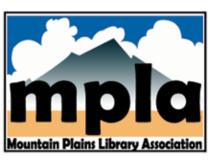
Big Horizons



Close Community

Newsletter

December 2011

www.mpla.us

Volume 56 #2

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Now is the Time to Renew your 2012 Membership at

http://www.mpla.us/membership/index.html

Give the Gift of Nomination

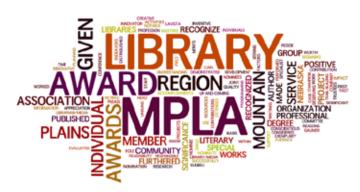
As we approach the holidays and set goals for the coming year, we often show gratitude to our friends and family. I would like to encourage each of you to take the time to nominate a deserving individual who has made an impact this year for an MPLA Award.

The Awards Committee, along with the help of Dan Chaney, has created an online submission form. We hope to make the nomination process easier than it ever has been before. In addition, all nominees will be recognized on the MPLA website along with their accomplishments, not just the award winners. You will find a description of the Awards and a link to the form at http://mpla.us/com-mittees/awards/awardsinfo.html. The deadline to submit a nomination is August 1, 2012. Don't wait until then to begin a nomination. Nominations can be started anytime and then additional pictures, flyers, or news articles can be submitted with a follow-up form.

Winners will be selected and announced at the 2012 MPLA Joint Conference with the Nebraska Library Association in LaVista, Nebraska, on October 17-19, 2012.

Let us all give the gift of nomination this year and show our colleagues how much they are appreciated!

--John Fackrell, Chair, MPLA Awards Committee awards@mpla.us



President's Message

I V My Typewriter!

In case you're wondering why someone who just went on a digital diet is drooling over a typewriter...it all started at a thrift store when this dusty 1929 Royal typewriter SHOUTED MY NAME! Although it was love at first sight, I soon realized once I got this puppy home that some TLC was in order to actually get it working. We took a field trip to the Mesa Typewriter Exchange, a tiny shop that is more of an art gallery for typewriters than a repair store. Come to find out, there is a whole



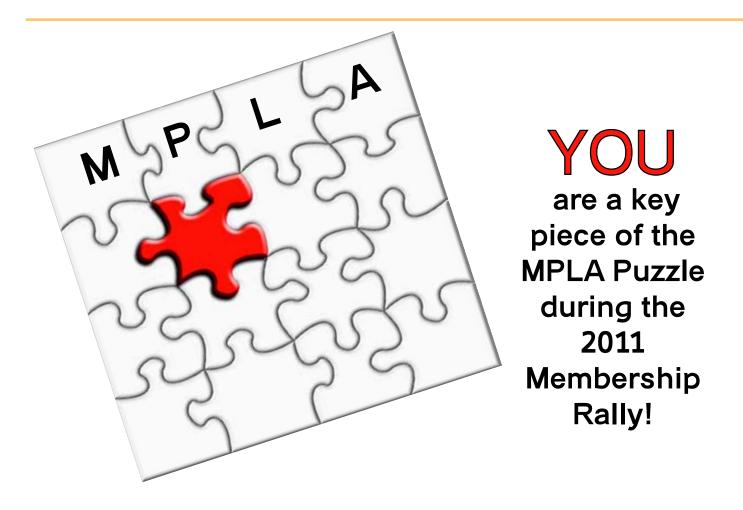
<u>Typoshere</u> of people who use typewriters. There is even a teacher in the area who has students using typewriters:

The Classroom Typewriter Project is designed to get children to write without distraction. Computers have become distracting, annoying machines that can do everything poorly and nothing well. The typewriter is still the perfect machine for getting ideas neatly presented on paper. Moreover, the typewriter requires the author to be aware of GUMS (grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling) because there is no talking paperclip to help. This is writing without a net.

This meshing of old school muse with new age digital really is a great match. It's similar to how we interact in MPLA - we have the traditional fun of meeting colleagues in-person at conferences, but then we also have joy of continuing the friendships virtually in places like the MPLA facebook page. Have a story you'd like to share? Put it on our page at: <u>http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Mountain-Plains-Library-Association/55122193140</u> (and while you're at it you can see photos of little Royal's first work after being repaired).

--Dana





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



Thank you to Sponsors of the MPLA 2012 Leadership Institute!

Major support from Jerry Kline, Chairman of Innovative Interfaces Inc. and SkyRiver GERALD M. KLINE FAMILY FOUNDATION Innovative interfaces

&

Emporia State University School of Library & Information Management

University of Arizona

XT

School of Information Resources & Library Science



Big Read Invites Applications for Community-Wide Reading Programs

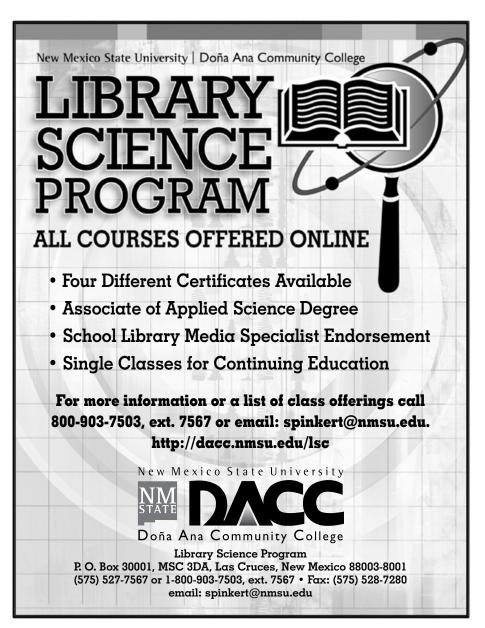
The Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment, is accepting applications from nonprofit organizations to develop community-wide reading programs between September 2012 and June 2013. Deadline for applications is February 1, 2012. See <u>http://foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/rfp_item.jhtml?id=358100026</u>.

Organizations selected to participate in the Big Read receive a grant, access to online training resources and opportunities, and educational and promotional materials designed to support widespread community involvement and participation. Approximately seventy-five organizations from throughout the United States will be selected.

Applicant organizations must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit; a division of state, local, or tribal government; or a tax-exempt public library. Eligible applicants include such organizations as literary centers, libraries, museums, colleges and universities, art centers, historical societies, arts councils, tribal governments, humanities councils, literary festivals, and arts organizations.

Organizations may apply for grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000 each, depending on community size and number of activities planned. Grants must be matched at least 1 to 1 with nonfederal funds. Grant funds may be used for such expenses as book purchases, speaker fees and travel, salaries, advertising, and venue rental.

Visit the Big Read Web site for complete program guidelines, project development resources, and application materials: <u>http://www.neabigread.org/</u>



MPLA

MPLA Member Guest Column

TAKING OFFICE EARLY

What do you do when you have to step into office early? It can be overwhelming if you're not prepared, but it can also be a great learning experience. In 2010 I was elected Vice President/President Elect of our association and found myself in such a situation. I had imagined a nice slow winter to read through the bylaws and learn my job gradually. Then I would move into the Presidency with all the background I needed to do a good job. Instead I found myself facing the duties of both the VP/President Elect and the President at the same time. So, I'd like to share with you some of the things I've learned over the past year:

- Be prepared when you become VP/President Elect for the possibility that this might happen. Read closely the duties of both positions, and be familiar with the duties that you can delegate and those that are solely your responsibility.
- Handle it with grace. The reasons your predecessor had for stepping down are his or her own. Your immediate task is just to do the best you can while you get your feet under you.
- Take advantage of offers of help, whether from past Presidents, the Executive Board, or other knowledgeable individuals. Many of them have served in leadership positions for a long time and have some good things to share.
- Keep your balance. Remember that you do have a personal life and a primary job. Balance them with your new duties as much as you can so you don't become overwhelmed by all of it.
- If your association's by-laws don't cover the line of succession should something happen to *you*, make sure that they get addressed during your term if at all possible.
- Above all, keep your sense of humor. It's always the best way to get through almost any situation and will be helpful to both you and your Board when things get a little stressed.

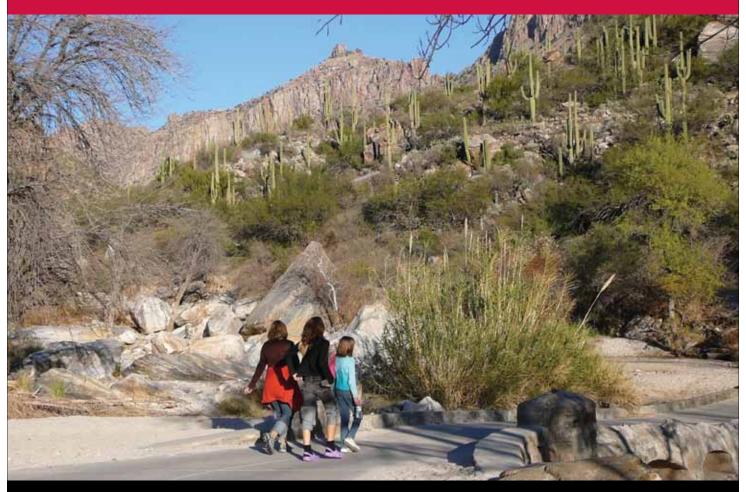
If you ever find yourself stepping into office early, I hope these thoughts help a little. I'm surprised to find that my first year has already gone by. I've survived with a lot of help from other members of the association, and am now looking forward to my *real* first year as President.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Brunskill, President, South Dakota Library Association



A Beautiful Way to Earn Your Library Degree!



- The University of Arizona's School of Information Resources and Library Science (SIRLS) offers an ALA-accredited master's program. Classes are offered both face-to-face and online. Graduate in 2 years or less.
- **SIRLS** offers the nationally recognized scholarship program, Knowledge River, to encourage information professionals to serve Hispanic and Native American communities throughout Arizona and the nation.
- **SIRLS** offers a distance program that requires a single week residency in Tucson. All other coursework can be completed from your own home.
- We also offer a graduate certificate in **Digital Information Management** (digln.arizona.edu).

Visit our website at sirls.arizona.edu

School of Information Resources and Library Science



sirls.arizona.edu 520.621.3565 sirls@email.arizona.edu

LLAMA Mentoring Program

Rob Banks, a past-president of MPLA sends this information for ALA Members

The LLAMA Mentoring Committee has begun recruiting mentors and mentees for the July 2012-June 2013 year. The mentoring program pairs librarians who are currently in leadership positions with librarians who are interested in becoming leaders.

For mentors, it is a chance to pass on your experience and knowledge by working one-onone with an enthusiastic colleague who is ready to learn and benefit from your experience.

For mentees, it is a great opportunity to learn from an accomplished leader how to:

- --explore your leadership potential
- --demonstrate leadership in your current position
- --acquire the skills, attitudes and relationships that you will need to move into leadership roles.

Participants must be ALA and LLAMA members as of the start of the program, and must either attend the Mentor/Mentee orientation at ALA Annual or be able to participate in a virtual orientation at a time to be determined.

The deadline to apply to become a mentor or mentee is December 16, 2011.

To apply, go to:

Mentor: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6D66DQL

Mentee: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6YZB339

For more information on the program, contact Holly Cole Okuhara at <u>holly.okuhara@gmail.com</u>

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Welcome New MPLA Members

ARIZONA

Sara Davis Museum Technician, National Park Service Grand Canyon National Park; Grand Canyon, AZ

Susan Thompson Student, Mesa Community College Scottsdale, AZ

COLORADO

Laura Baldassari-Hackstaff Youth Librarian, Douglas County Libraries Highlands Ranch Library Highlands Ranch, CO

Nicole Burchfield Librarian, Poudre River Public Library District; Fort Collins, CO

Tamara Conley Librarian, St. John Vianney Seminary Cardinal Stafford Library Denver, CO

Michael Cox Youth Services Supervisor, Pueblo City-County Library District Pueblo, CO

Cheryl German Reference Librarian, Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library Broomfield, CO

Rachel Heemsbergen Information Services Associate, Jefferson County Public Libraries Conifer Library; Morrison, CO

Melissa Hisel Adult Reference Tech, Longmont Public Library; Lafayette, CO Kathy Lane Guide, Anythink Brighton Brighton, CO Bethany Lanphere Librarian -Reference Services, Front Range Community College Library Loveland, CO

Jennifer Murrell MCPLD; CO

Rose Nelson Systems Librarian, CO Alliance of Research Libraries; Aurora, CO

Amy Phillips Librarian, Colorado Technical University; Parker, CO

Trina Purcell Library Director, University of the Rockies; Colorado Springs, CO

Maggie Shawcross Wellness Librarian, NCMC Wellspring Library; Greeley, CO

KANSAS

Marleah Augustine Adult Department Librarian, Hays Public Library; Hays, KS

NEBRASKA

Rebecca Bernthal Reference Librarian, University of Nebraska at Lincoln Love Library Lincoln, NE

Janice Boyer Cataloging Librarian, University of Nebraska at Omaha Criss Library Omaha, NE

Gillian Connors Technical Services Librarian, Union College; Lincoln, NE

Evonne Edgington Librarian/branch manager, Omaha Public Library Florence Branch Bellevue, NE



Laura England-Biggs Librarian II/Acting Director, City of Fremont Keene Memorial Library Fremont, NE

Cathy Hatterman Acquisitions Librarian, Nebraska Library Commission Lincoln, NE

Garren Hochstetler Student, University of Nebraska at Omaha Lincoln, NE

Betty Meyer School Librarian, Thayer Central Community School Hebron, NE

Lorraine Patrick Reference Librarian, Bellevue University Bellevue, NE

Carrie Turner School Librarian, Westside High School Library Omaha, NE

Stephanie Viola Acquisitions Coordinator, University of Nebraska at Omaha Criss Library Omaha, NE

Tina Walker Library Services Associate, University of Nebraska at Kearney Kearney, NE

Charlene Wells Young Adult Librarian, Circ., Ref., ILL, Gretna Public Library Gretna, NE

Ronald Wirtz Coordinator of User Services, University of Nebraska at Kearney Calvin T. Ryan Library; Kearney, NE

Gordon Wyant Young Adult Services Librarian, Bellevue Public Library; Bellevue, NE

NEW MEXICO

John Powers MLS -Seeking position, Las Cruces, NM

NEVADA

Karen Benna Librarian, Mountain View Montessori School; Reno, NV

John Crockett Internet Librarian, Washoe County Library System; Reno, NV

Roberta DeBuff Librarian, Las Vegas Clark County Library Distr Enterprise Library Las Vegas, NV

Xan Goodman Librarian, Roseman University of Health Service Library Henderson, NV

Diane Hudson Library Consultant, Nevada State Library and Archives Carson City, NV

Laura Kimberly Library Assistant II, Virginia Palmer Elementary School Reno, NV

Amy Lauder Circulation Staff, Carson City Library; Carson City, NV

Michael Newman Assistant Branch Manager, Las Vegas-Clark County Library Disri Enterprise Library Las Vegas, NV

Yadhira Pimentel Library shelver, Carson City Library Carson City, NV

James Polka Librarian, Douglas High School Minden, NV Amber Sady Youth Services Librarian, Carson City Library Carson City, NV

J-Lynn Van Pelt Director, University of Nevada, Reno Center for Learning and Literacy Mail Stop 288, NV

Ann-Marie White Librarian, Las Vegas Clark County Library District Las Vegas, NV

NORTH DAKOTA

Stephanie Arbach Circulation Librarian, University of Mary Welder Library Bismarck, ND

Kathy Cline Library Media Specialist, Beulah Public Schools; Beulah, ND

Curt Hanson Department Head, University of North Dakota Chester Fritz Library Grand Forks, ND

Kristi Harms Director, Bismarck Public Library Bismarck, ND

Michael Jan Director, Heart of America Library Rugby, ND

Mary Lorenz Reference Librarian, Grand Forks Public Library; Grand Forks, ND

Elizabeth Madson Collections Manager, Fargo Public Library; Fargo, ND

Will Martin Web Services Librarian, University of North Dakota Chester Fritz Library; Grand Forks, ND

Lisa Martin Reference Librarian, University of North Dakota Chester Fritz Library Grand Forks, ND Mary Miller Library Media Specialist, Wachter Middle School; Bismarck, ND

OKLAHOMA

Gloria Farmer Technical Services Manager, Eastern OK District Library System Muskogee, OK

Katy Glover Southeastern Oklahoma State University Henry G. Bennett Memorial Library; Durant, OK

SOUTH DAKOTA

Melanie Argo Library Assistant, Madison Public Library; Madison, SD

Emily Blackwelder Librarian, Oscar Howe Elementary Sioux Falls, SD

Linda Chandler Deputy Director, A H Brown Public Library ; Mobridge, SD

Melissa Clark Information Services Librarian, South Dakota State University H.M. Briggs Library; Brookings, SD

Ashley Cortney Director, Edgemont Public Library Edgemont, SD

Kimberly Darata Director of Library Services, Douglas School District; Box Elder, SD

Jan Gossman Library Director, Bison Public Library; Bison, SD

Barbara Harvery Health Sciences Information Services Libraria, University of South Dakota I.D. Weeks Library; Vermillion, SD

Kathleen Jacobs Library Director, Yankton Community Library Yankton, SD Mary Johnson State Library School Library Coordinator, South Dakota State Library Sioux Falls, SD

Shayna Monnens MLS Student, Hazel, SD

Wendy Nilson Technical Services Librarian, Vermillion Public Library Vermillion, SD

Jane Norling Library Director, Beresford Public Library; Beresford, SD

Shelley Rath Teacher-Librarian, Corral Drive Library; Rapid City, SD

Kristi Tornquist Chief University Librarian, South Dakota State University Hilton M. Briggs Library; Brookings, SD

Victoria Van Oosting Desk Clerk, Hot Springs Public Library; Hot Springs, SD

Amber Wilde Director, Grace Balloch Memorial Library; Spearfish, SD

UTAH

Dale Monobe MLS Student, Emporia State University SLIM; UT

Becky Thoms Intellectual Property Legal Assistant, ICON Health & Fitness, Inc. North Logan, UT

WYOMING

Stephen Boss Head, Library IT, University of Wyoming Coe Library; Laramie, WY

Bernice Burr-Wilken Interlibrary Loan Specialist, Albany County Public Library; Laramie, WY Amy Cahill YA/AV Specialist, Big Piney Library Big Piney, WY

Jamie Daisey Teen Services Librarian, Carbon County Library System Rawlins, WY

Valerie Doyle Manager/School Librarian, Park County Library System Meeteetse Branch Library; Meeteetse, WY

Laura Jackson Assistant Archivist, University of Wyoming American Heritage Center Laramie, WY

Patty Kearnes SLMS, Campbell County High School; Gillette, WY

Ida Olson Librarian, McCormick Junior High Cheyenne, WY

Mary Lynn Pilant Librarian/Media Specialist, Fremont County School District 24 Shoshone, WY

Jacque Strike Serials Overdues Circulation, Sublette County Library; Pinedale, WY

Catherine Symchych Librarian, Snowy Range Academy Laramie, WY

Mary Wegher Librarian, Campbell County School District Wagonwheel Elementary Gillette, WY



MPLA Professional Development Grants Application

Remaining Deadline 2011

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

MPLA

Around the Region

Arízona

The annual **University of Arizona SIRLS** event marking the University of Arizona's Homecoming has been renamed *The Dickinson Lectures* to honor Dr. Donald Dickinson. Dickinson established UA's graduate library school in 1969 and served as its first director.

Leslie Kent Kunkel, former SIRLS Assistant Director, has retired. Stephen Stillwell has assumed some of her responsibilities, primarily recruiting and alumni/ae affairs.

The Arizona Chapter of the Special Libraries Association is presenting its first professional workshop in several years. The workshop, to be held on January 20 in Tempe will feature a slide presentation by taxonomy pioneer Katherine Bertolucci.

Author and retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor visits Yuma on December 6, courtesy of **the Friends of Yuma County Libraries**. O'Connor is also the author of three books, including a national best-seller, "The Majesty of the Law," in addition to New York Times best-sellers "Lazy B" and "Finding Susie." Copies of O'Connor's books, provided by Barnes and Noble, can be purchased at the presentation as well as at the Barnes and Noble bookstore prior to and after the event. A portion of the proceeds from book sales will benefit the Friends of Yuma County Libraries.



Rangeview Library District and Anythink

Libraries in Thornton is one of 12 libraries and museums selected in a national competition to build innovative learning labs for teens. The winners—four museums and eight libraries—will receive a total of \$1.2 million in grants to plan and design the labs. Funding is from The Institute of Museum and Library Services and the MacArthur Foundation.

Douglas County Libraries, ABDO Publishing Group and Marshall Cavendish have entered into an agreement allowing for library purchase of ABDO's eBooks. The ABDO agreement, which includes access to more than 3,000 eBooks for children from grades pre-kindergarten to high school, follows similar partnerships between Douglas County Libraries and the Colorado Independent Publishers Association, Gale/Cengage Learning, and Lerner Digital.

Red-Hawk Elementary School of the St. Vrain Valley School District in Erie, CO was recently recognized by *School Library Journal* because of a decision to organize their 6,000 plus title collection using the Bookstore Model of Classification rather than the more traditional Dewey Decimal system. District Librarian, Holli Butcher, lays claim to the only elementary school in the country (to her knowledge) to ditch Dewey in favor of a bookstore model. If this experiment is successful, consideration for district-wide implementation may be considered, according to Butcher. For the full article, see http://bit.ly/ucxtAC.



From Left: Hoff, Buchter, Thomas, Weber.; Image from Oct. 28 issue of School Library Journal



Colorado State University Pueblo Library's holiday tree From Facebook post

Congratulations to the 2011 Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) award winners: UNSUNG HERO Award - Chris Brogan, Chief Financial Officer, Pueblo City-County Library District; Mike Varnet, Chief Financial Officer, Pikes Peak Library District. COLORADO LIBRARIAN OF THE YEAR LIBRARY AD-VOCATE AWARD - Becky Johnson, Teacher Librarian, East Middle School; Jimmy Thomas, Executive Director, Marmot Library Network. LIBRARY ADVO-CATE AWARD - Tom & Alice Atkins, Save Jeffco Libraries. LIBRARY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD - Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity & Golden Library; Poudre Valley Health Systems-Healthy Kids Club. LIBRARY PROJECT OF THE YEAR - CR3 Project Team, Denver Public Library. COLORADO LIBRARY OF THE YEAR - Green Valley Ranch Branch Library. CA-REER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Sydne Dean, Associate Director of Public Services, Pikes Peak Library District. Outstanding Library Volunteer - Terri Sullivan, Poudre River Public Library District; Mamie Doud Eisenhower Public Library Science Task Force - Led by Jim Morgan. JEAN MAIO AWARD FOR EX-CELLENCE IN ADULT LITERACY_Cindy Welsh, Outreach Librarian, High Plains Library District. Lucy Schweers Award for Excellence in Paralibrarianship_Pam Benton, Douglas County Libraries. Presidential Award_Rochelle Logan. Legislative Award_Senator Pat Steadman

The High Plains Library District participated in "Weld Project Connect, One Day. One Place. One Person at a Time" on October 14. The event providing on-site services to those in need due to foreclosure, job loss, age, health problems and other issues. Volunteers of all ages, backgrounds, and experience levels came together to serve people in Weld County. All the services were provided free of charge including day-care. Among the services offered were medical and dental care, Veterans services and haircuts. Free documentation assistance for State Identification Cards allowed the participants to come to the HPLD table and receive their first library card with their valid identification and 53 library cards were issued. Brochures and smiling library staff promoted all of our services. In addition, the District provided laptops for the other agencies to use during the event; 100 flash drives; books to give away and toys, books and manipulatives for the day-care area.



Kansas

The **Johnson County Library** has developed the "Legacies of the Civil War Series" to create an opportunity for area residents to explore residual effects of the war in modern-day America, as well as in the metro Kansas City area. For "The Border War" Community Issues Forum, held on October 25, 50 people from different walks of life and ethnic backgrounds, both sides of the state-line border, and around the nation, sat together in small groups and discussed for more than an hour the Border War, its commemoration, and lasting impact. Civic Engagement Librarian Louisa Whitfield- Smith coordinat-

ed. Among the participants were historical re-enactors, PhDs in history and sociology, authors, Border War network members, high school students, NAACP members,



Chamber of Commerce for Greater Kansas City members, those active in civic engagement, library Friends, Foundation, and Board members, and ordinary citizens. The "Legacies of the Civil War Series" programming will conclude in April 2012 with an appearance by author Jane Smiley.

The **Dodge City Public Library Foundation** held its annual "Wine & Cheese" fundraiser October 14. Speaker was Thomas Fox Averill, professor and author from Washburn University. Money raised from the event goes toward laptops for the Mobile Computer Lab.

Montana

Susan F. Gregory has been selected Library Director for the **Bozeman Public Library**. She

comes from Norman, Oklahoma, where she worked as a development specialist in the Pioneer Library System Development Office, after serving for 11 years as the branch manager of the Norman Public



Library.

The **Montana Audio Information Network** which has served the blind and physically handicapped, is ending because of lack of funding. In the past, it operated with grant funding, donations, fundraising and United Way money. The program was recently partially funded by the Montana State Library.

The **MLA Cookbook**, A Literary Feast: A Collection of Recipes from MLA is available for \$10 via the MLA Website at <u>http://www.mtlib.org/Store/cookbooks.html</u>.

Nebraska

In the spring the American Association of School Librarians recognized the **Lincoln High School Media Center** as one of 35 outstanding school libraries in the United States. LHS' library is representing Nebraska on AASL's "Vision Tour". Nancy Everhart, AASL President, is visiting all 35 libraries to showcase the excellent work they do for their communities and students.



The photo shows the "after the tour" party.

The Nebraska Library Commission launched 23 Things for Professional Development (CPD 23) in June. CPD23 is a free online program open to all information professionals at any career stage around the world. Inspired by the 23 Things programs for social media, CPD23 is a mixture of social media "Things"

and "Things" about professional development. The program started on June 20th and will finish in early October. Topics range from blogging to online productivity tools to mentoring and professional development skills. Visit the Nebraska Learns 2.0 website http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog/2011/06/01/ nebraska-learns-2-0-a-new-23-things-for-your-professional-development/ for more information.

The newly expanded and renovated **Lied Scottsbluff Public Library** was dedicated this summer. The library's capital campaign raised \$2.2 million in seven



years. The new building features a much larger Children's Library, a Teen Room, a Heritage Room, a quiet reading area, study rooms, and an enlarged meeting room space. The library meets LEEDTM specifications with the use of recycled materials and other energy efficiencies.

Dr. Joan R. Giesecke, Dean of Libraries at the **University of Nebraska Lincoln**, received ALA's Equality Award at the 2011 annual conference in

New Orleans. Numerous support letters cited her vision, leadership, energy, research, presentations, and mentoring to pursue increasing gender and racial diversity among librarians. According to one support letter, "Diversity among library staff at UNL has increased from 2 percent ten years



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ago to 12 percent in 2010." Dr. Giesecke is also Professor of Practice in the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science PhD in Managerial Leadership program.

Congratulations to Sean Stewart, his team, and the **Alliance Public Library** for winning the You Are Here for Public Libraries video challenge in Nebraska. See the winning video on YouTube at <u>www.youtube</u>. <u>com/watch?v=mqhkqkNa2Zo</u>. More information about the teen video challenge can be found at <u>http:// nlc.nebraska.gov/youth/summerreading/cslpcontest-</u> <u>winners.aspx</u>.

The **Nebraska Library Commission** launched its new website in July. It's shorter and easier URL is <u>http://nlc.nebraska.gov</u>.

The **Meridian Library System** moved to more compact quarters this summer. The new address is 816 East 25th Street, Suite 7, Kearney, NE 68847.

Cathy McMahon is the new Youth Services Manager at **Sump Memorial Library** in Papillion. She was previously the Youth Services Librarian at the Keene Memorial Library in Fremont. She will design and facilitate programs, collection development, and management.



Anneka Ramirez is the new Director at Scribner Public Library.

Nevada

The **West Las Vegas Library** presented an author discussion with Charles Bilberry, author of *There's More Leaves on the Tree*, followed by a book signing and sale.

Rachel Murillo is the Virtual Pre-K state coordinator for the **Washoe County School System**. She says they now offer kits at many Nevada library

branches to help parents introduce their preschoolers to basic math and reading skills. State numbers point to a learning achievement gap, at least partly because only 40 percent of Nevada children are enrolled in a nursery, preschool or kindergarten, according to Nevada's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Strategic Plan. However, a "Virtual Pre-K" program is now available at many local libraries.

Two clowns from visited **Washoe County libraries** in August to present special storytimes. They entertained the

crowds with juggling, magic, humor, clown noses and coloring pages, all the while making references to reading and what kinds of books are available in the library.



New Mexíco

A life-size statue outside the **Juan Tabo Library** in Albuquerque recently was stolen from the prominent location it occupied for years. Library staff had seen the statue when they came into work one morning, but it was missing at noon.

The **Indigenous Nations Library** Program at **University of New Mexico** Libraries held its Open House and Grand Opening on November 10 The celebration highlighted the opening of a new Mac Lab, ceiling paintings reflecting indigenous cultures of New Mexico, and the "Gathering Place" as an academic/research space for all researchers. INLP opened its doors in August 2004 in the West Wing of Zimmerman Library. In August 2010, it moved into its new space. INLP continues its commitment to reaching out to K-12 NM Native American students and tribal libraries, creating programming to assist in the retention of UNM Native American students, and providing research assistance to all researchers.

North Dakota

According to MPLA representative Eric Stroshane, the North Dakota Library Association's annual conference "went off with great good gusto in lovely Minot. There was a plethora of stellar sessions, including ones on e-books and e-readers, intellectual freedom, open source software, web apps, graphic novels, and more. Access slides and handouts from select conference presentations here: ndlaonline.org/ Conference/11conf.htm. A standout was the Living Banned Books event, where Intellectual Freedom Committee members and other enthusiastic library workers dressed up as banned books. They spoke to all who approached them about the books, their legacy, and the circumstances of their banning, as well as reading passages from these beloved and contested texts. "



Suzanne Morrison, U.S. Courts Library 8th Circuit, as Fahrenheit 451 in NDLA's Living Banned Books event

Several librarians from across the state also took time out from the conference to help reorganize the collections of the Lincoln Elementary School Library, which had been chaotically displaced by the recent flood in Minot.

New and newly (re-)elected North Dakota Library Association board members:

- President, Aubrey Madler
- President-elect, Alfred Peterson
- Past President, Rita Ennen
- Secretary, Brianne Schmidt
- Treasurer, Mike Safratowich
- ALA Councilor, Shelby Harken
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The University of North Dakota's Chester Fritz Li-

brary in Grand Forks celebrated its 50th anniversary on October 13. The Chester Fritz Library is home to the largest physical book collection in the state. It



began with the generous donation from Mr. Chester Fritz, a former UND student, who loved books and valued his education at UND. His gift provided the impetus for action by the North Dakota State Legislature to fund the construction of the Library. **Wilbur Stolt** is Director of Libraries.

The **Watts Free Library** in Leonard celebrated its 100th anniversary on September 11.

Award-winning author Barbara McClintock recently visited several colleges and schools in North Dakota, including the Lake Region State College, Sweetwater Elementary School, Central Middle School, and Devils Lake High School (all in Devils Lake), and Jamestown College.

New librarians in North Dakota: Jean Pascual is the new librarian of the Hebron Public Library. Kathy Mojica is the new librarian of the Lidgerwood Public Library. Debbie Carton is the new librarian of the Forman Public Library.

The Grand Forks Lions Club donated a video magnifier to the **Grand Forks Public Library** to assist the visually impaired.

At the **NDLA** state conference the MPLA booth was chosen to receive the Friendliest Booth award, as voted on each year by the members of the New Members Roundtable. According to Rita Ennen, NDLA Past president, "**Eric Stroshane** did a great job of encouraging new and renewing MPLA members at our general session meetings! "



The design of the **Metropolitan Library District**'s northwest Oklahoma City library branch under construction will feature eight faux oil derricks. The bases of the derricks serve as glassed-in meeting rooms and quiet rooms, while the top of the derricks reach through the roof and are skylights. It is expected to be completed in February and open in March.

Cheryl Sutttles, Manager, Library Services for INTEGRIS Health in Oklahoma City is the new President of the **Oklahoma Library Association**.

South Dakota

A new Library Technician program at Western Dakota Tech will begin in January 2012. The Library Technician Associate of Applied Science program is designed for those interested in working in a library to assist patrons, maintain library databases, catalog and research materials and serve as a team member. Library technicians are employed in K-12, public, academic, and special libraries such as medical, law, corporate and government libraries. WDT will offer the program as a 20-month Associate of Applied Science degree, or as a 10-month Diploma; the program has been organized to give students the potential to find employment with either of the options. Students will be able to start the program in the fall and spring semesters. WDT will explore possible transfer agreements with the Board of Regents and other colleges once the program begins. Enrollments are currently being accepted for the Spring 2012 semester. For information about the program or WDT, contact WDT at (800) 544-8765, (605) 718-2565, or email; visit WDT on the web at wdt.edu.

Jane Norling, Library Director, reports that the Beresford Public Library has held a very popular "Buy Your First Car" seminar for teens for more than three years after borrowing the idea from Cara Romeo at the Alexander Mitchell Public Library in Aberdeen. She first, spoke with the driver's education teacher to collaborate and have a group of teens that would be a captive audience and would benefit from this seminar. The local car dealership was asked to bring three cars to the library: a reasonably priced four door car, a SUV type car and a sporty type car. Loan officers from the three banks volunteered their time, insurance sales people from two agencies came



plus a mechanic from a repair shop and a Highway Patrol trooper.

Utah

The **Orem Public Library** was the site of the kick off event for the Utah Humanities Council Book Festival on September 30. Utah authors making appearances were Brandon Mull, Ally Condie, Gerald Lund, Sam Brower and Matthew Kirby. The author of "Bin Laden's Bald Spot and Other Stories", Brian Doyle, also spoke and answered a few questions from the audience. Pulitzer Prize winner Marilynne Robinson, the author of "Gilead" spoke at two Book Festival Events, at the Orem Public Library and at the Salt Lake City Main Library. Events ran statewide throughout October.

The CSRT (Childrens Services) and YART (Young Adult) roundtables all-day workshop was held at Provo City Library for public librarians and school library staff. The 'Tech It Up A Notch' theme offered sessions about the New Utah Kids Ready-to-*Read* program, children and teen sessions on *Work*ing Smarter Not Harder (websites for storytime ideas/ resources, programming, readers advisory, booklists, author video clips, early literacy helps), Technology in Children's and Teen Programming (information and demos about using a document camera in storytimes, and demos on prezis and glogster), and a session on Teen Tech week and ideas for using technology on ongoing teen programming. Keynote speaker was Utah author and storyboard artist Heather Dixon, author of *Entwined*. End-of-the-day speaker was Robert Nay, a 14 year old entrepreneur who created the "Bubble Ball" #1 free iPhone app. His success began at the Spanish Fork public library where the librarians helped pacify his creative streak by keeping him supplied with programming books.



Author Heather Dixon signs Entwined. Photo by Lindi Hatch



Lunchtime ukulele session. Photo by Linda Hatch



Robert Nay, young entrepreneur who was nurtured by Spanish Fork librarian. Photo by kari Nay

MPLA member **Marcia Cheney** died September 7 in Utah after a sudden illness. She was Director of the North Logan City Library, and previously Children's Librarian at the Campbell County Library in Wyoming. She was a participant in MPLA's 2002 Leadership Institute. Marcia served on the MPLA board in various capacities, including Wyoming Representative and Membership Committee member. She was 37.

The new **Springville Library** opened on October 29 with several hundred residents attending the ribbon cutting. The library features tall glass windows, an outdoor patio, 51 public computers with Internet access and eight public computers dedicated to the library catalog. Energy-efficient materials and systems were used to build the library.

MPLA member **Robert Shupe** is the new Director of the Logan Public Library. He previously worked at the Mohave County Library and Mohave Community College Library in Arizona, and at the Weber County library system in Utah. He will be a mentor for the 2012 MPLA Leadership Institute.

Four students from Emporia State University's SLIM Salt Lake City cohort were selected to travel to Belgrade, Serbia, to participate in a 10-day study abroad program. The students, Brienne Coombs, Ginger Hyde, Chrissy Johnson and Heather Novotny, traveled to Serbia with four other Emporia students and attended the international library conference "Digitalization of Cultural and Scientific Heritage, University Repositories and Distance Learning" held at the University of Belgrade. Presenters at the conference were from Bulgaria, Italy, Serbia and America. The students also had a chance to visit two American Corner libraries—one in Belgrade and one in the city of Novi Sad—and hold discussions and workshops with the American Corner librarians as well as with librarians from the Belgrade City Library and the Novi Sad City Library.



2nd from left: Ginger; 4th from right: Brienne; 3rd from right: Heather; 2nd from right: Chrissy

The J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah has been awarded two grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Marriott Library, Mountain West Digital Library and the Rocky Mountain Online Archives were awarded nearly a \$50,000 grant to fund the project "Planning for a Western Archival Network". Matching funds brought the budget close to \$63,000 to allow the project to explore ways to improve software and systems that allow searching of archival collections. The second grant of \$439,132 for the project "Getting Found: Search Engine Optimization for Digital Repositories". The Marriott Library, OCLC, Digital Library Federation and The Mountain West Digital Library will test and evaluation a strategy for increasing search-ability of digital repositories in internet search engines.

The Salt Lake Tribune reported that Utah State Librarian **Donna Jones** and State of **Utah** Corrections officials cut a ribbon for the new U**tah State Library Reading for the Blind facility at the Utah State Prison** on November 1. Twenty five prison inmates record 15-25 books a month for blind or dis-



abled library patrons. The program is a collaboration between the Utah Department of Corrections and the Utah Department of Community and Culture's State Library. Inmates gener-

ally record books not available from other federal, or commercial, entity. The program is in its third year. The new facility that opened in November was funded by donations. The prison will cover utility and other ongoing costs. The building includes eight soundproofed recording booths.



Patty Myers, director of the Campbell County Public Library, has been elected to the University of Wyoming American Heritage Center Advisory Board. She is a past-president of the Wyoming State Historical Society, past president of WYLD (Wyoming Libraries Database Network), as well as a Historical Society chapter president in Johnson, Platte, and Campbell counties. She has served with regional library organizations, and currently is the WY representative to the American Library Association. She is also a freelance writer of historical feature stories.

The year 2011 is the 125th year of continuous operation for the Laramie County Library System.

The **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** will host a free five-part reading and discussion series called "Let's Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War." The library is one of 65 public libraries nationwide receiving grants to host the series developed by the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Local partners for the series are the Friends of the Library and the Sheridan County Museum. Norleen Healy, Project Scholar, will lead a discussion of the book at each session. Mrs. Healy has moderated discussion series at libraries in Sheridan for a number of years; she's served on the Wyoming Council for the Humanities and taught at Sheridan College until her retirement in 2008.

The Laramie County Library System hosted "thirty days and nights of literary abandon" for National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). Participants began writing on November 1 with the goal of writing a 50,000 word (approximately 175 page) novel by 11:59:59, November 30.

Stephen Boss has been elected as the new MPLA representative from Wyoming. He is the head of the Library IT department at the University of Wyoming.



The Laramie County Library System held a program called "Microwave Madness for Teens." for grades 7-12. It also included apron-decorating. Youth Services Specialist **Deborah Kassner** and Young Adult Specialist **Laura Prestia** from the **Albany County Library** were two of 40 librarians nationwide selected to attend the Countdown To Curiosity, and the Mars Science Laboratory - Curiosity - Mission Launch seminar presented by NASA in preparation for 2012's Year of the Solar System.. The goal of the workshop is to help librarians learn more about Mars and space science in support of next summer's reading program, "Night Sky."

The **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** hosted a presentation by Kevin Bennage, Ghost Hunter of Wyoming on October 27. Bennage began his paranormal research in March of 2003 and has conducted more than 183 research cases. Cases include field investigations in commercial and residential sites. Bennage, often accompanied by Paranormal Researchers of Wyoming members, uses electromagnetic field detectors, thermal meters, camcorders and digital voice recorders in the research. The presentation included audio and video clips and use of the Frank Ghost Box similar to a digital radio which allows listeners to hear audio transmissions as a paranormal voice "speaks".



State & National Conferences

2012

ALA Midwinter Meeting January 20-24; 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

North Dakota Library Association Conference September, 26-29 Fargo, ND

Wyoming Library Association Conference Sept. 26-29, Casper, WY

South Dakota Library Association, Oct. 3-5 Huron, SD

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

Colorado Association of Libraries Conference, October 18 - 20, Keystone Resort & Conference Center

MPLA Newsletter December 2011

MPLA



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