

*Big Horizons*



*Close Community*

# Newsletter

February-March 2012

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

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## INSIDE

- 2 ... President's Message
- 3 ... 2012 Leadership Institute Sponsors
- 4 ... MPLA Social Media
- 5 ... MPLA Authors & Performer
- 6 ... MPLA Leadership Institute Update - Onsite Team
- 11... Professional Development Grant Recipients
- 13 ... CoALA Summit
- 14 ... Brookings Public Library "A Life Explored" Series
- 14 ... Watertown Public Library Benefits from Fundraiser
- 15...Great Reads for Girls at South Jordan Library
- 17...Guest Column: A Rowing Challenge
- 19... Column - Library Education News
- 21...Welcome New Members
- 22...Around the Region
- 32...Grant Deadlines
- 32...State & National Conferences
- 33...MPLA Board & Staff
- 34...MPLA Membership Form

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# President's Message

## Ready...Set...Going Out Of Your Way To Get Most out of the Exhibit Hall!

If you're a conference attendee who goes into the exhibit hall thinking...I'm not the person in our library who actually makes decisions about purchasing items, but I'll cruise the isles, check out the chocolate and giveaways, and then make a beeline to the coffee bar...you are not alone! Very few people in a library are actual buyers. However, trade shows are an amazing place to learn AND help improve the library industry. Here are four steps to make the most out of the experience for everyone involved:

1) **VISIT each booth and thank the vendor for being a part of the conference and caring about libraries.** For most companies, their goal is not to sell a book, a chair or a widget at the actual conference. They are really there to show their support of the association and to build



*l-r: Jan Brue Enright, South Dakota Library Association President-Elect; Mike Mullin, MPLA Rep; Dana Braccia, MPLA President at SDLA Annual Conference*

new relationships. I know this first hand from my former life in hotel sales and marketing when I was the rep handing out the chocolate and brochures. It can be expensive for a vendor to participate when you start to add up booth fees, airfare, hotel, etc. Vendors often time sponsor keynote speakers, programs and other activities that really enhance the overall experience for attendees. It's nice to let them know how much their support is appreciated.

2) **LEARN about what each company does.** It's okay to let them know that you are not a buyer, and that you are just interested in learning more about what's happening in the industry. There are so many new innovations in the library field and this is a great way to catch up on the latest and greatest. Talking with vendors that seem to be completely out of the realm of your daily work can often give you the best out-of-the-box creative solutions to issues you've been dealing with. If you are not the buyer for your library, let the vendor know whom they should reach out to. You can also offer to bring back a business card and brochure for the appropriate person on your staff.

3) **ASK what they see as the next big trends in library service.** Most vendors visit hundreds of libraries each year and they are in an excellent position to see new best practices. Find out the coolest thing they've seen lately – and who is doing it. Often times they have the contact's name and number and can share that immediately. Imagine going back to work on Monday with a great new idea to borrow.

4) **SHARE with them what you see as big issues for your library and community.** We don't want our vendors to be out of touch with what's really happening! Providing your valuable insights helps a company improve products and services. Think of them as a library customer and you are providing great info about local trends and hot topics.

The more we see vendors as partners, the better they can help us meet the needs of our library customers and advance the quality of service we offer the community. See you at the show!

---*Dana Braccia*  
*MPLA President*

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Thank you to Sponsors  
of the MPLA 2012 Leadership Institute!

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# MPLA Conversations

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**LinkedIn!**  
**Facebook!**  
**Twitter!**

According to MPLA President Dana Braccia, “we’ve decided to regroup and focus our social media efforts where we are seeing more member activity: on the MPLA LinkedIn Group area (which now has over 100 members), Facebook (which has over 400 fans) and Twitter. This is where you’ll start to see more virtual conversations happen (and also some fun sponsor contests). Please check out these spaces and add to the dialogue.”

MPLA will discontinue the general MPLA listserv (mpla-l) in July 2012 due to low usage. In the meantime, those currently subscribed to mpla-l are encouraged to join MPLA on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. Anyone can be part of the MPLA conversations - membership is not required.

As noted on page 1, “Like” the Mountain Plains Library Association on Facebook and BWI will donate \$1 to the MPLA Professional Grants budget.

Go to [facebook.com/MPLALibraries](http://facebook.com/MPLALibraries).



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# MPLA Authors!

MPLA members **Kathryn Plunkett**, **Louis Howley** and **Nicole Sump-Crethar** are authors of a chapter “Top Communication Rules for Effective Library Management” in *Managing in the Middle*, Librarians Handbook Series, ALA Editions. Their chapter will be the “end-cap” to the section on communication.



The three authors are members of the MPLA Communications Committee. Last year they asked all MPLA members what they think is the most important communication rule all supervisors should follow? From the responses they compiled a list of five top communication rules for all supervisors. The title is to be published in fall 2012.

Kathryn Plunkett is Digital Information Literacy Librarian, Southeastern Oklahoma State University Henry G. Bennett Memorial Library; Louis Howley is Librarian I, Phoenix Public Library Cholla Library; Nicole Sump-Crethar is Digital Library Services Librarian, Oklahoma State University Edmon Low Library.

## MPLA Performer!




After 25 years as harpist with the Topeka Symphony, MPLA member Rob Banks retired from the Symphony. This made time to try out for stage productions. The Helen Hocker Theater in Topeka, KS, is staging “1776” in February and March.

Rob will appear as Lewis Morris of New York. Mr. Morris, having received no instructions from the New York Legislature, is compelled to abstain from votes, “courteously!” Thereby frustrating the process of forming the Declaration of Independence.

Rob is Chief Operating Officer for the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library and a past President of MPLA.

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# MPLA 2012 Leadership Institute Update

## On-Site Team

Plans are moving swiftly ahead for MPLA's 2012 Leadership Institute, May 6-11 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. Over 50 applications arrived by the November 1 deadline and were evaluated first by state committees and then selections confirmed by the Leadership Institute Committee Chairs and Coordinator. All applicants were notified in mid-December, with acceptances pending from those selected. The list of participants will be published in the next newsletter.

The On-site Institute Team includes:

### **Mickey Coalwell, Mentor**



Mickey Coalwell joined the Northeast Kansas Library System, headquartered in Lawrence, as their Library Development Consultant in 2004, after working in Missouri libraries. He consults with NEKLS member libraries on personnel issues, policy issues, facility planning, collection development, automation, programming, Friends organizations, statistics and reporting, library law, trustee training, board orientation, and strategic planning.

NEKLS serves over a hundred member libraries in 14 counties, including 48 public libraries and library systems. It is one of seven regional library systems in the state.

Mickey has presented at Missouri Library Association Conferences, Kansas Library Association Conferences, and at joint conferences of the twelve-state Mountain Plains Library Association. Mickey is a 2006 alumnus of the MPLA Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch. He served a three-year term as the MPLA Kansas State Representative and is currently President of the Kansas Library Association.

Mickey received his MLS from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He also has a Master of Liberal Arts from Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas. He came to libraries relatively late in life, having worked as a teamster, a high school teacher, a radio broadcaster, a corporate trainer, and a retail manager.

Mickey has had a lifelong interest in comics and graphic novels, and enthusiastically advocates for GN collections at library conferences, workshops, and other professional gatherings.

Aside from comics, Mickey's other passion is classical music. He was active in music and theater in college, and has stayed involved in the arts scene. He reviewed classical concerts, dance, and fine arts for the *Kansas City Star* from 1996-2008, and is the weekday announcer for Radio Bach Classical radio. He is a longtime member of the International Rachmaninoff Society.

He has one wife, one daughter, and one cat.

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## Adriane Juarez, Mentor



Adriane Juarez is Director of the Utah Regional School of Library and Information Management with Emporia State University. She leads graduate students as they develop and earn their MLS degrees. In her role she provides regional program direction and implementation, board communication, student relations, marketing, faculty coordination, curriculum management and communication with the professional library community. She also serves as adjunct professor with Emporia State University.

In the public setting, she has worked for the Salt Lake City Library for 27 years. She currently manages the Day-Riverside Branch, serving a diverse population in an urban area. Among her accomplishments are: developing, as part of a committee, a new branch library in the Glendale District of Salt Lake; strategic planning for her organization; serving as Chairperson for the Utah Center for the Book; participating as a founding member of Utah Kids Ready to Read; holding the position of President of REFORMA de Utah.

Adriane is currently President-elect of the Utah Library Association, which celebrates its centennial year in 2012. As a member of the Mountain Plains Library Association, she attended the 2007 Leadership Institute. In 2010, she presented a MPLA workshop at the joint OLA Conference called "New Spaces in Old Places" which was later adapted and presented, as part of the 21 Century Library Series, across the state of Utah in cooperation with the Utah State Library. She highly values her involvement with MPLA and the opportunity it affords for growth and development.

## Valerie Nye, Mentor



Valerie Nye has been the Library Manager for two years at Fogelson Library at Santa Fe University of Art and Design (formerly the College of Santa Fe). Under the College of Santa Fe she served as a serials librarian and head of public services, and as a public library consultant at the New Mexico State Library. She has worked in a variety of library settings for the past 17 years serving as a librarian in newspaper libraries, archives, and special collections.

She has coauthored four books. Her first book was coauthored with her mentor, R. Neil Scott and is entitled *Milledgeville: A Guide to Flannery O'Connor's Correspondence in Libraries and Archives*. Her most recent book was coauthored with Kathy Barco and is available through American Library Association Editions. It is entitled: *True Stories of Censorship Battles in America's Libraries* and is a compilation of essays written by librarians who have experienced challenges to remove material held in their libraries' collections.

Valerie currently serves as the secretary and grant liaison on the New Mexico Library Foundation board, a non-profit organization that raises funds to provide grants to all types of libraries in New Mexico. She has served in various positions on the New Mexico Library Association board including: Member-at-Large, Publicity Chair, and MPLA Representative. She has served as the New Mexico Representative on the MPLA

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board. Valerie has a BA in English literature with an emphasis in art from Cornell College and an MA in library science from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

About the Leadership Institute Valerie says, “Attending the MPLA Leadership Institute in 2003 was one of the most defining experiences of my career. The Institute allowed me investigate my leadership style and taught me how to seek and appreciate positive role models in leadership positions. I look forward to returning to the Leadership Institute as a mentor and as a student. I believe learning to be a good, positive, and productive leader requires a lifetime of learning and practice.”

## **Robert Shupe, Mentor**



Robert Shupe needed a job while going to college. The library had a work-study opening. Thus began a love affair with the profession of librarianship...that continues to flourish.

While having other plans that included teaching and coaching athletics, Robert earned a B.A. degree in Sociology (P.E. and Secondary Education minors) from Southern Utah University in 1984, graduating with high honors. After learning of a bookmobile job however, around graduation time, somehow his instincts led him down the library path. He worked for the State Library of Utah as a bookmobile librarian from 1984-88 in rural northeastern Utah; then moved to Weber County Library System (Ogden, Utah), splitting duties between their bookmobile and working reference. With the aid of Weber County, Robert was able to earn his MLS from Brigham Young University in 1991, graduating with honors. From there, his career path headed south: literally. He became the Director of Library Services for Mohave Community College (Kingman, Arizona). Over the next 16 years he worked and served in several positions for the college, including stints as Director of Distance Education, Dean of Library Services and Dean of Student and Learning Support Services. In 2006 Robert moved across town and became the Director for Mohave County Public Library (still Kingman), until 2011. He currently serves as Director of the Logan Library (Logan, Utah).

Early in his career, and while attending library school, Robert was taught that part of being a “professional” means giving back to the profession. He bought-in to this notion and has consistently strived to be active “professionally.” His experience in this arena includes: elected delegate of OCLC Global Council; elected to Amigos Library Services, Inc. Board of Trustees where he served as Chair and Treasurer; terms as Chair of the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) Professional Development Grants Committee and the New Members Roundtable; terms as President and Secretary of the Arizona Library Association; terms as President of the Mohave Library Alliance; terms as President of the Workplace, Education and Literacy Coalition of Mohave County (WELCOME); serving as a mentor in MPLA’s mentoring program; and various other committee memberships and assignments, as needed.

Robert will tell you emphatically and passionately that, of all the various conferences, seminars, workshops, break-out sessions, discussions and debates that he has been privileged to attend and/or present at, none of them can really compare to all that he learned and gained, both professionally and personally, by attending the MPLA Leadership Institute at Ghost Ranch in 2005. And he truly feels honored at being allowed to try and “give back” to this Institute at this time.



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Robert Shupe grew-up in Ogden, Utah and moved to Kingman, Arizona with his parents while in high school. After graduation he ended-up at Southern Utah University on academic and football scholarships.

His hobbies and interests include hiking, backpacking, camping, sports and most definitely libraries.

## **Dan Stanton, Polymathic Factotum**



Dan Stanton is currently the Government Information Librarian at Arizona State University, covering Federal and Arizona State and Local Documents. Dan has been with the ASU Libraries for nineteen years in various positions from Stacks to Personnel and received his MLIS from the University of Arizona in 1997. Before moving to Arizona in 1992, Dan lived in Washington, DC, working at the Peace Corps headquarters as a liaison between Washington and programs in Latin America, including Honduras, where Dan served as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1986-1989. Dan has a BA in Religion from Trinity College in Hartford, CT, just down the road from where he grew up, in Windsor Locks.

Dan was in the inaugural MPLA Leadership Institute in 2002 and has been an active member of MPLA ever since, presenting at Conferences, serving on and Chairing the Continuing Education Committee and working on the Leadership Institute Committee since 2009. He has also been active with the Arizona Library Association since 1999 as a presenter, Government Information Interest Group Chair, College and University Libraries Division Chair, and newsletter columnist, among other things. Dan is pleased to be serving both associations as the Arizona Representative to the Mountain Plans Library Association.

Dan is excited to be participating as Polymathic Factotum at the 2012 Leadership Institute and is putting his trust in Judy Zelenski that the requirements of this role are not illegal, immoral, or painful. It will truly be an honor to work with such a gathering of leaders in the special atmosphere provided by Maureen Sullivan and MPLA.

## **Maureen Sullivan, Facilitator**



Maureen Sullivan is consultant to numerous libraries of all types – academic, public, school, law, health sciences, and other special libraries – and library consortia. Her practice focuses on: strategic planning, leadership development, introducing and managing organizational change, organization and work redesign, establishment of staff development and learning programs for today's workplace, creating a work environment that supports diversity, executive coaching and search processes, and the identification and development of competencies.

Her career history includes two years as the human resources administrator in the libraries at the University of Maryland (1977-1980) and at Yale University (1983-1991). She was the Management Training Special-

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ist at the Association of Research Libraries (1980-1983). She has presented extensively at state, regional and national library conferences on transforming libraries and librarianship, leadership, improving work relationships, creating the collaborative organization, generational synergy, cross-cultural communication, and making the case for the value of libraries.

Maureen is past president of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) and during her term helped establish the Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians in partnership with the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She is now a member of the faculty for this annual program. She was president of the Library Administration and Management Association for the 1988-89 term. She is currently a professor of practice in the Ph.D. program, Managerial Leadership in the Information Professions, at the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science. She has extensive experience with leadership development programs in the library field. The Urban Libraries Council (ULC) engaged her to serve as the Learning Community Director for both offerings of its ULC Scholars: Librarians for America's Neighborhoods program. She also served as the evaluator of ULC's first Executive Leadership Institute. The Chicago Public Library invited her to be the 2006 Charlotte Kim Scholar in Residence. In that role she introduced the administrators, managers and staff of the library system to appreciative inquiry as a means to achieve positive change.

Among her honors she was the 2010 Academic/Research Librarian of the Year by the Association of College and Research Libraries and recipient of the American Library Association's Elizabeth Futas Catalyst for Change Award in 1999. She is co-author, with Robert D. Stueart, of *Developing Library Leaders* (Neal-Schuman, 2010)

## **Judy Zelenski, Coordinator**



Judy Zelenski planned to use her college majors for a career in journalism and advertising but each time she took a step in that direction serendipity steered her to librarianship. In high school she signed up for a drafting class but wasn't placed in it because "girls don't take drafting" - so in that empty class period she volunteered in the school library. After graduation from the University of Colorado she applied to newspapers with no luck - but was hired as a clerk at a military library in Georgia. Moving to Colorado she applied for a job with a weekly newspaper but didn't get it. Instead she was hired by the Jefferson County Public Library. A move to Arizona cinched it when she earned her MLS from the new University of Arizona Graduate Library School. She was a Children's Librarian at the Tucson Public Library and then Coordinator at the U of A Library School. Next stop Wyoming where she was Assistant Director and Children's Librarian at the Albany County Public Library in Laramie. Another move and for the next 22 years Judy was Assistant Director of the multi-type Central Colorado Library System. She has served as President of both the Colorado Library Association and MPLA. In 2003 the Colorado regional systems lost their funding and she lost her job. But after a few months of semi-retirement she was asked to fill in as interim MPLA Newsletter Editor, and then as interim Executive Secretary. Now she continues with regular appointments for both positions.

Judy enjoys every minute of her time with MPLA! She was a Mentor for the 2007 Leadership Institute and Coordinator for the 2010 Institute. She says it is a real honor to be able to attend the Leadership Institute again can hardly wait to see everyone there.

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# MPLA 2011 Professional Development Grant Recipients



Every year MPLA budgets funds to provide Professional Development Grants to members. Grants are awarded to support: - Attendance as a participant or a presenter at a library or scholarly workshop, seminar, or conference,

including the MPLA annual conference.

- Library related research projects.
- Formal course work leading to an advanced degree in library science or a related discipline.
- Formal course work not leading to an advanced degree but directly related to an individual's library position.
- Visits to another library to receive or provide significant advanced training in library services or procedures.

Grants are also available for MPLA member state associations to support Pre- or Post-conferences. For more information and eligibility requirements see <http://www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grants.html>.

Grant recipients during 2011 were:

**Debbie Aden**, Reference Desk Assistant, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, received a \$150 mini-grant to attend the MLA/MPLA Annual Conference, Billings, 2011

*Debbie's comments: My goal is to try and attend more conferences and become more involved in MPLA. I was able to meet members of the organization and take back to my institution some ideas and suggestions for current projects. This was a great experience and I would definitely recommend it.*

**Megan Dazey**, Bibliographic Management Services Librarian, University of Montana Mansfield Library, received a \$150 mini-grant to attend the ALCTS Technical Service Workflow Efficiency Interest Group program.

*Megan's comments: I served as co-chair of the ALCTS Technical Services Workflow Efficiency Interest Group. My main objectives for being the co-chair of this interest group are to gain experience presenting at a national conference, speaking to larger crowds and to gain additional knowledge about specific topics related to technical services. I believe that I achieved all of these goals for myself and for my career development. I would recommend ALA attendance to other MPLA members. Being somewhat isolated in Montana, it is great to get out of the state and talk with other librarians that are at both larger and smaller institutions. The networking aspect of ALA is worth attendance. Being the co-chair of an interest group is also great, as most people react to my location as if to say I didn't know they had librarians in Montana. I think that any opportunity to portray any of the MPLA states in a positive way is a good one.*

**Aubrey Madler**, Information Specialist, UND Center for Rural Health, Grand Forks, ND, received a \$600 grant to attend the 2011 MPLA/MLA Conference in Billings, MT.

*Aubrey's comments: My objectives for attending the MPLA/MLA Annual Conference included: to network with other librarians, attend sessions on library leadership and supervising, and learn tips on how to speak and present effectively to the library community. Conference sessions and networking opportunities helped me to meet these objectives. I had a very high quality experience and have already shared some of what I learned with local colleagues. I will continue advocating for MPLA and its programs, and it will be especially helpful for future NDLA conference chairs to attend when they will be planning the tri-conference.*

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**Ronelle Thompson**, Director, Mikkelsen Library, Augustana College, Sioux Falls SD received a \$600 grant to attend ACRL 2011 in Philadelphia .

Ronelle's comments: *My primary objective in attending ACRL 2011 was the professional stimulation that comes from participating in a national conference of this caliber. It was an amazing opportunity to meet and interact with colleagues from all across the country. I am energized and excited about practical things that can explore implementing in our library, for example, mentors for students. With accreditation for both Augustana and Sioux Falls Seminary in the next year, both programs and conversations with colleagues provided valuable tips for the reports and campus visits. In addition, conversations with OCLC representatives about their Web-Scale Management initiatives hold promise for the South Dakota Library Network as we look at our future. The ACRL conference was invigorating and I would definitely recommend it to colleagues in MPLA.*

**LeAnn Weller**, Public Services Librarian, University of New Mexico Valencia Campus Library, Los Lunas, NM, received a \$600 grant to attend the 39th Annual LOEX Conference (Library Instruction and Information Literacy)

LeAnn's comments: *I left New Mexico wanting to develop better knowledge and expertise in assessment techniques and if possible pick up information on new tricks for the classroom or the web page. I definitely achieved those goals. I returned with my mind filled with ideas for revising instructional web page content, reviewing the Searchpath tutorial, a long list of neat web sites to explore and a reading list for interlibrary loan. I also am formulating possible assessment plans not only for instruction, but for library value (services, instruction, reference, etc). I definitely would recommend LOEX to anyone who has responsibilities in instruction, creating LibGuides or other web content, and assessment of library activities. It's a meeting that stimulates your brain with new ideas and practical tools.*

**Colorado Association of Libraries** received a \$500 grant for Preconference: ***The eFrontier: eBooks and the Library Landscape***; Rose Nelson reporting.

Rose's comments: *The full day eBook preconference was a big success. We started the morning with a lively keynote from Sue Polanka, reference librarian at Wright State University and blogger extraordinaire of "No Shelf Required". The keynote was followed by a series of breakout groups where participants shared their ideas on DRM and licensing, staff training and support, resource sharing and publishing and eReaders in the library. Representatives from EBSCO Industries, Gale-Cengage Learning, Overdrive and Springer Publishing answered questions related to eBooks and pricing models, econtent and libraries and the libraries role in providing ebooks to patrons. Attendance: 57*

**Utah Library Association** received a \$500 Preconference grant for Preconferences: ***UR Ukele, Library Role in Disaster Planning***, and ***Improving Workplace Relationships***; Dorothy Horan reporting.

Dorothy's comments: *I had no idea that so many Children's Librarians played Ukes. Of the 27 participants who filled out evaluation forms, 22 rated the program as 4 or 5, the two highest scores. This program was publicized in the March ULA Newsletter. Library Role in Disaster Planning: All 11 participants who filled out evaluation forms about this program ranked it as a 4 or 5. This program was promoted in the April ULA Newsletter and through e-mails to members. Techniques for Improving Workplace Relationships: The majority of the 44 participants in this program rated it a 5.*

**Wyoming Library Association** received a \$500 Preconference Grant for ***The Better Future for The People You Serve/What Might Your Library Look Like Tomorrow***. Sue Knesel reporting.

Sue's comments: *The program addressed the questions how to balance collection, programing, and stay in touch with our stake holders. The Wyoming Library Association thanks MPLA for the financial support of this pre-conference program. There were 51 attendees and on the post conference evaluation this workshop was rated in the top three best programs by 18 attendees. Also the evaluation requested we have Pat Wagner as a presenter again at future conferences.*

# Events from Here & There



## 2012 CoALA Summit *Librarians on the Move*

May 25, 2012

Regis University ∞ Denver, CO

## Call for Proposals

Proposals Due by **February 29, 2012**

### About the Summit

The CoALA Summit, previously known as the CALC Summit, is a one-day workshop based on the theme of *Librarians on the Move*. The Summit will be packed with presentations and a keynote by Joe Murphy, author of the Libraryfuture blog.

### Types of Proposals

A Summit presentation is a 60-minute session that includes a 45-50 minute presentation and 10-15 minutes of question and answer.

The CoALA Summit Committee will also accept a limited number of sessions with a hands-on component that require computers (to be held in a computer lab with 19 workstations). Please indicate if your session requires this component on the submission form.

### Proposal Requirements

Each presentation should feature a successful program, practice, or key issue in academic librarianship, however all proposals will be considered.

All proposals must include:

- Session title (limit 20 words)
- Session abstract (limit 100 words)
- Long description of the session with an outline (limit 500 words)
- Presenter(s) contact information
- Technology requirement for a hands-on session

### How to Submit

Please submit your proposal  
using the online form:

<http://bit.ly/vUfqli>

Proposals Due by 2/29/12

### Notification

You will be notified in March about the status of your proposal via email.



For additional questions, please contact: Lyda Ellis, [lyda.ellis@unco.edu](mailto:lyda.ellis@unco.edu)

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## Events from Here & There



### Brookings Public Library “A Life Explored” series

*From Elvita Landau, Director*

The **Brookings Public Library** announces the second year of its successful series of programs called **A Life Ex-**

**plored (ALE)** which examines in depth the life of one individual. The 2012 ALE individual will be Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Programs about his life will be featured from January to April. A Scottish born physician and novelist, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is best known for creating Sherlock Holmes, the quintessential sleuth. Doyle was a prolific writer whose works beyond the Holmes mysteries include science fiction, plays, romances, poetry, nonfiction, and humors. He also served in the Boer Wars, worked to correct injustices, ran for office and was a proponent of Spiritualism.

The first ALE program featured Dr. C. Paul Martin, M.D., B.S.I. of Marshall, MN, who introduced Doyle's life, his works and their popularity, and vari-

ous associations of which Doyle was a part. Martin is a member of the Baker Street Irregulars, the most famous Sherlock Holmes society. Founded in 1934 by Christopher Morley, BSI membership is by invitation only. Other programs planned for the spring include a film presentation of *They Might Be Giants*, starring George C. Scott as a Holmes-want-to-be and Joanne Woodward as Dr. Watson, his psychiatrist. Two book discussions will take place: a two-part discussion on the biography, *The Man Who Created Sherlock Holmes: the life and time of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* by Andrew Lycett; and a discussion of Doyle's *The Lost World* featuring his other great character, Professor Challenger. The exploration of Doyle's life will end in April as three members of the Red-throated League radio play group of Minnesota will speak about Sherlock Holmes radio program scripts in the Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, and what it takes to produce a radio drama. The program will include a DVD of their radio production, *The Affair of the Politician, the Lighthouse, and the Trained Cormorant*. All programs are free and open to the public.

### Watertown Public Library Benefits from Christmas Tree Fundraiser

*From Mike Mullin, Director*

The Watertown Community Foundation's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Christmas Tree Fundraiser brought in gifts totaling \$5,476.55. Those dollars came in as many varying amounts as the people who gave them. All ages participated, some gifts were from families, others from individuals - all were given to an organization the donor cared about.

The event brought greater truth to clichés like, “The best gifts aren't bought in stores,” “It's better to

give than to receive,” and even, “It's the thought that counts.” The dollars received by the 12 nonprofits participating are unrestricted and Jan DeBerg, Foundation Executive Director, says that fact in itself is a bigger “gift” than most people realize. “Unrestricted dollars, especially in this tough economy, are invaluable to nonprofits,” she explained. “The nonprofits can meet their greatest needs at the current time and for some that may be administrative costs to help sustain that organization.”

Matching dollars from the Foundation, including the extra \$500 to the organization with the largest total, came to \$3,050.05. That made the event's grand total for the nonprofits \$8,527.05.

The breakdown of individual grand totals (including the match) is as follows: Big Brothers Big Sisters, \$690; Codrington County 4H, \$192; Girl Scouts, \$268; Glacial Lakes Humane Society, \$800; Lake Area Zoological Society, \$1,003.50; Mellette House, \$2,247.50; Volunteers of America – Dakotas, \$476; Watertown Boys & Girls Club, \$359; Watertown Regional Library Fund, \$848.10; Watertown Resource Center, \$306; Watertown Senior Citizens Center, \$640.95; and Watertown Volunteer Center, \$696.

Some of those dollars are helping nonprofits with immediate needs. Some dollars are helping projects at organizations become a reality. Among them are: An outdoor cement pad for the dogs at the Humane Society and a sound system at the Senior Center. Gifts to the Lake Area Zoological Society will go toward Roots & Shoots programming.

As for the Mellette House, which was the largest recipient, its director Prudy Calvin puts it best. "When a house is over 125 years old and has several thousand visitors each year, it is not difficult to find a place to spend money," she said. "The problem is finding enough money to cover the needs. We started doing some major landscaping last year and hope to continue with that project. We also need to do things

that visitors don't as readily see such as pay our utility bills. This will be a great help."

Calvin and the other nonprofit directors thank the Foundation and the community for their support. "Everyone who participates in this event is a winner," Calvin said. "We are delighted that the Mellette House did so well. We're grateful that the Watertown Community Foundation again sponsored the Christmas Tree Fundraiser at the library and appreciate that so many people came and donated."



*back row, 2nd from right: Watertown Library Director Mike Mullin*

## Great Reads for Girls at South Jordan Library

*From Paula Burgon, Youth Services Librarian*

It's a warm night for October. Young girls are arriving at South Jordan Library, thinking of Halloween candy until they see Chloe, a silver and white sheltie. Like "pups to a chew-toy," the girls are drawn to Chloe and take turns petting her. In return, Chloe conveys warm acceptance with her sweet brown eyes. Tonight there's two special treats at the **Great Reads** program, Bobbie Pyron, author of the book *A Dog's Way Home*, and Chloe, a rescued sheltie and certified therapy dog, accompanied by her owner, Susan Hamada.

Salt Lake County Library system developed **Great Reads for Girls**, a mother daughter book group for girls ages 8-12 and their care givers, to connect girls with great books; books that the girls may not have picked up on their own. Books chosen for the program are usually selected with girl protagonists showing strength and character.

Great Reads started as the brain child of several youth services librarians, but as it has grown over the past decade, librarian Anne Nabaum has borne most of the labor. Her patient guidance and hard work have paid off. The program has grown to include thirteen of the systems twenty-one libraries, becoming one of the most popular regular programs in the system.

The program is not just about books and reading. Sharing ideas about a book's content and messages between mother and daughter can deepen their relationship. Connections are made not just between moms and daughters but between the girls and their peers. In Anne's words, "The program creates a safe environment for girls to share thoughts, fears, problems, and not feel alone." Girls get to know the ideas and opinions of peers in a non-threatening setting.

South Jordan's program that evening was extra-special because of Bobbie's and Susan's visit. Bobbie's book, *A Dog's Way Home*, is the story of the bond between Abby and her dog, and their determination to reunite after an accident has separated them by many miles. Written in two voices, the dog, Tam, and Abby, it is a story of hope and never giving up on those you love.

The girls were mesmerized as Bobbie and Susan shared their feelings for books, writing and of course their beautiful Sheltie dogs. One young girl swapped chairs several times so that she could be by Chloe. The girls and moms asked insightful questions. At the end, pictures were taken and donated doggie treats and toys were given as a thank-you to Bobbie and Susan for Sheltie Rescue of Utah.

It was a wonderful evening, bonding author to reader, librarians to readers, girls to caregivers, and girls to girls. What more could a youth services librarian want?



*Photos by Paula Burgon, South Jordan Library*





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## Guest Column

# A Rowing Challenge

by MPLA member Steve Decker,  
Director, Cedar City Public Library, Utah

Body image - perfect this, tight that. Our e-mail spam is full of ads for performance enhancers, diet aids, and other things I don't open or talk (or write) about in mixed company.

We find ourselves striving for that perfect body, epitomized by the all-important "six pack." Well, I'm proud to announce that I have achieved the abdominal two liter. Yup, there it is straining against my buttons to get out like a cold soda (sorry, "brew" for some of you) works to get out of the cooler.

So imagine my surprise when Judy Zelenski Facebook messaged me asking me to write a little article about a recent rowing challenge I completed at the gym. Me? Write about something physical? I thought she'd lost it. Had she not seen my round Frosty the Snowman face? Had she not seen my Michelin Man torso? Maybe not. Well, who can tell Judy no?

Rowing and I didn't get along when we started our relationship. It uses muscles that had long since chosen a life of hermitage. There's a cadence to rowing: push with legs, get knees out of the way, pull rowing handle to belly, let the chain recoil so hands are in front of knees, bring knees up between hands, do it again. If your knees and hands aren't in the right place, there is a lot of wasted motion bouncing your hands up and over your knees. Inhale on the recoil; exhale on the pull. At about 13 strokes per 100 meters, there were nearly 80,000 strokes

Spirit Wellness Center sponsored two rowing challenges this year. I hadn't rowed much, but I decided to give it a try. How hard could it be? I got to sit the whole time.

The first challenge began in the summer: 500,000 meters before the end of the year but if I did it by December 21, I'd get a prize. A prize! Wow for rowing about 311 miles, I could get a prize. I imagined a club T-shirt. I don't have a club T-shirt and, besides, one lucky finisher would, by lottery, get a pair of rowing shorts. Well, how could I turn it down?

Then the kicker - with only 90,000 meters left the annual holiday challenge began: 200,000 meters from Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve. "No," my brain screamed as I signed my name, "no." But there was my idiot right hand signing "Steve" on the challenge sheet.

In short, yes. I finished. I was able to double up on the 90k so they counted toward the 200k holiday challenge. All in all 610,000 meters - 379 miles. That's like rowing from St. George, Utah, up I-15 to Brigham City then detouring to Logan. I finished the 500k row on December 7 (two weeks early) and the 200k row on December 19 (about one week early).

Will I do it again? My head (and back) are screaming "no!" They're threatening me in unrepeatable language, but my right hand seems to have a will of its own.



# 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](http://digln.arizona.edu)).

***Visit our website at [sirls.arizona.edu](http://sirls.arizona.edu)***

School of  
Information  
Resources and  
Library Science

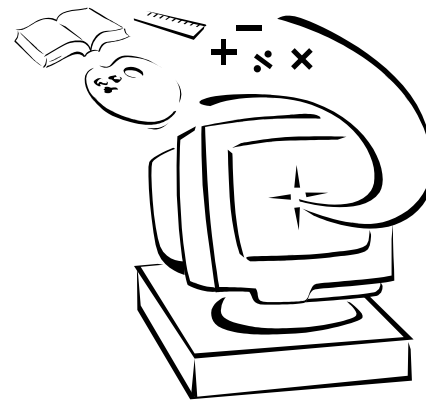


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# Library Education Programs *In and Around the Region*

This, a new regular column, will feature events and people in Library Education Programs in and around the MPLA region.



## University of Arizona School of Information Resources & Library Science (SIRLS)

From Stephen Stillwell

- The Arizona Board of Regents approved a tuition & fees structure that allows SIRLS to reduce the cost of the program for out-of-state distance only students. (Tell your out-of-state friends!)
- The student chapter of the Progressive Librarians' Guild appeared in several issues of the college newspaper The Wildcat for its Banned Books Week display and events.
- SIRLS Professor of Practice, **Tom Wilding**, was elected to serve as AzLA President.
- SIRLS's next round of accreditation by ALA is beginning with the visit being in the Fall of 2012. Alumni/ae and employers will be asked for input.
- SIRLS is a proud sponsor of the Mountain Plains Library Association's 2012 Leadership Institute.
- **Catherine F. Brooks** has been appointed an Assistant Professor, joint between the School of Information Resources & Library Science and the Department of Communication. Dr. Brooks came from California State University at Long Beach.
- **Molly Raphael**, President of the American Library Association, gave the address at the December Commencement ceremony, with 41 receiving their master's degrees.

## University of Denver School of Library & Information Sciences (LIS)

From <http://library.du.edu/penrosepen/digital-pioneers-explores-origins-of-cultural-heritage-digitization>

Students at the DU Library School helped originate "Digital Pioneers," a project to document a period of time (c.1994 – 2005) and a type of project (i.e. one that transformed analog cultural materials into digital form) that explored the possibilities of digitizing material that was commonly held by libraries, museums, archives, and historical societies in the words of the people who were an integral part of it all. The original set of six Digital Pioneers interviews were gathered as part of a class project. Eleven students from the class were responsible for filming these interviews, editing them for sound and visual quality as well as creating clips on selected topics and adding the title and credit information.

More interviews are being recorded and added to the archive all the time. As Digital Pioneers grows it will become a repository of primary sources that shed light on the history of cultural heritage digitization. Digital Pioneers is overseen by Greg Colati, Digital Initiatives Coordinator at Penrose Library, and is sponsored in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

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# Emporia State University

## School of Library & Information Management (SLIM)

From Dale Monobe

Seeking to redefine myself, I applied and was accepted into the School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) at Emporia State University. But now in my last semester it hasn't happened yet . . . nor do I think it will happen—actually something better has happened.

My previous life was in teaching rehabilitation counseling and psychology, but it was time for a new challenge. I searched about and I even considered attending an acupuncture school in Denver or re-specializing in clinical psychology. One day at the library (it seems I'm always in a library), I noticed a featured book about Homer, the "Wonder Cat," which I brought to the attention of the two reference librarians. I like cats, so I welcomed the conversation and shortly the discussion shifted to a biography about Dewey, the "Library Cat." But then, after a pause, one librarian admitted to me that she didn't like cats and then the other, to my further astonishment, told me that she didn't either. Now, how could librarians not like cats—especially Dewey?

Thinking that someone needed to be Homer and Dewey's champion, I said: "Well, maybe I should become a librarian," and predicted that they would only give me wry smile and politely nod their heads. But to my surprise, one immediately handed me an article on the nature of library work and the other started searching for library schools. Now, I know they were doing what librarians should do—unconditionally responding to my information needs. (It's interesting to note that the book, *Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World*, was co-written by a SLIM graduate, Vicki Myron.)

Once in the SLIM program (they did a good job), I thought there would be more differences than similarities between rehabilitation counseling and library science, but I was mistaken. Both strive to listen to clients and patrons, both try to understand the context of the problem or information need/want, and both try to provide support and assistance to help clients and patrons resolve their problems or satisfy their information needs/wants. Moreover, both endeavor to provide equal access to life opportunities, such as a meaningful career or an irresistible book—which could lead to that meaningful career, a new avocation, or more irresistible books.

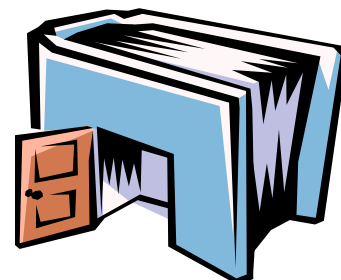
But the most surprising similarity was not subject or program based, it was that I had more interests in common with my library school classmates than with my rehabilitation counseling and psychology classmates! I could never have had in-depth discussions on fiction genres, the ancient library of Alexandria, linguistics, or even orange cats with the latter.

And the differences? Though I've met many rehabilitation counselors who love their work, it appears to me that librarians love it more. Rarely, if at all, have I heard of a rehabilitation counselor taking home a few client files and agency handbooks to peruse after supper! But I do know librarians are willing take home their work in the form of books (such as Jung's *The Red Book*); and some, through their literary talents, have added to the books that line their library shelves, such as Carla Morris and Sheila Nielson of the Provo City Library.

And don't tell any of my former colleagues in rehabilitation counseling, but I've enjoyed the ULA Spring Conference in Layton and the Fall Workshop in Cedar City more than many of the rehabilitation conferences I've attended. (By the way, did you see the great cat totes at the ULA Conference?)

No, the SLIM program didn't redefine, me . . . it has allowed me to become more of myself.

# Welcome New MPLA Members



## Arizona

Diane Almander-Douglas  
Student, Tucson, AZ

Susannah Connor  
Library Associate, PCPL  
Tucson, AZ

Karen De Shazer  
Dept. Head, Outlying, Las Vegas-  
Clark County Library Distr Laugh-  
lin Library; Topock, AZ

Kevin Flanagan  
Senior Solutions Analyst, OSAM  
Phoenix, AZ

Jennifer Flores  
Teacher-Librarian, Los Amigos  
Technology Academy; Tucson, AZ

Smita Joshipura  
ERM Librarian, Arizona State Uni-  
versity Hayden Library; Tempe, AZ

Carrie Lynn Larson  
Information Association, University  
of Arizona; Tucson, AZ

Nita Mailander  
Grand Canyon University Fleming  
Library; Phoenix, AZ

Allison Ringness  
Collaborative Digital Projects  
Specialist, Arizona State Library,  
Archives, and Public Records  
Tempe, AZ

Kassy Rodeheaver  
Librarian, Pima County Public  
Library; Tucson, AZ

Dana Shreve  
Librarian, Grand Canyon University  
Phoenix, AZ

Wayne Smith  
Bookmobile Coordinator, Mohave  
County Library; Kingman, AZ

Robyn Swords  
Christopher G. Nason Military Intel-  
ligence Library; Sierra Vista, AZ

Thomas Wilding  
Associate Director for Academic Pro-  
grams, University of Arizona School  
of Information Resources & Library  
Science; Sahuarita, AZ

## Colorado

Nancy Gauss  
Director of Library Services, Western  
State College of Colorado Leslie J.  
Savage Library; Gunnison, CO

Pikes Peak Library District  
Paula Miller, Director, Pikes Peak Li-  
brary District; Colorado Springs, CO

## Kansas

Patty Rohr  
Financial Administrator, Hays Public  
Library; Hays, KS

## North Dakota

Rosemary Flynn  
Manager, Library & Information Se,  
University of North Dakota EERC  
Library; Grand Forks, ND

## Nebraska

Dawn Moynihan  
Library Clerk/Student, University of  
Missouri-Columbia Morton-James  
Public Library in Nebraska City  
Murray, NE

Sky Seery  
Library Tech II, Mid-Plains Com-  
munity College Learning Resource  
Center; North Platte, NE

## Oklahoma

Joe Tholen  
IT Manager, Eastern Oklahoma Dis-  
trict Library System; Muskogee, OK

## South Dakota

Joyce Moore  
Youth Services Librarian, Vermillion  
Public Library; Vermillion, SD

Jason Walker  
Library Supervisor, Rapid City Public  
Libraries; Rapid City, SD

## Utah

Trudy de Goede  
Reference Specialist, Weber State  
University Stewart Library  
Ogden, UT

Dustin Fife  
San Juan County Library Director,  
San Juan County Libraries  
Blanding, UT

Katie Haslam  
Student, Murray, UT

## Wyoming

Ryan Brennan  
Reference Librarian, Natrona County  
Public Library; Casper, WY

Joan Innes  
Student -Library Intern, Black Hills  
State University Albany County  
Schools Slater Elementary  
Laramie, WY

Join us!



# Around the Region

## Arizona

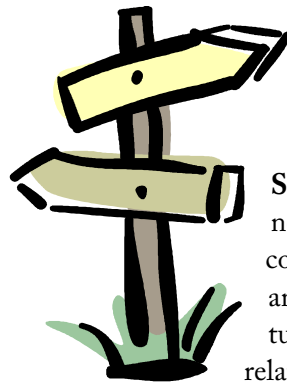
**Dan Stanton**, Government Information Librarian at Arizona State University, is the new Arizona representative to MPLA, replacing **Julie Huelsbeck** whose term ended.



*Julie and Dan getting ready to do the drawing for free MPLA memberships at the AzLa conference!*

MPLA was well-represented at the 2011 Annual Arizona Library Association (AzLA) Conference held in Tucson in late November. View handouts at the [AzLA Conference Wiki](#). The Conference Co-Chair was MPLA member **Anali Perry**, 2010 Leadership Institute Participant.

**Pima County Public Library**, working in collaboration with the Arizona Historical Society, is creating a photo exhibit depicting barrio life in Tucson. The library invited former downtown dwellers or members of their families to view photographs taken in the barrios before the urban renewal projects that changed the landscape of the barrios forever. A public photo viewing and voting event was held in December, with visitors voting on the photos they thought should be included in the Arizona Legacy Centennial Project Exhibit. Once selected, the images will be



on display in February and March with a gala reception opening the exhibit.

The grand opening of the **Native Seeds/SEARCH** Library in Tucson was January 15. The non-profit organization conserves, distributes and documents agricultural seeds, their wild relatives and the role the seeds play in cultures of the American Southwest. People take seeds, grow the plan, then pick the seeds and return them back to the library. See <http://www.nativeseeds.org/>.



**Tom Wilding**, MPLA member and Professor of Practice at The School of Information Resources & Library Science at the University of Arizona, has been elected VP/President-elect of AzLA. Tom started work – erasing pencil marks from returned books at the District of Columbia Public Libraries. He moved on to more challenging positions at the Smithsonian Institution, the Massachusetts



Institute of Technology, and the University of Texas at Arlington where he served as Director. Tom additionally taught as an adjunct at North Texas and Texas Woman's before joining the faculty here at SIRLS. He has been involved in most areas of librarianship – his short stint in cataloguing was some volunteer work at the Education Library at Gardd Fotaneg Genedlaethol Cymru (the National Botanic Garden of Wales).

MPLA member **Nancy Deegan** is incoming President of AzLA. One of the association's highlights from last year is a membership increase of 18% increase. As of October there were 660 members in AzLA.

# Colorado

**Pam Nissler** is the new Executive Director of the Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL), after serving as acting executive director since July 2011. Pam joined JCPL in March 2009 as director of library programs and services, where she led a team of 11 managers and oversaw the long range planning for and the delivery of services in 10 libraries. Previous positions include Associate Director of Community Services for the Douglas County Libraries, Manager of the Koelbel Library for the Arapahoe Public Library District, and Director of the Edwin A. Bemis Public Library in Littleton. She has taught Human Relations in Library Administration as a visiting instructor at the University of Denver. She received her Master of Arts degree in Library Science from the University of Denver.



Tiffanie Wick, Colorado Representative, reports that the **Colorado Association of Libraries** (CAL) has developed a new style of conference for 2012. The premise is that library professionals need to use creative thinking to evaluate risk and understand its rewards to establish libraries as the leading source of creative sparks in their communities. The R<sup>2</sup> Risk & Reward Conference will be in Telluride September 10-12. There is a survey for interested change agents at <http://bit.ly/rsquaredcontactsurvey>. Find more information at <http://www.facebook.com/rsquared-conference> or <http://rsquaredconference.org/>. Twitter @rsquaredconf. For more information about R-Squared, see: <http://futureready365.sla.org/11/21/take-a-risk-reap-the-reward/> or <http://www.InfoToday.eu/Articles/Editorial/Featured-Articles/Risk-and-reward-for-libraries-79062.aspx>.

The **Pikes Peak Library District** recently held its first ever Filmmaker Festival. The competition was open to 12-18 year olds. Contestants were to include in their film a red cape, the word rosebud, and it had to be filmed in a library. Ninth grader, Arjun Gheewala, of the Discovery Canyon Campus is the winner of PPLD's Filmmaker Festival.

Check out the Arjun's film, "A Lame Story," at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Iz3T7K7O9Y>

MPLA member **Stephen Sweeney** is the new Vice-President/President-Elect of the Colorado Association of Libraries. Stephen is Director of the St. John Vianney Seminary Cardinal Stafford Library in Denver. He has also served on the MPLA accounting review committee for two years.



The **Colorado Association of Libraries** (CAL) recently held its Executive Board retreat at The Hideaway in Colorado Springs.



# Kansas

The **Dodge City Public Library** is now checking out laptop computers for use at the library. Six laptops were purchased the help of donations from a jar at the front desk, foundation board, and other donations.

Clare Vanderpool, winner of the 2011 Newbery Medal for her book *Moon over Manifest*, is speaking at the Kansas Library Conference in Wichita in April. Vanderpool has also been declared the Distinguished Kansan for literary arts. Also speaking at the conference will be Cory Doctorow, author of *Little Brother*.

Director **Donna Lauffer** retired from the **Johnson County Library** on December 24, 2011, ending 32 years of service to the library. She became the Johnson County Library's fifth County Librarian in June 2007 after serving as Associate Director and Deputy County Librarian since

1979. Prior to that, she worked at the UCLA Research Library in Los Angeles and the Long Beach Public Library in Long Beach, CA. She has a national reputation as a leader in civic engagement and developed the library's award-winning civic engagement programming, now in its tenth year.

*Photo credit: Johnson County Library.*



## Montana

**Jennie Stapp** is the new Montana State Librarian. She was previously Digital Library Director and Chief Information Officer at the Montana State Library. Stapp also held various positions at the state library, including state publications content specialist, cataloging and metadata specialist, and the Montana Shared Catalog technical assistant. She holds a Master's of Library Science from the University of Arizona and has served in the Peace Corps.

The **Parmly Billings Library** is offering classes for new Kindle, Nook or other e-Reader owners. Participants learn how to download e-books and check them out using the *MontanaLibrary2Go* service. *MontanaLibrary2Go* also has an app that works with smart phones for checking out both e-books and audiobooks.

The **Jocko Valley Library** in Arlee is having a photo contest for a 14-foot banner to be placed in the building. Outdoor photos of the valley or surrounding mountains and water are the focus.

Five libraries in Great Falls, Helena, Missoula, Anaconda, and Butte are establishing their own courier, using a commercial service. The move is in response to postal service cuts.

Twenty-eight staffers at the **Johnson County Library** recently retired due to a Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program, the launch of a three-year effort to downsize County Government in response to reduced revenues. The 28 resignations are from a total staff of 286.6 full-time equivalents (FTE), with which the library actually employs 334 staff members.

The **Johnson County Library** board of directors has named Deputy County Librarian **Tricia Suellentrop** as Interim County Librarian. Suellentrop has been with the library for 13 years and has served as Deputy County Librarian since 2008.

The **Kansas Library Association** Council, in an effort to better facilitate meetings, held their first remote council meeting via Elluminate in November.

MPLA member and Recording Secretary **Royce Kitts** recently started a project at his library. As the Education Librarian at Washburn University, Royce took advantage of a recent grant for Early Childhood Literacy to purchase iPads for all of the Faculty in the Education Department. The goal of the project is to determine if putting technology in the hands of educators will lead to them integrating the use of such technology into the classroom environment. Royce also serves as the supervisor of the Curriculum Resource Center.



*Education Department Faculty at Washburn University*

## Nebraska

The Nebraska Library Association 2011 award winners are:

- Meritorious Service Award - **Floyd Smith III**
- Mari Sandoz Award - **E. Jane Graff**
- Presidential Awards of Excellence - MPLA member **Scott Childers** - ; **Michael Straatmann**
- Legislative Committee: **Robin Clark** (Chair & MPLA member), **Nancy Larimer**, **Mary Reiman**, **Bev Russell**, **Kathy Tooker**, **Rod Wagner**, **Ken Winston**, **Michael Straatmann**, **Denise Lawver**, **Brenda Ealey** (MPLA member), and **Gayle Roberts**
- College & University Section Distinguished Service Award - **Joyce Neujar**
- Paraprofessional Section Paraprofessional of the Year **Nancy Meyer**



- Public Library & Trustee Section Excalibur Award - **Bev Russell**
- Public Library & Trustee Section Advocacy Award **Wilma Eaton**
- School, Children's & Young People's Section Mad Hatter Award - **Sally Snyder**
- Special & Institutional Sectional Promotional Award **Denise Morton**
- Special & Institutional Section Distinguished Service Award - **Laura Thompson**

- Elicia Micek, Columbus
- Vickie Morlock, Lodgepole
- Debra Nadrchal, Clarkson
- Vicki Perrie, Superior
- Dorothy Schultz, Wood River
- Brenda Schwarz, Lexington
- Sky Seery, (MPLA member) North Platte
- Kimberley Steinbrink, Omaha
- Dana Still, Hastings
- Tracy Tibbels, Lincoln

MPLA member **Andrew Sherman**, IT Coordinator at Sump Memorial Library in Papillion, has been selected as a 2012 ALA Emerging Leader. He will be sponsored by the Nebraska Library Association.



Eight Nebraska libraries have been recognized as 2011 "America's Star Libraries" awarded by the *Library Journal* Index of Public Library Service. Libraries are grouped within operating expenditures ranges and measured by four criteria – visits per capita; circulation per capita; attendance per capita; and public internet terminal use per capita. The higher the total score, the more stars awarded. The Nebraska honorees are:

- Atkinson Public Library (5 stars)
- Battle Creek Public Library (3 stars)
- Central City Public Library (5 stars)
- Hruska Memorial Public Library–David City (3 stars)
- Falls City Library & Arts Center (3 stars)
- Hartington Public Library (5 stars)
- Neligh Public Library (5 stars)
- Wymore Public Library (3 stars)

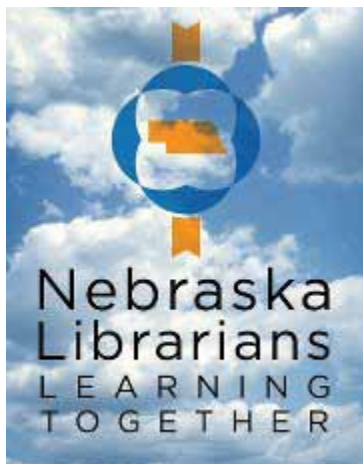
**Donna Christiansen** is the new Library Director at the **Plainview Carnegie Library**. **Lloydell Swan** retired after many years of service to the Plainview community.

**Staci Sandman** is the new Library Director at the **Albion Public Library**. **Mari Hosford**, Library Director since 1979, has stepped into the Assistant Library Director role. **Sharon Stephens**, the former Assistant Library Director, retired in 2011.

**Sara Lee** is the new Library Director at the **Central City Public Library**. Sara is returning to the same position that she held in the late 1990s.

**April Stevens** is the new Library Director at the **Osceola Public Library**. The former Library Director, **Paula Johnson**, passed away in August 2011.

The **Nebraska Library Commission**, with grant funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services,



awarded 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Scholarships to 13 students. The lucky 13 recipients are currently enrolled in undergraduate Library Science programs for 2012. They are also networking with Nebraska librarians on the *Nebraska Librarians Learning Together* Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/Nebraska-Librarians](http://www.facebook.com/Nebraska-Librarians)). An additional stipends program allows scholarship students to buy laptop computers, join professional library associations, and attend regional and/or national conferences. The 2012 scholarship recipients are:

- Nancy Black, Uehling
- Justine Goeden, West Point
- Odessa Meyer, South Sioux City

**Jake Rundle**, Collections Librarian at the Hastings Public Library, was awarded the *Houchen Bindery Beginning Professional Award* in Lincoln at the 2011 NLA/NEMA Conference last October. The cash prize, sponsored by Houchen Bindery LTD., is awarded to a librarian or media specialist in the early stages of his or her career. Nominees must have created innovative programs or services in Nebraska; made exceptional use of local, state, or national resources; made significant contributions that better library and community relations; and been active in professional library organizations at the local, state, or national level. Jake is currently chairing the NLA Young Adult Round Table and the Hospitality Committee for the 2012 MPLA/NLA/NEMA Conference in LaVista next October.



*Jake Rundle on the left  
Photo from the Republican Valley  
Library System Blog*

Nevada Library Association Librarian of the Year - **Jeanette M. Hammons**, Elko-Lander-Eureka County Library System

Dorothy McAlinden Award - **Joyce Betts**, Churchill County Library children's librarian

Special Citations - **Steve Neighbors**, Personal Representative of the Mae B. Adams Trust, for his support of the Carson City Library system over the past three years

**Lucy Bouldin**, Storey County Library – special award for bringing music and culture to the Nevada Library Association

Trustee of the Year - **Phyllis Paton**, Carson City Library system, for six years of service

**Diane Hudson** (MPLA member) has joined the **Nevada State Library and Archives** as a Library Consultant, filling the position left by the retirement of Holly Van Valkenburgh.

The **Nevada Reading Week Conference**, a conference for teachers and librarians, is planned for February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in Reno, Nevada. The conference will feature presentations by Teri Sloat (picture book author and illustrator); Carl Deuker (YA author, sports and mystery fiction); Marc Tyler Nobleman (nonfiction author and cartoonist); John Archambault (author, storyteller, and musician – author of Boom Chicka Rock and Chicka Chicka Boom Boom – with Bill Martin Jr.); Suzanne Morgan Williams (fiction and nonfiction author – Bull Rider, China's Daughters, others). Both school and public librarians will attend, as well as classroom teachers (and even a few administrators). More information is available at [www.nevadareadingweek.com](http://www.nevadareadingweek.com).

## Nevada

The new officers of the Nevada Library Association have assumed their positions, and those offices for which elections were recently held have been announced.

NLA President - **Robbie DeBuff** (MPLA member), Las Vegas – Clark County Library District

President-Elect - **John Crockett** (MPLA member), Washoe County Library Internet Librarian

Past President - **Barbara Mathews**, Churchill County Library System

Executive Secretary - **Lauren Campbell**, Las Vegas – Clark County Library District

Finance - **Scott Clonan**, Las Vegas – Clark County Library District

Treasurer - **Larry Johnson**, Las Vegas – Clark County Library District

Awards presented at the October **Nevada Library Association conference** in Carson City, Nevada:

## New Mexico

**Devon Skeeel** has been named New Mexico State Librarian. She was librarian, archivist and webmaster for the New Mexico Museum of Art since September 2008. Previous positions include the Library of Congress and its National Library Service for the Blind and Physi-



cally Handicapped, manager of a branch public library in Rockville, Md., and a librarian for the California State Braille and Talking Book Library in Sacramento. She holds a master's degree in Library Science from the University of Southern California.

The **Farmington Public Library** hosted acclaimed Celtic fingerstyle guitarist **Jerry Barlow** in January. His expressive arrangements have been described as "music to soothe the soul, warm the heart and lift the spirit." His songs have been played on National Public Radio, and were included in a PBS documentary "Song of Our Children."



The **University of New Mexico Health Sciences and Informatics Library** is exhibiting "Roadside Crosses and Memorials: Photo Essay" by Gerald Moore. The photo essay consists roadside memorials erected by family and friends, in remembrance of loved ones who died as a result of a vehicular accident.

January 6 marked the **New Mexico Centennial** and libraries across New Mexico celebrated. The Farmington Public challenged 100 new patrons to read and record 100 books during January. The **University of New Mexico Center for Southwest Research** launched version 2.0 of the Celebrating New Mexico Statehood Site (<https://nmstatehood.unm.edu/>). The **State Records Center and Archives** provided a new website dedicated to the 1910 constitutional convention and the State Constitution. (<http://www.newmexicohistory.org/centennial/>) In Las Cruces the **Branigan Library** Children's Department created the library's Centennial Quilt to hang in the library for the year. The **Marshal Memorial Library** in Deming will host a series of history lectures throughout 2012. **Rose Diaz**, a retired librarian from University of New Mexico is working with the State Centennial Women's Oral History Project to record the stories of everyday women. A booklet featuring Exerlona Clayton Bramlett is one of the first oral history to be transcribed for placement in local libraries, other repositories and the State Record Center and Archives.

The **University of New Mexico Libraries** now holds Michael Blake's archives of screen plays, manuscripts, photographs, correspondence and books. Blake wrote the screenplay *Dances with Wolves*. The Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections hopes to have the collec-

tion processed and available for researchers and students in 2013.

**Geri Hutchins** is the new Technical Services Manager at the **Rio Rancho Public Library**. She was previously the New Mexico State Library Federal Program Coordinator.

**Rosa-Linda Clark**, New Mexico State Library Financial Associate, retired from state government at the end of December.

The winners of the 2011 **New Mexico Book Awards** have been announced. The website is <http://www.nmbookcoop.com/BookAwards/page15/page15.html>



The book *El Sicario: The Autobiography of a Mexican Assassin*, co-edited by New Mexico State University librarian **Molly Molloy** and journalist Charles Bowden, has been selected to receive a Southwest Book Award, sponsored by the Border Regional Library Association (BRLA). A full list of 2011 Southwest Book Awards is available at <http://brla.info/swba11.shtml>.

The **Village of Ruidoso Public Library** was one of the libraries selected by the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office and the Fetzer Institute to host a series of programs as part of the *Building Common Ground: Discussions of Community, Civility and Compassion* initiative, which is supported by the Fetzer Institute.. The goal of the project is to engage the public in contemplation and discussion of the importance of community, civility and compassion in their daily lives. The library will host a series of events in March and will receive: \$2500 and access to program and promotional resources.



Friends of the **Santa Fe Public Library**, in partnership with the St. Vincent Hospital Foundation, has launched *Books for Babies New Mexico*. Beginning with the first baby of the new year, every child born in the hospital is

going home with a brightly colored canvas bag containing a book, compact disc (CD) of lullabies, innovative die-cut brochure on the importance of reading to babies (which can be folded into a box),



application for a library card and information on community resources. "I Read to My Baby Every Day" is printed on the side of the bags. An estimated 1,600 babies will receive the gift bag and their first book in 2012. Students in a graphic design class at Santa Fe University of Art and Design created the logo and designed the brochure. Local businesses did the imprinting of the bags and created the brochures. The lullaby CD, by a New Mexico singer, was produced in cooperation with the Santa Fe County Maternal and Child Health Planning Council under a federal grant administered by the New Mexico Department of Health.

## North Dakota

**Jeanne Narum**, MPLA member since 1990, longtime technology coordinator and circulation services librarian at Minot Public Library, and past NDLA President, retired in December. North Dakota Librarians held a retirement tea in her honor on December at the Minot Public Library.

At its 2011 conference the **North Dakota Library Association** presented award to:

- **Marilyn Guttormson Johnson** was honored as the Librarian of the Year. Before retiring, Marilyn was the Director of the North Dakota Legislative Council Library and had served NDLA in a variety of capacities, including as president of the 1999-2000 term.
- **Dr. Arne Brekke** received the Major Benefactor Award, honoring his contributions to the University of North Dakota's Chester Fritz Library Family History program and his leadership role in establishing UND's world-renowned collection of Norwegian Bygdeboker. This collection has aided genealogical research into those of Norwegian ancestry for over three decades now.
- MPLA member **Phyllis Ann K. Bratton** received the President's Recognition Award for her ongoing, dogged, and remarkable contributions to NDLA.

Longtime North Dakota Library Association members were recognized for their tenacity and stick-to-itiveness: MPLA member **Beverly Quamme** (40 years), MPLA member **Marilyn Holbach** (30 years), **Melanie Nunberg** (30 years), **Myla Alsaker** (20

years), and **Mary Wieben** (20 years).

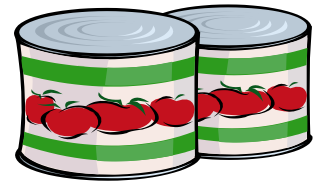
North Dakota's First Lady, Betsy Dalrymple, has been visiting schools and libraries throughout the state, speaking about the importance of literacy, reading to schoolchildren, and promoting Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.

Senator John Hoeven donated nearly 300 books to **Minot Public Schools** to recognize their resilience throughout the year's flooding and to aid in the recovery.

**ND Library2Go** (an OverDrive consortium) continues to grow: **Park River School & Public Library** and the **Bowman Regional Public Library** were recently added to the roster of participating libraries, which now number a burgeoning lucky thirteen. In other E-Book news, the **Hazen High School** has added a circulating collection of six Nook E-Readers for use by their students.

The **McVille Community Library** began a series of Elderspeak events. At each event four community members share some of the stories of their lives in the service with all in attendance.

The **Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library** and the **Morton Mandan Public Library** recently partnered in a food-for-fines program, waiving up to \$3 in overdue fines for every can of food donated.



The **Carrington City Library** recently opened a new community room and rolled out a new website.

## Oklahoma

**Nicole Sump-Crethar**, Digital Library Services Librarian at Oklahoma State University, has assumed the Chair of the MPLA Communications Committee. Nicole has been a member of MPLA since 2008.



January is "Get Organized Month" at the **Stillwater Public Library**. In its 5th year, the program offers services to help Oklahoma State University students and other Stillwater residents start the year off in an organized man-

ner. This year, the library's main focus is how to store and take care off vital documents.

As part of an expansion project, Bacone College plans on making more room for its **Native American Library**. The Muscogee, Oklahoma tribal college is moving its current library from Samuel Richard Hall to the North-pointe Shopping Center which will open up the first floor for the Native American collection. The school expects the library project to be complete by the end of spring semester and the off-campus library is expected to be open to students by the end of the month and the public by the end of the spring semester.

The nonprofit group *Oklahoma Seniors' Cabaret* performed at the **Oklahoma City Public Library** in downtown Oklahoma City. Founded by in 2008, the cabaret is a group of dancing, singing and acting Oklahomans, all 55 or older. Its goal is to help other seniors. Cabaret members are from Edmond, Midwest City, Yukon, Mustang, Moore, Newcastle, Tuttle and Norman.



*Members of the Oklahoma Seniors Cabaret rehearse.*

## South Dakota

Author/musician Kathy Biesheuvell talked about her book and signed copies of it at the **Sturgis Public Library**. Her book, *Could You Play a Little Something for our Wedding?*, gives the reader an entertaining glimpse into what it is like to provide music for a wedding. Kathy, a former longtime Sturgis resident, has been a musician for many years.

Fourteen South Dakota libraries were accredited by the South Dakota State Library in 2011, under a new system of tiered accreditation. Public libraries are accredited at one of three levels: Essential, Enhanced or Exemplary. Accreditation at the Essential level means a library satisfactorily provides the basic services required by state law and

federal guidelines. Each subsequent level of accreditation builds on the previous level with additional indicators that libraries must meet. Exemplary is the highest level of service. The following public libraries were accredited in 2011 by the South Dakota State Library:

- Alcester Public Library, Enhanced
- Beresford Public Library, Enhanced\*
- Cozard Memorial Library, Chamberlain, Enhanced
- Canton Public Library, Enhanced
- Carnegie Public Library, Dell Rapids, Enhanced
- Gregory Public Library, Essential\*
- Grant County Public Library, Enhanced\*
- Hot Springs Public Library, Enhanced
- Madison Public Library, Enhanced
- Potter County Library, Enhanced\*
- Phoebe Apperson Hearst Library, Lead, Essential
- Siouxland Libraries, Sioux Falls, Enhanced\*
- Grossenburg Memorial Tripp County Library, Winner, Enhanced\*
- Yankton Community Library, Enhanced\*



*Back l-r: Dan Siebersma, State Librarian; Kathy Jacobs, Yankton Community Library; Mary Johns, Siouxland Libraries; Jane Norling, Beresford Public Library; Diane Althoff, Gregory Public Library. Front l-r: Judy Trzynka, SDSL Board President; Peggy Williams, Potter County Free Library; Robyn Schrupp, Grant County Library; Freya Simpson, Tripp County Library Grossenberg Memorial.*

The **South Dakota State Library** has a bill up for consideration during legislative session this year. SB 5 seeks to update South Dakota statutes to include digital

publications in an effective state publications library distribution program. It revises the definition of “publication” to include materials in digital format intended for public distribution and it will allow the State Library Board to replace the current static paper-based depository system with a new model emphasizing access to and use of state agency publications.

The **Grant County Public Library** will host a National Humanities Exhibit “Lincoln: The constitution and the Civil War” in the spring. The traveling exhibition for libraries, was organized by the National Constitution Center and the American Library Association Public Programs Office.



*East Cemetery Hill, Gettysburg, 1909. Image Courtesy of Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division*

The **Centerville Community Library** received a five star rating for the fourth time in the 2011 Library Journal Index of Public Library Service. **Sully Area Library** in Onida also received a four star rating for the second year. They are just two of the 262 public libraries honored nationwide and the only two to receive recognition in South Dakota. Star libraries are named based on statistics for library visits, circulation, program attendance, and public Internet computer use in relation to the library’s total operating expenditures.

## Utah

The **Murray Library** is offering coupons for a free meal at Chipotle Mexican Grill in exchange for writing reviews of a book or DVD that is part of the Murray Library collection. Reviews will be featured on the library’s blog along with reviews written by the library staff members. Librarian Carole Cannon says the reviews are giving patrons a forum to talk about things they have borrowed from the library and she has noticed that items reviewed in the blog are receiving more hold requests.

The **Provo City Library** is purchasing \$50,000 worth of e-books for patrons resulting in more than 3,000 e-books for library users. E-books will be checked out using Overdrive and will work using Kindle and Nook. Classes

will be held to instruct patrons with new devices how to order materials.

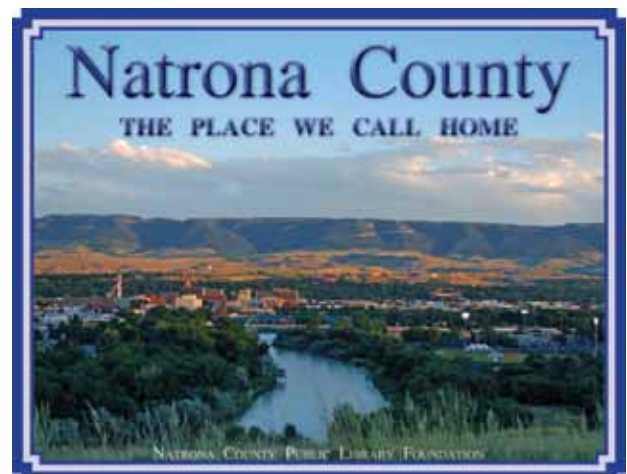
**Utah State University** Executive Vice President and Provost Raymond T. Coward signed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities. USU is the first Utah University to sign the Declaration which was issued in 2003. It promotes the Internet as a medium of disseminating global knowledge and has been signed by more than 300 research institutions, libraries, archives, museums, funding agencies and governments worldwide. To fulfill the intent of the Declaration, USU faculty members are depositing scholarly articles in the University’s Digital Commons which are readily available through the Internet. Signatories of the Declaration are staunch supporters of the principle of open access to materials.

The **Herriman Public Library** is working with the Utah Catholic Community Services Refugee Resettlement Program to help provide new socks, hats, gloves, and scarves to help refugees from other countries deal with the transition to living in Utah. The service project is personal for Librarian Phuong Vu, who is working with the Resettlement group. The group helped her family settle in Utah after they fled Vietnam at the end of the Vietnam War. Phuong was later born in Utah. Refugees from Bhutan, Iraq, Somalia, and other countries are currently being helped by the Resettlement Program.



## Wyoming

The **Natrona County Public Library** (NCPL) created a committee of local historians, educators, and NCPL librarians to produce a history of



Natrona County, written specifically for students and teachers. Wyoming state curriculum requires students to learn about local history in the third grade. Until recently, Natrona County teachers had few resources to help them teach local history, and nothing written at the appropriate grade level for students. After months of collaborative work and research the result is “Natrona County: The Place We Call Home,” a 106-page primer on Natrona County history, thoroughly reviewed by local historians, and highlighted by full-color illustrations and historical photos. The book is scheduled to be released in early February 2012. Published by the Natrona County Public Library Foundation, “the book has already been accepted as the new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade history textbook for the Natrona County School District. Copies will also be made available to the general public and proceeds will benefit the library foundation. The project was an excellent opportunity for NCPL to meet a community need, while partnering closely with other educational institutions. Copies of the book (\$24.95) may be requested via email to [execdir@ncplfoundation.org](mailto:execdir@ncplfoundation.org). Call 307-577-7323 for more information.

Carrie and Nick Haderlie shared stories and images from their recent trip to Kenya, Africa at the **Sheridan Fulmer Library**.



*Nathan newborn*



*Nathan in December*

The **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** received a \$3,000 grant from the American Library Association (ALA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to host “Let’s Talk About It: Making Sense of the American Civil War,” a five-part reading and discussion series. The library is one of 65 public libraries nationwide receiving grants to host the series which will encourage participants to consider the legacy of the Civil War and emancipation. Local support for the series is provided by Sheridan County Museum. In addition to program funding, the library received copies of “March” by Geraldine Brooks; “Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam” by James McPherson; and “America’s War: Talking About the Civil War and Emancipation on Their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries,” a forthcoming anthology of historical fiction, speeches, diaries, memoirs, biography, and short stories, edited by national project scholar Edward L. Ayers and co-published by NEH and ALA.

The **Laramie County Library** in Cheyenne is hosting Couponing 101, a crash course in couponing, as well as an Advanced Couponing program.



Pulitzer-prize winning poet Gary Snyder will be the **Teton County Library’s** Page to Podium speaker in March. Library staff member Julia Hysell will also present a two-evening workshop *Gary Snyder, Dharma Bums & the Coming Revolution*.

### Examining an Emerging Nation



JANUARY 15, 2012, 2:00 PM  
AT THE FULMER LIBRARY

Join us for a presentation and discussion about past, present, and future issues surrounding Kenya, Africa.

Sheridan area residents Carrie & Nick Haderlie will recount their recent safari to Kenya. Discussion topics will include history, politics, and cuisine of the country. The speakers will also discuss ongoing service work in the country and ways Wyoming residents can help.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
DEBBIE IVERSON AT (307) 674-8585

Kenya Africa

Sponsored by Sheridan County Public Library

# Professional Development Grant Deadlines

## 2012

**February 1**

**April 4**

**June 6**

**August 1**

**October 3**

**December 5**

For information and eligibility  
requirements see

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



## 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 28-30, Norman, OK
- New Mexico Library Association Conference  
April 11-14, 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 25-27, Salt Lake City, UT
- American Library Association Conference  
June 21-26, Anaheim, CA
- North Dakota Library Association Conference  
September, 19-22, Fargo, ND
- Wyoming Library Association Conference  
Sept. 26-29, Casper, WY
- South Dakota Library Association Conference  
Oct. 3-5, Huron, SD
- Nebraska Library Association, Mountain Plains  
Library Association Joint Conference,  
October 17-19, La Vista, NE
- Nevada Library Association Conference  
October 4-6, Las Vegas, NV
- Colorado Association of Libraries Conference,  
October 18 - 20, Keystone Resort &  
Conference Center
- Arizona Library Association Conference  
November 8-10, Phoenix, AZ

### 2013

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





# MPLA Board & Staff

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

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