



Mountain Plains Library Association

Big Horizons Close Community

Newsletter

April 2017—May 2017

www.mpla.us

Volume 62, Number 2

Conference Update

Planning for the 2017 conference is well underway. As librarians it's time to turn up the volume on innovation to deliver new models of information literacy and lifelong education; on engagement with listeners, learners, and makers of all ages and from all backgrounds; on advocacy as we share impactful stories of the freedom libraries. So join us this fall for the **NLA - MPLA Joint Conference—Turn Up the Volume!** October 16-18, 2017 at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Lake Tahoe in Stateline, NV.



The call for proposals is **NOW OPEN!**

[Submit Proposal](#)

Deadline: Tuesday, May 31st, 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

2017 Conference Update

News from the President

Reflections

Around the Region

Welcome New Members

Calendar

MPLA Quick Links

Travel and Lodging Information:

Getting to Lake Tahoe is easy! Fly into the area via the [Reno/Tahoe International Airport](#). Then either take a [Reno-Tahoe Shuttle](#) or drive an hour to Stateline, Nevada.

Reservations can be made at [Hard Rock Hotel and Casino \(Lake Tahoe\)](#). Use the group code NLAMPLA17 to get conference rates!

What's coming? Soon we'll put out a call for exhibitors, attendee registration, and more information about programs, events, and activities.

Arizona Colorado Kansas Montana Nebraska Nevada New Mexico
North Dakota Oklahoma South Dakota Utah Wyoming

News from the President

Happy Spring to all!



I have some good news to report. The Executive Board of the Mountain Plains Library Association voted to formally support the goals of the [Association of College and Research Libraries' Diversity Alliance](#). As the largest division of the American Library Association (ALA), ACRL currently has more than 11,000 members.

MPLA's partnership with ACRL's Diversity Alliance will encourage academic institutions in our twelve member states (Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming) to participate in establishing residency programs for professionally underrepresented racial and ethnic groups in the library profession. Right now, Utah University and UNLV are the only academics in our region participating in the Diversity Alliance.

Going forward, MPLA will pay one-half of an institution's \$500 first-year participation fee, and will pay the cost of membership in the Mountain Plains Library Association for the duration of the chosen candidate's residency at the institution.

This action by the MPLA Executive Board directly supports two of the Guiding Principles from MPLA's new Strategic Plan:

GUIDING PRINCIPLE ONE:

We will pursue outreach opportunities in the 12-state MPLA region and beyond that will foster better relationships, increase professional sharing, and include more diverse communities.

-continued on page 3



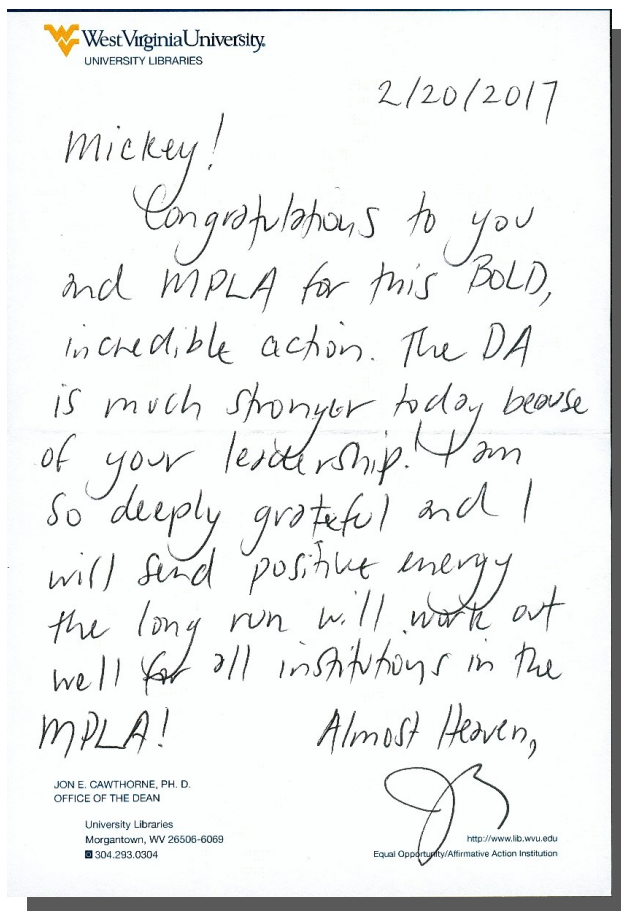
-continued from page 2

GUIDING PRINCIPLE THREE:

We are dedicated to realizing the potential of our multi-state collaboration through leadership development, professional growth opportunities for members, and engagement with the larger library community.

Academic librarians play an important role in our MPLA membership, representing over 35% of our total membership. If you are an academic librarian, please publicize this partnership with ACRL to your institutional leadership.

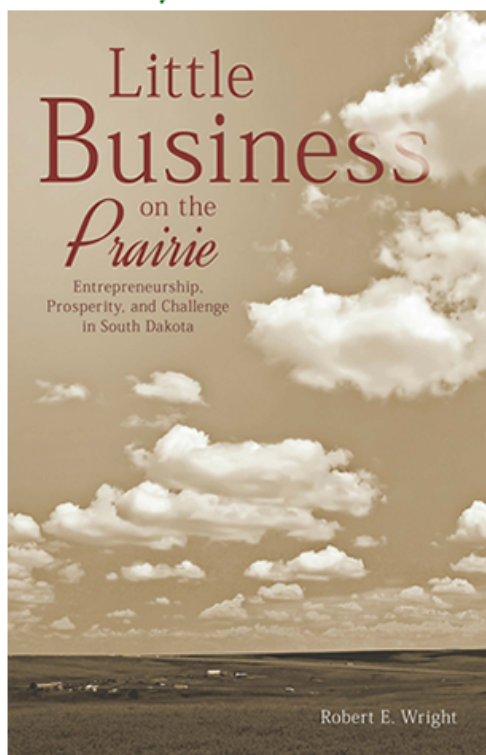
Prior to the Board's vote on this proposal, I had a very convivial conversation with Dr. Jon E. Cawthorne, Dean of Libraries at West Virginia University and Chair of the ACRL Diversity Alliance Task Force. He was very supportive of our idea to encourage participation in the minority residency program by academic libraries within our 12-state region, and put me in touch with Mary Ellen Davis, the ACRL Executive Director. They are both more than happy to publicize MPLA's partnership with the Diversity Alliance using ALA's communication channels. See Jon's very nice note to me, below.



As an Asian American, I'm proud to be president of a professional association that is actively working to bring underrepresented groups into the library world. I want to hear from you about your ideas to expand MPLA's diversity goal. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly about your ideas and observations.

Mickey Coalwell

Why are South Dakota & other Mountain Plains states good for business?
Why did CNBC's *America's Top States for Business* rank South Dakota #1 in 2013?



A fund has been established at
The Center for Western Studies
(an SDLA member library) to make free copies of
Little Business on the Prairie: Entrepreneurship, Prosperity, and Challenge in South Dakota
available to libraries in S.D. & surrounding states
for the cost of postage & handling - \$3.50.

If your library would like a complimentary copy of
Little Business on the Prairie
please contact Office Coordinator Kari Mahowald
(kmahowald@augie.edu) or call 605.274.4007
augie.edu/cws

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



Or pick your own charitable organization:

Looking for another way to support MPLA? Just visit [Amazon Smile](#), select the Mountain Plains Library Association, and automatically donate .5% of the purchase price of eligible goods to MPLA.

Reflections: What I learned as President

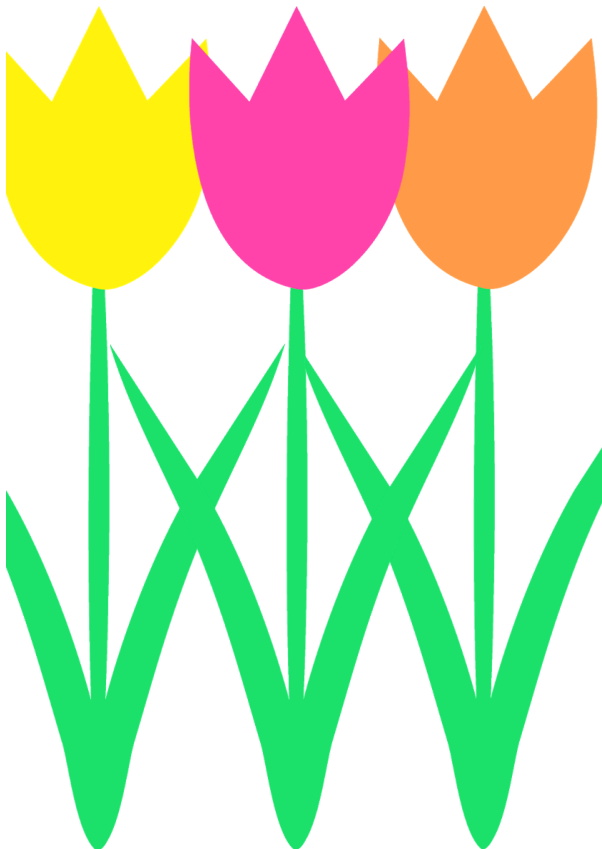
Annie Epperson



It seems so easy, when someone approaches you, asking if you'd like to serve MPLA as president. It's "only" a three-year commitment, they say. Easy peasy. I like to think that I was pretty savvy when I asked "what's really involved?" The answer I got was clear and helpful, but only the tip of the iceberg. Having never planned anything more complicated than a day-long regional workshop, I was pretty clueless about all that goes into this important, multifaceted activity.

Working with Arizona Library Association (AZLA) members Ann Leonard, Jasper Halt, Ann Boles (then-president of AZLA), and Dan Stanton (Vice-president), I learned a great deal about all the moving parts that make up a conference: programming, housing/catering, vendor/exhibits, speakers, awards, raffles and silent auctions, and of course budget! Each of these is their own part for any conference, and those who know state association conferences know how complex it is to put these together, first loosely and then "in stone" as the chosen dates draw closer. Having MPLA join in the fun of a year of planning can be a challenge. As a regional association we partner with a member state. To see where we've been and where we're going, see [this schedule](#).

-continued on page 6



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Seeking proposals to support the theme of Turn Up the Volume! in the areas of innovation, advocacy, and engagement.

[Submit Proposal](#)

Proposal submission deadline:
Tuesday, May 31st 2017



The Nominating Committee nominates candidates for Vice-President/ President-Elect and Recording Secretary

Brian Greene Nominating, Chair
Wyoming State Library

nominating@mpla.us



-continued from page 5

MPLA representation in the planning process is made smoother if there's a close connection between the VP/PE and the specific association; it's even stronger if the relevant state rep to MPLA can assist as well. That way, the MPLA presence isn't entirely in the dark about state association practice, meaning "We do that this way, this is what our membership expects." How awards are handled is a good example. It is up to MPLA's representatives on the planning committee to help figure out a way for the regional association's half-dozen awards to be included in the state association's practice, whatever that may be. Another very important aspect of conference planning that nearly every state tackles in their own way is the selection of programs and speakers. In the years since being elected to serve MPLA at this level, I have seen three distinctly different styles, each resulting in a diversity of tracks to meet the varied needs of different library types and trends. Perhaps the sole common thread is that nearly every planning group has a spreadsheet fiend who can take all of our wonderfully quirky proposals and boil them down into a colorful array of tracks, topics, and library types. Lucky we're librarians, no?

I now proudly hold the position of "past-past-president" and am glad to let others take the reins of my favorite library association. I know that we are in good hands, since the three years allow an individual a chance to phase into, and then back out of, the presidential role. Indeed, it was as I prepared to hand the gavel to my successor Eric Stroshane that I finally figured out what I had gained in my time as President: the chance to act as party-thrower, diplomat, valued colleague on the planning team, and friend to a host of librarians I never would have met, or liked as much, without that opportunity to share a project such as MPLA-as-guest-with-an-agenda.

Annie Epperson

SPREAD THE WORD

NEW MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

Authors

Published authors, including those who write for children and young adults, are eligible. Author membership includes a credit which can be used toward any advertisement or combination of advertisements in the MPLA newsletter.

Jake Rundle
Membership, Chair
E: membership@mpla.us
[Join Today](#)

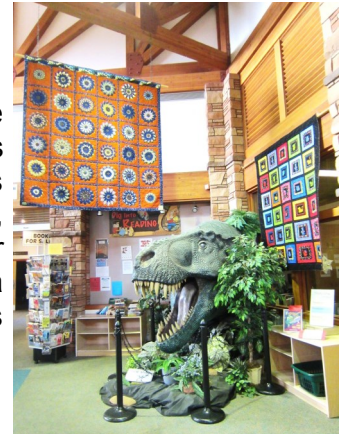
Around the Region



ARIZONA

Sedona Public Library Quilt Show

Recently, Sedona Public Library, in conjunction with the Quilter's Store Sedona, held its 22nd annual Quilt show in which fifty-nine handcrafted quilts represented a variety of quilting styles and techniques from talented quilters across Arizona. The show was originally initiated in 1995 by Marge Elson, founder of the Quilter's Store. Marge passed away in 2015, and her daughter, Cynthia Cunningham, now runs the store which has been a Sedona mainstay for over 25 years. The 2017 show featured two raffle quilts and the proceeds will benefit local community organizations.



Annual Chocolate Tasting Fundraiser



The Friends of the Copper Queen Library in Bisbee, Arizona held their 26th annual "Chocolate Tasting" fundraiser event. Bisbee commercial and home bakers donate thousands of pieces of chocolate delicacies for ticket holders to delightfully enjoy! Those in attendance also have a chance to participate in a Silent Auction and Raffle. All proceeds benefit the library and community through library material purchases as well as activity and event sponsorships. It looks like everyone had a great evening!

Coding for the Future

With employment opportunities for software, application and system developers expected to grow, dozens of Arizona libraries, including the Tempe Public Library, are beginning to turn themselves into technology havens where students can learn about coding through building websites, games, and apps. At the Tempe Public Library, Earl Aguilera, a doctoral student in the Learning, Literacies and Technology program at Arizona State University, helps facilitate Tempe's weekly meetings and believes that coding and computer programming are important skills to learn. "What they're really doing is they're teaching kids persistence," Aguilera said. "They're teaching kids creative problem solving."



Marathi Language Collection



The Tempe Public Library non-English book collections grew recently with the addition of materials written in Marathi, which is one of India's twenty-two official languages and dates back as far as the 13th century. Bhagyashree Barlingay, president of Akshaybhasha (pictured), a non-profit that promotes literacy, preserves Marathi culture, and provides free anemia checks for women in India, donated one hundred fifty books from her personal collection. In addition, the group, as well as volunteers from the broader Indian community, offered assistance in cataloging the books for use. To commemorate the collection the Tempe Public Library staff held an inaugural event featuring traditional Marathi songs as well as skits, including a monologue from "My Fair Lady" in Marathi and English.

CO COLORADO



The Douglas County Libraries Adventure pass program expanded in 2017 to include Denver's Clyfford Still Museum. The program works to connect patrons with local cultural institutions as part of their mission to advocate for literacy and lifelong learning. Library patrons can reserve free passes for a specific day, up to thirty days in advance, just by using their library card. Other partners include Butterfly Pavilion, Denver Firefighters Museum, Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys, Dinosaur Ridge, and History Colorado Center.

Tiny Library Concert

A history museum might not be the first place you'd imagine hearing live music, but that is not the case at History Colorado's Stephen H. Hart Library and Research Center. It is here where photography curator, Megan Friedel, embarked on a journey to showcase local musicians as a way to explore the history of the square state's music. In doing so, she has opened the door to help musicians like *The Still Tide* to build a diverse fan base, as well as growing the museum's musical collection through the addition of the recordings from the Tiny Library performance. In the end, the project allows the artists to make history. *photo by Miles Chrisinger*

Happy Birthday!

The Bud Werner Memorial Library is celebrating 50 years. As a way to commemorate, they held a festive afternoon of live music from the Yampa Valley Boys, a "Check it Out" performance from a young hip-hop troupe, and some delicious birthday cake from MountainBrew. They had literary tattoos, a kids' party hat activity, and drawings for limited edition library swag. It was a fun celebration among the books!



KS KANSAS

Learn & Play Bus

Topeka and Shawnee County Public Libraries are bringing convenient access to early education resources through a brightly-colored, forty-foot-long bus that serves as a mobile classroom for children ages birth to five. The bus itself contains a variety of toys, games, and books to stimulate young minds. In addition, early childhood professionals oversee circle time, storytime, and unstructured play time designed to facilitate emotional and mental growth. Library staff will also provide parents and guardians with information about the skills and concepts children need leading into kindergarten. The Learn & Play Bus is available to anyone. By delivering these services to members of the community who need them, the Topeka and Shawnee County Libraries are ensuring the next generation will be well-equipped for the future.



KS KANSAS

Second Saturdays: “Kansas Day Celebration”

As a part of an ongoing collection of educational entertainment for all ages, Johnson County Library held a Kansas Day celebration through which local historical societies and community organizations came together to showcase Kansas’ rich history. There were hands-on craft activities and storytelling as well as birthday cake.



Discover NASA

The Winfield Public Library in Winfield, KS has been chosen one of seven libraries in the US to host *Discover NASA: From Our Town to Outer Space*, an interactive exhibition created by the Space Science Institute in conjunction with NASA. They are offering over 70 related programs and events that complement the exhibit.



Learn to Sew

In February, the Andover Public Library, with volunteers from the Andover Senior Citizen Center, brought the creative, educational, practical, and fun skill of sewing to life for fifth to eighth graders. During this two hour workshop youth learned fundamental sewing skills while creating a project that they were able to take home.

MT MONTANA

Celebrating 25 years!

Twenty-five years ago, the Mount Pleasant Regional Library opened its doors to a world in which some people would call the library to find out the address of a local business. Now the internet has given nearly everyone access to an endless supply of information, and the library is a place of instruction rather than just the keeper of knowledge. All along the way, Mount Pleasant Regional has kept up with change, offering the latest content in a variety of formats, thus honing in on what makes public libraries valuable.



On the Move with Interlibrary Loan

The Montana Shared Catalog is a vital collaboration for libraries that operate on small budgets and/or lack space for large collections to share resources. The Lincoln County commissioners recognize this fact and recently authorized the donation of a county vehicle to the Lincoln County Public Libraries to help facilitate library operations of interlibrary loan. The vehicle will be used to transport items between libraries across northwest Montana including libraries in Libby, Troy, and Eureka. In January, their library alone transported approximately 4,760 items between these libraries and the delivery hub in Kalispell.



Frozen Hearts and Carnival

More than a hundred people gathered at the Mount Airy Public Library where the library’s Young Actor Workshop kids showcased the play, “Frozen Hearts.” The play consisted of a series of small plays tied together through a common character. The plays were written by a local high school student who has been active in the library’s drama group, the Dewey Decimal Players. After the performance, everyone was invited to partake in some winter carnival fun which included games, snacks, and face painting.



Social media optimization (SMO) is a programmatic strategy for building and engaging community. Recently, Montana State University (MSU) librarians Doralyn Rossmann and Scott W.H. Young published “Social Media Optimization: Principles for Building and Engaging Community.” This ALA report highlights practical guidelines and examples for implementing a flexible and comprehensive community-building model structured around five interrelated principles: create shareable content, make sharing easy, reward engagement, proactively share, and measure use and encourage reuse. At its core, the SMO is a framework for connecting with people and in the end benefits both the library and the community.



Doralyn Rossmann, left, administrative director of data infrastructure and scholarly communication, and Scott Young, digital initiatives librarian MSU photo by Adrian Sanchez-Gonzalez

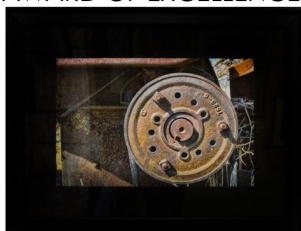


Traveling Art Show

Grand Island Public Library was one of seventeen locations across the state of Nebraska to host the Association of Nebraska Arts Clubs (ANAC) 2016 Travel show. The exhibit was a twenty-six piece collection of very diverse media, styles, and approaches to expression. One of the pieces with an Award of Excellence is a photograph of box car wheels titled “7523-0” by Grand Island photographer Jim Pohl, a 34-year member of Grand Island Art Club. ANAC is made up of 32 art clubs across the state. <http://www.nebraskaartclubs.org/index.html>



~AWARD OF EXCELLENCE~



Jim Pohl - 7523-0

Celebrate Nebraska: North Platte

The North Platte Public Library is celebrating Nebraska’s statehood through a series of programs showcasing the history of North Platte. In January, the celebration got underway with “The Iron Horse Stables: The History of the North Platte Railroad Roundhouse” during which rail fans and history buffs were treated to a program about early history of the Union Pacific Railroad. Presenter Kaycee Anderson examined the quick growth of North Platte in the 1800s, explaining how businesses like the Cold Water Trading Post set up shop, and also discussed many historical facts about the town of North Platte and the railroad. Due to its popularity, a second session was scheduled. Programs held in March included “Historic Homes of North Platte” and the Historic North Platte Photographic Exhibit.





Hastings Public Library Time Capsule

As the Hastings Public Library Time Capsule was revealed, two generations came together as memories were revealed for the first time in 55 years. The 1962 copper time capsule was found during deconstruction of the current library and included items like newspapers, blueprints of the current building, and old photos. These gems serve as a testament to the longevity of libraries. Hastings Public Library Director Amy Hafer (pictured far left) says, "I think this time capsule shows how libraries stand the test of time. No matter what time changes, no matter what the changes, we're always constantly learning with every generation."

To continue to preserve history, a new time capsule has been placed in the new renovation area for the future with some past items and new ones from 2016 and 2017.



IMLS: "Future Ready with the Library"

Mineral County Library, located in Hawthorne, has been selected as a participant of an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant-funded project, Future Ready with the Library. Through this project, the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), in partnership with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries, will support the members of the first cohort as they work with a community partner to develop college and career readiness services for the middle school students in their area.

Assistant Director Christina Boyles states, "We are so excited to be chosen, along with 19 other libraries nationwide, to be a part of this cohort. The children in this community deserve every opportunity we can provide them that will help them to succeed in life."



Celebrating with Alice in Wonderland

The Minden branch of the Douglas County Public Library celebrated Lewis Carroll's birthday by hosting an Alice in Wonderland party for kids. The children played Pin the Grin on the Cheshire Cat, painted some red roses, and enjoyed participating in the Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Many attendees dressed in character costumes. So much fun was had that the Zephyr Cove branch is hosting its own party in April during National Library Week.



Nevada State Library hosts library delegates of Belarus



Photo by Cathleen Allison/Nevada Photo Source

A group of six librarians and two interpreters from the country of Belarus visited the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records. The visit was a part of an international exchange program funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The International Visitor Leadership Program's visit to the capital focused on familiarizing Belarusian librarians with the educational, social and economic impact of public libraries in American society. Jeff Kintop, administrator of the state library, said, "We were excited and honored to share our strategies with them. It's rare to host foreign delegates." Along with Kintop, Assistant Administrator Tammy Westergard and LSTA Coordinator Sulin Jones answered inquiries about municipal budgets, internships, funding and state programs, online education, and accredited programs. "Bottom line, libraries equal education," said Westergard, who oversees library services and library development. "The pace of change is forcing everyone to stay current and to keep learning. The library is the last, best free place where we all can go to level up our skills, no matter our age. The library is the on ramp to education — formal and informal."



STEM to Read Trunks

The Explora! Museum in Albuquerque, in collaboration with the New Mexico Library Foundation, is proud to offer STEM to Read Trunks to New Mexico libraries. Each themed trunk includes eight to ten picture and non-fiction books, lesson plans, and materials for hands-on learning activities. The trunks were designed to encourage STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) through early literacy although they can be easily adapted for an older audience.



Trunk themes include:

- ◆ Listen Carefully (sounds)
- ◆ Spinning Science (movement/spinning)
- ◆ Measure On (measurements)
- ◆ In the Mirror (reflection & refraction)
- ◆ Water Play (water)
- ◆ Art Bots (robotics and simple circuitry)
- ◆ Patterns Abound (patterns in nature and speech)
- ◆ Architect's Delight (building)

For more information contact Youth Services Consultant Deanne Dekle at deanne.dekle@state.nm.us or 505-476-9705.



NM NEW MEXICO

Welcome Bradley!

MPLA is proud to introduce you to your new New Mexico State Representative, Bradley Carrington. Bradley hails from the New Mexico State Library where he is the Chief of Technical Services Bureau out of Santa Fe, NM. Welcome!



New Website

Recently, the New Mexico Consortium of Academic Libraries, an organization that “assures effective access to information through the collaborative efforts of the academic libraries in New Mexico,” debuted a new updated website that features statistics, reports, meeting minutes, and more. Check it out here: <http://lib.nmsu.edu/nmcal/>

Outstanding Library Director Award



The State of New Mexico recently recognized Mary Ellen Pellington, the director of the Octavia Fellin Public Library in Gallup, for her dedication and advocacy of libraries through services and programs meeting the needs of the Gallup community. Mary Ellen established a Navajo Language room and a strong Native American film and music collection as well as a multitude of programs reflective of our state’s rich history and culture, including a growing celebration for Native American Heritage, Hispanic Heritage and African American History. Through her efforts, the library now offers free computer training on a wide variety of software and social media for community members. She established the yearly Gallup Authors Festival and incorporated the library into the fabric of community life.

In addition to her incredible work bringing the library to life for the community, she is involved in enhancing her community in many other ways. She is an active member of the Gallup Rotary and Lions Clubs, the Elks lodge, and Gallup McKinley County Early Childhood Community Council. She is a member of the local arts organization, GallupArts, and is involved in the development of Gallup Mainstreet Arts and Cultural District.

ND NORTH DAKOTA

Build Minot

Minot Public Library started Build Minot, a campaign encouraging people to propose community improvements through notes written on large plastic building blocks at select locations throughout the city.



Cabin Fever Weekend

In celebration of a successful winter reading program, the Grand Forks Public Library held a weekend of fun activities.



Binge Boxes

What are binge boxes? They are plastic cases that are filled with DVDs revolving around a theme. For example, “Spark My Tears” is filled with Nicholas Sparks movies. This new way of sharing the collection was revealed at the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library. Patrons can check out one box per card for up to two weeks, and the first thirty boxes checked out came with candy and popcorn!



2017 North Dakota Legislative Day



Governor Burgum (middle) with State Librarian and MPLA member Mary Soucie (Right) and Lesley Allan NDLA President. (left)

The North Dakota State Library, North Dakota Library Coordinating Council and North Dakota Library Association held their second annual Library Legislative Day. Librarians from across the state came together to talk to their legislators, as well as Governor Doug Burgum, who believes in the importance of reading and digital literacy in the 21st century. The day was an overall success.



Need Writing Advice?

The Norman Public Library Central gives local authors or would-be authors a chance to help each other on the writing journey with its monthly Writers' Critique Group. Participants will need to submit up to five pages at a time of work they would like to have critiqued, to review and accept group guidelines for giving and receiving critique, and to spend time before and during the meeting giving thoughtful critiques to others' work. Teens and adults can attend the program.

New Online Career Center

The Oklahoma Library Association recently launched an Online Career Center as a one-stop shop for library jobs across the state of Oklahoma. It allows interested members of the association to post their resumes for library administrators to review. Check it out at <http://www.oklibs.org/networking/>



Oklahoma Library Association

Chili Cook-off Fundraiser

Q.B. Boydston Library held its fourth annual Chili Cook-off. Area cooks mixed up their meats and spices to vie for Fort Gibson's best chili. The event is used as a fundraiser to benefit the summer reading program through entertainment, supplies, and programs. It's a great way to get the community involved and enjoy some food at the same time.



SD SOUTH DAKOTA

Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose

The Douglas Middle School Library was home to a variety of artwork made by their very own 7th grade art students. The middle school librarian, Mrs. Hubbell, partnered with the art teacher, Mr. Hancock, to recycle outdated and damaged library books.

Admittedly, at first, students were reluctant to bend, tear, and rework the books, but eventually took pride in giving the old books a new life as art.

IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives

H.M. Briggs Library of South Dakota State University in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution was able to bring the exhibition IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas to the campus. The 20 panel exhibit featured the history and culture of people who share both African American and Native American ancestry. Some of the exhibit's content can be seen at www.nmai.si.edu/exhibitions/indivisible. The exhibit was free and open to the public on the library's upper level. A closing reception featuring SDSU's Tribal Relations Director Richie Meyers was held on February 22.



Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library's Director

Dan Burniston is Library Director at the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library. Previously, he worked at the University of South Dakota (USD) McKusick Law Library and the USD University Libraries, also in Vermillion. When asked about his favorite things at his library, he mentioned the wonderful variety of programs and services, their amazing new facility, and the vibrant and dynamic community they get to serve. Dan said, "I'm excited about the opportunity we have to evolve and adapt our programs and services to the needs of our community. I'm always eager to hear ideas, thoughts and feedback from library users and community members." Before coming to South Dakota, he worked in public libraries in Pennsylvania. He currently lives in Vermillion, South Dakota with his wife and four children. He enjoys reading science fiction, historical fiction and fantasy, as well as working with technology.



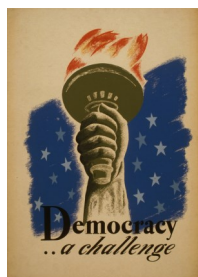
2017 South Dakota Legislative Day

The South Dakota Library Association held its annual Legislative Day. There were displays, a luncheon to give participants an opportunity to visit with local legislators, a chance to attend the afternoon session, and the State Library Accreditation ceremony, where ten libraries across the state received awards for continued service to their communities based on areas of governance, administration, access, funding, staffing, technology, public relations and collections and resources.




Conversations on Democracy

The Laramie County Library hosted U.S. Ambassador Gary Grappo and three University of Wyoming graduate students to discuss the question of why democracy seems to work in some areas of the world and not others and to examine what values need to be in place for people to embrace democracy. Questions were discussed from the perspective of the speakers' international research and experience.



The Conference is Back!

In 2016, the Wyoming Library Association held a virtual conference due to budget constraints. Following some brainstorming, the Association has found a way to hold its 2017 conference in person! This year's conference is to be held in Sheridan, Wyoming at Sheridan College in August. Details are still being finalized at this time.



Wyoming Library Association

New Riverton Branch Manager

Shari Haskins, who began her 18th year with the Fremont County Library System, recently took over as the new Riverton Branch Library Manager. She takes the place of Gloria Brodle, who retired after 31 years.



Ms. Haskins has a B.S. in K-12 Education from the University of Wyoming. When she and her husband moved to Riverton in 1992, Haskins was unable to find a full-time position in teaching. She did some substitute teaching and coaching until she saw an opening at the main library in Lander. It seemed a natural fit for her. Not finding any teen programs in place when she started, Haskins began developing them at Lander and then continued when she moved to Riverton a year later.

Haskins has been an active member of the Wyoming Library Association since she started at Riverton. She did a few stints as the Children's Teen Section Chair, and then when WLA changed its organizational structure she became Chair of the Youth Services Interest Group. This gave her the opportunity to participate in the Collaborative Summer Library Program at the national level.

Regarding the direction Haskins would like to see for the library, she explained: "I love this whole new philosophy of the user experience. As public libraries diversify and become the social hub of the community, the user experience is at the top of re-envisioning what libraries should be focusing on and looking forward to."

AuthorLink Series

Provo City Library’s mission statement says that the library “provides our community with an inviting center for information, instruction, learning, leisure and cultural opportunities.” One way that they are working towards fulfilling this objective is through AuthorLink, through which well-known and beloved authors and illustrators in the publishing world are invited to speak and share their wisdom. In 2017, Provo City Library has already hosted Dustin Hansen, Steven Bohls, Brandon Sanderson, Rosemary Wells, Tricia Levenseller, Nathan Smith Jones, Rosemary Eves, Brendan Reichs, and James Dashner.



Discover your Roots



The LDS Church’s Family History Library recently introduced “discovery experiences,” a program that taps technology to introduce guests to their family trees. Now, when visitors young and old enter the world’s largest genealogical library, tucked in the heart of downtown Salt Lake City, they can take an interactive journey through their own ancestral past. “Usually research involves looking at microfilms and books and records,” said Tamra Stansfield, manager of the Family History Library. “This takes what’s already in your information in Family Tree [FamilySearch.org], and makes it interactive and fun, and it tells stories and experiences.” FamilySearch International is the world’s largest genealogy organization. FamilySearch is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization sponsored by the LDS Church.

Utah History Division releases 171,000 vintage images

The Utah Division of State History, in conjunction with Backstage Library Works, the University of Utah’s Marriott Library and Southern Utah University, is proud to announce that after nearly 2 years of work, four decades’ worth of The Salt Lake Tribune’s photo archives have just been digitized and released to the public. The collection holds 171,000 images taken by Salt Lake Tribune photographers from the 1930s through the 1960s. Digital Librarian, Heidi Tak, states, “It’s the largest [collection] we’ve ever digitized, and it brought our photo collection to over 250,000.” The photos, available on the state history website at bit.ly/TribHistory, are searchable and free to the public as long as they’re used non-commercially (fees are charged for high-resolution downloads). Tak hopes that interest in the collection can help enrich the collection — some of the context is missing, as the photos aren’t attached to the stories they were shot for, and much of the caption information is also incomplete. Find someone you know? Email tribunepics@utah.gov and if you find a photo you simply love, share it on social media with the hashtag #tribhistory.



photo courtesy Utah Historical Society
Downtown Salt Lake City in 1936.

Build a stronger



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!

Brian Beauvais

Archivist
Park County Archives Cody Public Library
Cody WY

Kim Bonen

Technology Library Technician
City of Aberdeen Alexander Mitchell Public Library
Aberdeen SD

Teagan E. Eastman

Online Learning Librarian
Utah State University Merrill-Cazier Library
Logan UT

Darwyn Clyde Henderson

Librarian
Navajo Technical University NTU Library
Farmington NM

Wooseob Jeong

Dean
Emporia State University School of Library and
Information Management
Emporia KS

Taylor Johnson

Reference Librarian
Yavapai College Boyd Tenney Library
Prescott AZ

Jackie N. Kropp

Programs and Outreach Coordinator
Western Plains Library System
Clinton OK

Randi Monley

Library Associate
Minot Public Library
Minot ND

Mallory Nygard

Student
Indiana University - Bloomington
Williston ND

Julie Okabayashi

Scheduling Specialist
Las Vegas Clark County Library District
Las Vegas NV

Ana Oliver

Cataloger/Government Documents Librarian
Augustana College Mikkelsen Library
Sioux Falls SD

Samantha N. Rich

Assessment & Data Management Librarian
New Mexico State University NMSU Library
Las Cruces NM



2017 Calendar

Oklahoma Library Association Conference

April 24-26; Norman, OK

Utah Library Association Conference

May 17-19; Sandy, UT

American Library Association Annual Conference

June 22-27; Chicago, IL

Wyoming Library Association Conference

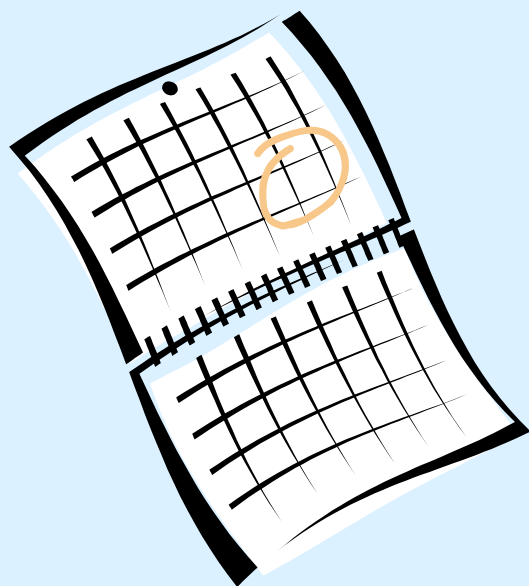
August 2017

South Dakota Library Association Conference

September 27-29; Oacoma, SD

North Dakota Library Association Conference

October 4-6; Grand Forks, ND



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Deadlines for Grant Applications

- May 31
- July 26
- September 27
- November 29

DEADLINE FOR STATE ASSOCIATION PRE/POST CONFERENCE GRANT APPS:

- June 1 – for fall conferences

Ryan Buller
Professional Development, Chair
E: prof_development@mpla.us
<http://mpla.us/quick-links/grants.html>



Nebraska Library Association Conference

October 11-13; Kearney, NE

MPLA / Nevada Library Association Conference

October 16-18; South Lake Tahoe, NV

Kansas Library Association Conference

October 24-27; Wichita, KS

New Mexico Association Conference

November 1-3; Albuquerque, NM



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

Send Newsletter Information:
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

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: Melanie Argo,
Madison 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.

MPLA Membership:

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

Judy Zelenski
Executive Secretary
14293 West Center Drive
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
(303) 985-7795
execsecretary@mpla.us