



Mountain Plains Library Association

Big Horizons Close Community

Newsletter

June 2017—July 2017

www.mpla.us

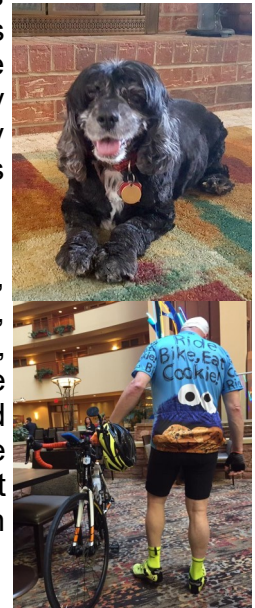
Volume 62, Number 3

MPLA Dan Chaney Unsung Hero Award



The Mountain Plains Library Association lost one of its most beloved members on December 30, 2016, when Dan Chaney, MPLA Webmaster, died after a brief illness. As a 20+ year member, he gave so much of himself and his time to friends and colleagues and to the Association. Beginning when email was the only electronic communication available to members, Dan was instrumental in setting up MPLA's communications systems and website. Dan was a man of many talents: he also served as the unofficial photographer, recording Board meetings, events, dinners, and conference moments, which often appeared on Facebook and other social media.

A long-distance biking enthusiast, Dan would bring his bike to conferences wherever they were held and explore his surroundings. An avid Cubs fan, he cheered the Chicago Cubs to victory during the 2016 World Series. Dan dearly loved the cocker spaniels who shared his life. (pictured: Jenny)



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Mickey Coalwell, MPLA President, described Dan as "witty, profane, probingly intelligent, creative, irascible, and deeply caring," an integral part of the MPLA organization, a friend and colleague. Dan was an Associate Professor and Subject Specialist Librarian at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

In 2017, the MPLA Board voted to rename the Unsung Hero award in Dan's honor. The award was recreated to reflect the unselfish and innovative service, often behind the scenes and without fanfare, that Dan Chaney brought to MPLA. A \$100 stipend was added to the award in his memory.

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

President's Message

New and renewing membership is indicative of an association's value. Membership dues are crucial to an association's ability to provide services to its members. The Mountain Plains Library Association, serving 12 member states, has had a good membership base from which to recruit, and its word-of-mouth ROI over the years has always been high. Our current membership stands at 321 personal and 23 institutional, compared to last year's number of 335 and 23. In 2015, at about this time in the year, we had 305 personal and 16 institutional members.



Mickey Coalwell

So you can see that MPLA is holding its own. It is, however not growing. The good news is that new members are steadily coming in to replace departing members, and MPLA members, once they get past the first two years, tend to stay members. Below is a chart with some member longevity numbers you may find interesting.

The addition of the Leadership Institute to MPLA's service mission in 2002 had a positive effect on membership, and quickly became a signature event. The MPLA Leadership Institute has held ten sessions since 2002, in Ghost Ranch, New Mexico and Estes Park, Colorado. The eleventh Institute will convene in May of 2018, with Maureen Sullivan again serving as the leader, a role she has played since the beginning.

To date, the Leadership Institute has graduated 87 fellows. Every single state in the MPLA region has at least two alumni of the Institute. Again, see the chart below.

MPLA's membership ranks have included 391 women (77%) and 118 men (23%). 234 members come from public libraries (49%), 170 from academic libraries (35.5%), 29 from school libraries (6%) and 9 from special libraries (2%). State agencies, systems and cooperatives account for 36 of our institutional memberships (7.5%).

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**Membership Longevity and Leadership
Institute Fellows by State**

	2017 1 yr	2016 2 yr	2014-5 3-4 yr	2011-13 5-7 yr	2008-10 8-10 yr	2003-07 11-15 yr	2002 - 15+ yr		LI Fellows
AZ	17	13	8	4	1	6	4		9
CO	18	19	2	1	1	3	3		7
KS	8	16	6	4	6	8	9		13
MT	1	9	4	0	1	4	1		6
NE	4	9	5	9	2	4	5		8
NV	3	13	3	3	1	0	1		2
NM	1	2	2	1	4	1	5		5
ND	11	12	5	7	3	0	6		7
OK	2	14	6	2	5	7	4		4
SD	12	17	3	13	5	2	16		14
UT	4	13	3	3	1	2	3		7
WY	3	9	7	2	3	3	5		5
	84	146	54	49	33	40	62		87

Last month, I formed an ad hoc committee to study our membership numbers and discuss their implications. Obviously, one goal is to grow our membership in terms of raw numbers, but we also want to consider the participation in our association by our member states, and see what lessons we can learn from states, like South Dakota, with a great record of successful recruitment and retention. Our new strategic plan will most assuredly encompass some membership growth and retention goals, linked to our commitment to diversifying our organization.

I would like to invite you into this process. While our Membership Committee will take the lead in investigating membership issues through the work of the ad hoc committee, if you have any ideas that will help us grow and diversify our membership, or thoughts on how we can create a sustainable association that will survive and flourish into the next decades, please speak up and share. We depend on your ideas to power the future of MPLA.

*Warmest regards,
Mickey*



MPLA's first Author member—Terri Farley!

Terri Farley is the best-selling author of the Phantom Stallion series for young readers and Seven Tears into the Sea, a contemporary myth honored by the American Library Association. She lives in northern Nevada.

Terri is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and was honored by Nevada Writers Hall of Fame in 2010. Her work has sold over two million copies in 27 countries. She loves school visits and has taught readers' and writers' workshops for kindergarten to post-graduate level audiences in the U.S. and Canada.



Her newest book is an adventurous all-ages work of non-fiction, *Wild at Heart: Mustangs and the Young People Fighting to Save Them*. *Wild at Heart* has earned numerous awards including the Sterling North Heritage Award for Excellence in Children's Literature. It has been honored by the National Science Teachers Association, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Junior Library Guild.

Terri taught middle school and high school language arts and journalism in inner-city Los Angeles and Reno, Nevada. She holds a Master's degree in journalism. She is an advocate for the West's wild horses and works with young people learning to make their voices heard. See more about Terri and her works at TerriFarley.com.

MPLA recently instituted the Author membership category. Author memberships include a listing on MPLA's "Authors Supporting MPLA" web page. Author members are eligible for member registration rates at MPLA Conferences and are eligible to vote in all MPLA elections. See <http://www.mpla.us/forms/author-membership.html>.

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](#)



Awards Committee Seeks Nominees

Do you know an individual, group, or organization in your state or library who is deserving of recognition? Please nominate him/her for an MPLA award! Awards will be presented at the 2017 MPLA Joint Conference with the Nevada Library Association, to be held in Stateline, Nevada (South Lake Tahoe), October 16 - 18, 2017. You must be an MPLA member to nominate, although only some of the awards require membership of the honoree.

MPLA Dan Chaney Unsung Hero Award: To be given to an MPLA member who has consistently worked behind the scenes to create, administer, or support a library-related organization or project and who has not previously been recognized to the degree their work merits.

At his death at age 52, Dan Chaney was Associate Professor and Social Sciences Librarian at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He had been an MPLA member for over 20 years. He served as MPLA Webmaster, unofficial photographer and social media contact, and received the Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award in 2009 for his service to MPLA. Witty, profane, probingly intelligent, creative, irascible, and deeply caring, Dan was beloved by his students and his colleagues.

In 2017, MPLA's Unsung Hero Award was renamed the MPLA Dan Chaney Unsung Hero Award, and a \$100 stipend was added in Dan's honor.

MPLA Beginning Professional Award: To recognize an MPLA member who, as a librarian/media specialist within the first five years after being awarded a library/media degree, has made a positive impact on the quality and role of library service. Factors such as innovative programming and planning, use of resources, and special projects will be considered.

MPLA Innovator Award: To recognize an up-and-coming individual(s) or group(s) in the MPLA region for a creative, inventive, trail-blazing project that has significance to the library community.

MPLA Distinguished Service Award: To be given to an MPLA member who has made notable contributions to the library profession, furthered significant development of libraries in the Mountain Plains region, or performed exemplary service for an extended period of time. If the individual is retired, the nominee may be a past member of MPLA.

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Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award: To be given to the individual, organization or company whose positive support of the Mountain Plains Library Association is demonstrated by repeated conscientious endeavors towards libraries, library staff, trustees and professional activities.

Carl Gaumer, Gaumer Reference Services, was a popular library book vendor and a major supporter of MPLA in the 1970's. Based in Denver, Gaumer Reference Services served a number of western states. Carl traveled throughout the MPLA region and often exhibited at Library Association conferences. Among MPLA members, he was most famous for sponsoring a train from Denver to Reno for a joint conference with the Nevada Library Association in 1978, providing a band and refreshments for the 106 librarians who took the train. The award, originally named the Carl Gaumer Exhibitors Award, was later expanded and renamed to include any person or group who significantly supports and champions libraries.

MPLA Literary Contribution Award: To be given to an author whose published writings have successfully furthered an understanding and appreciation of the Mountain Plains region. The author need not reside in the region. The nomination may be based on either a single work or a body of works. Published works will be evaluated on the basis of literary worth, readability, and evidence of responsible research.

Nominations are due no later than August 1, 2017.

A link to the Award Nomination Form is available at

<http://www.mpla.us/services/awards/>

Join us this fall for the NLA-MPLA Joint Conference—

**Turn up
the volume!**



MPLA Leadership Institute

April 29 – May 4, 2018

YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado

Apply now!

DEADLINE: Monday, October 30, 2017

- ✓ Employed in a library organization in MPLA's 12-state region
- ✓ Current member of one of MPLA's 12 state library associations
- ✓ Minimum of 5 years in a library-related job
- ✓ Record of experience that demonstrates leadership potential
- ✓ Expected continued contribution to the profession
- ✓ A thoughtfully completed application
- ✓ Two letters of recommendation



More information at: <http://mpla.us/quick-links/leadership-institute.html>

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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.

Two MPLA Region Libraries Awarded 2017 Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants

By: Valerie Nye



Photo credit: Jason Ordaz

The Institute of American Indian Arts Library (IAIA) in Santa Fe, NM and the Colorado State Library in Denver, CO are the recipients of the 2017 Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grants for Libraries. Jessica Mlotkowski authored the grant for the IAIA library. She collaborated with students and faculty to create a graphic novel competition for IAIA students; winners will have a booth at an upcoming Indigenous Comic Con. Erin Boyington will receive the grant on behalf of the Colorado State Library for a project that will enrich the curriculum at the Sterling Correctional Facility Libraries.

Both libraries will receive the Will Eisner Library (a graphic novel collection of Will Eisner's work and biographies about the acclaimed writer and artist) and copies of the graphic novels nominated for this year's Will Eisner Award.

The libraries will also receive \$4000 in funding. A portion of the funding will support the individual programming developed by each library. Grant funding will also be used to purchase graphic novels for the libraries from Diamond Book Distributors and will pay a stipend for each of the grant authors to attend the American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago where they will receive the grants at an award ceremony.

The Will Eisner Graphic Novel Grant for Libraries is funded by the Will and Ann Eisner Family Foundation and administered by ALA's Games and Gaming Round Table and the Graphic Novels & Comics in Libraries Member Initiative Group. The Eisner Family Foundation fosters innovation and creativity in graphic literature, sequential art and comics.

115 Years of Excellence: The Emporia MLS Experience

The School of Library and Information Management at Emporia State University has a long history of excellence, training librarians and other information professionals for over 100 years. The curriculum combines online and in-person class weekends which creates a unique and impactful experience for students, giving them the chance to network and develop camaraderie with their cohorts while also allowing the flexibility to balance school, work, and personal life. For more information regarding Emporia State University's School of Library and Information Management programs, please contact us by email at sliminfo@emporia.edu, by phone at 800-552-4770, or by visiting our website at www.emporia.edu/slim.

SLIM Cohort locations include:

Emporia, KS	Overland Park, KS	Denver, CO
Portland, OR	Salt Lake City Area, UT	Sioux Falls, SD - NEW in 2017!

I learned about SLIM during my undergrad from a co-worker, and was impressed with the flexibility and opportunity the program provided. My year at SLIM has been one of the most enjoyable and rewarding of my entire life. The advisors are some of the nicest, most helpful individuals you will meet in your academic career. All the professors are incredibly knowledgeable and are always available to talk with and support their students. SLIM is very supportive of professional development, providing numerous opportunities for scholarships, conference attendance, and guidance for personal research projects. I am confident that my time with SLIM will lead to many great opportunities in my future professional career.

- Brady Lund (Emporia, KS, expected graduation 2018)



Mountain Plains Library Association supports ACRL Diversity Alliance

Press Release: Mountain Plains Library Association supports ACRL Diversity Alliance

Tue, 05/02/2017

Contact:

Howard Prager
Senior Leadership and Change Strategist
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CHICAGO - The executive board of the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) has voted to formally support the goals of the ACRL Diversity Alliance. MPLA will encourage academic institutions in its 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.

"Academic librarians play an important role in our MPLA membership, representing over 35% of our membership," said MPLA President Mickey Coalwell. "This action by the MPLA Executive Board directly supports two of the Guiding Principles from MPLA's new Strategic Plan- pursuing outreach opportunities in the 12-state MPLA region and realizing the potential of our multi-state collaboration through leadership development, professional growth opportunities for members, and engagement with the larger library community."

MPLA will pay one-half of the institution's \$500 first-year participation fee, and will pay the cost of MPLA membership for the duration of the chosen candidate's residency at the institution.

The Arizona State University Library recently became the first MPLA member institution to sign on for the MPLA/ACRL Diversity Alliance partnership. (get AZ State Logo)*

More information about the ACRL Diversity Alliance, including a list of participating institutions, is available on the ACRL website. Learn more about MPLA on the association website.

Links:

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/issues/diversityalliance>

<http://www.mpla.us>

<https://lib.asu.edu/>



Around the Region

AZ ARIZONA

Congratulations Amber!



Congratulations to MPLA member and 2002 Leadership Institute fellow, Amber Mathewson, who has been named Director of Pima County Public Library! Amber has been acting as Interim Library Director since October 2016 and we are very excited for her continued work and dedication to the library community.

Arizona Gives

Arizona Gives Day is an opportunity to donate online to the nonprofit organization of one's choosing, such as the Friends of the Safford City-Graham County Library which has been serving as the fundraising arm of the Safford City-Graham County Library for more than 40 years. The funds raised provide support and contribute to growing a better community.

**ARIZONA
GIVES ★ DAY
APRIL 4, 2017**

CO COLORADO

Community Outreach: Empowering Parents

Pikes Peak Library District children's services librarian, Evan Kendrick, believes that reading is the single most important thing parents can do to help their kids build a foundation for the future. This is evident in the library's endeavors to reach parents where they are by going out into the community. Kendrick said, "The way I see [early literacy] changing is we've learned so much more about the young brain and how fast it develops — it's really incredible. When you tell parents about some of these things, they're just amazed. It's really encouraging because if you're talking to an adult about their child they're very engaged. It's one subject where they're always interested." These interactions are opportunities to connect parents to programs at the library and provide them tools for their child's growth and success.



Welcome to Loveland!



The City of Loveland recently announced that Loveland native Diane Lapierre will become the new Loveland Public Library director on June 5th. "We think Diane has all the attributes we seek to raise our outstanding library to an even higher level," Assistant City Manager Rod Wensing said. "We're also proud to be able to bring a Loveland native home to serve in this important leadership position." Lapierre has worked for the Denver Public Library for 22 years and is looking forward to returning home where many of her childhood memories include "checking out as many books as I could carry down the stairs" of the old Sixth Street library. Welcome Diane!

Bring Back the Library!

In 2008, technology had dramatically increased at Pike Valley High School, which impacted the function, resources, and services of the library. The book inventory went down, the librarian position was eliminated due to budget cuts, the room was turned into storage space and the doors were locked. After seeing all of these reductions, the students of Pike Valley High School took action and created Project WeKan, with the vision raise enough money to provide a functional, current and aesthetically pleasing environment that invites students back into the library, encourages reading and studying, and creates a culture of reading at the high school. Through Project WeKan students were able to raise \$4,280.

<http://projectwekan.com/projects-bring-back-the-library>

To stay up to date on their progress check out their [PVHS Bring Back The Library Facebook Page](#)

Kansas Skies: Landscape Poetry

Bradford Memorial Library in El Dorado hosted “Kansas Weather in Life, Literature, and Photography,” a presentation which paired vibrant photos by storm chaser Stephen Locke with a poetry reading of works by contemporary Kansas writers. Discussion leader, Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, an author and the 2009-2013 Poet Laureate of Kansas, stated, “This presentation isn’t just about poetry and photography, but about how we live, who we are, and what we can discover.” Those present were invited to write a bit of their own poetry and share what the Kansas skies mean to them.



Libraries Transform



McPherson Public Library celebrated how libraries transform lives with some fun activities during National Library Week. Mayor Thomas A. Brown issued an official proclamation at the festivities. The library held a cookie and coffee day, offered programs that transformed repurposed old books into fun and unique crafts, and ended the week with a collaborative project with the local Nex-Tech representative to help answer and troubleshoot technology questions.





MONTANA

Welcome Rachel!

Rachel Rawn from Havre-Hill County Library has enthusiastically joined forces with MPLA as our new Montana State Representative. When asked, "What made you want to get involved with MPLA?" Rawn said, "I wanted to get involved with MPLA because I am very passionate about cooperative relationships. I plan to learn as much as I can from the librarians of MPLA, and share that knowledge with my fellow Montana librarians. My hope is that we can all learn together and continue to grow and make our libraries better places."



Yeti makes a stop at Storytime!



Whitefish Community Library held a special storytime recently where those in attendance had a roaring good time making special Yeti's. You could hear the ROAR from outside the library! Of course, no visit is complete without listening to a wonderful tale, singing songs to get the wiggles out, and roaring all the way home.



Volunteers Make the Library!

West Shore Community Library, or what is referred to as the "Hub of Lakeside," has been in the business of investing in the future through books, programs, and technology for 20 years. It is run entirely through the use of volunteering and donations, whether it's time, funds, or books to the collection. Volunteer Rosella Thompson says "Volunteerism is probably what keeps Lakeside going. We have a volunteer QRU unit, we have a volunteer fire department, we have a volunteer-run food bank and we have a volunteer-run library." The community continually supports its mission because they say it's worth it to watch the community grow alongside its library.



Want to play the Ukulele?

The Lewis & Clark Library hosts the Helena Ukulele Club for jam sessions once a month. Ukulele players are encouraged to come and play music! Participants are encouraged to lead songs or sessions if they choose, They just need to bring their own ukulele. This program is free and open to the public 12+ years old.

NE NEBRASKA

LEAP Ahead!

Gering Public Library youth services librarian, Christie Clarke, wanted to fill in the gap for kids who are not old enough to start school so she created LEAP (Learn, Explore, Achieve, Play), which is an early literacy program developed to meet children at their level and help them with school readiness. The pilot program ran in April and May and Clarke plans to continue in the fall through the school year. The project was made possible through a Youth Grant for Excellence from the Nebraska Library Commission.



Czech-American Presentation to Photo Scavenger Hunt



Celebrating National Library Week is a fun time for libraries to showcase just how they transform lives through being a beacon in the community. The Schuyler Public Library's festivities included a Six-Word Story Contest, Photo Scavenger Hunt, and a presentation on Czech-Americans in Nebraska. Those who participated in the Six-Word Story Contest were asked to tell an entire story in six words. Photo scavengers were put to the test to see if who knew the downtown business district the best and those who attended the presentation were regaled with Czech-American experiences of families, organizations, and community life in Colfax County.

Support MPLA! GROCERY CARD PROGRAM KING SOOPERS/KROGERS

Buying and reloading a grocery gift card purchased through MPLA raises funds for MPLA's professional development, leadership, and educational programs.

MPLA will receive an amount equal to 5% of your grocery purchases. There is no additional cost to you!

Visit the MPLA website for more details!

Cards Are Accepted By

Kroger
Fred Meyer
Ralphs
Fry's and Fry's marketplace
King Soopers
Dillons
Smith's Food & Drug City Market
QFC
Food 4 Less
Owen's
Foodsco
Hilander
Pay-less Cala-Bell
Bakers
Jayc
Fred Meyer jewelers
Littman & Barclay Jewelers
Loaf and Jug





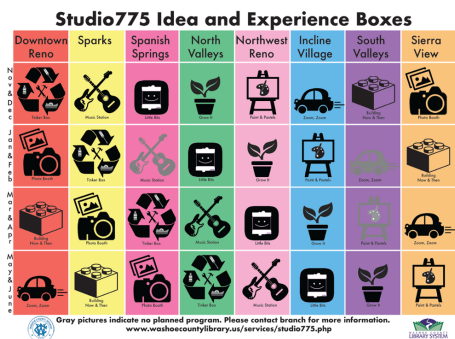
Women’s History Month @ University Libraries

University Libraries at the University of Nevada, Reno celebrated Women's History Month by launching a special interactive and engaging story map project titled, "History of Women at Nevada." The project honors those women whose ideas and abilities have contributed to our University of Nevada, Reno throughout history, as well as those who are still trailblazing today.

The project, which is a source of pride that illustrates the hard-fought battle female history-makers on campus endured, was created by Library staffer Natasha Majewski. The story map recognizes the many achievements of women on campus from as early as 1904. "Women's social norms and roles have shifted since the inception of the University," Majewski said. "Through photographs, audio clips, newspapers and yearbooks, we can begin to understand a small part of the story, history and significant role women have played on campus." [Interact with this Project](#)

Creative Outlets at Washoe County Library System

Washoe County Library System (WCLS) received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS) to fund user-driven activities in the library that range from learning how to paint to creating your own airplane. There are eight Idea and Experience Boxes that rotate through eight of the larger branches: Downtown Reno, Sparks, Spanish Springs, North Valleys, Northwest Reno, Incline Village, South Valleys, and Sierra View. Boxes stay at each branch for two months. Boxes include a Music station with guitar, drum, keyboard and bass; Little Bits with electronic building blocks; Tinker box, inspiration for explorers of all ages; Building Now and Then with Lincoln Logs and Zometools; Paint & Pastels with guided instructional videos; Photo Booth Fun with props for pictures; Zoom Zoom that allows guests to build a car, train tracks, or design a plane; Grow It that allows exploration of the natural wonder of plants.



Visit Lordsburg-Hidalgo Library

Last month, New Mexico librarians, Carmelita Aragon and Deanne Delke, visited the Lordsburg-Hidalgo Library in the southwest corner of the state. The building is an old WPA (Works Progress Administration) adobe building, built in 1936. Its wonderful architectural components include large archways, wooden beam ceilings, thick walls and beautiful chandeliers. The library director, Alice Webb, has plans for a permanent Makerspace to replace a seldom-used nook in the library. The children’s room is a bright, airy space with fun, stained glass windows and a lot for kids to see and utilize. If you’re ever in the far, southwest corner of New Mexico make sure to stop in and check out this great library and say hello to the staff- many of whom have been there for many, many years!



Earth Day Festivities

In celebration of the 47th anniversary of Earth Day, the Questa Public Library held a morning of tree planting around the library and area park. Hopefully, the trees will provide beauty and shade for future generations. The event was also a jump-start to the library’s new seed exchange program and those who came were asked to bring seeds to share.



NORTH DAKOTA

Edible Book Contest

The Staff at the North Dakota State Library were busy during National Library Week. They held an “edible book” contest and people were invited to vote for their favorite cake.



Best representation of a book:

Too Many Carrots
made by Cindy Olson



Most Artistic & People’s
Choice:

Charlotte’s Web
made by Kristin Byram

Most Creative Ingredient:
Dragonmaker (a potato cake)
made by Angela Houser



Best Overall:
Phantom of the Opera
made by BreAnne Meier



Art of Books

The Bismarck Library Foundation Inc. held the Art of Books Event at the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library. The event included food, trivia, and local art work, which was available for sale. Participants were offered samples of locally brewed beer. At the event Betty Mills was honored with the 2016 Pearce Award. The event kicked off the library’s 100th Year Anniversary Celebration.



One Book, One Community

In partnership, the Fargo Public Library, Moorhead Public Library, West Fargo Public Library, Concordia College’s Carl B. Ylvisaker Library, Minnesota State University Moorhead’s Livingston Lord Library and North Dakota State University Libraries are pleased to announce the 2017 One Book, One Community selection, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford. The One Book, One Community reading project launches in late September and features several events including a community book discussion, film screenings, and cultural exhibits. The project will finish with two events with the author, Jamie Ford, on Tuesday, Oct. 24. All One Book, One Community events are free and open to the public and are generously supported by the Friends of the Fargo Public Library, the Friends of the West Fargo Public Library, the Friends of the Moorhead Library and Moorhead Community Education.



Touch-A-Truck

Muskogee Public Library’s Touch-A-Truck is an opportunity for children of all ages to get in or climb on their favorite vehicles such as a fire engine, garbage truck, semi-truck, school bus, mail truck, ambulance, wrecker, race cars and race car haulers as well as various aircraft, military vehicles, construction vehicles, law enforcement vehicles and more. Perhaps more importantly, children get the chance to meet the everyday heroes who operate these vehicles and learn more about the important work they do for our community. While it’s a fun and educational event for the children in the Muskogee and the surrounding areas, Touch-A-Truck will raise funds for Muskogee Public Library’s Children’s Department. This event celebrates the value of the local library and helps ensure that the library will continue to inspire the joy of reading, embrace new technology, and encourage lifelong learning in our ever-changing world.



Library Igloo

The Library igloo at Mercy School Institute is promoting reading and garnering great interest from students. Second-grade teacher Lina Trad began asking local businesses to collect empty milk jugs. The entire 2nd grade class took part in building the igloo. The first level was a circle 10 feet in diameter and required 50 milk jugs. The entire igloo would require nearly 500 jugs. “The kids were very excited to have their own place to sit and read. We want them to read more and to enjoy reading,” Mercy School Institute Principal Buthiana Jwayyed said. Mercy School Institute is a fully accredited private Islamic school, serving kindergarten through 12th-grade students.



Joining Forces for Broadband Access

Oklahoma State University’s Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and public libraries in four Oklahoma towns are joining forces to provide broadband access to residents in some of the state’s more rural areas. A 2015 survey indicated that only 44 percent of Oklahoma households with incomes of less than \$25,000 have a broadband connection. This is less than half of the 91 percent for Oklahoma households with incomes greater than \$100,000. The pilot program will run through April 2018 and is being supported by Mobile Beacon, an organization focused on providing broadband to nonprofit entities across the nation. DASNR and its cooperating partners — the Elgin Community Library, the Reiger Memorial Library in Haskell, the Thomas-Wilhite Memorial Library in Perkins and the Seminole Public Library — are asking local residents to take advantage of the pilot program and provide feedback about their experiences. “This pilot program is something that has never been done in rural Oklahoma and hopefully will allow residents and civic leaders to experience firsthand how broadband access can improve people’s quality of life and strengthen local communities,” said Brian Whitacre, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension agricultural economist and the program’s principal investigator.



SD SOUTH DAKOTA

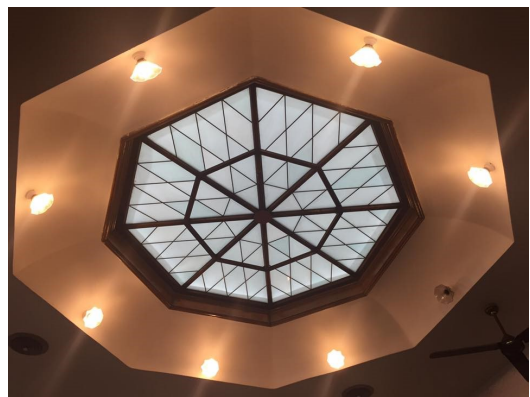
Last Lecture

Former Dakota State University library director Ethelle Bean was chosen by honor students to be the first retired faculty member to give a "Last Lecture." "The Last Lecture series is an opportunity for retiring faculty to offer parting advice... based on literally a lifetime of service to higher education," Dr. Kurt Kemper, professor of history and director of the General Beadle Honors Program, said. Bean retired in October 2016 after coming to the college in 1986.



Preserving a Legacy

The Redfield Carnegie Library recently experienced a few upgrades. At 115 years, the library is the longest continually serving Carnegie library in South Dakota. Restoration included that of a geometric skylight in the center of the building's domed ceiling. Original solid oak shelves, tables and chairs still provide seating for patrons.



Community Cookbooks

The SD State University Archives has created a South Dakota Community Cookbook Collection at Briggs Library. Through this project, SDSU Archives are accepting donated South Dakota cookbooks to digitize and add online to the university's institutional repository, Open Prairie (openprairie.sdstate.edu). The request includes cookbooks from schools, churches, communities, families and other organizations.

Building with my PEEPS

Huron Public Library held their third annual PEEPS contest. The theme was "Peeps Build a Better World." Contestants were asked to submit a diorama which was decorated with at least one Peep marshmallow candy. An additional prize category was the PEEPls Choice award.





Special Recognition



Debbie McCarthy, Head of Technical Services at University of Wyoming Coe Library, has been elected to the OCLC Americas Regional Council (ARC), a part of OCLC's Global Council. She was elected by OCLC member institutions' voting representatives to serve a three-year term on the ARC, beginning 1 July 2017.

Wyoming Library Endowment Challenge

Converse County Library is the latest to reach its goal for the Wyoming Library Endowment Challenge, according to the most recent update from the WSL Library Development Office. The Challenge, is a state-funded program, offers matching funds for locally raised endowment dollars. Converse is one of 15 Wyoming libraries that have reached 100% of their fundraising goals.

For more information: <http://www.wyla.org/endowment-challenge>

Enid Teeter, Supervisor of Library Services, recently received the University of Wyoming Libraries' Outstanding Staff Award.



The Conference is Back!

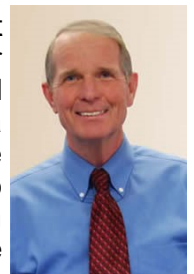
The details have been set! The 2017 Wyoming Library Association Conference will be held on August 10th and 11th in Sheridan. To accommodate travel budgets, the conference will kick off with lunch on Thursday, Aug. 10 (vendors will open mid-morning), and conclude after lunch on Friday, Aug. 11. For more information visit:

<http://www.wyla.org/annual-conference>

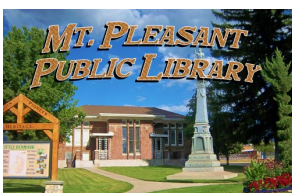


Way to Lead, Mayor!

There are plans in the works to build a new city library in Logan, UT. Mayor Craig Petersen just put his money where his mouth is by deciding to give up the rest of his salary and benefits for 2017, which totals about \$90,000, to the project. Mayor Petersen said, "The money I would have been paid will commit to the new library project. One of my rationales for that is to make a statement, but also, if I'm gonna go out and ask people for their money, I probably need to have some skin in the game. So I think it makes me more credible as I go out and ask people to help us with our library project." Peterson and library supporters are trying to raise nearly \$3 million to go along with government funding for a new library and community center at the site of the old emporium building on Main Street.



Happy 100th to Mt. Pleasant Public Library



Mt. Pleasant Public Library was originally dedicated in 1917. The library was built with a grant from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, a man responsible for the construction of 1,681 libraries in the United States around the turn of the century. Several events and activities are planned throughout 2017 to celebrate and recognize the library's impact to the city and surrounding area. Librarians plan to gather stories and pictures from people who have been involved with the building over the years.

NaNoWriMo News

This summer, National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) is excited to offer libraries the resources and support to lead a youth Summer Writing Program filled with NaNoWriMo's unique blend of creativity, grit, and seat-of-your-pants fun. Participants of all ages will choose projects they care about, set ambitious goals, get daily feedback on their progress, and receive support from an international community of fellow writers, all participating in Camp NaNoWriMo's July session together.

[Download NaNoWriMo's Summer Writing Program resources](#)



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Library Assistant
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Butte MT

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Belgrade Community Library
Belgrade MT

Abbi Dooley

Assistant Director
North Lake County Public Library District
Polson MT

Michelle Dorrence

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Dean
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Wichita KS

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Helena MT

Libby Wolfe

Library Director/Resource Facilitator
PLUK Parent Center Library
Billings MT

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Melanie McRee, Sales Manager
LM Information Delivery
Easton PA

2017 Calendar

American Library Association Annual Conference

June 22-27; Chicago, IL

Wyoming Library Association Conference

August 10-11; Sheridan, WY

South Dakota Library Association Conference

September 27-29; Oacoma, SD

North Dakota Library Association Conference

October 4-6; Grand Forks, ND

Nebraska Library Association Conference

October 11-13; Kearney, NE



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Grants are awarded to support the following:

- Formal course work leading to an advanced degree in library science or a related discipline.
- Formal course work not leading to an advanced degree but directly related to an individual's library position.
- Attendance as a participant or a presenter at a library or scholarly workshop, seminar, or conference, including the MPLA annual conference.
- Visits to another library to receive or provide significant advanced training in library services or procedures.
- Library related research projects.



DEADLINE FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

July 26 September 27 November 29

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

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



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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

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www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grantslinks.html

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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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Madison Public Library

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

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