

Big Horizons



Close Community

# Newsletter

February-March 2013

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

Volume 58 #3

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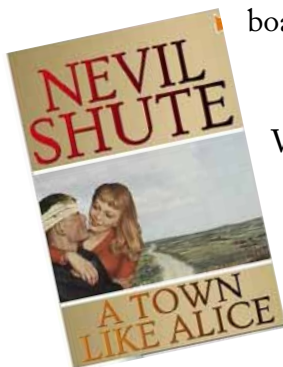


**Time to Renew Your 2013 Membership**

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

## Books We Like

At MPLA's January board meeting by conference call President JaNae Kinikin asked participants to introduce themselves with one sentence about a favorite or current interesting book. The resulting list is as varied as the board members.:



JaNae Kinikin, President. *A Town Like Alice.*

Wendy Wendt, Vice-President/President-Elect. *Anne of Green Gables.*

Lea Briggs, Recording Secretary. *History of the Condom.*

Dan Stanton, Arizona Representative. *Lord of the Rings.*

Tiffanie Wick, Colorado Representative. *Pillars of the Earth.*

Dan Ireton, Kansas Representative. *The First Law series, Before They are Hanged.*



Norma Glock, Montana Representative. *Heidi.*

Jake Rundle, Nebraska Representative. *Lamb: The Gospel According to Biff.*

Ellen Fockler, Nevada Representative. *Train Dreams.*

LeAnn Weller, New Mexico Representative. *Dorothy Dunnett historical novels.*



Eric Stroshane, North Dakota Representative. *Snow Crash.*

*continued on page 4*

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

# President's Message



*JaNae at her Birthday Party*

Appreciation. It is a topic I have been reading about lately and one that is critical in the workplace. According to an article by Paul A. Cooperstein ([http://businessmomentum.org/research/article\\_appreciation.html](http://businessmomentum.org/research/article_appreciation.html)) people leave jobs not because of unsatisfactory compensation, but because of lack of appreciation. Co-authors Gary Chapman and Paul White in their book *The Five Languages of Appreciation in the Workplace* describe the different languages of appreciation that people speak in the work environment. Some people appreciate words either spoken or written. Others respond to time spent with their supervisor or co-workers. Still other people appreciate gifts. Finally, some view acts of service or offerings of help as appreciation.

Coincidentally, I just recently received an email from CRM Learning entitled 'Tis the Season for Appreciation. This article argues that although people need appreciation all through the

year, it seems that during the holidays people may be just a little more accepting and appreciative. This article, argues for day to day appreciation, which, the authors say, results in greater cooperation and collaboration among co-workers. They suggest that being open to new ideas, seeing things through others' eyes, and avoiding negativity results in a more appreciative workplace. <http://www.crmlearning.com/blog/index.php/2012/12/day-to-day-appreciation/>.

To those who I have not yet thanked during my time as an MPLA member and current MPLA president, these thoughts are for you. I appreciate all of the support and encouragement that I have received and continue to receive from MPLA members far and wide. So let 2013 be a year of appreciation. As you go to work each day, take time to notice what your co-workers are doing and let them know how much you appreciate them!

--JaNae Kinikin, President

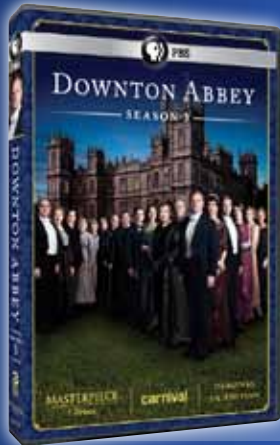
www.debperrystudio.com  
Click the "Cheekyfolk at the Library" gallery

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## Masterpiece Classic: Downton Abbey Season 3

The war is over, but intrigue, crisis, romance, and change still grip the beloved estate in the thrilling new Season 3 of Downton Abbey. Written and created by Julian Fellowes. *Includes A Journey to the Highlands, the Season 3 finale!*

**DVD \$49.99**  
ISBN# 9781608838134

### Over Two Hours of Bonus Video

- Downton Abbey Behind the Drama
- The Men of Downton
- Shirley MacLaine at Downton
- Downton in 1920 and much more!



## American Masters: Inventing David Geffen

David Geffen's far-reaching influence — as agent, manager, record industry mogul, Hollywood and Broadway producer, and philanthropist — has helped shape American popular culture for the past four decades. Notoriously press and camera-shy, Geffen reveals himself for the first time in this new two-hour documentary.

*120 min.*  
**DVD \$24.99** ISBN# 9781608838271

## The Mighty Mississippi with Trevor McDonald

A sweeping tale of the largest river system in the U.S. and the spectacular landscapes, diverse cultural heritage and industrial triumph nurtured on its banks. From a colorful New Orleans jazz funeral to a eyewitness account of Martin Luther King's assassination, the journey results in a vivid portrait of American culture.

*140 min.*  
**DVD \$24.99** ISBN# 9781608838202

## NATURE: Animal Odd Couples

Enter stories of the most unlikely cross-species relationships imaginable: a chimp bottle-feeding a tiger cub; a giant tortoise snuggling a baby hippo; a black crow parenting a meerkat. This film looks at these remarkable relationships first hand, and through caregivers, biologists and animal behaviorists, explore what they suggest about the nature of animal emotions.

*60 min.*  
**DVD \$19.99** ISBN# 9781608838158



## FRONTLINE: Climate of Doubt

FRONTLINE correspondent John Hockenberry of PRI's The Takeaway goes inside the organizations that fought the scientific establishment, environmental groups, and lawmakers to shift the direction of debate on climate issues and redefined the politics of global warming.

*60 min.*  
**DVD \$24.99** ISBN# 9781608838165

## NOVA: Mystery of Easter Island

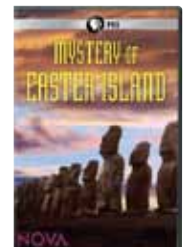
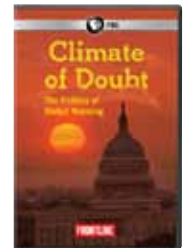
Easter Island has mystified the world ever since the first Europeans arrived in 1722. How and why did the ancient islanders build and move nearly 900 giant statues, and how did they transform a presumed paradise into a treeless wasteland, bringing ruin upon their island and themselves?

*60 min.*  
**DVD \$24.99** ISBN# 9781608837755

## American Experience: The Abolitionists

The abolitionists tore the nation apart in order to create a more perfect union. Men and women, black and white, Northerners and Southerners, poor and wealthy—these passionate anti-slavery activists fought body and soul in the most important civil rights crusade in American history. What began as a pacifist movement fueled by persuasion and prayer became a furious struggle that forever changed the nation.

*180 min.*  
**DVD \$24.99** ISBN# 9781608838332



**Books We Like - continued from page 1**



Leslie Langley, Oklahoma Representative. *Mama's Bank Account.*

Brenda Hemmelman, South Dakota Representative. *Let's Pretend This Never Happened.*

Ruby Cheesman, Utah Representative. *The Help.*

Stephen Boss, Wyoming Representative. *The Cloister Walk.*



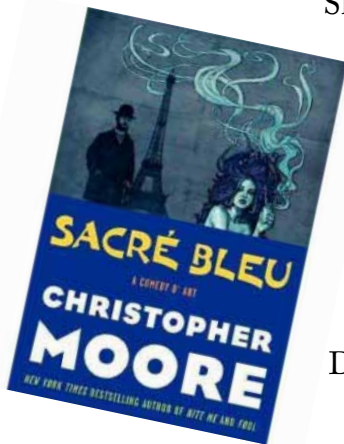
Mary Ann Thompson, Awards Committee Chair. *The Deep Blue Goodbye.*

Jao-Ming Huang, Communications Committee Chair. *Germany.*

Adriane Juarez, Leadership Institute Co-Chair. *The Power of One.*

Anali Perry, Leadership Institute Co-Chair. *The Dresden Files Book 6.*

Sharon Ailsleiger, Membership Committee Chair. *The Stand.*



Eileen Wright, Nominating Committee Chair. *Clockwork Angel. Clockwork Prince.*

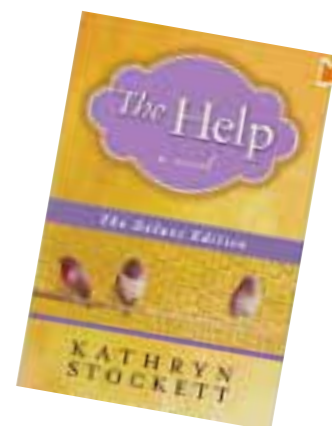
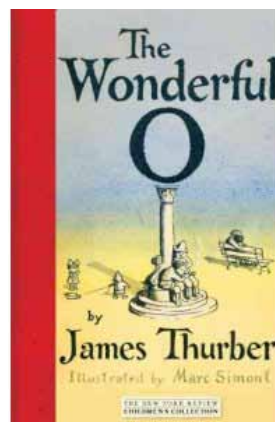
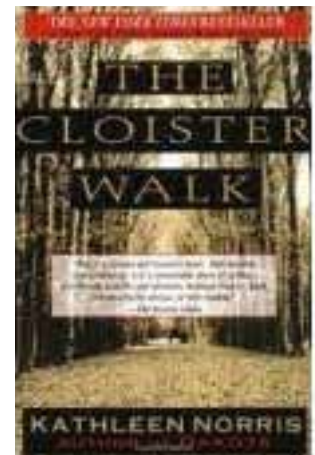
Cindy Osborne, Professional Development Committee Chair. *In the Garden of Beasts.*

Elvita Landau, Bylaws and Procedures Subcommittee. *Jack Reacher series.*

Dan Chaney, Webmaster. *Quiet; power of introverts in a world that can't stop talking.*

Roy Degler, System Administrator. *Sacre Bleu: A Comedy d'Art.*

Judy Zelenski, Executive Secretary. *The Wonderful O.*



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# MPLA Professional Development Grant Recipients 2012

MPLA offers professional development grants to individual members and pre-conference grants to state associations. See <http://www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grantslinks.html> for eligibility and guidelines. 2012 grant recipients are:

**Sue Knesel**, Youth Services Librarian, Campbell County Public Library, Gillette, WY. \$600 grant to attend the PLA Conference, March 14, Philadelphia and the workshop “Special Needs, Talented Children: Outreach Services to Families with Special Needs”

In her final report Sue said: *I learned how just through small adjustments we can have better inclusion during storytime.... My objective for attending was more than met. I wanted to better understand the range of problems parents encounter with the usual library routine. I learned about over stimulation, large crowds, fast pace programs, music too loud, no schedule the child can follow to anticipate what will happen next. These are just a few of the regular and acceptable programming activities that can cause inappropriate behavior in public by an Autistic child. I acquired the tools to train staff, and understand how to be less intimidating to parents just venturing out with special needs children....PLA always offers wonderful training opportunities and without the grant I couldn't have absorbed the expenses so that one of my staff members was able to experience PLA for the first time. It was great to see how excited and how much information she absorbed and came back to work with great ideas to help us do a better job at our library. She and I are excited to pass on what we learned to the rest of the staff.*

**Nita Gill**, Adult Services Librarian, Brookings Public Library, SD. \$150 grant to attend PLA conference 2012, March 14-17, Philadelphia.

Nita says *One of my main objectives in going to PLA was to bring back ideas, techniques, and programs to use at my library. I do think the educational programs successfully contributed to my reaching this objective. I went to a wide range of programs. Three of those programs were on collection development, two on trends in genre fiction and one romance panel. I took away the most from these programs trends in genres I don't personally read – like horror and gentle fiction....Another objective was to network. That objective was definitely met. I met librarians from all over the United States and swapped stories, ideas, and business cards. I will also include visiting the vendor exhibits as networking. There were some booths I specifically set out to stop at and talk to their representative to learn more about their product....I would definitely recommend MPLA members attend PLA. Just the experience of gathering with hundreds of librarians makes it worth the trip.*

**Shereen Rasor**, School Library Media Specialist, Mustang Creek Elementary School, Yukon, OK. \$150 grant to attend the Oklahoma Library Association annual conference, March 29, Norman, OK.

Shereen says *I attended all of the Sessions offered on the Sequoyah Children's Choice award. I was very encouraged and learned many new ideas to implement and promote Sequoyah in my school. I also got posters and bookmarks from vendors to promote Sequoyah. The three Sessions presented by each Sequoyah committee gave me a wealth of information about the books on the upcoming year's masterlist. The session on promoting Sequoyah at all levels provided me with a wealth of resources available on the Sequoyah website....I appreciate the opportunity to attend this conference and meet with fellow librarians in order to strengthen the Sequoyah program in my school district. The district does not fund OLA conference expenses and it helps to have support as a new librarian in getting involved in such events.*

**Rita Severt**, Director, Wichita Area Technical College Library. \$150 grant to attend the NMLA/NEMA/MPLA Joint conference as Co-coordinator of the MPLA Professional Forum. October, 2012 La Vista, NE.

Rita said *As co-coordinator, we developed the guidelines for the papers; solicited for presenters; requested the room and equipment; picked judges; evaluated the presentations; set up the room and let the presenters and judges do their work...It was a good team that worked together to make the forum come alive, and I think we are ready to try it again. The presentations were amazing; the judges were enthusiastic; and there were about twelve attendees for an early morning session--very good. I would highly recommend this to the presenters (good experience, even if they don't win); to judges (way to mini-mentor); to audience (what a way to get so much information on a variety of subjects in such a short amount of time) and possible coordinators (great rewards for everyone with a short-time investment of marketing, planning, and follow-through).*

*continued on next page*

**Jon Fackrell**, Student, Emporia State University. \$150 grant to attend ALA Annual Conference, June, 2012, Anaheim, CA. Jon says *To get the most out of the conference, I attended as many sessions as I could every day that I was in Anaheim....I found myself in one of the afternoon pre-conference sessions on Leadership & Management. It was an excellent course where the two instructors talked about many of the struggles you have as a director and specifically about how to interact with and manage people....another session that I found fascinating was one where the speaker talked about managing IT projects in the library....I was very excited to learn more about LITA and attended several of their programs to learn about technology, web design practices, and IT project implementation in libraries....Without hesitation, I would recommend attending an ALA Annual Conference to any MPLA member. It is an excellent opportunity for librarians to learn what other libraries are doing and innovative ways they have found to add value to the services they provide. It is also a great opportunity to see what library vendors have to offer and rethink your library space, technology, and inventory.*

**Utah Library Association** \$500 Preconference grant for “Vital Conversations for Individuals.” Dorothy Horan reported that evaluations indicated participants were happy with the presentation. Most of them rated the program at a 5 out of 5. Comments from participant evaluation forms noted satisfaction with:

- *This is probably the best, most relevant session I have attended at any library conference*
- *Things that the staff members intend to try at their libraries*
- *Active listening*
- *Use what I learned to communicate better with library staff and students*
- *Build relationships with co-workers*
- *Treat feedback as a gift*
- *Planning my feedback in advance*
- *Actually having conversations I've been avoiding*
- *I really liked how we would bounce between lecture and activities*
- *Redirecting feedback (on several forms)*
- *Giving other people better opportunities/incentives*

**2013 Professional  
Development Grant  
Application Deadlines**

**February 6**

**April 3**

**June 5**

**August 7**

**October 2**

**December 4**

**North Dakota Library Association.** \$500 Pre-conference Grant for “Turning the Page 1.0 Kick-Off Event.” Rita Ennen reported *The North Dakota Library Association hosted a pre-conference kick-off event for the last Turning the Page 2.0 training to be offered... The kick-off event was an introduction to the course that explained the process and goals. There were opportunities to discuss previous successes and failures in advocacy efforts. Participants were encouraged to come with an advocacy goal for their library. During the pre-conference, participants had writing goals that were specific and actionable. The facilitators for the Kick-off event were Judy Drescher, former director of Libraries for Memphis, Tennessee and Past President of the Public Library Association, and Steve Yacovelli, owner and principal of TopDog Learning Group, Orlando, Florida.*

**Nebraska Library Association** \$500 Preconference Grant for “Run, Run to Reading Aloud!” Brenda Ealey reported that *Read Aloud Nebraska, Nebraska Regional Library Systems and Nebraska Library Association School Children & Young Peoples Section sponsored the preconference, on October 17th in LaVista, for the MPLA/NLA/NSLA conference. It featured children's book authors – Jim Aylesworth & Lisa Campbell Ernst. It also included a session on the One Book One School program, and a panel of notable Nebraska children's authors. One of the goals was to respond to interest expressed in having authors at conference, and the numbers attending seem to reflect the appreciation for this type of program. There was lots of enthusiasm for the opportunity to hear Lisa Campbell Ernst and Jim Aylesworth – since both are nationally recognized and have made significant contributions to children's literature on an award winning basis. The Nebraska author panel also added interest, with an opportunity to showcase regional talent – also award winners, with Julia Cook, Preston McDaniels and James Solheim present. All authors at the event shared personal stories involving their work and the importance of reading – as well as the critical roles librarians play in that effort. It was a great motivator for attendees and encouraged continued efforts in work with youth in the areas of reading, as well as the important factor of reading aloud. Attendees also had the opportunity to receive information on setting up a One Book, One School program in their community with minimal cost and the incentive of involving multiple organizations. There was time for discussion and questions, demonstrating a level of interest in replicating in additional communities.*

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# New MPLA Editor Coming on Board

## Meet Abby Moore



Abby Moore, Education Librarian at University of South Dakota, will be the next MPLA Newsletter Editor. Abby has a master's degree in Secondary English Education and taught high school English in the New York City Public School System for six years. Her Masters in Library and Information Science, is from Queens College, CUNY.

In her position at the University of South Dakota Abby is Reference, Research and Instruction Services Coordinator and is liaison librarian to the USD School of Education. Before coming to USD in 2011 she was Library Media Specialist for the Monroe Academy for Visual Arts and Design, New York City.

Abby is a member of MPLA and was selected to give a presentation at MPLA's Professional Forum at the 2012 joint conference with Nebraska. She is on the south Dakota Young Adult Reading (YARP) Program Committee where she works with librarians and teachers around the state to choose books for the

YARP list. She is also a member of the ALA committee for Best Fiction for Young Adults.

Abby begins as Editor with the April-May issue of the MPLA Newsletter. She replaces Judy Zelenski who has been editor since 2005.

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## First and Last Editorial

*Judy Zelenski*

As this is my final issue of the MPLA Newsletter, I decided to write my first, last, and only editorial.

In 2005 I was asked to do the MPLA Newsletter temporarily during the recruitment for a new editor. Having subbed for two previous newsletter editors and being recently unemployed I was happy to take it on. Because it's so much fun to do a newsletter I applied for the position, and was appointed Editor in 2006. In the meantime I was asked to fill in as Interim Executive Secretary when Joe Edelen retired after serving for 30 years. Again I said yes, and it was so much fun that in 2006 I agreed to this regular appointment. When it appeared that the 2010 Leadership Institute couldn't be held because of budget constraints I volunteered to take on the institute Coordinator duties pro bono. It was so much fun that I agreed to be the paid Coordinator for the 2012 institute.

I recently realized that I've put personal projects on hold for many years and it's time for some life-rearranging to have fun with them. So, I'm turning over the positions of Newsletter Editor and Leadership Institute Coordinator. I'm still Executive Secretary and look forward to all that lies ahead for MPLA!

Thank you for all your support!

--*Judy Zelenski*

# Plan now for the 2013 SDLA-NDLA-MPLA Tri-Conference in Sioux Falls, SD

## Program Proposal Deadline February 8

Program proposals are now being accepted for the SDLA-NDLA-MPLA Tri-conference, September 25-27 in Sioux Falls, SD. Find the online form at <http://www.sdlibraryassociation.org/displayemailforms.cfm?emailformnbr=185588>. The Deadline for conference program proposals is February 8.

Programs planned so far include:

One full-day preconference on Science Learning for youth services personnel.

Keynotes:

Wednesday - PBS Travel Writer Rick Steves

Thursday - ALA President Maureen Sullivan

Thursday evening - Neal Shusterman, young adult writer

Friday, Dale Hoiberg, editor-in-chief of Encyclopaedia Britannica

For more information about vendors and exhibits, hotel reservations, and local attractions see <http://www.sdlibraryassociation.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=31>.

MPLA members will be eligible to receive discounted registration fees.





**MPLA 2014  
Leadership Institute  
May 4-9, 2014**

YMCA of the Rockies  
Estes Park, Colorado

**MPLA is Recruiting for  
2014 Leadership Institute Coordinator**

Applications due March 15, 2013

Position begins June 1, 2013

For Position Summary, Duties & Responsibilities, and Qualifications  
see

<http://www.mpla.us/jobline/mpla-li.pdf>

Questions, e-mail [leadership@mpla.us](mailto:leadership@mpla.us)



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

## Apply for a Big Read grant today!

Application submission deadline: February 5, 2013

[Start an application](#)



The Big Read is accepting applications from non-profit organizations to develop community-wide reading programs between September 2013 and June 2014. The Big Read is a national program designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment. Organizations selected to participate in The Big Read receive a grant, educational and promotional materials, and access to online training resources and opportunities. Approximately 75 organizations from across the country will be selected.

To review the guidelines and application instructions, visit [The Big Read website](#).

# Welcome New MPLA Members

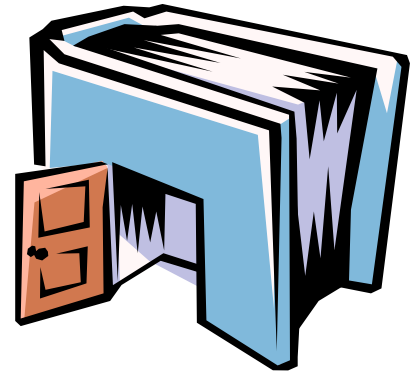
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Library/Museum Supervisor,  
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Buckeye, AZ

Sterling Kent  
Acquisitions clerk, Arizona State  
University Library  
Phoenix, AZ

## WYOMING

Jennisen Lucas  
Elementary Librarian, Park County  
School District #1  
Cody, WY



## NORTH DAKOTA

Rachel Kercher  
Children's Librarian,  
Leach Public Library  
Wahpeton, ND

## NEBRASKA

David Mixdorf  
Library Director, South Sioux City  
Public Library  
South Sioux City, NE

## OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Department of Libraries  
Oklahoma City, OK

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Elizabeth Berg  
Library Assistant, Siouxland Li-  
braries  
Sioux Falls, SD


## UTAH

Ruby Cheesman  
Library Manager, Salt Lake County  
Library Services Bingham Creek  
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Kim Fong  
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## Retiring MPLA Member Basha Hartley Reflects on her Career

I have been with Pioneer Library System for 26 years! I have been Norman Public Library Children's Department Manager for 21 years. During this time, I have enjoyed lots of hard work and lots of fun. I have been honored to work with the best Children's Staff in the universe. For most if not all of these 21 years, the Norman Public Library Children's Department has accounted for one third to one half of the program attendance for the entire nine branch library system. We have been busy with happy families and amazing children! We have presented thousands of storytimes in English, Spanish and French! We are now presenting storytimes to the children of the children we presented storytime to 20 years ago! I have brought exhibits to the library of model trains (I never met a train I didn't like), imaginative art creations, stamps, flowers (who knew there were that many kinds of irises), pigeons (every library needs birds flying around, just adds to the ambiance), gigantic live insects (even homeless people want to pet the giant millipedes), cows (the secret is to put the cow in the doorway, pet the front end inside and the back end hangs outdoors to provide compost) and assorted porcupines (beware, giant porcupines eat shoes), snakes (big snakes are easier to hold for the kids to pet, I once lost a small snake in my dress, which gave me some discomfort, and gave the snake abject terror), and other exotic animals. We have put on Hispanic Festivals (don't stand behind the kiddo with the stick whacking the piñata, we almost lost the magician that year), Native American Festivals (ritual smudge purification inside brings the fire department very quickly) African American Festivals (I can tell you about all 50 black towns in Oklahoma!), a week long Scandinavian festival (Uff Dah!) and a Law Festival (prizes given out by the Statue of Liberty, of course). We have presented plays, music programs,



magic programs, drama classes, cooking classes, exercise classes, folk dancing and crafts of every description, glitter everywhere. I have marched in parades and given programs and plays in schools. I have given presentations to civic groups, scientists, parents, children and librarians. I have worn pirate costumes, lion costumes, bear costumes, and a Jessica costume with a giant head and a malfunctioning fan (dancing in a Jessica costume in 103 degree heat is a great way to pass out). We have welcomed families from countries around the

globe who have shared their beautiful children, their culture, their food, and their wisdom. My friends have included librarians, authors, magicians, cowboys, folk singers, clowns and zoo keepers. And wonderful parents and children!

I was active in the Oklahoma Library Association (I think I held every position except President) and attended every conference for those 26 years. I have been to several ALA conferences. I discovered Mountain Plains Library Association in 1991 at the Phoenix conference. During all these 21 years, I have been honored to belong to this organization. I have been to most of the conferences, I have served as state representative, committee chair and secretary. I have learned so much from my friends at MPLA. They have given me courage and resolve when I was discouraged, celebrated with me when I was excited and always kept me passionate about librarianship. The core of librarianship is our customers and how we make a difference in all these lives in our community, our college, our school. I think that it is that passion that kept me active. These MPLA folks really care about making the world a better place, one customer at a time. My friends have included all those wonderful and heroic librarians and their rubber duckies.

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## **Basha Hartley** - *continued*

I have been active in the community. I have been a member in every coalition for young children in our town; if there was a group trying to improve the lives of our children, I was there. I served on the Red Ribbon Week Coalition for several years. I served on the Children's Rights Commission for the City of Norman for 11 years and am currently on the Social and Voluntary Responsibilities Commission for the City. I was honored to be a member of the Group Study Exchange for the Norman Rotary Club and to visit Finland for 5 weeks as a team member and several years later, for another 5 weeks as a Team Leader. I have been a member of the Norman Rotary Club for 17 years and was Norman Rotary Club President two years ago. I have been active in the Norman Downtowners Association and the Chamber of Commerce. My friends have included day care providers, social workers, police officers, business owners, bankers, scientists and retired folks.

And now it is time to rest and recharge those batteries! I plan to nap for several months and then travel. I plan to hang out in Sweden to be Grandma to my "barnbarns". They will try to teach me Swedish and I will try to get them to speak English. Hopefully we will meet somewhere in the middle. I want to visit my family and friends all over the country. I want to go back to the Arctic Circle in the summer to camp and hike. Cruises sound really good too. I am going out to lunch with all those folks I promised to go to lunch with and never did. I want to teach Sunday School again since I will not be working weekends. I plan to continue teaching water aerobics classes at the YMCA and hopefully teach arthritis classes too. I want to perfect new recipes to inflict on my patient husband and spend barefoot days in the garden mucking about. Many years ago, when I spent the summer as camp cook for an archaeological dig, my husband said I named every turtle who wandered by. He is encouraging me to name the current turtle crop. As you can see, there is lots of important stuff in the plans.



## **A New Look for the Main Library in Kalispell**

*By April Szuch, Public Services Librarian, Flathead County Library System*

In October 2012, the Main Library in Kalispell reopened with a new look, focusing on comfortable and welcoming public spaces, efficient checkout and holds pickup, and continued excellent customer service. Features include a redesigned main floor with easy self-check stations, expanded seating areas with plenty of natural light, smaller service desks, lower shelves for easy browsing and more displays.

In the children's area, colorfully painted walls provide a cheerful backdrop for early learning computers for young children, low child-friendly shelves, the storytime area, and experience zones and toys designed to encourage early literacy.

With library use up 40 percent in the past five years, and no increase in staff, the Flathead County Library System has made an effort to improve efficiency in areas such as checkout and materials processing, and allow staff more time for in-depth work with customers. This year all staff received additional training in helping customers by answering in-depth questions, recommending books and movies, and assisting with the latest technology. In addition, early literacy programs and materials for young children continue to be essential services.

Despite the focus on self-checkout, library staff hours have not been cut. For customers who want to grab their holds or quickly check out a few books, the process is much faster with self-checkout. At the same time, staff are able to spend more time helping customers find the books and movies they want and answering account questions. Most customers are enthusiastic about the changes, especially the added comfortable seating, self-checkout and newly painted spaces.

*continued on next page*

The changes at the Main Library were made possible thanks to donations from the Flathead County Library Foundation and the Friends of the Flathead County Library. Painting in the children's area was accomplished thanks to a group of more than 20 energetic volunteers with Prudential's Global Volunteer Day.



*The main entrance now offers a view across the entire main floor and into the children's area.*



*The self-check stations are conveniently located near the holds pickup area and new book displays.*

*The large circulation desk has been replaced with smaller staff perches, allowing for more personal customer interactions and increased roving throughout the main floor.*



*The brightly painted children's area highlights the collection and energizes visitors.*

*Early learning computers are just for young children, with right-size chairs, color-coded keyboards, fun headphones, and software that is both entertaining and educational.*



More photos may be found at [www.facebook.com/flatheadcountylibrary](http://www.facebook.com/flatheadcountylibrary)

# Another Side of MPLA Board Members

MPLA board members were recently asked to send photos of themselves outside of their work environment. Meet those who responded:



*Adriane Herrick Juarez, Co-chair, Leadership Institute Committee, at a staff work party playing "Rock Bank" drums. In the background are her son Luke on guitar and husband Lonnie watching...and laughing on the inside.*

*Dana Braccia, Past-President, hiking in Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve. She gives three reasons to visit Arizona in the spring: Fabulous desert hiking; Cactus League Spring Training Baseball; Lots of fun Arizona MPLA members to connect with!*



*Brenda Hemmelman, South Dakota Representative, with her son Devin from a year ago when they went to Universal Studios over Christmas vacation. She says "The one in the 'people dryer' was interesting because we had never seen such a thing before, but after enjoying a couple of water rides and getting wet, we understood the advantage of these and gladly paid our \$5 to help us get dry."*



*(left) JaNae Kinikin, President, snowshoeing with friends at Green Pond near the Snowbasin ski resort, Utah.*



*Jake Rundle, Nebraska Representative, with loot. l-r: Library assistant Mikel Philippi, Jake Rundle and Librarian Lindsey Bray show off their winnings at the Kearney Public Library's Pub Quiz. Jake says "Library sponsored Pub Quizzes are on the upswing in Nebraska, with both the library and the co-sponsoring bar showing increases in patronage. It's also a great way to remind the twentysomething age group that the library exists."*



*Lea Briggs, Recording Secretary, in a duathlon in Aurora, Colorado. She says "My family has taken up crazy athletic competitions lately. We had three teams in a team triathlon last summer."*



*Dan Stanton, Arizona Representative says "This is a picture of me in a patch of Jumping Cholla Cactus. My wife Christy and I went out hiking New Year's Eve Eve, December 30th, in the Tonto National Forest. It was about 57 degrees!"*



*Eric Strohane, North Dakota Representative, asphyxiating on the moon with Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. "Wax museums make me giddy," he says.*



*Ruby Cheesman, Utah Representative and newest member of the MPLA board, sends this photo of her at her desk. Yes, work is fun too!*





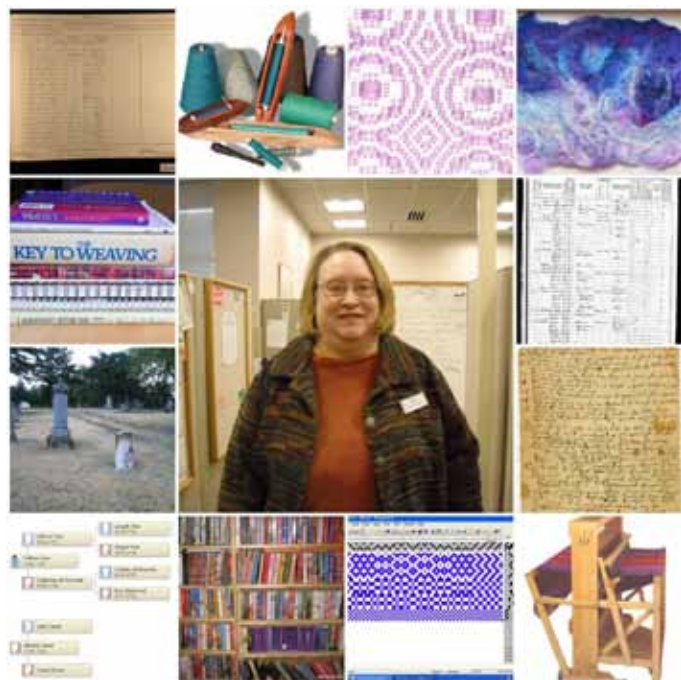
*Eileen Wright, Nominating Committee Chair, with her daughter Leab dancing among the trees on a beautiful sunny and snowy day in the Beartooth Mountains outside of Red Lodge, Montana. They were on a serious hunt for the perfect Christmas tree.*



*Mary Ann Thompson, Awards Committee Chair, says "In October I attended my Homecoming in Laramie, Wyoming. This is the 32nd year in a row that I have been there and part of the University of Wyoming Alumni Band. Another tradition is decorating the statue of Benjamin Franklin that is outside of the Arts and Sciences building."*



*Judy Zelenski, Executive Secretary, on a snowy trek early in the new year to say "hi" to the snowed-in summer cabin - elevation 10,000. She says it's too cold to stay in the cabin more than a few minutes, but she and her husband Jim make the January hike an annual tradition.*



*LeAnn Weller, New Mexico Representative says "my 'Fun' activities include digging for my "roots" (doing genealogy for my family and sometimes other people), trying out new recipes, reading books of many genres (weaving, art, history, romance, mystery, and cooking), and planning projects for one of my 16 looms (only 9 of which I really use--the other 7 are for display or need some repair). I also like to do web design and explore "cool tools."*

# Around the Region

Please send news items and photographs of regional interest to [editor@mpla.us](mailto:editor@mpla.us)

## Arizona

The **Scottsdale Public Library** now has a free online Author Toolkit with a wealth of resources to assist authors in the areas of writing, traditional/digital publishing, networking and marketing. Aspiring authors or seasoned writers can use the tools at any time. See <http://writers.scottsdalelibrary.org/writers>. Arizona authors with published books are invited to submit a copy to the Scottsdale Public Library's LOCAL Collection: <http://libcat.scottsdaleaz.gov/search~S1?/tLocal+Collection>. The li-



brary provides original cataloging and processing on all items added to the collection. More



info at: [http://www.scottsdalelibrary.org/content/local\\_collection](http://www.scottsdalelibrary.org/content/local_collection)

The **Arizona Library Association** Board endorsed the ALA Chapter Statement Regarding E-Content Pricing.

The **University of Arizona Library Special Collections** department hosted an evening lecture January 15 on "50 Years: Tucson's African American Community." The Civil Rights Lecture Series opened with a screening of the documentary film "In Their Own Words: The 1960s civil rights movement in Tucson" followed by a panel discussion with Charles Ford, Ph.D., former Tucson Vice Mayor and retired Tucson Unified School District principal, and Cressworth Lander, native Tucsonan and president of the Dunbar Coalition. Held in conjunction with Special Collections newest exhibition, "50 Years: Civil Rights in Arizona from 1963 to Today," the series explored how the fight for civil rights has impacted local Tucson communities. The series features community leaders, University of Arizona scholars, and local educators.

**Arizona Library Association** President and MPLA member **Tom Wilding** convened three ad-hoc committees to review issues regarding the future of AzLA: Bylaws and Governance Committee; Professional Development Committee; Marketing and Advocacy Committee

New officers of the **Arizona Library Association** are President-elect – **Ann Boles**, Wickensburg Public Library; Secretary - **Erin MacFarlane**, Northwest Regional Library; ALA Councilor – MPLA member and Past-President **Dana Braccia**, Scottsdale Public Library System

## Colorado

MPLA member **Michael Cox** is now Director of Public Services for the Pueblo City-County Library District. A participant in MPLA's 2012 Leadership Institute, Michael was previously Youth Services Supervisor.



A joint program, "Spotlight on Your Career," offered by the Colorado Association of Law Libraries and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Special Libraries Association, will be held February 23.

**Douglas County Libraries** (DCL) is testing a new acquisitions dashboard developed in partnership with Impelsys, a company that works with publishers to deliver and market eContent. The dashboard will allow the library's collection development and acquisitions staff to receive new title metadata directly

from publisher partners. A publisher new to the DCL family of partners could upload its entire catalog to the dashboard, which facilitates easy receipt and assessment of item records, cover art, subjects, prices, etc. Once the beta test phase is complete, the dashboard will be available from Impelsys for purchase by other libraries.

MPLA member **Valerie Horton** is now Director of the Minitex Library Networked based at the University of Minneapolis. She was previously Executive



Director of the Colorado Library Consortium. She is co-general editor and co-news editor for *Collaborative Librarianship*. She is also co-editor of ALA Editions monograph "Moving Materials: Physical Delivery in Libraries."

The **Centennial Park Library** Knitting Circle created more than 40 baby hats for newborns at the North Colorado Medical Center in Greeley. The fashion models for the hats are some of the favorite puppets at the library.



**Douglas County Libraries** begins the new year with the acquisition of 10,000 digital titles in popular genres from Smashwords, the world's largest distributor of self-published works. The acquisition is part of

the library's strategy to maximize public investment in the library collection by purchasing digital content directly from publishers at discount, rather than leasing it from third-party vendors or paying prices to the "Big 5" publishers

**Jim Duncan**, formerly director of networking and resource sharing for the Colorado State Library, is the new Executive Director of the Colorado Library Consortium and will begin in mid-February. He replaces Valerie Horton who is now Director of the Minitex Library Network.



The **Centennial Park Library** in Greeley and **Carbon Valley Regional Library** in Firestone have permanent, private kiosks as part of the Kaiser Permanente Colorado, Community Benefit Weigh and Win. program. Participants can stay accountable and visually track their progress through photographed weigh-ins completed at private scales, referred to as "kiosks," located throughout the community.



Beth Jones from Red Feather Services will be conducting four supervisory classes sponsored by the **Colorado Library Consortium** in four different locations. The classes include Best Practices for Supervisor; Motivating Staff; Correcting Job Performance, and Building Team Agility.

# Kansas



Photos by Blake Fisher/Getty Images

**Jo Budler**, Kansas State Librarian, is *Library Journal's* 2013 Librarian of the Year. "Budler's ongoing efforts in the ebook battles and her work as chair of the Ebook Task Force of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), in addition to her significant local contributions in the state of Kansas, made clear a picture of Budler as an extremely effective library leader and *LJ* Editors' choice for Librarian of the Year 2013."



February 16, the **Bonner Springs Library** Board will host "Reach for the Stars: Imagination Destination @ the library," the seventh Jazz on the Lake fundraiser to continue a series of arts and sciences programming with supplemental materials for youth at the library. The evening will take place at the historic Lake of the Forest Clubhouse and features live and silent auctions, a catered dinner from Ross's Catering, and live jazz by the Kicks Band.

**Kan-ed**, a program created by the Kansas Legislature and administered through the Kansas Board of Regents, will officially end for all libraries March 1st.

New measures for broadband access to rural libraries and communities will be investigated by a new special legislative committee.

# Nebraska

MPLA member **Marcia Dority Baker**, Access Services Librarian, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Law Library, is an Instructor with the Library Science Program at the University of Missouri, teaching a special libraries class. Marcia is a 2010 MPLA Leadership Institute participant.

Students on Christmas break enjoyed an "Iron Chef" activity at the **Grand Island City Library**. Kids were able to make omelets, waffles and smoothies during the event.



Iron chef snapshots

After a 2 year hiatus, the **Nebraska Library Association** has brought back a Nebraska library journal. The first issue will premier online in February. This publication will be a practitioners journal. Look to [www.nebraskalibraries.org](http://www.nebraskalibraries.org) in February to see the results. The **Nebraska Library Association** voted to approve the ALA joint statement regarding ebook pricing.

The **Geneva Public Library** recently celebrated 100 years of service to the community with an open house. One of the features of the open house was a display of scrapbooks cataloging the history of the institution.

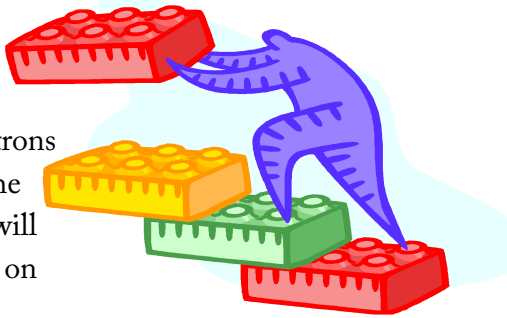
The **Kearney Area Storytelling Festival**, was January 15-19, with professional storytellers and area tellers.

January 30 is the **Nebraska Library Association** advocacy day in Lincoln. Librarians are encouraged to come to the capitol to speak with their state representative about state support of libraries and the special budget initiative to fund ebook access across the state.

Friends of the **Columbus Public Library** presented a program by former CIA agent Mike Floyd on January 13. Floyd is a co-author of the book, *Spy the Lie: former CIA agents teach you how to detect deception*. Floyd said "My formative years were spent at the Columbus Public Library either attending 'Story Hour' or checking out children's books. I cannot imagine what my life would have been but for the availability of the library and its dedicated staff."

## Nevada

The **Elko-Lander-Eureka Library System** is sponsoring a Lego Creations contest in January with entries in five categories: a family or team category, and four individual age-based categories. Patrons will vote for the winners who will be announced on February 1.



A ballot initiative to fund a new **Carson City** Knowledge and Discovery Center by increasing sales tax by a quarter of a cent was turned down by voters. The final tally showed that 68% voted no. If the project had been approved, the land would have been donated but the donation has been withdrawn.

January at the **Washoe County Library** is a time for a major Friends of the Library book sale, providing essential support for library programming.

The library is also conducting a series of "eBooks @ your Library" sessions, hoping to reach new users of smartphones, tablets, and readers.



The statewide theme for **Nevada Reading Week**, the annual celebration of reading in school and public libraries, is Read It! Dream It! Do It!. March is Nevada Reading Month, although many schools celebrate the week at different times to accommodate special events and test schedules.

The **Nevada Reading Week Conference** for librarians and teachers is scheduled for February 22 – 23, and will feature children's authors Candace Fleming, Eric Rohmann, and Judy Freeman as keynote speakers. Registration will be available on the website at [www.nevadareadingweek.com](http://www.nevadareadingweek.com).

The **Carson City Library's** upcoming programs include free business and marketing classes at the BRIC (Business Resource Innovation Center), tax preparer information sessions, Love on a Leash Therapy Dog reading program, and an Explore the World series, which focuses on a different part of the world each month.

A **Las Vegas–Clark County Library District** current Facebook contest features a prize of a framed animation cel from the *Chuck Jones Experience* at Circus Circus. Chuck Jones was the creator of Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, the Tasmanian Devil, Yosemite Sam, and other characters. The library system offers a wide range of activities ranging from yoga classes to Extreme Knitting.



A recent article in the Reno newspaper cited MPLA member **Arnie Maurins**, Director of the **Washoe County Library**, as saying that he believes that library operations in Washoe County have somewhat stabilized, and that volunteer services may help to restore some library hours that were cut. Because of severe 44% budget cuts, over 100 of 225 staff positions and one-third of library hours have been cut during the last four years.

## New Mexico

New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez has appointed **Martha Shipman Andrews**, the New Mexico State University Library Archivist, to the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board (NMHRAB). Andrews been with NMSU Library since 2004. While there she has edited two books “Out of the Shadows: the Women of



Southern New Mexico” and “The Whole Dammed World: New Mexico Aggies at War 1941-1945”. NMHRAB is New Mexico’s advisory board to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, a branch of the National Archives and Records Administration. She will be involved in reviewing grant proposals for projects relating to New Mexico’s historical records and documents. Martha also is a 2012 New Mexico-Arizona Book Award Winner in the anthology category for “Out of the Shadows.”

MPLA New Mexico Representative **LeAnn Weller** suggests two current exhibits in New Mexico. “Tall Tales of the Wild West: The Stories of Karl May,” at the New Mexico History Museum/Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe, Nov 18, 2012 - Feb 9, 2014; The exhibit features the works of the German author Karl May (1842-1912) who wrote over 100 novels set in the American West that sold over a million copies to fans who would visit both his home town Bad Segeberg German and Santa Fe,

New Mexico. “100 Years: Celebrating New Mexico’s Health,” at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Domenici Center, Albuquerque through August 2013. The exhibit features stories about major developments in health that have shaped New Mexico’s history, such as the Spanish influenza, the tuberculosis sanatorium movement or midwifery. Stories about pioneers in New Mexico Health can be found on <http://hsc.unm.edu/library/resources/spc/100yrs.html>.

*Library Journal’s* Index of Public Library Service gave five New Mexico Libraries star ratings: **Taos Public Library, Pueblo of Isleta Library, Embudo Valley Library & Community Center in Dixon, Eleanor Daggett Memorial Library, Chama, and Tularosa Public Library.** The index is a tool that compares U.S. public libraries using data from the IMLS. Only 262 libraries received star designations.

The student group Youth United from the **Santa Fe School for the Arts & Sciences** has won the 2012 Global Call to Action Challenge sponsored by the Pearson Foundation and PeaceJam for their program “Hooked on Books.” The students encouraged reading



by developing contests through school classrooms, running a summer boot camp for reading, and placing bookshelves where children “wait” such as motor vehicle departments, doctor’s offices, and emergency rooms. The shelves are painted a bright color and have books that children can

read there or borrow and return. The prize is \$1000 which will be used to buy more books and a trip to Denver to meet 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee. For more information see <http://www.pearsonfoundation.org/pr/20121025-santa-fe-student-group-youth-united-wins-global-call-to-action-challenge.html> Their winning video is at <http://www.peacejam.org/videos/2012-GCA-Winner--Hooked-on-Books---Reel-Kids-into-Reading-336.aspx>.

**Mary Ellen Pellington**, director of the Octavia Fellin Library in Gallop is one of the ten 2012 *I Love My Librarian* Award winners. The award encourages library users to recognize the accomplishments of exceptional public, school, college, community college, or university librarians. Mary Ellen is also the Vice President of the New Mexico Library Association. In the nomination document she is credited with building “an environment that is welcoming to all, and inclusive of all the cultures and ethnicities in the region, which is known as the ‘Indian Capital of the World.’”



**Jenny Rayson**, school librarian at Mesilla Elementary School in Las Cruces/Mesilla, died in November 2012. She started her career in 1985 as a catalog librarian at the New Mexico State University library. A celebration of her life will be held, at her request, in February.

## North Dakota

The **Fargo Public Library** recently opened an early literacy center and play space called the Wiggle Room. Located in the Children’s Department of the Main Library, the Wiggle Room is designed for the youngest library users and focuses on building early literacy skills through play. With puzzles, blocks, costumes and a writing center, there is something to engage every child.



The **Valley City/Barnes County Public Library** recently held their annual Chocolate Day fundraiser to raise money for children’s materials.

The **Grand Forks Public Library** hosted an adventurous party full of hobbits, elves, and wizards. “A Long Expected Journey: A Hobbit Party” was the beginning of a long expected journey that coincided with the opening of the movie *The Hobbit*. Courageous participants braved Gollum’s cave and the Lonely Mountains while also able to sip some fine ale (of the ginger type) and enjoy a meal in The Shire. There were picture opportunities, and a fun time of dress up so everyone could become their favorite character from the story. Bobbi Wood, reports “We managed to get in some people who had not been to an activity at the library and they were pleasantly surprised and vowed to return! All in all “The Long Expected Journey” got off to a good start.”



Christmas treats and yummy sweets were on the menu at the **Grand Forks Public Library**. “Kids in the Kitchen” chef, Noelle Myers, was on hand to give instruction on holiday treat decorating. Parents and children lined up to layer cookies in frosting, or dip marshmallows in chocolate. With a variety of sprinkles everyone had a tasty time!



The **Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library's** latest teen book club series kicked off with discussions of Tolkien's *The Hobbit, or There and Back Again*. The Library also hosted a recital by the finalists in the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra's 2012-2013 Young Artist Competition.



**Eric Stroshane**, MPLA representative reports that the North Dakota State Library's website received a complete overhaul boasting a responsive design rendering it compatible across the device spectrum.

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Assembly convened on January 8 during which the **North Dakota State Library** will seek an increase in State Aid to Public Libraries and funding for a matching grant program for library renovations and repairs.

The **North Dakota State Library's** parent agency, the Department of Public Instruction is now under the leadership of recently elected State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler.

The **Mott Public Library** is now under the direction of **Kimberly Herring**. Previous librarian **Pam Steinke** is now Mott's City Auditor.

The **McVille Community Library** received a \$4,000 grant from the North Dakota Community Foundation to be used for an ADA compliant bathroom and library shelving.

The **Grand Forks Public Library** held a Winter Reading Program for children in grades K-6 in partnership with the University of North Dakota Athletic Department. All participants who completed a six-hour reading requirement received a free ticket to the January 26th UND women's basketball game and had their name entered into a drawing to win fun prizes.

The **Mayville Public Library Board** received a grant from the Traill County Historical Society of Hillsboro to restore its outside entryway.

The **Cavalier County Library** received a Libri Foundation grant enabling it to add 64 new hardcover children's books.



The **James River Valley Library System** Library Board is revisiting renovation and building options as they seek to unify the **Alfred Dickey Public Library** and **Stutsman County Library** collections in a modernized ADA-compliant facility.



The annual **Garrison** Dickens Village Festival featured an opportunity to celebrate the life and works of Charles Dickens by riding the Queen Elizabeth, flinging a fruit

cake, and attending a live performance of *A Christmas Carol*.

Patrons of the **Grand Forks Public Library** can now check out Simple Touch Nooks® that are pre-loaded with approximately 20 books in different categories, including best sellers, mysteries, romance/inspirational, science fiction/fantasy/western, biographies/non-fiction, teen fiction, and fiction. Taking one home is as simple as filling out and signing a Lending Policy Agreement. The library has 20 Nooks® available and all have a three week check out.

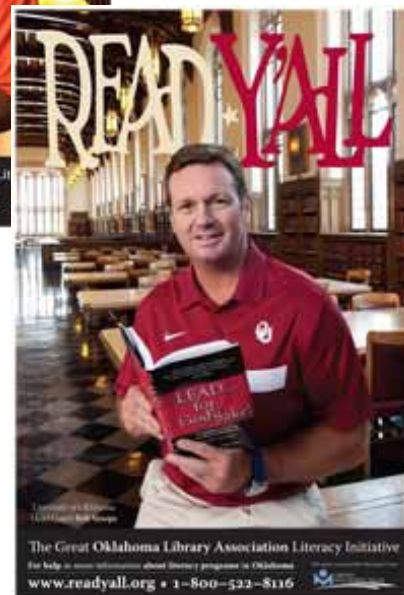
## Oklahoma

The **Oklahoma Library Association** Sequoyah Book Awards is launching a New Logo Contest. The existing logo is considered now to be dated and the committees hope that by encouraging students to have input in the design of the new logo that it will raise awareness of the program and become more appealing to young readers.

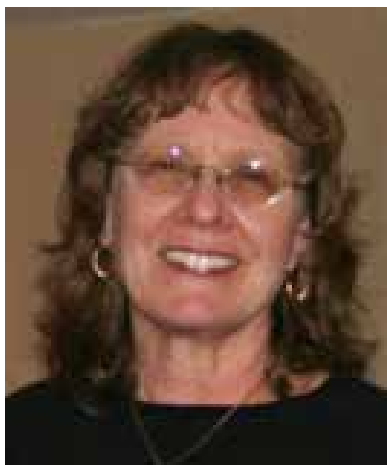
The Friends of the Library are sponsoring a Creative Writing contest at the **Bartlesville Public Library**.

**Oklahoma Library Association's** latest READ Y'ALL posters are making a big splash state-wide. READ Y'ALL, a celebrity poster campaign of the Oklahoma Library Association, features famous Oklahomans promoting the importance of literacy and celebrating the joy of reading. The most recent posters were a big hit across the state because they featured Oklahoma State University's Head Football Coach Mike Gundy and another poster featured the

University of Oklahoma's Head Football Coach Bob Stoops. But wait.....a third poster features both Gundy and Stoops reading side by side.



MPLA member **Basha Hartley** is retiring after 26 years with the Norman Public Library of the Pioneer Library System, 21 of them as the Children's Department Manager. She was most recently Oklahoma Representative to MPLA. The library held a retirement celebration on January 15. In Basha's honor a child-friendly sculpture will be commissioned for the Norman Public Library Children's Department.



Contributions to the project can be made to the PLS Foundation, a 501c3 organizations, at 226 W. Gray, Norman OK 73069 with "Honoring Basha Hartley" noted. See Basha's article on page 11.

**Kristi Merchant**, school librarian at Tulsa Public School's **Patrick Henry Elementary**, won Oklahoma Library Association's Polly Clarke Award. Kristi sponsors the school's newspaper, tutors students, prepares and offers a summer reading program and assists classroom teachers in numerous ways. She is also the 25th recipient of Oklahoma Library Association's coveted Polly Clarke Award. The award was created by the Oklahoma Library Association in 1988 in honor of Polly Clark, an Oklahoma school library media specialist who was instrumental in the establishment of an exemplary library media program that served the instructional needs of teachers, students, and administrators.



A new grant initiative is helping five adult literacy programs address health literacy issues in their communities in Oklahoma. Literacy programs in Altus, Claremore, Edmond, Tulsa and Sapulpa have each received a \$3,000 grant from the **Oklahoma Department of Libraries** through the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The **Oklahoma Library Association** voted to approve the ALA joint statement regarding ebook pricing.

## South Dakota

MPLA member **Cindy Messenger**, director of the Hot Springs Public Library, reports there was a tree at the library with gifts under it. The beautifully wrapped & ribboned gifts were the idea of Vicky, one of the library staff members. The packages were tagged with adult or youth or child and the genre .. otherwise contents unknown. Patrons were able to purchase the gifts for a very reasonable price and be ready for the giving season. Children especially were happy to be able to afford a gift for the adults on their lists. And adults were grateful to have a gift ready to go for the exchange at work or for the relative who loves to read. It was fun for everyone! The gifts were sold out a week before Christmas. Kudos to Vicky, as one patron summed it up, "Brilliant idea, brilliant!"



During the first two weeks of December, 136 librarians, paraprofessionals, technology specialists and administrators met together to learn more about how school libraries can integrate the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and South Dakota Library Content Standards. The regional meetings came about in a joint effort by the school section of the **South Dakota Library Association** and the **South Dakota State Library**. During the previous August, a group of library stakeholders had met and set four goals for the 2012-13 school year, one of which was to hold regional meetings for school librarians. Six meetings were held in school libraries/schools in Winner, Box Elder (Douglas), Onida, Watertown, Brookings and Sioux Falls. During the meetings, South Dakota State Library staff provided training on the research (writing) strand of CCSS, attendees used CCSS to create lesson plans, and time was spent in networking and collaborating with other attendees.

South Dakota First Lady **Linda Daugaard**, as part of her initiative to encourage students to read, visited her 200th elementary school on November 30, 2012. Her goal is to visit each of the more than 400 public elementary schools in the state.



*First Lady Linda Daugaard (center) with kids in the Capitol Rotunda. She's holding a Nancy Drew book.*

**Cozard Memorial Library** in Chamberlain hosted their annual Holiday Parade of Homes in December. Proceeds support the programs and services of the library.

Four South Dakota libraries have been selected as an American Star Library for 2012. In the \$10K-

49.9K expenditure category, **Centerville Community Library** received five stars, **Whitewood Public Library** and **Elk Point-Jefferson Community/School Library** received four stars, and **Hazel L Meyer Memorial Library** (DeSmet) received three stars.

The **H.M. Briggs Library at South Dakota State University** highlighted a new collection of books about the country of Turkey at its "Paging through Turkey" event held on November 14. The collection, funded through a grant from the Institute of Turkish Studies, includes more than 75 volumes and includes novels and poetry by distinguished authors, history and geography, art and architecture, cookbooks, travel books and volumes for children. A panel of Turkish natives and area teachers who traveled to Turkey in 2012 discussed the importance of selected authors and groups of works. The discussion shed light on the distinctive nature of Turkey, a country which historically and currently plays a pivotal role in world affairs. The evening also featured displays of the books and Turkish artifacts. Refreshments inspired by Turkish cuisine rounded out the evening. H. M. Briggs Library, the South Dakota World Affairs Council, the World Affairs Councils of America, and the Turkish Cultural Foundation co-sponsored the event. A bibliography of the collection, which is available for interlibrary loan, is available at <http://libguides.sdstate.edu/pagingthroughturkey>.



*Paging Through Turkey Panel at library program*

The **South Dakota State Library** is undergoing a strategic planning process. MPLA member **Mary Bushing** has been hired as facilitator. An advisory group has been formed and the first in-person meeting will be in February. A new strategic plan should be approved by the end of 2013.

South Dakota has a **Little Free Library** in Sisseton. It's basically a glorified box sitting in a couple's front yard with books in it. People can take a book out, put another one in and continue the cycle of book sharing. Little Free Library is a non-profit organization that started a few years ago in Wisconsin and has spread to countries around the world. The Sisseton location is the first to be registered in South Dakota.

In Rapid City, the new County/City Public Library East held a grand opening on November 30. The library brings together **Western Dakota Tech Rapid City**, and **Pennington County** libraries.

The **Vermillion Public Library** construction and renovation continues. The newly constructed 6500 square foot addition is complete, and renovation of the original 11,000 square foot library has begun. The project is scheduled to be complete in April 2013.

The **Hanson Area Community Library** in Alexandria is nearing completion. The library is a shared venture by the city, school, and surrounding area.

Patrons of 62 public libraries in South Dakota now have access to downloadable ebooks and audiobooks through **SD Titles to Go**, a program coordinated by the **South Dakota State Library** to allow public libraries to purchase titles from Overdrive.

## Utah

Utah State Librarian and MPLA member **Donna Jones Morris**, reported to the Utah Library Association Board that \$565,007 in Community Library Enhancement Funds was distributed to 56 public libraries. The majority of the funds were spent on collection development and public access technology projects.

Utah has four *Library Journal Star Libraries*: **Salt Lake City Public Library** (\$10–29.9 million); **Grand County Library** (\$400K–999.9K); **Mt Pleasant Public Library** (\$100K–199.9K); and **Lewiston Public Library** (\$10K–49.9K).

MPLA President **JaNae Kinikin**'s paper on poster presentations as an assessment tool is published in the *Journal of Information Literacy*. See <http://ojs.lboro.ac.uk/ojs/index.php/JIL/article/view/LLC-V6-12-2012-2>. The paper is a result of her presentation at the LILAC Librarians' Information Literacy Annual conference: *Poster Presentations as an Assessment Tool in a Third/college-level Information Literacy Course: an effective method of measuring student understanding of library research skills*.

The Special Libraries section of the **Utah Library Association** took a field trip to the **Utah State Library** in November. They toured the services for the Blind and Disabled, Library Resources, and Library Development. They were able to view the largest collection of Braille in the world and a Mobile Library.



*Inside the Utah State Library Mobile Library*

The **Utah State Library** announced ten new strategic partners who helped sponsor and present at library events throughout 2012; some of these events included Utah Education Association, Utah Library Association, Senior Expo, Disney Days, KSL Family Book Festival, Festival Latino Americano, and the Native American Summit.

**Colleen Eggett**, Utah State Library, announced "Turning the Page, Utah 2.0": a series of one-hour, online education programs for library staff and trustees. The sessions include Public Perceptions, Telling your Story, You as Leader, Building relationships, The "Big Ask," and "So What's Next?"

The **Pleasant Grove Library** director, **April Harrison**, recently learned she will be adding a new hat to her library wardrobe. April will also be the Director of Arts and Culture, overseeing the Arts Commission, the City Orchestra, Concerts in the Park, the Utah Children's Choir of Pleasant Grove, and the city's Historic Preservation Commission. In an article in Provo's Daily Herald, April said she is excited to be the liaison to these groups and looks forward to working with an outstanding group of volunteers.



The **Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library** will host two adult reading and discussion series beginning in January. The first series is *The West and the Wild: Preserve and Plunder – Waiting for Thunder*. This monthly Sunday afternoon series is moderated by Rebecca Leibinger, Sheridan College faculty member, and includes four nonfiction books and several videos. The first book in the series, *What You See in Clear Water* by Geoffrey O'Gara, deals with water, or the lack of it, in Wyoming on the Wind River Reservation. Participants may check out a copy of this title at the Fulmer Library Circulation Desk. The second series is on *Characters Who Live on ... After You've Finished the Final Page*. The first book in the series is *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

**Cindy Moore** has been selected Director of the **Albany County Public Library** in Laramie. She begins in February. She was with the Sweetwater Library when she attended the 2010 Leadership Institute. Her most recent position was branch manager of the Park County Library System Powell Library, Wyoming. She replaces Susan Simpson who retired.



*Cindy Moore during a library centennial celebration. The kids built fairy houses outside and the staff wore wings.*

## Wyoming

According to an article in the Casper Star-Tribune, homeowners across Wyoming are opening their own libraries - filling nightstands, antique ice-boxes and homebuilt boxes with books. The Little Free Libraries offer 24-7 access to books for residents with limited access to traditional public libraries. They are also become gathering places. The idea for Little Free Libraries came from Wisconsin, where they originated in 2009 and were publicized on National Public Radio.



The **Teton County Library** invites participants to bring a shrunken sweater to a January program on DIY Craft Night: Repurposing Wool. Materials to refashion it are provided.

The **Natrona County Public Library** is an active partner in several community initiatives related to the health and wellbeing of local citizens. As a result of one such partnership, the library will host a free, four-part screening of HBO's "The Weight of the Nation," aimed at initiating community discussion on the topic of obesity. Partner organizations with the library include the Casper Recreation Center, University of Wyoming Extension, Prevention Management Organization, Wyoming Business Coalition on Health, Wyoming Medical Center, Natrona County Public Library, Wyoming Health Fairs and the Casper-Natrona County Health Department.

The **Teton County Library** closed for two weeks for the finishing touches to its addition and renovation. When it opens in January it will have a larger auditorium; a cozier reading room; a new computer lab; a public art installation and a permanent nook for the ever-popular booksale organized by the Teton County Library Friends. The library's volunteer group, the Friends, will begin accepting book donations at the library when the library reopens. On that day, the Friends will also open the Friends Book Nook, a combination book sale and coffee cart. The booksale raises money for the library and recycles favorite reads in the community. A combination of public and private funding made the addition and renovation possible. Voters approved the Specific Purpose Excise Tax beginning in 2008 and the Teton County Library Foundation raised money to make it possible to include a fireplace and locally-made, craftsman-style furniture in the reading room.

The **Wyoming State Library and Collaborative Summer Library Program** have announced the 2013 Wyoming Teen Video Challenge. Teens (age 13-18) can create a 30-90 second video promoting the summer reading theme "Beneath the Surface" and win \$275 for themselves and \$125 for their public library.

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**MPLA 2014  
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May 4-9, 2014**

**YMCA of the Rockies  
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**2013**

American Library Association Midwinter,  
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Public Library Association Virtual Spring  
Symposium, March 20

Oklahoma Library Association, April 3-5,  
Ardmore

Association of College & Research Libraries,  
April 10-13, Indianapolis, Indiana

New Mexico Library Association, April 17-19,  
Albuquerque

Montana Library Association, April 17 – 20,  
Missoula

Utah Library Association, May 1-3, Provo

American Library Association Annual,  
June 27 - July 2, Chicago, Illinois

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

Wyoming Library Association, October 2-5,  
Cheyenne

Kansas Library Association, October 9-11,  
Topeka

Nebraska Library Association, October 9-11,  
Kearney

Colorado Library Association, October 17-19,  
Loveland

Nevada Library Association, October, October  
17-18, Reno

American Association of School Librarians,  
November 14-17, Hartford, Connecticut

Arizona Library Association, TBA

**2014**

Arizona Library Association and Mountain  
Plains Library Association, Fall, TBA

**2015**

Wyoming Library Association and Mountain  
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