



Mountain Plains Library Association

Newsletter

Big Horizons Close Community

October—November 2016

www.mpla.us

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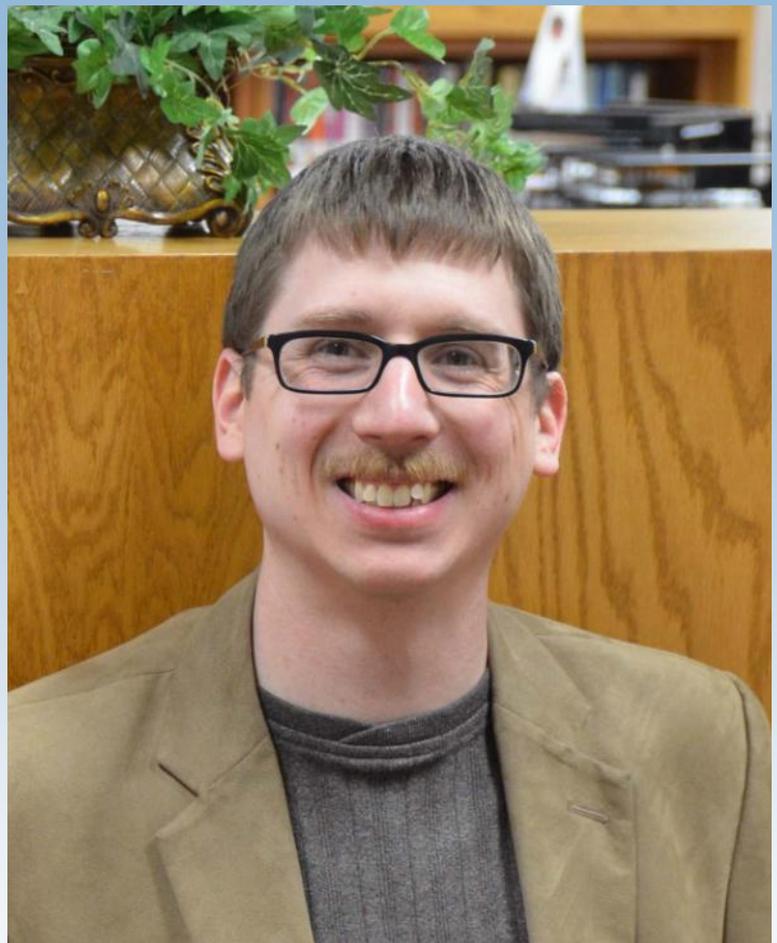
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Look for an update on MPLA's strategic planning process in Eric Stroshane's final [President's Message](#).

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President's Message

by Eric Stroshane

Greetings one and all! These are truly exciting times to be an MPLA member, as our joint conference with the Colorado Association of Libraries looms on the horizon.

The schedule overflows with enticing programs, stellar keynote speakers, and abundant networking opportunities, all complemented by an exhibit hall chock full of swag-bearing, product-slinging vendors. Yet for me, this conference is bittersweet, as my presidency will conclude in Loveland when I pass the gavels to the esteemed Mickey Coalwell.

The past year truly has flown by—

I can still remember the innocent, naïve, and youthful me who agreed to run for office... I'm so grateful I said yes, as it granted me the opportunity to meet new colleagues and friends, expand my capabilities, and give back to the community I love in bountiful and diverse ways. As an added boon, I've had the opportunity to travel to Wyoming, Utah, South Dakota, and soon to Colorado, where I very much hope to see all of you at MPLA-CALCon.

The work on our values-based strategic visioning process has progressed admirably. As of this writing, we've held two focus groups and two surveys, eliciting insight from emerging leaders, non-members, and members from all twelve of our constituent states. Our third focus group will be held with members of the old guard—past executives of this association. We feel the perspective of these stalwart librarians, steeped in their institutional knowledge of MPLA's history, will provide salient guidance on broadening our horizons without scorching the earth.



Stroshane accepting the MPLA gavels from Annie Epperson at the MPLA/Wyoming Library Association Conference in Cheyenne, September 2015.

Continued on page 3



If all goes according to plan, our Executive Board will be reviewing the strategic plan during our first meeting at the conference in Loveland. This will be a very important step in developing ways to better involve membership within the association, increase professional development and networking opportunities, and elevate the profile of MPLA.

While we hope to bolster membership, we recognize that MPLA's true value lies in the paths we pave towards improving the invaluable services we all take pride in providing to our communities.

This includes finding ways of

sustainably supporting events like our Leadership Institute, the impact of which we've heard outspoken and recurrent praise for throughout the planning process.

Additionally, the Executive Board will discuss the possibility of adding a membership category for authors and all that that would entail. More details will be coming as this develops, as it will need go to a vote of the general membership for official adoption. Our board meeting will be early, the agenda will be packed, and we shall likely require a large volume of coffee. And maybe some biscuits. If you're in the vicinity and happen to be lugging either with you, please do stop in. Our gratitude shall extend beyond reasonable limits.



NEW



Officers

2016-2017



Mickey Coalwell, President

Mickey Coalwell is a Regional Manager for Library Systems & Services (LSSI), in Kansas. He has been an MPLA member since 2005, and looks forward to helping our organization grow by focusing on our core values of inclusion and excellence.



**Melissa Clark, Vice-President
/ President Elect**

Melissa Clark is an Information Services Librarian at South Dakota State University. She has been a member of MPLA since 2012, and served as Recording Secretary, 2013-2014. She looks forward to helping finalize and implement MPLA's new strategic plan.



Kris Johnson, Recording Secretary

Kris Johnson is the Head of the Learning and Research Services Department at Montana State University Bozeman Library. She has been an MPLA member since 2006, and has served as Chair of the Professional Development Committee since 2014. She looks forward to helping MPLA streamline record keeping and organization by increasing the use of electronic tools.

CONGRATULATIONS

Awards will be presented at the Colorado Association of Libraries/Mountain Plains Library Association Conference, in Loveland, October 21, 2016.

2016 MPLA Award Winners!



MPLA Distinguished Service Award: Bette Rathe, University of Northern Colorado

Rathe has made significant contributions to librarianship at the state, regional, and national levels, and has served thousands of future teachers during more than 20 years with the University of Northern Colorado.

MPLA Literary Contribution Award: Lili DeBarbieri, Tucson, AZ

DeBarbieri is the author of *Location Filming in Arizona, A Guide to Southern Arizona's Historic Farms and Ranches*, and *Sedona Verde Valley Art: A History from Red Rocks to Plein Air*.



MPLA Innovator Award: Deanne Dekle, New Mexico State Library

As the Youth Services Specialist at the New Mexico State Library, Dekle has taken on the Maker State program, bringing pop-up maker spaces to libraries across New Mexico. Many of the libraries have gone on to create permanent maker spaces.



Build a stronger



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





October 20—22, 2016

Embassy Suites, Loveland, Colorado

CALCON generally attracts more than 500 members of the Colorado library community. The 2016 conference, which includes MPLA, promises to be even more dynamic.

Join your friends and colleagues from Colorado and throughout the twelve state Mountain Plains region to learn, collaborate, and expand your professional network.

Look for conference information [here](#), and registration [here](#).



The Embassy Suites Loveland is located at 4705 Clydesdale Drive, Loveland, CO 80538. Look for booking details [here](#).

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Nina Simon
Author and
Consultant

Steven Bell
Temple University



Donna Scheeder
International
Federation of Library
Associations

Don't be afraid to join the

mpeLa



MPLA bases its success on an active, enthusiastic, sharing membership. Where our people are so few and distances are so great, each librarian, staff member and library is a vital resource.

MPLA invites you to make an investment in your future by joining and laying the foundation for your career development.

<http://mpla.us/services/membership>

Around the Region



The Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records will offer a variety of training and professional development events this fall, including a tour of the Arizona Talking Book Library on October 20. The tour will run from 9:30 to 11:30 am, and will include an introduction to the ATBL's services for the blind and print disabled. Look for details and registration [here](#).



Norm Zeeman, formerly of Prescott Public Library, has accepted a position as Director of the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe Library in Prescott.

The Arizona Library Association annual conference, *Libraries Transform!*, will be held in Tucson, November 2-4. Look for details [here](#) as they become available.



The Arizona Library Association will offer a day-long Electronic Resources Forum in Phoenix on February 23. The event will feature the latest updates on e-resources, features, and strategic directions, along with representatives from major vendors. Look for details and registration on the [AzLA website](#).



The Colorado Association of Libraries conference will be held jointly with MPLA, October 20-22, in Loveland. Read more [here](#).

The Colorado Association of Libraries is seeking volunteers to help with various aspects of the conference. Look for volunteer opportunities and registration [here](#).



The Colorado State Library offers an ongoing series of free, one-hour virtual classes for library staff, covering a

wide range of topics. Look for upcoming classes, and view archived recordings of past sessions, on the [CSL In Session website](#).



The University of Colorado Boulder's Norlin Library offered a complimentary Welcome Back Tea on August 23, to welcome returning students and give them a chance to get acquainted with library staff.

September was Library Discount Card month at [Durango Public Library](#), with more than 65 local businesses offering special deals or discounts for customers who showed their library cards.

KS KANSAS



The Kansas Library Association / Kansas Association of School Librarians annual conference will be held in Wichita, October 19-21. The theme is *Champions by Design*, and details are available [here](#).

The Kansas Book Festival was held on September 10, in Topeka. Featured authors included Jane O'Connor, best known for the *Fancy Nancy* series of children's books, and former CIA and NSA director Michael Hayden. Read more about the festival on the Kansas Book Festival [website](#).



After multiple budget reductions over the last two fiscal years, Kansas State University's Hale Library will cut hours and subscriptions for the 2016-17 academic year. Library staffing will also be reduced through attrition.

Look for more details in the [Lawrence Journal-World](#).

MT MONTANA

Lewis & Clark Library is offering an ongoing event, the Epic Helena Pokéstop Scavenger Hunt of Awesomeness, to encourage people to explore Helena and discover historical markers and cultural attractions in the area.



Lewis & Clark Library Teen Services Librarian Heather Dickerson worked with an outstanding teen volunteer to develop the real life scavenger hunt. After picking up a pamphlet, players head out to find stamps hidden at special locations around town, then go back to the library to claim a prize.



If you are interested in offering a similar program, Dickerson has made the [program pamphlet](#) and [supporting materials for staff](#) (both PDFs) available online.



The University of Montana's Mansfield Library, in Missoula, offers a range of exhibits throughout the year. Over the summer, the featured exhibit was "Duck and Cover! Fact and Fiction of the Nuclear Age." The library offered a number of special events highlighting Montana's nuclear history, including lectures by Robert Balch in June, and Carol Bellin in July.

Films and photos from the "Duck and Cover" exhibit are available on the [Mansfield Library website](#).



Teens at Bozeman Public Library participated in an after hours Zombie Nerf War in August

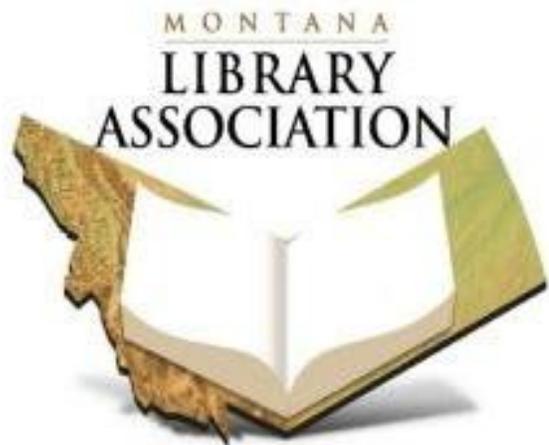
MONTANA, continued...

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.
Montana
Historical Society

The Montana Historical Society was featured in [The Weekly Genealogist](#) in August. The article highlighted several resources that may be of interest to librarians, including digitized newspapers and the digital collections of the Montana Memory Project.

Montana State University Library partnered with Bozeman Public Library to commemorate Banned Books Week in September. The celebration featured [a read-out at BPL](#), with readers including the MSU President and Bozeman Chief of Police.

MONTANA, continued...



The Montana Library Association annual conference will be held March 29—April 1, in Billings. Look for conference information and registration [here](#).

NE NEBRASKA



MPLA’s Nebraska Representative, Jake Rundle, Technology Librarian at Hastings Public Library, appeared on NBC Nebraska TV recently. He spoke with host Anastasia Champ about new and current offerings at HPL, including wireless hotspots for check-out. See the full interview [here](#).



Nebraska Library Commission

The Nebraska Library Commission offers excellent online resources highlighting Nebraska library history, including an annotated list of Nebraska library founding dates, and a comprehensive listing of Nebraska Carnegie libraries. Check out the links [here](#) for more information.



The Nebraska Library Association [annual convention](#), *Libraries Transform*, will be held in Omaha, October 19-21.

NV NEVADA



The Nevada Library Association annual conference will be held October 18-29, in Las Vegas. The keynote speakers will be Stacie Ledden, from Colorado’s Any-think Libraries, and Felton Thomas, Jr., President of the Public Library Association and Executive Director of Cleveland Public Library.



The University of Nevada Las Vegas Libraries include a unique Center for Gaming Research, housed in UNLV’s Lied Library. The Center provides support for scholarly research into all aspects of gambling, including its historical background, and economic and social implications. Many of the Center’s resources are available [online](#), and offerings include the [UNLV Gaming Podcast](#).



In July, the [Reno Gazette-Journal](#) followed up on a reader question about weeding in the Washoe County Library System by interviewing Resources Librarian Debi Stears, who is working to update the collection. Stears confirmed that in most cases, materials that have not been checked out for more than four years are pulled from the collection to make way for new materials.

Weeding [can be controversial](#), as current WCLS Director Jeff Scott found in his previous position at Berkeley Public Library. Stears did a good job explaining the necessity for weeding, as well as the need for a “human touch” in making weeding decisions.



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NM NEW MEXICO

The New Mexico Library Association annual conference, *Ideas, Insights, Transform Innovation*, will be held in Albuquerque November 2-4. Look for details [here](#) as they become available.



There will be an event to announce the results of the [New Mexico Library Assessment](#) project on November 1. Stakeholders and members of the public who have been involved with the project will be invited to hear the results and share ideas for next steps.

NEW MEXICO, continued...

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO • UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



ROUTE 66
90TH ANNIVERSARY
LECTURE SERIES

All events will be in the Frank Waters Room 105, Zimmerman Library

The University of New Mexico Libraries have a full slate of events celebrating the 90th anniversary of Route 66 this fall, including an exhibit on display in the Center for Southwest Research, August—December, and a series of lectures highlighting various aspects of the iconic road's history. Upcoming topics include *Maisel's Indian Store: Indian Art on Route 66*, and *Hidden Voices of Route 66*. Look for much more information on the [UNM website](#).

NEW MEXICO, continued...

Tomas Jaehn is the new Director of the Center for Southwest Research & Special Collections at UNM. He has worked at the Idaho State Historical Library and Archives in Boise, Stanford University Libraries in California, and at the New Mexico History Museum's Fray Angélico Chávez History Library in Santa Fe.



UNM's Center for Southwest Research & Special Collections also has a new Head of Public Services. Michael Taylor previously worked at Louisiana State University and the Lilly Library at Indiana University.

Portia Vescio is the new University Archivist at UNM. She is responsible for collecting, cataloging, and promoting the university's historical documents and photographs. She has worked at the University Archives & Historical Collections at Michigan State University and New Mexico State University.



[Tech Insider](#) recently featured an [article](#) on the most beautiful public libraries in each state. Artesia Public Library was selected as the most beautiful library in New Mexico.

NEW MEXICO, continued...



The New Mexico State University Library won an Academic Library Advancement and Development Network (ALADN) award for Excellence for Library Stewardship Materials, and Best in Show for their 2016 library calendar and note cards. The Library uses the cards to showcase their archival collections. The cards and calendar can be purchased at the Library, or ordered directly from Cassie McClure at cmcclore@nmsu.edu.

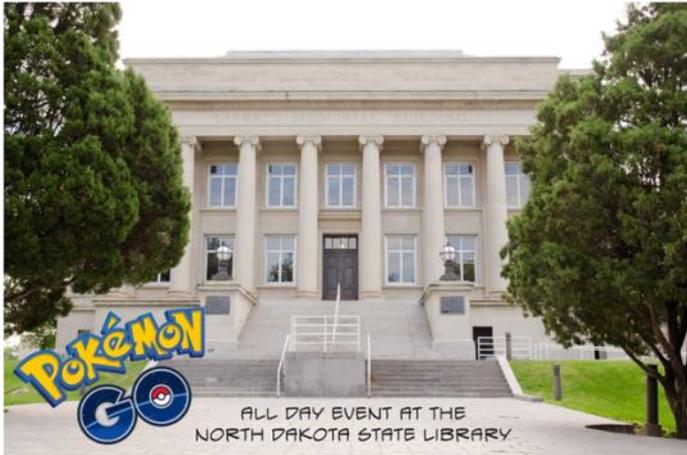
ND NORTH DAKOTA

Minot Public Library and Ward County Public Library celebrated the end of their summer reading programs with a Super Duper Reading Fun Day, sponsored by the Recreation Commission, PBS, and other community partners. The festivities included a bouncy house, giant Jenga, and fun activities for the more than 500 people who attended.



Ward County Public Library hosted a craft table at the North Dakota State Fair's Family Fun Day in July.

NORTH DAKOTA, continued...



The North Dakota State Library held a Pokémon Safari in late July. About 275 people visited the library to take part in the event. Prizes were awarded to the players who captured the largest number of Pokémon, as well as players who excelled in other categories.

Leach Public Library celebrated Harry Potter's birthday with cake and special activities including wand making.



Young patrons had fun visiting and dancing with Clifford the Big Red Dog at Veterans Memorial Public Library in Bismarck over the summer.

Veterans Memorial Public Library Adult Programming Librarian Sarah Matthews was honored with a 20 Under 40 Award, recognizing her as one of 20 young professionals who exemplify the "spirit of North Dakota." Read more about Matthews, and the award, [here](#).



NORTH DAKOTA, continued...



Mandalorians and a Jedi stopped by Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library to take part in the Star Wars LEGO Build-Off in August. While they were at the library, they checked out Star Wars books and visited with library patrons.

The North Dakota Library Association annual conference was held in Dickinson, September 21-23.



Former MPLA President Wendy Wendt, who is also Past President of NDLA, was recognized as North Dakota Librarian of the Year.

North Dakota State Librarian Mary Soucie, Chair of MPLA's Leadership Institute Committee, was awarded a President's Recognition Award for exemplary services to NDLA.





National Novel Writing Month

Several libraries in Oklahoma’s Pioneer Library System are helping area writers gear up for National Novel Writing Month in November with special workshops and programs. The NaNoWriMo University Prep series kicks off at Norman Public Library West on October 2, and meets at a different location each week through the end of the month. Read about this program, and related offerings in November, in the [Norman Transcript](#).

The Public Library of Enid and Garfield County was designated a National Literary Landmark in honor of Enid native Marquis James in September. Read more in the [Enid News](#).

The Oklahoma State University Library has launched a new podcast dedicated to bringing Oklahoma’s stories to life for listeners. *Amplified Oklahoma* highlights stories from the OSU Library’s oral history collections.



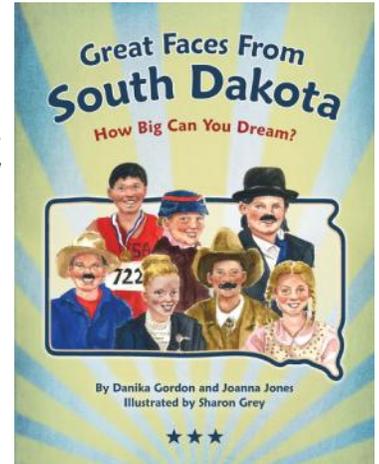
New episodes will be produced monthly. Look for details [here](#).



Oklahoma Library Association

The Oklahoma Library Association annual conference will be held April 24-26, 2017, in Norman. OLA members are encouraged to submit program proposals, which are due by October 7. Look for submission information on the [OLA website](#).

Sturgis teen Danika Gordon had an idea for a children's book about famous South Dakotans, but she wasn't sure how to turn her idea into a real life book. She sought the help of her former teacher Joanna Jones, of Spearfish, who had written and published several books. The result of their efforts is a colorfully illustrated children's book called *Great Faces from South Dakota*, released earlier this summer. Learn more about the project on the [authors' website](#).



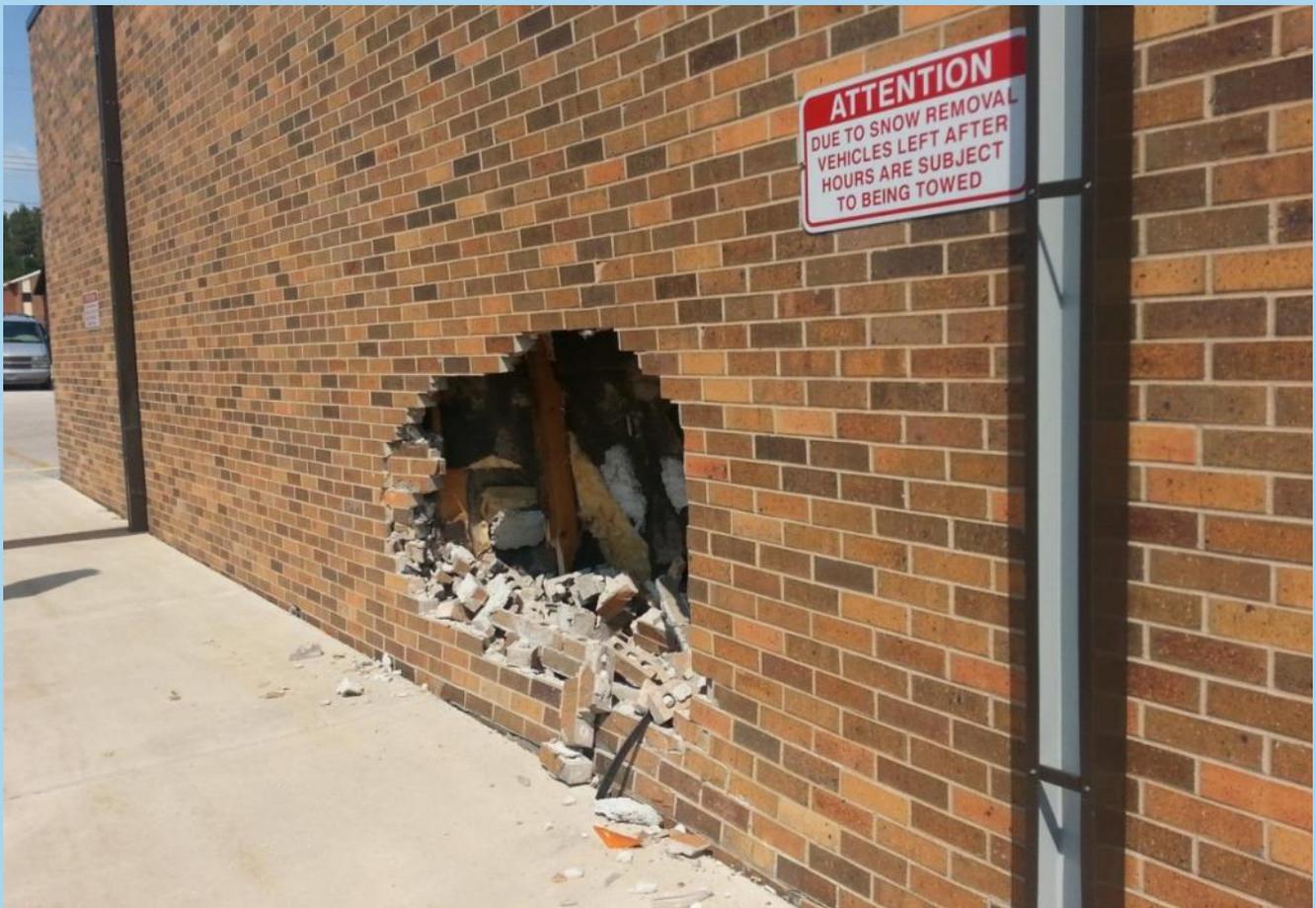
Mary Johns, who has served as director of the Siouxland Library System for the last five years, retired in August.

Longtime Augustana University librarian Jan Brue Enright is now the director of the Karl E. Mundt Library at Dakota State University in Madison, SD.

Heather Hanson is the new library director at North Sioux City, SD.



The Gregory Public Library Teen Advisory Board (TAB) held a fundraiser for their group, June 30—July 1. The fundraiser featured a mini-golf course brought in from Scotland, SD. The event was a success, and the teens plan to offer it again next summer.

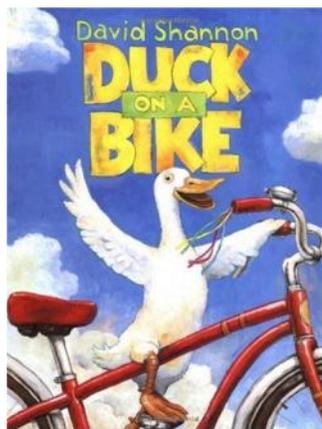


Custer County Library had an unfortunate visitor in late August when a car crashed into the side of the building. No one was injured, but the library was closed as a precaution while the damage was repaired.

SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...

Yankton Community Library and the Yankton Parks and Recreation Department collaborated to place a Story Walk on the Meridian Bridge as part of the library's summer reading program.

The Story Walk was a way for children and adults to enjoy reading in a unique environment and get some exercise at the same time. The featured book was *Duck on a Bike*, by David Shannon.



SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...

The fifth annual School Library Boot Camp was held July 18-21, at the South Dakota State Library in Pierre. School librarians and educators from across the state gathered to learn about Primary Sources in the 21st Century.

Sioux Falls students will have more hands on learning opportunities thanks to nearly \$100,000 worth of state funds. The Sioux Falls School District received one of 18 classroom innovation grants awarded by the South Dakota Department of Education. In Sioux Falls, the innovation grant will be used to create "maker spaces" in elementary and middle schools.

SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...



Phyllis Guthmiller, right, reads to a group of children during story time at the Roscoe library on Wednesday. Guthmiller and Pam Garner have reopened the library for the summer. American News Photos by Elizabeth Varin

In the early 1930s, a group of women gathered to serve the Roscoe region by building a library. The library closed in 2002 after the group that built it, the Priscilla Club, was no longer able to maintain and operate it. Cleaned and repainted, the library opened again in June to serve kids in the community. Phyllis Guthmiller and Pam Garner, with nearly 90 combined years of teaching experience, have reopened the library, housed in the original 12 by 14 foot building.

SOUTH DAKOTA, continued...

The Archives and Special Collections department of the University of South Dakota University Libraries features interesting historical photos and facts on their [blog](#), which currently highlights the history of USD's Dakota Days Parade.



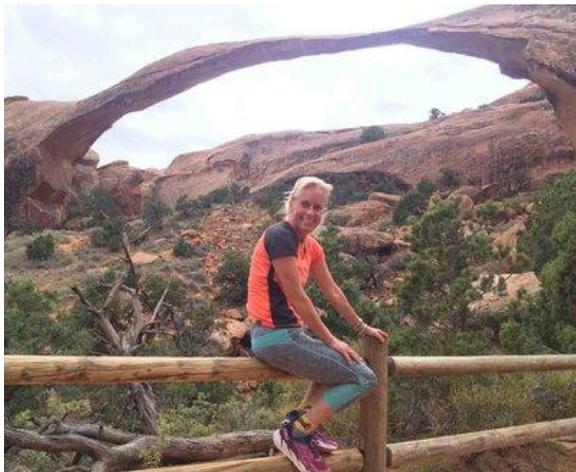
The South Dakota Library Association annual conference, *Libraries... Rooted in Our Communities*, was held September 28-30, in Watertown. MPLA President Eric Stroshane was among the keynote speakers.

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Utah author Melissa Marsted visited Grand County Library in September as part of the first annual Moab Festival of Science. She read selections from her new children's book, *Buzzy and the Red Rock Canyons: Utah's National Parks*. Read about the event in the [Moab Times](#).

Brigham Young University Harold B. Lee Library's newest exhibition, *Comics & Mormons*, documents how The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its members have interacted with comic arts over the past 70 years. The exhibit features works by LDS authors and artists, as well as examples of how mainstream comic publishers have portrayed Mormon characters and themes. Read more on the library's [website](#).



The Utah Library Association annual conference will be held in Sandy, May 17-19, 2017.

Conference and pre-conference session submissions will be accepted throughout

the month of October. Questions? Contact Programs Chair Tommy Hamby (thamby@slcpl.org).



Jamie Markus is Wyoming's new State Librarian. Markus has been with the Wyoming State Library for 11 years, and spent the last year serving as Interim State Librarian. Markus's top priority in his new position is to help support local libraries in today's challenging economic climate. Read more [here](#).

Jacob Mickelsen is the new Executive Director of the Carbon County Library, based in Rawlins. Mickelsen previously worked at Fremont County Library in Riverton.



The University of Wyoming Libraries and the Wyoming State Historical Society have announced the 2016 selection for Wyoming's most significant historical artifact. This year's top artifact, Adolph Metzger's bugle, beat out more than 40 other historical artifacts during four months of public voting. Read more about the process, and the winning artifact, in the [Buffalo Bulletin](#).

The University of Wyoming Literacy Research Center and Clinic hosted its annual literacy conference for educators in September, with the theme *Writers and Writing*.

Welcome, New Members!

Terri Farley

Retired
Verdi, NV



Jacob Robert Mickelsen

Executive Director
Carbon County Library System
Rawlins, WY



Dona Gay

Youth Services Librarian
Payson City Library
Payson, UT



Tonya Schafer

Library Manager
Southeastern Public Library System of
Oklahoma Broken Bow Public Library
Broken Bow, OK



Michael Hull

Chief Executive Officer
Southeastern Public Library System of
Oklahoma
McAlester, OK



Stacy Vincent

Public Services Librarian
Salt Lake County Library Services
Kearns Branch
Kearns, UT



Roger Craig Johnson

Media Librarian
Augustana University Mikkelsen Library
Sioux Falls, SD



Steven C. Westfahl

Library Services Manager
Hutchinson Public Library
Hutchinson, KS

Alan Wai Ly

Technology Associate / Student
Salt Lake City Public Library
Salt Lake City, UT



Paul E. Wilcox

Student
Emporia University
Provo, UT

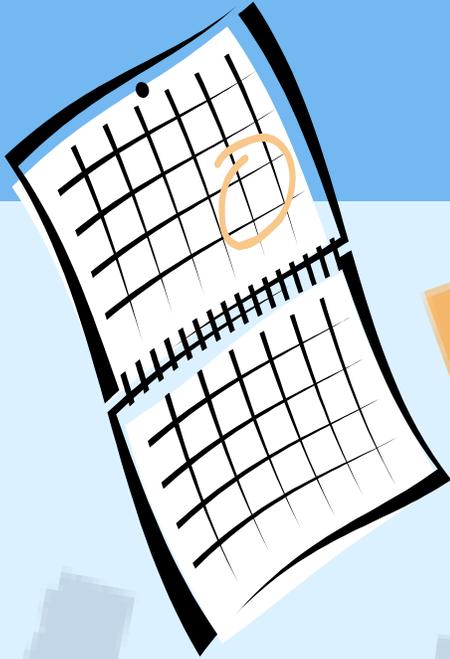


Holly A. Mellas

Library Aide
Loveland Public Library
Loveland, CO



2016 Calendar



Nevada Library Association Conference
October 18—19; Las Vegas, NV

Kansas Library Association Conference
October 19—21; Wichita, KS

Nebraska Library Association Conference
October 19—21; Omaha, NE

**Mountain Plains Library Association /
Colorado Association of Libraries Joint
Conference**
October 20—22; Loveland, CO



Arizona Library Association Conference
November 2—4; Tucson, AZ

New Mexico Library Association Conference
November 2—4; Albuquerque, NM

**American Library Association Midwinter
Meeting**
January 20—24; Atlanta, GA

Montana Library Association Conference
March 29—April 1; Billings, MT



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

Executive Board – Officers, State Representatives and Staff:
www.mpla.us/personnel/executiveboard.html

Join MPLA or Renew Membership:
www.mpla.us/membership/index.html

Professional Development Grants:
www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grantslinks.html

Calendar: www.mpla.us/calendar.html

Awards Nomination Form:
www.mpla.us/forms/awardsnom.html

Grocery Card Program: www.mpla.us/projects/grocerycard.html

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Professional Forum information:
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>

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Durango Public Library

Copy deadlines for articles, news, and advertisements:

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

Advertising:

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MPLA Membership:

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

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