

# Newsletter

*Big Horizons Close Community*

February—March 2015

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

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MPLA Past President Jerry Kaup retired from his position as Director of Minot Public Library in December, after more than 37 years. Read a retrospective of Kaup's career [inside](#).



Jake Albrecht and other Montana library staff participated in Great American ShakeOut earthquake drills in October. Read more in [Around the Region](#).

Did you figure out which MPLA member showed off a Harold and the Purple Crayon tattoo in our last issue? Check your guess on [page 10](#).

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# New Technology

# for MPLA Meetings

## Big Horizons, Close Collaboration

MPLA represents twelve states, so its membership and Executive Board members are scattered over a wide area. Face to face meetings are all too rare.

In past years, most MPLA board and committee meetings have been held via conference call. In 2015, the Association is transitioning to online meeting software. This will add interactivity,

streamline collaboration between individuals and committees, and open up new ways to connect with people throughout the region.

There are a wide range of web-based conference platforms available. To gather input, MPLA President Annie Epperson called together a task force to compare the options and recommend a software solution to the Executive Board by the meeting on January 5. The members of the task force were Mickey Coalwell (Chair), Leslie Langley, and Judy Zelenski. The selection criteria were:

- Ease of set up and administration
- Ease of delivery (for presenter/host)
- Document sharing, white board sharing, polling
- The ability to meet via audio, video and chat
- Storing/hosting of recorded meetings, webinars, etc.
- Training availability
- Ability to host Board meetings, committee meetings, smaller groups such as subcommittees or task forces, webinars of up to 100 or so attendees, and informal gatherings of members



Plans offering up to 100 participants were the only ones considered. Educational plans for large training sessions were not considered because of cost. The task force met three times and tried four of the platforms.



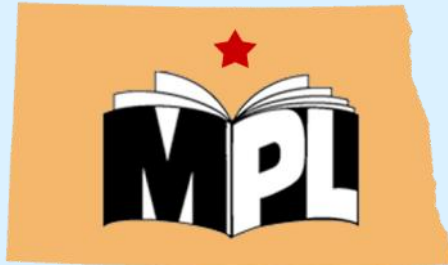
Zoom was recommended by the committee and chosen by the board, which met using the new videoconferencing platform at its January 5 meeting.

Task forces are now using Zoom for meetings. The cost of the annual plan will be offset by no longer using telephone conference calling.

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# Celebrating Jerry Kaup's Retirement

## by Eric Stroshane



Jerry Kaup retired from his position as the Director of the Minot Public Library in December, after nearly 38 impressive and storied years. Beyond his service and dedication to Minot, his career included major contributions at the state and regional levels. He served as President of the North Dakota Library Association from 1983-1985, President of the Mountain Plains Library Association from 1988-1990, and, most recently, as a member of the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council.



*Jerry Kaup (l) accepts a plaque from Eric Stroshane*

Mr. Kaup was very active within his adoptive home state of North Dakota. As a member of the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council, he assisted in drafting the state's first set of *Standards for Public Libraries*. He was also instrumental in establishing State Aid to Public Libraries during North Dakota's 1979 legislative session, an act which has benefitted our state's public libraries ever since. In 2004, NDLA recognized Jerry Kaup as their Librarian of the Year.



*Shhhh! Kaup celebrates with colleagues*

Jerry's MPLA presidency was an impressive one. He served two consecutive terms, stepping up during his vice presidential year to complete Sara Parker's term when she resigned her post to become Pennsylvania State Librarian. He oversaw the addition of an eleventh member state, Oklahoma, to its constituency—one of the very rare instances of geographic growth during our Association's 65-year history. His contributions to MPLA go far beyond his tenure as President, however.

*Continued on page 4*





*Paulette Nelson presents a commemorative quilt*

Jerry has been an active member of MPLA since 1974. Over the years, he planned annual pilgrimages to the conference, inviting library workers from institutions throughout the state to join him on his epic travels. He wouldn't stay in the conference hotel, he'd rent a house for the lot of them. He'd never take the direct path there, either. Instead, he planned a route that would allow them to stop at scenic vistas, historical sites, and museums, ensuring that everyone along for the ride was learning and engaged in the adventure. He did this because he understood that the journey is at least as important as the destination. He also understood the value of professional networks and friendships spanning institutions and states, and cherishes the connections he's made. In this way, most of Jerry's accomplishments aren't well documented.

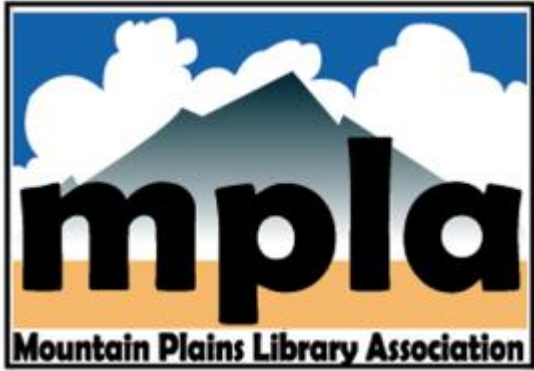
Throughout his career, his dedication to mentoring librarians and advancing the profession has had a deep and lasting impact on many of us in North Dakota, and throughout the Mountain Plains region. It would not surprise me if every person reading this has a story about Jerry, or a lesson he/she learned from him. This was exemplified by the more than 140 people who showed up for his retirement party. They came from at least four different states, despite the freezing rain and the bitter cold.

When you strengthen libraries, you truly do improve the communities they serve. Consequently, Jerry Kaup's work, passion, leadership, and dedication have had significant impact not just on Minot, but throughout North Dakota, the Mountain Plains region, and the nation. Happy retirement, Jerry—you've earned it!



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*Eric Stroshane is MPLA Vice-President / President Elect for 2014—2015. He is the Library Development Manager at the North Dakota State Library, and has been an MPLA member since 2009.*



# Money for the Taking (Nearly) - Professional Grants

## for Individuals and State Associations

Did you know that you can apply for grant money from MPLA, either for yourself or for your state association?

Did you know that each year, some grant monies never get distributed due to a small number of applications?

Grant monies go to support professional development. Examples of the types of expenses grants can be used for include:

- Attending conferences or workshops
- Enrolling in courses, either online or in-person
- Contracting with a guest speaker for a state conference

Individuals can receive mini-grants up to \$150.00, or regular grants up to \$600.00. (Must be current MPLA member plus immediate past year member to apply for mini-grants up to \$150; must be current MPLA member plus immediate two past years to apply for regular grants up to \$600).

State associations can receive grants up to \$500.00.

The 2015 deadlines for individual grants are:

- January 28
- March 25
- May 27
- July 29
- September 30
- November 25

Grant details and applications are available [here](#).



by Kris Johnson, MPLA Professional Development Chair



# CONNECTING WITH TEENS at Prescott Public Library

## An Interview with Jennifer Kendall



**MPLA:** When did you establish PPL's teen book club? Who is the target audience?

JK: The PPL Teen Book Club started in early 2010, at the suggestion of a member of the new Teen Advisory Group (TAG). I didn't have high hopes for success, but decided to give it a try with the book *Unwind*, by Neal Shusterman. I was surprised when six teens showed up.

The target audience was 6th-12th grade when we started out, but I decided to move it up to 7th grade because of the types of books we read. The original attendees were middle schoolers who are

school. Perhaps in the future, when I have more time (!), I can have a tween and teen club. However, we still manage to do just fine, and I am in the process of starting a club for the literary teen.

**MPLA:** What is the average attendance? Has it grown or changed over time?

JK: Average attendance is 8-11 members. The numbers seem to fluctuate depending on the book selection of the month. The more popular the title, the more interest. Since that discovery, I've looked for books with more mainstream appeal.

For my more literary group of teens (yes, they exist), we are working on launching a club for teens interested in reading more challenging teen literature, and who are interested in the reviewing, editing, and publishing aspects of books.

Last year, I also started doing outreach with book clubs. I am currently helping the librarian at Prescott High School and the librarian at Mile High Middle School to organize and facilitate their monthly book clubs.

*Continued on page 7*

*Thumb Butte, Prescott, AZ. Photo by J. Orndorf.*

### **MPLA: When did you begin Skyping with authors, and how has it gone?**

JK: We began Skyping in September 2011, with author K.L. Going and her book *Fat Kid Rules the World*. I invited teens from my book club and teens from Prescott High School to come and try out this new idea. They loved it! We spent 45 minutes chatting with the author about everything from her writing and books to learning her favorite food was anything with ketchup. From the comfort of her couch in New York, she was able to chat with some teens in a rural library in Arizona. This was an epiphany for all of us in attendance!



Since then we've Skyped with many authors and I've discovered 30 minutes is a sufficient amount of time to visit. I plan 3-4 Skypes a year, and schedule well in advance. Sometimes authors will send autographed nameplates for the books. Some of the author Skypes were the result of a teen's email request. We will be Skyping with Marcus Sedgwick next year (2016) because of a teen who sent an email with a review she wrote about one of his books.

We've played games with authors, done a writing workshop, and even invited adults to attend. The lows have been when there is a technology "blip," but to avoid those, I usually have a Skype-test with the author prior to the day of the event.

My favorite Skype moment happened with author/poet Allan Wolf. We read *The Watch that Ends the Night*, his verse novel about the Titanic. The novel represents 24 different voices from people aboard the ship. Each teen read Allan a favorite passage, and then we did a choral reading of when the ship was sinking. After we read there was such a profound silence. Allan Wolf became emotional and told us there was nothing more powerful than hearing his words read aloud. I admit, there was a glimmer of a tear in my eye. Moments like those are incredible, and a professional affirmation that something is going right.

*Continued on page 22*

### ***Do you have a library program or project to share with other MPLA members?***

From bibliographic instruction to app development, makerspaces to baby storytime, we'd love to read about it.

Write to [editor@mpla.us](mailto:editor@mpla.us).







# Library Advocates Activate

by Paula Wilson

Library advocates are those people who speak about the importance of libraries. They speak boldly, loudly and often eloquently. They also speak quietly to a small circle of friends and family members. Sometimes library advocates don't speak at all but share widely through their social media networks. They can be library members, trustees, and Friends. Library advocates can even be members of the community who do not use the library but see the library as a valuable community resource that must be preserved for generations to come. Library advocates are important especially because many times, they speak for others who cannot speak for themselves.

Wouldn't you like to know there is an army of library advocates working quietly (or loudly) to promote your library? Ongoing advocacy efforts go a long way to ensure that libraries continue to be valued in their communities. Engage your advocates by providing them with the tools they need to jumpstart or revitalize their efforts. Review the selected web sites below, and share them by posting the links to your web sites under "Support the Library." Push them out to your social media sites, too!

## LA 101x: Library Advocacy Unshushed

<https://www.edx.org/course/library-advocacy-unshushed-university-torontox-la101x#.VKWVE9LF8ro>

This online course taught by Wendy Newman, Senior Fellow and Lecturer, Faculty of Information, University of Toronto aims to "become a powerful advocate for the values and future of libraries and librarianship. Be informed, strategic, passionate, and unshushed!" It is open and free to all.

## YALSA Library Advocacy Toolkit

<http://www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/Advocacy%20Toolkit.pdf>

Toolkit provide practical tips, messages, facts, and strategies to help you speak up and be the voice of Teens.

## YALSA Teen Library Advocacy Tweets

<https://twitter.com/hashtag/act4teens>

Provides a twitter tag for Teen Library Advocates to quickly read what's happening in the YA space.

## Everyday Advocacy – Association for Library Services to Children

<http://www.ala.org/everyday-advocacy/>

Resources to complement what you're already doing to advocate for library services to children, youth and their families.

## Advocacy University

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/advocacy-university>

Advocacy University is a comprehensive clearinghouse of advocacy tools and resources for all types of libraries from the American Library Association. Explore these individual resources to determine which is best for your library.

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*Paula Wilson is a consulting librarian who resides in Glendale, AZ. She is a member of the AzLA Marketing & Advocacy Committee, Vice-Chair of the Library Advisory Board for the City of Glendale, and a member of the Friends of the Glendale Public Library. You can find her online at [www.indielibrarian.com](http://www.indielibrarian.com).*







# An Addition to the Family

by Dan Chaney

This is Jenny. She's a cocker spaniel rescue that I adopted on New Year's Eve, after losing my best friend Wrigley a couple of weeks earlier.

She's 3-4 years old and as a rescue, has had a really hard life recently. Her previous owners simply turned her loose, and she was found wandering through someone's backyard in Tulsa. She was covered in briars and had been bitten by a copperhead snake. The vet said they didn't think she was going to make it. That was a big reason why I adopted her, no animal should suffer from neglect, and I consider myself the lucky one.

Jenny is a doll. She hasn't gotten completely settled yet after just 5 days, but I see little flashes of this personality, wagging her tail, following me around. She loves sitting in my lap, and while I don't normally let my dogs do that, in this case, I'm fine with it. She's had a hard life this year, but she's not going to suffer another day in her life. I have given my dogs so much, but that pales in comparison to what they have given me.

*Dan Chaney is a Social Science Librarian at Oklahoma State University. He is the MPLA Webmaster, and has been a member of MPLA since 1996.*



## Do you have an excellent pet?



See your pet here! Just send a photo or two, and a brief description of what makes your pet special, to [editor@mpla.us](mailto:editor@mpla.us).

# Me and My Pet

# Highlighting

# MPLA

*Jake Rundle, 2014*

## What are you doing now?

Currently I'm the Technology and Patron services librarian at Hastings Public Library. I'm responsible for collection development of all formats and partly responsible for the marketing of those collections to various interest groups. I also sometimes do kindergarten story time because that's the best part of my job.

## What was the most valuable element that you took from the Leadership Institute?

One of the things I will value the most about the MPLA Leadership Institute are the stacks and stacks of great resources that Maureen covers as part of the training. There are great first person experiences from the mentors and your fellow attendees, but you have a fantastic resource that goes home with you at the end of the end of the week with great examples, stories, websites, articles and studies that you can refer to years after you've left.

## What one piece of advice did you learn from LI that you could share with other MPLA members?

Try to leave your work behind. It's hard to go somewhere for a week and disconnect from your day to day work, but while you're at the Institute, it's so much more freeing to not worry about your worklife after you've spent 8 hours discussing leadership theory with 28 of the smartest people you'll know.

Do you know an MPLA or state Leadership Institute alum who should be included here?  
Nominate an MPLA member (including yourself) by sending their name to [editor@mpla.us](mailto:editor@mpla.us).



Leadership Institute Alumni



## Whose Tattoo?

If you guessed that the Harold and the Purple Crayon tattoo pictured in our last issue belongs to Jake Rundle, you were right!

Of course Harold is a picture book character, but this tattoo gets extra library credit because it shows him drawing a mountain of books.



# Around the Region



[The Digital Arizona Library](#), from the

Arizona State Library, Archives, & Public Records,

includes a wealth of resources for researchers, readers, and history buffs. Some of the content, like subscription databases, is reserved for Arizona residents. But people everywhere can access the Arizona Memory Project, the Arizona Digital Newspaper Program, and much more.



The Colorado Association of Libraries New Professionals Interest Group will host their 3rd Annual Hiring Workshop at the University of Denver on Saturday, Feb 7. Current students, practicing professionals and job seekers are all invited to a panel discussion featuring library leaders and hiring managers, followed by a networking lunch & two breakout sessions. Details and registration information are available [online](#).



Safford Police Chief Joe Brugman read a Christmas story at the Safford City-Graham County Public Library's

Holiday Open House on December 16. Read about the festivities in the [Eastern Arizona Courier](#).

The [Pinetop-Lakeside Public Library](#) has introduced six iPads loaded with educational games for children ages eleven and younger. The tablets were purchased with support from the Arizona State Library, Archives, & Public Records.



Voting is underway for the 2015 One Book 4 Colorado. The winning picture book will be distributed to every four year old in the state. Find out about the innovative early literacy program, and the three books in the running, at [onebook4colorado.org](#).

More than 800 patrons took part in a food drive in the [High Plains Library District](#) in October, generating more than 6,000 pounds of food for the Weld Food Bank, Carbon Valley Help Center and Erie Food Bank. The 2014 Food for Fines program collected more than twice as much food as the previous year's effort.

# KANSAS

The Kansas Library Association Conference held its annual Legislative Day in Topeka on January 15. Members talked to legislators about the importance of local control, resource sharing, library funding, and the critical role qualified school librarians play in student success.



During November, more than 16,800 Kansas children heard the story *Is Everyone Ready for Fun?* as a part of the 2014 Kansas Reads to Preschoolers. The book, by Jan Thomas, was chosen by a committee of public and school librarians. Nearly 800 special events were held around the state, and more than 5,500 copies of the book were given to Kansas families as part of the celebration.

## KANSAS, continued...



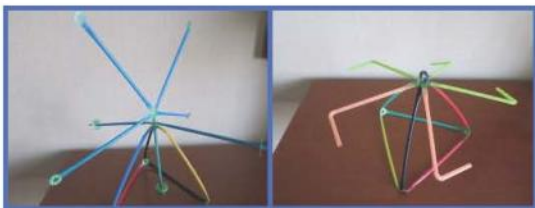
Kansas State Librarian Jo Budler had fun with story-time participants at the Basehor Community Library as part of Kansas Reads to Preschoolers 2014.

## HANDS-ON LIBRARY PROGRAMMING – STEM



from  
**Bill Coleman**  
entertainment

*Stretch your imagination with*  
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Waste plastic connectors  
*and drinking straws*



Connect ordinary drinking straws into imaginative projects using die-cut waste plastic from household waste such as milk cartons, ice cream cartons, cat litter jugs and other soft plastic containers.

**One hour Program Demo** includes using a die cutter to demonstrate cutting reusable connectors from milk cartons and the like, discussing briefly the difference between recycling and repurposing, and hands on activity with each artist getting a supply of reusable connectors and straws to assemble and additional supplies to take home.

**\$250 for each session**, plus mileage when appropriate  
Donations of clean plastic milk jugs or ice cream cartons, cat litter jugs or other clean, dry plastic containers welcomed.

Additional supplies for take home may be available for purchase.

**We are now accepting bookings for this program.**  
*Currently booked with Arapahoe Libraries and also in Estes Park.*

**Please call or email to reserve your dates.**

**Bill “Stretch” Coleman – Bill Coleman Entertainment**  
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<https://www.stiltwalker.com/stretch-a-straw/>



# MONTANA

The Montana Library Association annual conference will be held April 8-11, in Bozeman. The theme is *Access for All: A Montana Value*. More information is available on the [MLA website](#).

Thompson-Hickman Library, in Madison County, is in the midst of an expansion and remodeling project. The expansion will include a new climate controlled repository for the preservation of the Madison County Library Archives, a new children's book and learning center, a new multi-media community meeting, and more.



Several libraries around the state participated in Great American ShakeOut earthquake drills in October.

The photos on this page feature Montana State University Billings Library staff. Jake Albrecht, on the cover, works at Thompson-Hickman Library.



Megan Thomas, upper right, and Lynda Hoover, above.

## MONTANA, continued...



Great Falls Public Library has recently hosted events with two local authors. Carol Bradley, author of *Last Chain on Billie*, and Peter Fromm, author of *If Not for This*, visited the library in December.



Great Falls Public Library has also been instrumental in bringing several Little Free Libraries to the Great Falls area.

# NEBRASKA

The Nebraska Library Association's Intellectual Freedom and Technical Services Round Tables will hold their spring meeting on March 6, at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln's Love Library. The theme is "EVOLUTION/REVOLUTION in Privacy, Technical Services, & Libraries," and more information is available [here](#).



Sump Memorial Library, in Papillion, is at the center of a controversy about library governance. An ordinance was introduced at a City Council meeting in January that would move the library governance model from administrative to advisory. This would give the Library Board less control over financial decisions, and they would no longer select the Library Director. A public hearing is set for February 3, with a final vote on February 10. Read more in the [Omaha World-Herald](#).

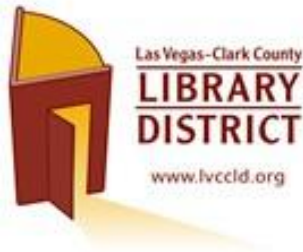
# NEVADA

The [Nevada Library Association](#) will hold its annual Nevada Legislative Day on April 12. Members will promote the importance of library services throughout the state.



## NEW MEXICO, continued...

At the American Library Association conference in June 2014, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau unveiled new financial literacy resources and training for public libraries. In October, the [First Nations Development Institute](#) partnered with [First Nations Oweesta Corporation](#) to offer the training for tribal librarians at the Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute. Financial literacy programs will be offered in public libraries around the state in spring 2015.



In September, Dr. Ronald Heezen became the new Executive Director of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District. Dr. Heezen comes to the Library District from Shreve Memorial Library, in Louisiana, where he was Executive Director

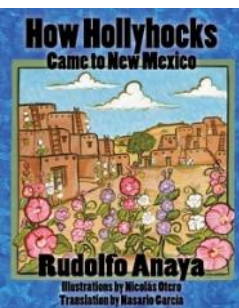
since 2009. Throughout his career, Dr. Heezen has received numerous awards and his writing has appeared in many professional journals.



*Cynthia Aguilar of Santo Domingo, Tamara Sandia of Jemez Pueblo Public Library, Mildred Walters of Sandia Pueblo Learning Resource Center, Teresa Naranjo of Santa Clara Pueblo Community Library, Thelma Tapia of Taytsugeh Oweengeh Library (Tesuque), and Jeannie Whitehorse of Crownpoint Outreach Center*

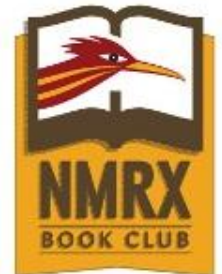
# NEW MEXICO

The New Mexico State Library has chosen *How Hollyhocks Came to New Mexico*, by Rudolfo Anaya, as the book to represent New Mexico in the Pavilion of the States at the 2014 National Book Festival.



The book, which has won numerous awards, was illustrated by Nicolás Otero and translated by Nasario García. The bilingual book is a fanciful folk tale that helps explain the beautiful flowers that can be seen in all parts of New Mexico in the summer and fall.

There's a new book club in town—or out of town. The [NMRX Book Club](#) provides a new and creative portal to engage commuters, bridge the gap between authors and readers, and increase the visibility of New Mexico authors in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and surrounding communities.



With the comfort of travel and more people reading e-books, the book club is a wonderful alternative for passengers on the Rail Runner who already enjoy reading, and a convenient way to increase interest in reading. Membership is free.



## NEW MEXICO, continued...



Deputy State Librarian Joy Poole has been awarded the 2013-14 Distinguished Service Award by the [New Mexico Coalition for Literacy](#). Poole was recognized on June 20 at the Coalition's 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Conference.

Joy has been with the State Library for nine years – first as the Public Services Bureau Chief and currently as the Deputy State Librarian. Before joining the State Library, she spent fifteen years as a museum director for various sites including the Colorado Historical Society – Trinidad Museum Properties, where she was instrumental in helping the Santa Fe Trail become designated as a National Historic Trail.

## NORTH DAKOTA

The North Dakota Library Association has hired the public relations firm JM Strategies to assist with message development, strategy, and management of a grassroots lobbying effort during the 64th North Dakota Legislative Session, which began on January 6.



The Midwest Chapter of the Medical Library Association hosted its annual conference in Bismarck, October 10-14, in collaboration with the North Dakota Library Association's Health Science Information Section.



# Doña Ana Community College

## LIBRARY SCIENCE PROGRAM



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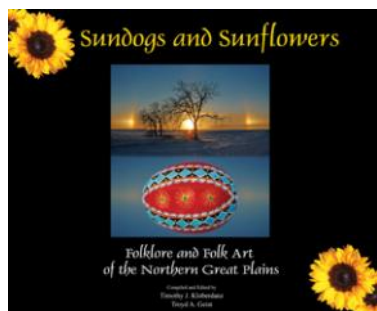
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## NORTH DAKOTA, continued...

The 2014 winner of NDLA's *Notable Document Award* was the audio adaptation of the book *Sundogs and Sunflowers: Folklore and Folk Art of the Northern Great Plains*. The CD was issued by the Council on the Arts in partnership with Prairie Public Radio. The book of the same title won the 2011 *Notable Document Award*.



[Sundogs and Sunflowers](#) is a collection of folklore narratives collected by North Dakota State University professor Timothy J. Klobardanz and his students, including ghost stories, blizzard stories, and tall tales about hunting and fishing.



Minot Public Library has selected Janet Anderson as its new director. She replaces Jerry Kaup, who retired from the position in December.

Anderson has been the adult services librarian at the Minot Public library for two years. She was the branch manager of the Prince George Library, part of the Appomattox Regional Library, in Prince George, Virginia, for two years before joining the staff of Minot Public Library.

The Grand Forks Public Library opened its doors to the ghosts and goblins of Grand Forks when the Unveiled Paranormal Society gave a presentation on October 30. Attendees learned about the ghosts of Grand Forks and how to search out the paranormal. The presentation was one of several spooky events at the library in October.



## NORTH DAKOTA, continued...

A measure to create a quarter-percent sales tax to support the expansion and renovation of the Alfred Dickey Library in Jamestown was defeated on November 4, leaving the proposed project in limbo. At a post-election meeting on November 19, the James River Valley Library System Board of Directors directed library staff to begin developing a two-fold strategic plan that will look at how best to use the existing space at Alfred Dickey and Stutsman County libraries while also working towards the long-term goal of finding a building to support the library system and its needs.



The first ever North Dakota Librarian Twitter Chat was held on November 16. The topic was teacher collaboration. Future chats will be held on the first and third Sunday of every month from 9-10 pm, Central Standard Time. The

topics are geared towards school library media specialists, but anyone is welcome to join Maggie Townsend of Bismarck Public Schools and Allison Radermacher of Ellendale Public School on Twitter, using the hashtag #ndlibchat.



The North Dakota State Library has launched a new resource for public libraries. The Freegal suite includes Freegal Music, Freegal Movies, Freeding and Rocket Languages. North Dakota library card holders may access the content using their library card numbers and PINs.



## NORTH DAKOTA, continued...



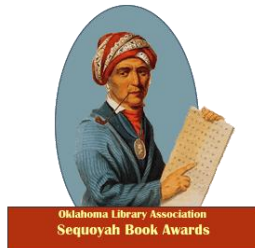
MPLA member Carrie Scarr has a new position as Technology Specialist with the West Fargo Public Library. Scarr was previously Assistant Director of the library. She was a participant in the 2012 MPLA Leadership Institute, and recently received an MPLA Professional Development grant for training in Visual Basic Programming.

## LIBRARY JOURNAL

Eric Stroshane, MPLA Vice-President / President Elect, was mentioned in Barbara Fister's *Library Journal* column Peer to Peer Review in January. The column was entitled "[Recognizing My Library Heroes of 2014](#)," and Stroshane was honored as a librarian fighting for the principle that privacy is fundamental to intellectual freedom.

## OKLAHOMA

Voting to select the Oklahoma Library Association's [Sequoyah Book Award](#) winners for 2015 will be open from February 15 through March 15. Established in 1959, the Sequoyah Book Awards are the third oldest children's choice award in the United States.



Over the years, various methods have been used to promote the Sequoyah program to students in Oklahoma schools. Since 2012, OLA has partnered with *The Oklahoman's* [Newspapers in Education](#) program to increase student participation across the state.

## OKLAHOMA, continued...

In 2010, Sandy Tharp-Thee, library director of the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, established a GED program. She quickly learned that lack of education wasn't the only problem plaguing tribal members and preventing them from furthering their education.



She noted that there were people in her first class who were frustrated because of the cost involved. She worked closely with Iowa tribal leaders to enable tribal members to take the test without paying testing fees. She also helped connect the students in her classes to the resources they needed to help prepare for the test. Since its inception, the GED class has helped 69 students pass the GED test, through the efforts of Tharp-Thee and GED instructor Kathleen Woods.



Tatiana Godinez, a student pursuing her Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) degree at the University of Oklahoma, was recently awarded the Tulsa City County Library System's 2014 Allie Beth Martin Award. Godinez has been employed by TCCL since 2007, and is currently the Children's Library Associate at the Glenpool Branch.

Beth Anne Freeman has retired from her position as Director of Libraries at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences Medical Library.



Co-Ming Chan, Edmon Low Library Cataloging Department Head, has retired from Oklahoma State University after 48 years of service.



Donna Morris, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Library System, has retired. Morris worked in the MLS for 45 years.

# SOUTH DAKOTA

The South Dakota Library Association Legislative Day was held on January 22. The Association changed tradition this year. Instead of an evening reception, SDLA provided a meal for all legislators in the capitol rotunda, and librarians from across the state engaged lawmakers in conversation over lunch. Afterwards, librarians visited the House and Senate chambers during the afternoon to listen to debate on proposed bills.



Cozard Memorial Library in Chamberlain held their second annual Late Night Literary Lock-In in November. The event was open to students in grades 5-7, and included music, games, crafts, food and more from nine pm to midnight.

Libraries around South Dakota are migrating to new Integrated Library Systems before the South Dakota Library Network ceases operations in June 2016. Libraries that made the transition in late 2014 included Rawlins Municipal Library and Huron Public Library (moving to Book Systems Atrium), and Augustana College and Dakota Wesleyan University (moving to OCLC's WMS). More libraries will follow in 2015.



## SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...

The Madison Public Library and Friends group invited the community to create a gingerbread version of a Madison building or landmark to be displayed at the library. A similar contest was held at the Jackson County (Kadoka) Library.



Yankton Community Library helped sponsor a Parents' Night Out for boys and girls ages 6-12 during the holiday shopping season.

In addition, Yankton Community Library once again had a "sock tree" set up for Christmas. Patrons were encouraged to bring a pair of socks for the tree, which were then donated to a local charity.

The South Dakota State Library held its annual library accreditation ceremony on January 22. Libraries recognized included Custer County Library, Gregory Public Library, Hot Springs Public Library, Yankton Community Library (Exemplary), Rawlins Municipal Library (Pierre), Beresford Public Library, Canton Public Library, Tripp County Library (Enhanced), Cozard Memorial Library, Hearst Library, Piedmont Valley Library, and Wall Community Library (Essential).

Potter County Library (Gettysburg) moved into a new library space on December 1. In addition to the new space, they also welcomed a new director, Barb Vander Vorst.

Beresford, Centerville, and Freeman libraries were recently ranked in *Library Journal's* America's Star Libraries.





## SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...

Students at the University of South Dakota held an interactive event for [Imagination Library](#). They read Imagination Library sponsored books with the children at the John T. Vucurevich Center in Vermillion.

Sarah White, a graduate of the MLS program at St. Catherine University, St. Paul, joined the interlibrary loan staff at the South Dakota State Library in January.



South Dakota State University's Hilton M. Briggs Library hosted an art exhibit entitled, "Living Traditions: Dakota, Nakota, Lakota Art," October 27 through December 17. This traveling exhibit from the South Dakota State Historical Society showcases work done in different time periods and celebrates the traditions of decorative quillwork, beadwork, painting, carving, dance, and ceremonies.

South Dakota State University students were invited to Finals Study Breaks at Briggs Library. For three evenings during finals week, students enjoyed popcorn, pretzels, apple cider, and coffee in the library's lobby before returning to their studies.

Also during finals week, students were invited to vote for their favorite new READ posters. The library's student assistants chose nine posters from the American Library Association offerings to advance as finalists. All visitors to the library could vote for their favorites among the finalists. The library will purchase three "winning" posters to replace some of the vintage ones now in place in the library's lobby.



Salt Lake City Public Library partnered with the Pioneer Theatre Company in January to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act. The Pioneer Theatre Company presented the Utah premiere of the play "Alabama Story," January 9—



24, and the library presented a lively discussion on intellectual freedom, led by Martin Garner, chair of the ALA Committee on Professional Ethics and board member of the Freedom to Read Foundation.

The play tells the story of a gentle children's book with an apparent hidden message, which stirs the passions of a segregationist senator and a no-nonsense state librarian in 1959 Montgomery. Read more about the play in the [Salt Lake Tribune](#).



Veteran children's librarian and author Carla Morris has retired from Provo City Library after 33 years of service. A passionate advocate for children's services, Morris plans to travel, pursue her hobbies, and, of course, read.

# WYOMING

[Wyoming Newspapers](#), a service of the Wyoming State Library, has made a list of the top 75 genealogy websites for U.S. states, compiled by *Family Tree Magazine*. Read about all the selected websites [here](#).



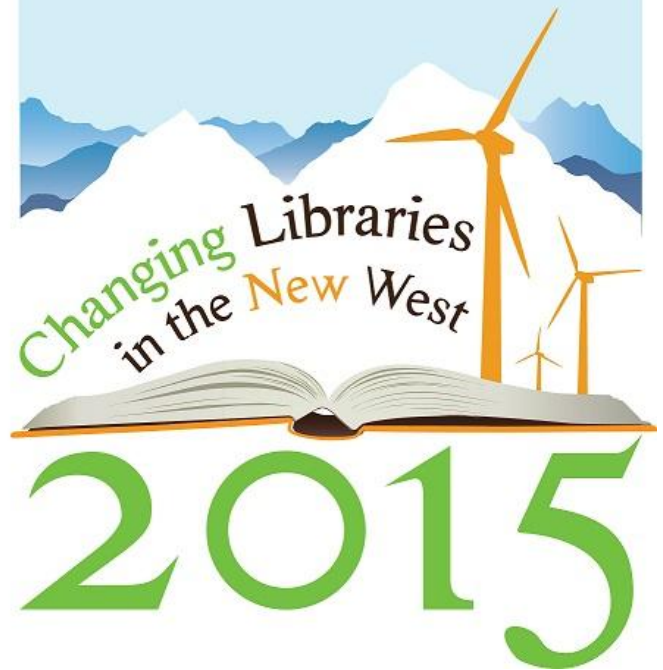
The Wyoming and Mountain Plains Library Associations are calling for programs and papers for the [2015 joint conference](#) to be held at Little America in Cheyenne, Wyoming, September 23-25.

The due date for program proposals is May 1, 2015. We look forward to receiving program proposals that support the conference theme - *Changing Libraries in the New West*. The program submission form is [available now](#).

WYOMING, continued...

## WLA-MPLA Conference

Cheyenne, Wyoming • September 23–25



SUPPORT THE MPLA!

## GROCERY CARD PROGRAM



Buying and reloading a grocery gift card purchased through MPLA raises funds for MPLA's programs.

A full 5% of your purchases made using the card at participating stores goes directly to MPLA.

Visit the MPLA website for details, and remember MPLA/King Soopers/Kroger grocery cards make great gifts!





# Welcome, New Members!

**Rebecca Blakiston**

User Experience Librarian  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, AZ

**Amanda R. Brite**

Library Information Associate  
University of Arizona Library  
Tucson, AZ

**Melissa Chomintra**

MLIS Student  
Henderson, NV

**Bill Coleman**

President and Stretch-a-Straw Developer  
Bill Coleman Entertainment - Stretch-a-Straw  
Denver, CO

**Amy Dodson**

Library Director  
Douglas County Public Library  
Minden, NV

**Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm**

Digital and Metadata Librarian  
Henderson District Public Libraries, Paseo Verde Library  
Henderson, NV

**Kathy D. Hellman**

Library Director  
Camp Verde Community Library  
Camp Verde, AZ

**Michele Hjorting**

Library Assistant  
Prescott Valley Library  
Prescott Valley, AZ

**Jennifer Kendall**

Youth Services Librarian  
Prescott Public Library  
Prescott, AZ

**Diedre Mapes**

Books by Mail Reader's Advisor  
Central Kansas Library System  
Great Bend, KS

**Shelly Pearlman-Gilliam**

Librarian  
Yavapai College  
Prescott, AZ

**Laura Royal**

Librarian  
Mesa Public Library  
Mesa, AZ

**Pam Schwarz**

Chandler, AZ

**Laura Senturia**

Library Director, Stephen H. Hart Library  
& Research Center  
Denver, CO

**Wendy Skevington**

Library Director  
Holbrook Public Library  
Holbrook, AZ

**Jeanette Stromgren**

Library Director  
Osage City Public Library  
Osage, KS

**Casey Van Haren**

Library Supervisor  
Prescott Valley Public Library  
Prescott Valley, AZ

*Big Horizons  
Close Community*

### **MPLA: How do you pay for the copies of books for participants, and the fees for Skype sessions with authors?**

The Friends of the Prescott Public Library are incredibly generous and supportive of youth programming. They purchase the first eight copies of the book selections, which go to the first eight teens who register. We always seem to have plenty of copies. There are no fees for teens to participate in the book club, or Skype with authors.

The Friends also pay for the authors we Skype with, and here's another cool thing about the Friends... when they learned that the local high school's book club lost funding for books, they offered to purchase copies! Yes, the Friends can make dreams come true!



### **MPLA: Do you have any advice you'd want to share with someone just jumping into programming for teens?**



Make it fun! Reading is fun! Books are fun! There are so many cool ways to make book clubs interactive. Don't be afraid to be creative. Crime scenes for mystery books, 90 second skits of favorite books, and so on.

Don't give up! Teens are a tough crowd to get to the library, but they will come if you talk talk talk to them, listen to their ideas and provide creative refreshments. For *I Hunt Killers*, by Barry Lyga, we had lemon bars, the main character's favorite dessert. We had volcano cakes for *Ashfall*, and blue punch with a



large chunk of ice in the bowl for our book about the Titanic.

Last but not least, don't be afraid to make mistakes. I've made plenty, and learned quickly what works best and what doesn't. I've created my own Skype Etiquette for teens, which now includes starting the Skype chat 30 minutes later than the scheduled book group. Also, it's not cool to get up and get a second helping of snacks when the author is talking. She can see you! :)



*MPLA Member Jennifer Kendall is a Youth Services Librarian at Prescott Public Library.*

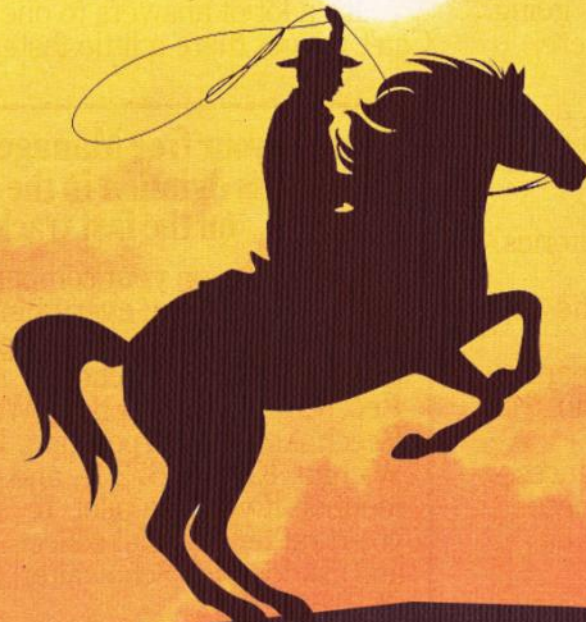
*She was the Arizona Library Association (AZLA) Outstanding Youth Services Librarian of the Year in 2014.*





See you in.....

# CHEYENNE, WYOMING



WLA-MPLA 2015 CONFERENCE ★ SEPTEMBER 23-25

## New Technology for MPLA, continued from page 2



Annie Epperson has appointed an Online Platform Best Practices Task Force to work out details for MPLA's use of the videoconferencing service. Leslie Langley is Chair. Members are Anali Perry, Tina Walker, Nicole Sump-Crethar, John Crockett, Dan Chaney, and Judy Zelenski.

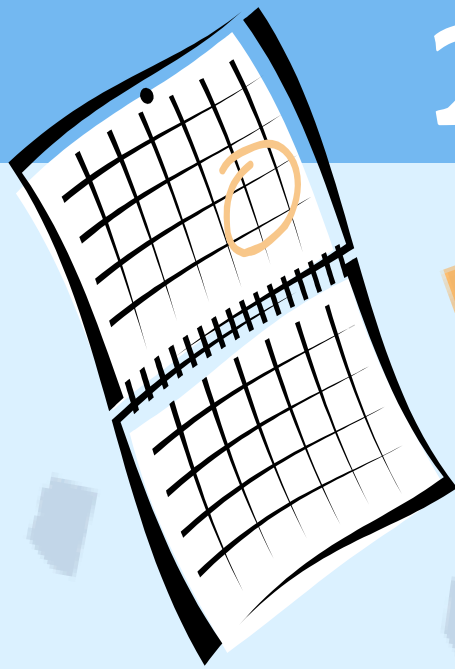
Along with streamlining meetings and collaboration between members, Zoom will provide MPLA with a channel for archiving meetings, and presenting webinars and other professional development content. Learn more about Zoom by following the links below.

- [Getting Started on a MAC or PC](#)
- [How To Host a Meeting](#)
- [How To Schedule A Meeting](#)
- [How Do I Start Screen Sharing](#)
- [How Do I Host a Video Meeting](#)
- [Zoom Support Center – search for answers on a topic](#)



*This report was put together with help from Judy Zelenski, MPLA Executive Secretary*

# 2015 Calendar



**Montana Library Association conference**

April 8-11; Bozeman, MT

**Oklahoma Library Association conference**

April 29-May 1; Midwest City, OK

**Utah Library Association conference**

May 13-15; St. George, UT

**American Library Association annual conference**

June 24-30; Chicago, IL

**Wyoming Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association joint conference**

September 23-24; Cheyenne, WY

**South Dakota Library Association conference**

September 23-25; Rapid City, SD

**Kansas Library Association conference**

September 30-October 2; Kansas City, MO

**Nevada Library Association conference**

October 13-14; Fallon, NV

**Nebraska Library Association conference**

October 14-16; Lincoln, NE

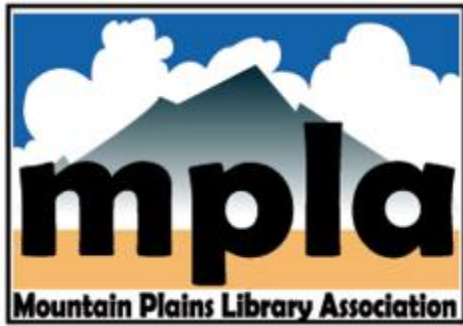


## Dear MPLA we want your advice

**What advice would you give someone just starting out in a library career?  
What do you wish someone had told you when you started your first library job?**

Send your advice, 250 words or less, to [editor@mpla.us](mailto:editor@mpla.us). Please include your name and library. The deadline for inclusion in the April-May issue of the MPLA newsletter is March 1.





The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is a twelve state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Its purpose is to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities.

## Quick Links:

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

Executive Board – Officers, State Representatives and Staff:  
[www.mpla.us/personnel/executiveboard.html](http://www.mpla.us/personnel/executiveboard.html)

Join MPLA or Renew Membership:  
[www.mpla.us/membership/index.html](http://www.mpla.us/membership/index.html)

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

Calendar: [www.mpla.us/calendar.html](http://www.mpla.us/calendar.html)

Awards Nomination Form:  
[www.mpla.us/forms/awardsnom.html](http://www.mpla.us/forms/awardsnom.html)

Grocery Card Program: [www.mpla.us/projects/grocerycard.html](http://www.mpla.us/projects/grocerycard.html)

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[www.mpla.us/forms/newssubmission.html](http://www.mpla.us/forms/newssubmission.html)

Donate to MPLA: <http://www.mpla.us/forms/lidonation.html>

Professional Forum information:  
[www.mpla.us/events/mplaprof2014.pdf](http://www.mpla.us/events/mplaprof2014.pdf)

MPLA on Facebook: [www.facebook.com MPLALibraries](http://www.facebook.com/MPLALibraries)

The MPLA Newsletter is published bimonthly online by the Mountain Plains Library Association:

<http://mpla.us/documents/newsletter/index.html>

ISSN 0145-6180

Editor: Amadee Ricketts,  
Durango Public Library

Copy deadlines for articles, news, and advertisements:

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

## Advertising:

There is no charge to MPLA personal or institutional members for classified advertising.

Non-members are charged \$1.25/line. Display advertisement copy rates are available from [editor@mpla.us](mailto:editor@mpla.us).

## MPLA Membership:

For matters pertaining to individual or institutional memberships and address changes, contact:

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[execsecretary@mpla.us](mailto:execsecretary@mpla.us)