY SCIENCE PROGRAM



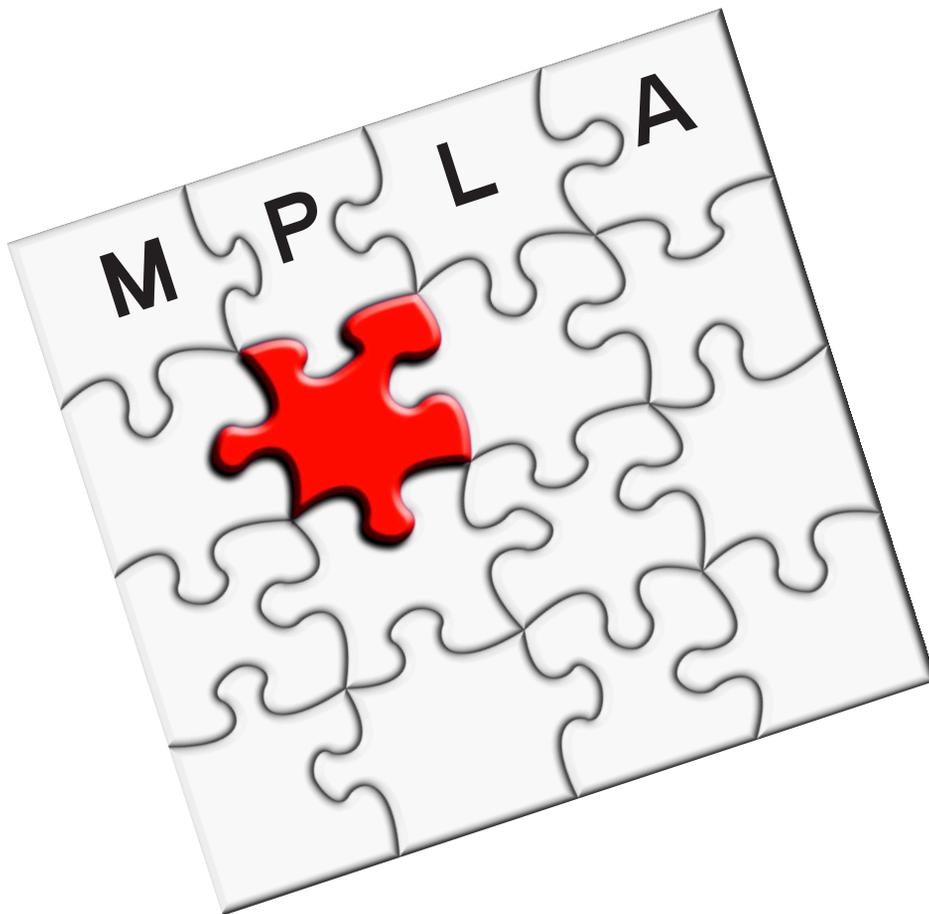
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email: [spinkert@nmsu.edu](mailto:spinkert@nmsu.edu)



**YOU**  
are a key  
piece of the  
**MPLA Puzzle**  
during the  
**2011**  
**Membership**  
**Rally!**

From October 2011 through January 2012, here's a throw down to see which state can get greatest percentage of increase in new and renewed members.

What's at stake here? The winning state will get big time bragging rights and BIG recognition at the next conference. What else, you ask? The names of all of those new and renewed members from the winning state will go into a hat for a FREE 2012 MPLA conference registration and other REALLY COOL PRIZES.

And did we mention...one LIBRARY from the winning state is going to get some VIP treatment.

Look for prize details on our [Facebook](#) page. Thanks to our awesome sponsor BWI for their support of the Rally! So go [online](#) and join or renew today AND get your same state friends to join too (they get ½ off the first year!)

*Public Library Specialists*

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# Seymour's Story



Seymour became a member of the St. John's College Meem Library staff in November 2010, and this mel-low black Labrador retriever is now a much beloved member of the college community. Seymour, an assistance dog from the non-profit organization Assistance Dogs of the West, is available for cuddling in his designated area whenever his certified handler, Library Director Jennifer Sprague is working in the library.

St. John's College in Santa Fe does not allow pets on campus, but Jennifer thought a community dog would be a healthy stress-reliever for everyone. After some persistent persuasion, the college administration approved Jen-

nifer's proposal. She then began the application process with Assistance Dogs of the West. After Jennifer "interviewed" with a few dogs, ADW Founder Jill Felice matched Seymour with Jennifer.

Seymour had already participated in two years of training through ADW, but Jennifer needed to learn how work with Seymour. The pair did two weeks of training with the ADW staff, culminating in their public access test, which requires the two to work seamlessly together: Seymour has to remain sitting when being pet by the public, maintain his focus on Jennifer in the midst of noisy distractions, ignore food and other enticing smells, etc. The two passed and will take the test annually to maintain their public access.

Seymour's calm disposition and fondness for affection make him a wonderful addition to Meem Library. Students, faculty, staff, and children of college employees all enjoy spending time petting Seymour. Whenever Jennifer visits other offices on campus, Seymour attracts lots of attention. This fall Seymour will also provide extra support for the college's international students during an EFL class Jennifer will be teaching. He is happy to spread love and joy wherever he goes!

Jennifer is a past participant of the MPLA Leadership Institute.



---

# MPLA Members Publish Book on Censorship

MPLA members **Valerie Nye** and **Kathy Barco** are editors of ALA Editions new book *True Stories of Censorship Battles in America's Libraries*. The collection

- Tells the stories of several librarians who withstood difficult circumstances to champion intellectual freedom
- Touches on prickly issues such as age-appropriateness, some librarians' temptation to preemptively censor, sensitive cultural expressions, and criminality in the library
- Presents case studies of defenses that were unsuccessful, so librarians facing similar challenges can learn from these defeats

**Valerie Nye** is the library manager at Santa Fe University of Art and Design's Fogelson Library. She previously worked as a library consultant at the New Mexico State Library, where she started researching and presenting trainings on intellectual freedom and banned books. Nye earned her MLIS from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She has coauthored two guide books with Kathy Barco, and one literary research guide with R. Neil Scott, *Postmarked Milledgeville: A Guide to Flannery O'Connor's Correspondence in Libraries and Archives*. Nye is a trustee on the board of the New Mexico Library Foundation.

**Kathy Barco** is currently a children's librarian with Albuquerque's public library. She was youth services coordinator at the New Mexico State Library from 2001 to 2006. Barco earned her MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi. She contributed to *Thinking Outside the Book: Essays for Innovative Librarians* and wrote the foreword to *Librarians As Community Partners: An Outreach Handbook*. Barco's *READiscover New Mexico: A Tri-Lingual Adventure in Literacy* won a New Mexico Book Award. She is on the board of the New Mexico Library Foundation and received the New Mexico Library Association's Leadership Award in 2006.



## ***Instruction Article One of Top Twenty for 2010***

A journal article by New Mexico State University Library faculty member and instruction coordinator **Theresa Westbrook** has been selected nationally as one of the top twenty articles on library instruction for 2010. Her article "Proficiencies for Instruction Librarians: Is There Still a Disconnect Between Professional Education and Professional Responsibilities?" written with Sarah Fabian of Eastern Michigan University, was published in *College & Research Libraries* (November 2010): 569-590. It was among more than two hundred articles evaluated by the Top 20 Committee of the American Library Association's Instruction Round Table (LIRT). The Committee noted that Westbrook's article exemplified its criteria of quality writing, useful research and stimulating ideas. In 1993, Diana Schonrock and Craig Mulder investigated the Association of College and Research Libraries' (ACRL) proficiencies for instruction librarians. Westbrook and Fabian revisited the earlier study and sought to answer four questions: (1) Are the current ACRL Proficiencies for Instruction Librarians perceived to be relevant to practitioners? (2) Where are librarians acquiring these proficiencies? (3) Where do librarians think they should acquire these proficiencies? (4) Are librarians acquiring these proficiencies in library school nowadays more often than they did in 1993? The authors found that the proficiencies remain relevant to the practice of librarianship, but that librarians are more apt to acquire these proficiencies outside of library school. Moreover, the individual proficiencies are at least as important as the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards. Since librarians, in general, do not acquire teaching skills in library school, library administrators would do well to provide opportunities for continuing, professional education for instructional staff. Visit the June 2011 LIRT Newsletter at <http://fleetwood.baylor.edu/lirt/lirtnews/2011/jun11.pdf> (pp. 14-19) for an annotated list of the Top 20 articles.

# Indie eBooks Purchased for Library Loans

The Library eBook Partnership between the Colorado Independent Publishers Association (CIPA) and the Douglas County Libraries (DCL) in Colorado reached a milestone recently—the first round of ebooks have been checked out by library patrons and checks are going in the mail to independently published authors who sold their ebooks to the library!

“The goal was to ensure that DCL is able to purchase quality independently published ebooks for their ebook program,” said Miller. “Fortunately CIPA already had an awards program in place. For the past 14 years, CIPA’s competitive annual book award program, the CIPA EVVYs, has recognized books that meet and exceed the high standards set by the organization. Awards are made in any of the 21 categories only when a book meets the point criteria for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place recognition.”

The CIPA EVVY winners are selected by panels of judges who are experts in their field. They include teachers, business leaders, literary critics, writers, book-lovers, editors, graphic designers, and many more. These impartial judges may not be a CIPA member and must also pass a rigorous qualification process.

For the first two rounds of submissions in the indie ebook pilot program, only CIPA EVVY award-winning books by current members were accepted. The submission process for additional titles is now open to CIPA EVVY award-winning books by authors who are not CIPA members. Preliminary conversations also are being held with affiliated non-profit independent publishing organizations that have a history of annual book awards for quality titles.

“This may sound like a simple undertaking,” but it wasn’t,” said Dr. C. Daniel Miller, CIPA president. “We’re thrilled that the resulting system is working and the first round of ebook submissions have all been checked out and most have a waiting list! The library district’s Digital Rights Management software ensures that the “one title, one user” model is followed.”

Both CIPA and the Douglas County Library System had major tasks to implement the partnership, including

- ✓ Identifying and soliciting quality independently published ebooks in the ePub format
- ✓ Providing an online “opt-in” process to verify CIPA EVVY submissions
- ✓ Creating secure online submission of metadata, cover, ePub files
- ✓ Applying DRM to protect the authors’ rights and manage library loans
- ✓ Creating a library cataloging and loan process
- ✓ Setting up a purchase mechanism

For more information:

Mary Walewski; [mary@buythebookmarketing.com](mailto:mary@buythebookmarketing.com)



# Over the Rainbow in Oklahoma

by Wayne Hanway, Executive Director, Southeastern Public Library System Oklahoma

On July 12<sup>th</sup>, something wonderful happened in Stigler, Oklahoma. As a crowd of people watched, a seven-year-old girl costumed as Glinda, the good witch from the Wizard of Oz, stood on a chair behind the Stigler Public Library's customer service desk so that she could reach the microphone of a portable PA system, and sang "Over the Rainbow", without accompaniment.

The little girl did an excellent, though not flawless job, and the crowd, who had come for the grand opening of the library's new building, responded with warm applause. It was a poignant moment that symbolized the fulfillment of a long-time dream and a big step forward in the library's ability to meet the community's needs.

For many years, the little building that the Stigler Public Library occupied had been an embarrassment. Far too small, an awful example of bad library design, poorly maintained, with a roof that leaked like a sieve, and (as a result of the leaks), with its north wall loaded with mold inside and out, it cried out for replacement.

The need was obvious. The problem was what to do about it. Stigler's city manager, Pete Bass, was aware of the need and took a bold step. He used city funds to purchase an empty downtown store, located right on Main Street. The Southeastern Public Library System's executive director, Wayne Hanway, wrote a building program and served as building consultant. A steering committee was formed, fund raising began, and architects' proposals for remodeling the old store were invited. Then, on October 1, 2008, Pete died from a heart attack.

An architect's proposal was selected, with a browsing area centered on a fireplace as a key feature, but the interim city manager was among those who felt that the estimated cost of converting the old store was more than could be raised in a small rural community in a time of recession.

His answer, supported by the steering committee, was to let an interested merchant have the downtown building and instead convert the city's community center building, less than a block from the current library and long underutilized, into a library. Although smaller than the downtown store, it still was more than twice the size of the old library, and in good condition, so that it could be remodeled for far less than the old store downtown.

The architect switched gears and produced an excellent plan for the building. A friends of the library group was formed



and an energetic and highly successful fund raising campaign was launched. Interior demolition at the community center building was done by city employees and the roof was completely overhauled. With this already in progress, the city was perfectly positioned to apply for a \$100,000 rural infrastructure stimulus grant from the USDA, and they got it.

For Lola Hill, who has been Head Librarian of the Stigler library for twenty-five years, the new building is certainly "Over the Rainbow" from the old, moldy, severely cramped building she endured. She now has a meeting

*continued on next page*

**Over the Rainbow, continued  
from page 12**

room, a heritage room, a genealogy room, more public computers, a teen area, a good customer service desk (another library's old desk, refinished), two small group study rooms, and a lot more shelving (most of it surplus after another library's remodeling). And the library has an attractive adult reading area centered around a fireplace.

By using an existing building, already owned by the city, doing fund raising with energy, enthusiasm, and a can-do attitude, receiving the USDA grant, going with surplus furniture and equipment, getting the cabling and other technical work done by the Southeastern Public Library System, and using city workers as much as possible for demolition, painting, etc., the total cost of Stigler's building project was an estimated half-million dollars less than the initial \$900,000 cost projection for the old store downtown. Stigler's success is an example of how a good 7,000 sq. ft. library can become a reality.

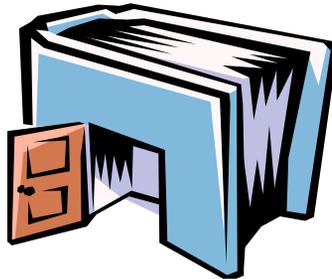


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membership.html](http://www.mpla.us/forms/membership.html)**

# Welcome New MPLA Members



## Arizona

Daphne Gill  
Library Supervisor, Sr., Arizona State  
University Noble Science &  
Engineering Library  
Tempe, AZ

## Nebraska

Matthew Couch  
Library Specialist, Omaha Public  
Library Saddlebrook Branch  
Omaha, NE

Andrew Sherman  
IT Coordinator,  
Sump Memorial Library  
Papillion, NE

Brian Maass  
Masters Student, University of  
Missouri  
Bellevue, NE

## Utah

Kay Lundstrom  
Reference and Instruction Librarian,  
Utah State University Merrill-Cazier  
Library  
Logan, UT

Aaron Nelson  
Student, Emporia State University  
Utah Cohort,  
Brigham City, UT

## MPLA Professional Development Grants Application

### Remaining Deadlines 2011

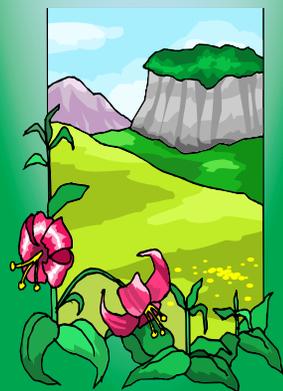
October 5  
December 7

**MPLA members for  
current and past year may  
apply for mini-grants  
(\$150)**

**MPLA members for  
current and past two years  
may apply for regular  
grants (\$600)**

**For complete information  
and eligibility  
requirements see**

**[http://www.mpla.us/  
committees/profdev/  
grants.html](http://www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grants.html)**



# Around the Region

## Arizona

The **Irish Cultural Center** in Phoenix, Arizona is adding a research library in the form of a medieval castle. The \$3.5 million project will see a three-storey, 15,000 square foot library installed at the center which will include ramparts, parapets and bulwarks. As well as offering Irish cultural classes and workshops, the facility will house more than 6,000 books and a large performance space. Once finished, it will be donated to the City of Phoenix.

The **Arizona State University Libraries** hosted a National Exhibition on 1961 Freedom Riders. The national traveling exhibition “*Freedom Riders*”, looks at six months in 1961 when more than 400 Americans — old and young, black and white, men and women, Northern and Southern — risked their lives to challenge segregated facilities in the South. The exhibition is a companion to the May 2011 PBS broadcast of the *American Experience* film *Freedom Riders*, directed by Stanley Nelson. The exhibition, created by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and PBS’s flagship history series, *American Experience*, is funded through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The ASU Libraries is one of twenty sites nationwide selected to host the “Freedom Riders” exhibition.

An Arizona Centennial exhibit can be viewed at the **Prescott Downtown Library**. This exhibit, which is 42 feet long, 15 feet high and 4 feet deep, contains a timeline placing artifacts from the Smoki and Sharlot Hall Museums



into context within Prescott’s history.

A grant from the Arizona Humanities Council will allow the **San Luis Library** to host *Authors Across America*, a three-month interactive book club that will expose youths to the writings of Carol Lynch Williams, Alane Ferguson and Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez. The youth participants will read books by each of the writers, then gather at the library to discuss the authors’ works with them over the Internet.

**Dana Braccia**, MPLA President, has a new position. She is now Content & Digital Communities Manager for the Scottsdale Public Library. In her new role she will be focusing on Scottsdale’s digital initiatives including building a strong network with community partners and content producers to increase the contribution to and use of the library’s digital collections. She will also provide support to the library’s social networking efforts to promote opportunities for users to share and develop content as well as oversee the purchasing and management of online resources.

## Colorado

**Tiffany Wick** joins the MPLA Board in late October as Colorado Representative. Tiffany is a Public Services/Reference Librarian at the Leslie J. Savage Library at Western State College of Colorado in Gunnison, Colorado. She has four years experience in public and academic libraries. In addition to staffing the information desk and virtual chat at the Leslie J. Savage Library, Tiffany manages resource sharing, the library’s presence on social networking websites, and work study student supervision. She is also liaison to the Natural and Environmental Sciences department. Tiffany has worked at the Gunnison Public District Library as a Library Technician, assisting patrons with reader advisory and access to materials and interlibrary resource sharing. She is currently serving on the Prospector Document Delivery Com-



mittee, Marmot Access Services Task Force and Mountain Plains Library Association Communication Committee. Tiffanie is pursuing her MLIS from the School of Library and Information Science at San Jose State University and will graduate December, 2011. She holds a B.A. degree in biology from Western State College of Colorado.

The **High Plains Library District**, in partnership with several local municipalities and businesses opened ten new computer centers throughout the District's 4,000 square mile service area. The Computer Centers are an exciting extension of library service that will provide residents with free access to the Internet as well as computer training. Professional staff will be offering various levels of computer training on topics such as: basic computer skills, how to find a job online and how to research health information. The High Plains Library District represents 9 of the 76 communities in the State of Colorado who received funds from the Broadband Technology Opportunity Project grant in order to bridge Colorado's great digital divide. The District serves a large portion of rural resident who have limited or no access to high speed broadband. The goal for these centers is to increase access to the technology that is necessary to thrive in today's business world and provide some of the vulnerable populations with technical training to help them succeed. The centers are located in Evans, Greeley, Keenesburg, Kersey, LaSalle, Lochbuie, Mead, Nunn and Pierce. Colorado Public Computer Centers <http://coloradovirtuallibrary.org/btop/> and [www.MyLibrary.US](http://www.MyLibrary.US).

**Valerie Maginnis** is now the Director of the **Boulder Public Library**. She was previously director of the Mission Viejo Public Library, California.



The **Lincoln Park Library of the High Plains Library District** and the Outreach Department partnered with the Greeley Downtown Farmers Market during the summer to promote the best of both worlds. A colorful display at the library advertised the Market and featured a variety of books on gardening, vegetable cookery and food preservation; at the Market customers found a wide-



variety of garden-fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as a poster advertising library materials and services, and a collection of colorful bookmarks featuring delicious summer recipes. The Bookmobile was open for service on three of the Wednesday evening markets. The bookmarks were used at other Farmers Markets in the District.



The **AskColorado/AskAcademic Virtual Reference Cooperative** is celebrating its eight-year anniversary. MPLA member **Kris Johnson** is Operations Manager.

Speakers for the 2011 **Colorado Association of Libraries** Conference in October include: Marilyn Johnson, Jody Urquhart, Molly Raphael, Joseph Janes, Susan Ison, and Doug Johnson. Their biographies can be found at <http://www.cal-webs.org/files/44919662.pdf>.

The Colorado Association of Libraries 2011 Award Winners include:

- ~Sydne Dean, Career Achievement Award
- ~Becky Johnson, Colorado Librarian of the Year
- ~Jimmy Thomas, Colorado Librarian of the Year
- ~Green Valley Ranch Branch Library, Colorado Library of the Year
- ~Cindy Welsh, Jean Maio Award for Excellence in Adult Literacy
- ~Tom & Alice Atkins, Library Advocate Award
- ~Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity, Library Community Partnership Award
- ~Poudre Valley Health Systems Healthy Kids Club, Library Community Partnership Award
- ~CR3 Project Team, Library Project of the Year
- ~Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library Science Task Force, Outstanding Library Volunteer
- ~Terri Sullivan, Outstanding Library Volunteer
- ~Chris Brogan, Unsung Hero Award
- ~Mike Varnet, Unsung Hero Award
- ~Pam Benton, Lucy Schweers Award
- ~Senator Pat Steadman, CAL Legislative Award
- ~Susan Ison, Julie J. Boucher Award for Intellectual Freedom
- ~Rochelle Logan, Presidential Award

# Kansas

MPLA member **Gina Millsap**, Chief Executive Officer of the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, is running for President of ALA. She is nationally known for presenting on cutting edge issues, including 21st century librarianship, process improvement, the use of market segmentation to grow and develop library services and the changes necessary for libraries to thrive in the 21st century. She served as the 2009-2010 president of the Library Leadership & Management Association (LLAMA).



The **Johnson County Library's** "Streamlining Materials Handling" project has been recognized with a 2011 Top Innovations Award from the Urban Libraries Council headquartered in Chicago. For the "Streamlining Materials Handling" project, Johnson County Library managers conducted a total overhaul of materials handling at every level, speeding up processes to get books and other materials to users more quickly – all while saving money



*l to r: Susan Benton, President & CEO of Urban Libraries Council; Kim Fenton, JCL Central Resource Library Circulation Manager; Donna Lauffer, JCL County Librarian; and Tricia Suellentrop, JCL Deputy County Librarian. Photo credit: Urban Libraries Council.*

Anime-Scene Dodge is Dodge City's first Anime Club, held at the **Dodge City Public Library** the second Thursday of every month. Each meeting features a different Anime film or the first few episodes from an Anime series on a new high definition projector.

**KanEd** funding has been cut 50% this year, with a complete cut of all funds to follow next year. This will affect broadband internet access in libraries, schools, and hospitals throughout the state, severely limiting database access. According to Kansas Board of Regents President Andy Tompkins: I am convinced that elimination of this network would re-create the digital divide in our state, reduce the quality of services available to most of these institutions, and in many cases dramatically increase the price for these services, which will ultimately mean that they will not be available to the citizens served by these institutions across the state. The fund, which distributes monies to assist Kansas librarians and library students with professional development opportunities, includes assistance to participants in the MPLA Leadership Institute.

MPLA member **Kelly Fann** is the new director of the Tonganoxie Public Library. The **Tonganoxie Public Library**, in the past, was the home of Royce Kitts and Sharon Moreland - both MPLA members and participants in the MPLA Leadership Institute.

**Lisa Sharbaugh**, Wichita, has joined the South Central Kansas Library System, South Hutchinson as a Library Support Specialist. She previously worked for the Derby (KS) Public Library as a Library Technician. She completed her Master's of Science in Library Science in May 2010 from the University of North Texas and has also worked as a school library media specialist and teacher. She will provide SCKLS members with assistance in interlibrary, cataloging and continuing education support services



Kansas was well-represented at the first MPLA Leadership Institute Reunion, which took place August 29-21 at Ghost Ranch in Abiqui, north of Santa Fe in New Mexico. Kansas librarians in attendance were: Jean Hatfield, Wichita Public Library; Harry Willems, CKLS; Terri Pedersen Summey, Emporia State University; Jane Hatch, Kansas City, Kansas Public ; Library (retired); Micaela Ayers, Butler Community College; Mickey Coalwell, NEKLS .

# Montana

The **Montana State Library** has announces the retirement of the Montana State Librarian and MPLA member **Darlene Staffeldt**. Staffeldt began work as a reference librarian at the Montana State Library on September 15, 1976; her last day on the job was September 15, 2011, exactly 35 years after her start date. During those 35 years, Staffeldt has held nine different positions and has served as Montana State Librarian since October 2004. "After 35 years of working on behalf of Montana libraries with the goal of making the best information and library resources available to all Montanans, retirement will definitely be a new page," said Staffeldt. "But I'm looking forward to spending more time with family, traveling, and - ironically enough - catching up on my reading!"



Winner of the Parmly Billings Library's High Plains Emeritus Book Award is **Larry Woiwode**. Woiwode, a prolific and acclaimed writer, farms in North Dakota and directs the Creative Writing program at Jamestown College and serves as Poet Laureate for North Dakota. The High Plains Book Awards, a project of the Parmly Billings Library, were established in 2007 and have grown significantly in stature among writers and publishers across the United States and Canada.

# Nebraska

The **Sump Memorial Library**, Papillion, recently celebrated its 90th birthday. MPLA member **Robin Brooks Clark** is director.

The **Bellevue Public Library** owns a collection of marionette puppets for loan. The library also received a Moon Kit after submitting a proposal to the International Observe the Moon (InOMN) organization. Astrobinoculars and tripod will be used for moon-gazing at the library's InOMN event on Oct. 8th.

**Technology Planning Summer Camp**, a two-day workshop organized by the Nebraska Library Commission, was held on August 22-23, 2011. The workshop took place simultaneously in four locations across the state – Lincoln, Norfolk, North Platte and Scottsbluff. Summer Camp speakers were based in Lincoln, and their presentations were broadcast to the three other locations.

The **Nebraska Regional Library Systems** recently received a Library Improvement Grant to purchase E-Readers for loan to member libraries. Librarians will become familiar with the technology without budget impact.

**Western Nebraska Community College's** new Library Director is **Curtis Brundy** who recently was with the Creighton University Library in Omaha.

The **Southeast Library Systems** 2011 Fall Colloquium, November 9, features **Jo Budler**, Kansas State Librarian, speaking on Negotiation, Collaboration, Risk-Taking, and Politics.

*The Cookbook Collector* by Allegra Goodman is this year's One Book Many Librarians book discussion at NLA/NEMA conference in October. The book includes a bit of mystery, romance, religion, business, and an underlying dialogue regarding social values.

# Nevada

**Henderson Libraries** hosts a workshop at the Paseo Verde Library to help people learn more about getting back in the classroom. It features booths with representatives from several colleges and universities available to answer questions on admission, tuition and financial aid for nontraditional students. Schools represented include Nevada State College, the College of Southern Nevada, National University, the University of Phoenix, Nova Southeastern University and more.

**Connecting to Care**, a Nevada County nonprofit, has received a Model eHealth Communities award from UC Davis Health System and the California Telehealth Network (CTN) for its commitment to advancing health and health care using the latest in telecommunications technologies. This grant will provide 13 computers to the Nevada County Public Library system, the Sierra College Truckee Library and the Tahoe Truckee Cancer Center Resource Center. In addition to the training and educational materials, these computers will enable Nevada County residents to have free public access to eHealth resources, chronic disease management information and Personal Health Records (PHR). PHRs give consumers the ability to obtain and manage their own electronic health record which is entirely the property of the individual and not tethered to insurance or health facilities. Visit the website [www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cht/initiatives/BTOP/index.html](http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/cht/initiatives/BTOP/index.html) for information about the Model eHealth Communities program.

The 2014 **American Library Association Conference** will take place in Las Vegas, Nevada, on June 26 – July 2, 2014.

## New Mexico

**Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System** celebrated International Literacy Day. The Main Library had New Mexico authors speaking, trivia contests, and concerts throughout the day.



The **Placitas Community Library** landscaping has earned a wildlife habitat designation. Volunteers helped raise \$18,000 for landscaping decorated with native plants, grass, flowers, trees. Spokeswoman Joan Jander said the library wanted to use the garden as an educational tool to teach about water conservation and the benefits of xeriscaping with native plants. Recently, the library added a tank that collects rainwater from the roof. A solar-operated pump sends the water into a small, rock-lined pond that provides drinking water for birds and wildlife, the feature that earned the library designation as a wildlife habitat given by the National Wildlife Federation. Bill

Dunmire, chairman of the library's landscape committee, said "The setting is perfect because it's different than your standard library setting," he said. "The atmosphere of the place was very important, and we wanted the garden to reflect that." With its yucca plants, chamisa, sage, blue grama grass, piñon pine, sunflowers and lavender, the garden seems to blend in with the surrounding landscape.



The **Erna Fergusson Library in Albuquerque** closed in September for renovations and will re-open in the spring. The renovations will increase space for patrons and materials, create more room for computers and improve the air conditioning.

**New Mexico State University's** Outcomes Assessment II Committee, which focuses on student life, recently awarded the NMSU Best Practices Outcomes Assessment Award 2011 to the NMSU Library.

The Library also received this award in 2009. The committee said that the award is presented to a department or unit that exemplifies the spirit of assessment outside the classroom. The Library received the award for its work in re-evaluating modifications it had made in the use of space in order



to determine if the changes were beneficial. The award was accepted in behalf of the Library by Interim Associate Dean **Norice Lee** and Reference & Research Services Department Head **Cindy Pierard** at NMSU's Fall 2011 convocation ceremony.

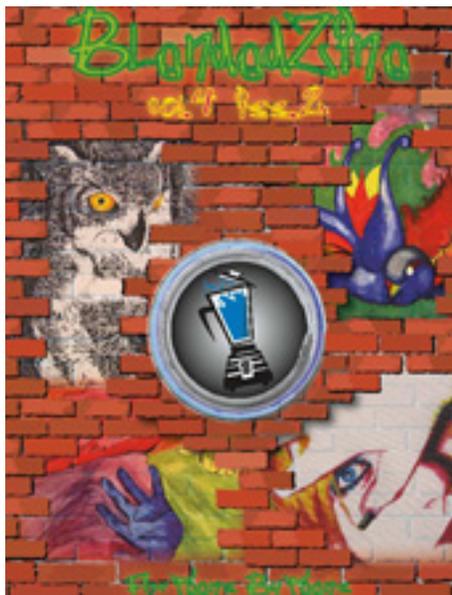
The latest **FastForward New Mexico** kick-off event was held at the Silver City Public Library. Billed as food, fun, and information, the kick-off event boasted several well-known local and statewide speakers, including John Woosley, District Director for the US – Small Business Association, who talked about the importance of small businesses in rural New Mexico. Classes in Crownpoint

and Clovis begin in September. Over 3500 have taken classes in computer and internet training through this program.

**Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA)** will hold their Annual Fall Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico in October 2011. COSLA is an independent organization of the chief officers of state and territorial agencies designated as the state library administrative agency and responsible for statewide library development. Members include representatives from all fifty states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa.



The Teen Zone in the **Farmington Public Library** is the meeting place on Wednesdays for the creators of **BlendedZine** (<http://www.blendedzine.com/>). This is an



online magazine contain the artwork, poetry, and short stories by teens in San Juan County. The publication has strengthened the ties between the school district and the Library. Over 1000 items were submitted for the 8<sup>th</sup> issue.

**The Branigan Public Library** in Las Cruces recently announced Lauren "**Lanee**," a Library Assistant in Circulation, as the Employee of the Year. As a Library Assistant, Lanee is responsible for many duties including assisting patrons checking out material, processing patron holds, emptying book drops and checking in materials, assisting in the computer lab, creating library displays, issuing library cards and assisting at the San Andres High School Library. Lanee is currently working on the library scrapbook which dates back to the early 1940's. Lanee also co-conduct Rhythm Roundup which is a rhythm and movement program geared for children ages 3-5.

Library Director **Tina Ortega** of the **Moriarty Community Library** retired on June 30. The new director is **Cyndi Waite**.

Three new exhibits open this fall at the **University of New Mexico Health Science Library** and Informatics *The Artistry of Bookplates* showcases some of the bookplates found in HSLIC's collections. Bookplates originated in Germany during the 15th Century to denoting ownership and became more prevalent as Gutenberg's press increased the number of books available to individuals. *Foods of the Gods: Mycelium, Medicine and the Sacred* showcases John Trestrail's mushroom models and provide information on the toxicological and medicinal value of the diverse species. *Civil War Medicine* will feature *The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion, 1861- 1865*, a profile of Union wartime medical activities. The three medical and three surgical volumes contain thousands of pages of small text, more than 1,000 engravings, and hundreds of tinted lithographs and chromolithographs. During the Civil War most physicians did not know what caused disease and many had never treated a gunshot wound. Of the 624,000 soldiers who died by the time the War ended, for every one that was killed in battle, two died of disease. This exhibit, which marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, opens in honor of American Archives Month, and will remain open throughout the school year.

The **New Mexico Consortium of Academic Libraries (NMCAL)** held their annual retreat on in August in Santa Fe. At this meeting Melveta Walker, longtime library director at Eastern New Mexico University - Portales was named Academic Librarian of the year. This is the first time NMCAL has presented this award. Melveta was a unanimous choice of the NMCAL Executive Committee for her service to her library, her mentoring of librarians and fellow library directors, and for her outstanding ability to negotiate with vendors which has allowed NMCAL members to purchase databases at discounts.

**Polly McCord**, Librarian for the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, has been elected to serve a three-year term as a member of the Board of Directors of Amigos Library Services. Polly is the only Board member from a state agency library or representing a special library.



**Elaine Ramsey**, Library Director of the **Estancia Public Library**, retired on June 30 and the new director is **Angela Creamer**. Creamer earned the promotion from her current job as the Town of Estancia Billing Clerk/Recep-

tionist after an in-depth application and interview process. Creamer served as librarian and assistant librarian from 2001-2008 and holds Grade I and Grade II New Mexico State Librarian Certifications.

New at the **Aztec Public Library** is **Sabrina Hood**. Originally from Bloomfield, New Mexico. Sabrina moved back to her hometown about 11 years ago from Phoenix, Arizona, where she worked for DeVry University and Navajo Preparatory School. She has several years of work experience in the library and recreational fields, including the Farmington Public Library, Phoenix Public Library, and Arizona State University – Prevention Resource Center.

There are several changes at the **State Library**. Two State Library staff members left in July: **Renee Payne**, Marketing Director for the past 10 years moved to Las Cruces to be a Supervisor at the **Thomas Branigan Memorial Library**. **Susanne Caro** who held the position of State Documents Librarian moved to Montana to take a faculty position at the University of Montana. **Laurie Canepa**, Director of the Public Services Bureau at the State Library is leaving her position after

21 years of service to the residents of New Mexico. From 1990—2006, Laurie was the Regional Federal Documents Librarian. In 2005, Laurie led the way to the State Library being selected as the Depository Library of the Year, selected from 1,300 libraries for the honor. Laurie received the NMLA Leadership Award in 2009 for her



*Laurie Canepa*

work training libraries throughout the state in the location and use of government information. Laurie began at the Legislative Council Service Library on September 5.

The Rio Grande Chapter of SLA announced its first fall educational session, Evaluating Workflow - October 20th. The seminar discusses the processes for evaluating existing work flows in order to determine inefficiencies and introduces the system (ADDIE) for implementing change when better process is discovered. See information at <http://units.sla.org/chapter/crrio/documents/Evaluating%20Workflow.pdf>

Governor Susana Martinez and Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry attended the Albuquerque International Literacy Day at the Albuquerque Main Library on September 8.

## North Dakota

The **North Dakota Library Association's** annual conference, "Librarians: Leadership for a New Decade" was held on September 23-24 in Minot at the Grand International Inn.

The **North Dakota Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Committee** was selected as one of six recipients for a Banned Books Week grant from the Freedom to Read Foundation's (FTRF) Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund. "The strength of the applications for Judith Krug Fund grants this year was really impressive," said Kent Oliver, FTRF president. "The six winners have very unique projects that were chosen based on many criteria, including their creativity, sustainability and commitment to Judith Krug's vision and legacy." According to Eric Stroshane, MPLA rep, there are four current MPLA members on the six-member IF Committee. Read more about their winning grant project on NDLA's Intellectual Freedom Blog: <http://ndlaonline.org/ifblog/?p=1519>.

The **North Dakota State Library** recently held its first annual Summer Colloquium consisting of a series of presentations on community resources, web presence, weeding, library policies, long-range planning, data analysis, book-keeping, and social media. Video of the sessions will soon be available on YouTube.



*MPLA member Shari Mosser presenting on social media at the ND State Library's Summer Breeze Colloquium*

**Amy Bryn** retired after 25 years of service at the **Heart of America Library** in Rugby. She began as a part-time card cataloger but quickly rose through the ranks and became the director in 1989. Bryn oversaw many changes at the Heart of America Library, including renovations, computer acquisitions, a recent addition, and joining the North Central Library Authority consortium.

The people of **McVile** (population 349, according to the 2010 Census) have voted to establish a public library. They received a donation of 1,000 books from Enderlin, ND, to help get them started.

The **Enderlin Municipal Library** recently celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Sue Armstrong** is the new children's librarian at Lake Region Public Library, Devils Lake.

The **Lake Region Public Library** recently won two grants. The first, \$6,010, was from the Otto Bremer Foundation to help with migration to a new ILS, changing over from Winnebago Spectrum to Book Systems' Atrium. Additionally, they received a grant for \$1414.94 from the Devils Lake Area Foundation to purchase adult non-fiction books. Library Director is **Jim Chattin**.

The **Bismarck Public Library's** Friends of the Library group now has a bookcase of withdrawn/donated books in the library's café, Red Roaster. The titles are available for in-café browsing or can be taken home for a small donation. Donations are used to purchase new books for the library. The Friends of the Library also recently sponsored their annual Ice Cream Social. Events included a chance at dunking the library's new director, **Kristi Harms**, in a dunk tank. Around \$200 was raised and the proceeds were donated to United Way's Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The exterior of the library was also recently repainted to emphasize the Library sign and logo.



*Newly painted exterior of the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library*

The **Leach Public Library** in Wahpeton is undergoing renovation to improve usability, install new drain tile, and waterproof the walls. Director **Bonnie MacIver** said that the renovation is needed for safety and to prevent further water damage to the collection. A \$15,000 grant from the

State Historical Society is helping to pay for the project.

The State Bank of Lakota donated \$500 to the **Lakota City Library's** Reading Program to pay for books, book bags, and the book give-away. The Lakota City Library also received a \$500 donation from the Lakota Community Club for their building fund.

The **Harry L. Petrie Public Library** of Linton received a \$950 grant for a new computer from the North Dakota State Library. They also received a \$1750 grant from the Lois Lenski Covey Foundation to purchase children's books.

The **Lidgerwood Public Library** received a Libri Foundation grant for over \$1400 in new books, including science and math titles, as well as hardcover fiction and non-fiction.

The **Griggs County Library** in Cooperstown was also recently awarded a grant of \$500 from the Cooperstown Area Community Foundation to purchase new seating for patrons.

## OKLAHOMA

**Oklahoma City** is one of the communities to be visited by IMLS director, Susan Hildreth to work with state librarians to lead community and leadership forums. Oklahoma City was selected to assure participation by diverse audiences from a mix of rural and urban environments. The forums' goals are to have three goals: 1) Finalizing the framework with meaningful feedback from the general public and relevant stakeholders; 2) Building support for digital inclusion and fostering relationships with communities and partners who can facilitate future piloting of the digital inclusion framework; 3) Developing implementation and communication plans with meaningful feedback from community leaders. IMLS is working with the University of Washington Information School and the International City/County Management Association to finalize the framework incorporating insights gathered from the forums. The framework will serve as the foundation for development of tools and resources to help communities across the United States in realizing the benefits of digital inclusion. For more news and information about IMLS's digital inclusion and broadband initiatives, please visit <http://www.ims.gov/about/broadband.aspx>.

MPLA member **Larry Thorne**, public library director at Alva, Oklahoma, recently retired.

# South Dakota

MPLA member **Jan Brue Enright**, Circulation and Reference Librarian, Mikkelsen Library, Augustana College has been elected SDLA Vice-President/President Elect.

**Mary G. Johnson** from Sioux Falls is the new School Library Coordinator for the State Library. Working remotely from her home in Sioux Falls, her primary responsibility will be to contact and consult with the school librarians in the eastern portion of the state. She will be in contact with librarians, technology coordinators, superintendents and principals sharing with them “best practices” and 21st century skills and standards in the field of school libraries.



The Mango Tree Coffee Shop, located on the second floor of the **Brookings Public Library**, won big at this summer’s Taste of Brookings, receiving the 1st place Judges’ Award, People’s Choice for Best Entree, and Best Use of Local Food Award. The Mango Tree offers coffees, teas,



smoothies, soups, sandwiches and treats. Library Director and MPLA Past-President **Elvita Landau** highly recommends a tea called Midnight in Missoula and the Minestrone Soup.

*Owner Harsha Mistry proudly displays awards from Taste of Brookings*

**Linda Byrum** is the new assistant director at the Pot-

ter County Library in Gettysburg. She is a graduate of the Library Institute and former librarian at Edgemont.

**Edith B. Siegrist**, 86, MPLA Honorary Life Member, Professor Emeritus the University of South Dakota, died July 31. Her honors include a Distinguished Alumni Award from Huron College, a Distinguished Service Award from the Mountain Plains Library Association, the South Dakota Librarian of the Year Award in 1988 by the South Dakota Library Association, and together with her co-worker and friend, Elaine Meyer, was honored as Extraordinary South Dakota Librarian of the 20th Century



The **South Dakota Festival of Books** will take place Oct. 7-9 in Deadwood. Over 60 authors from all over the country will participate in the free, three-day event.

MPLA President **Dana Braccia** gives the keynote address at the South Dakota Library Association conference October 6. Her topic is “Home On The Range: How Libraries Can Lead the Roundup of Locally Produced Content”

**Mary Johns** joined the Siouxland Libraries as Director in August. She was previously director of the Evanston IL Public Library.

The **South Dakota Library Association** is again sponsoring a Quilt Raffle at the annual SDLA Conference. **Doris Vander Hamm**, mother of MPLA member **Dorothy Liegl**, has once again donated her quilting talents to this effort. The quilt is made from reading program t-shirts. Proceeds will go to the Leon Raney Endowment Fund. In August 2010, the South Dakota Library Association Leon Raney Endowment Fund.



# Utah

The 2012 **Utah Library Association** conference is going to be held in the Salt Palace Convention Center, April 25-27. The theme of the conference is "From Telegrams to Tweets: One Hundred Years of Connecting Utah Librarians"

Cedar City Librarian and MPLA member **Steve Decker** was one of nine librarians graduated from the ALA-APA Certified Public Library Administrator Program this year. The program includes courses in budgeting, personnel management, building management, technology, grant writing, politics and networking and serving diverse populations.

The Brigham Young University online newspaper the Universe reported that Utah State Parks and 84 **Utah libraries** have joined together in the **Check it Out** program. The program allows library card holders to borrow a day pass. This program, in third year, was created to allow library card holders free access to the parks. Park passes are good for the driver and up to seven passengers in one car to visit the 43 Utah state parks. Each library is given one pass to be checked out. When it is returned other library users can utilize it. Libraries usually have waiting lists for the use of the passes.

American Libraries Direct reported that the **Utah Education Network** is allowing more than 100 schools and libraries in Utah to increase their Internet connections 10 100 megabytes per second, up from the previous speed of 1.5 megabytes. Discounted rates for fiber optic lines from Qwest and the federal E-rate discount will also help speed up the internet connectivity.

Utah Library school student **Heather Novotny** attended the ALA Annual Library Conference as a student volunteer working with YALSA.

Young adult authors Heather Dixon and Robert Nay spoke at the **Utah Library Association** CSRT/YA workshop in September.

The **Utah Library Association** Fall Workshop was held at Southern Utah University Library, Cedar City, Utah. Luncheon speaker was Fred Adams, founder of the Cedar City Shakespeare Festival.

The **Marriott Library** invited University of Utah students to a Burrito and Movie Night at Marriott Library in August. The night included a free movie: *Pirates of the Caribbean 4: On Stranger*

# Wyoming

The **Laramie County Library System** presents **Noon at the Library**, co-sponsored by the Wyoming Community Foundation, Arts Alliance of Cheyenne, Visit Cheyenne, and Wyoming Tribune Eagle. The free programs feature local musicians.

The award-winning literary couple, Anne Fadiman and George Howe Colt, read from two new works-in-progress exploring father-son bonds at the **Teton Public Library**. Anne Fadiman's first book *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* won a National Book Critics Circle Award. George Howe Colt's most recent book *The Big House: A Century In the Life of an American Home*, was a National Book Award finalist.

The **Laramie County Library System** in Cheyenne began several new age specific programs in September. *Book-Snack-Pack* is for grades K-2; *Wii Read Wednesday* for grades 3-6 and *Weekly Wind Down* for grades 7-12. Programs include snacks, book talks, and library skills. *Lets Go Camping*, a program for families, features tales around a campfire outside the library with s'mores and songs. Teens celebrates International *Talk Like a Pirate Day* with pirate grub and treasure hunt.

The **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** hosts an exhibit with four painters, Danna Hildebrand, Judy Pradere, Patty Manigault and Dianne Wyatt, The four women often paint together in the Big Horn Mountains and the show is the result of their work.

## Canvassing the Big Horns ~ Paintings by

Danna Hildebrand, Judy Pradere, Patricia Manigault and Dianne Wyatt



Docks by Judy Pradere



Hay Meadow by Patricia Manigault



High Mountain Meadow by Danna Hildebrand



Hiders in the Sage by Dianne Wyatt

On Exhibit September 2011

Artists' Reception September 1st  
from 5-7 p.m.

SHERIDAN COUNTY FULMER

PUBLIC LIBRARY on the MEZZANINE

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday@ Thursday 9 a.m. @ 5 p.m.

Friday@ Saturday 9 a.m. @ 5 p.m.

Starting September 11, Sunday @ 5 p.m.

# What We Did This Summer

## MPLA Members Here & There

**Beth Avery**, Collection Development Coordinator, University of North Texas, taught in Guam this summer.

Pictured: Rep. Ray Tenario, Beth, Cindy Batman also a UNT librarian, and two students in the new U.S. Affiliated PACific Islands Distance MILS Program at University of North Texas.



**Tom Taylor**, Continuing Education Coordinator for the South Central Kansas Library System spent a lot of time this summer traveling from southern Kansas to northern Texas at the Toy & Action Figure Museum in Pauls Valley, OK. Here he is at the Toy & Action Figure Museum in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma.”

**Mike Mullin**, Director of the Watertown Public

Library and South Dakota Rep to the MPLA board picks raspberries from his patch at home.



**Phyllis Bratton**, Director of Jamestown College Raugust Library, spent a week with my husband, brothers, and sisters-in-law cruising the Inside Passage in Alaska. She reports “Lots of wonderful scenery, land excursions, great food, and family time.”

## State & National Conferences

### 2011

- 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
- Oklahoma Library Association Conference  
March 28-20, Norman, OK
- New Mexico Library Association Conference  
April 11-13, Las Cruces, NM
- Kansas Library Association Conference  
April 11-13, Wichita, KS
- Montana Library Association Conference  
April 11-14, Big Sky, MT
- Utah Library Association Conference  
April 25-29, Salt Lake City, UT
- 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

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Material of regional interest may be submitted to:

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March 1                        September 1  
May 1                            November 1

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