



Mountain Plains Library Association

*Big Horizons Close Community*

# Newsletter

December 2018—January 2019

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

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### Message from the President

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### MPLA Quick Links

Well, hello! I'm writing you on a very cold Oklahoma morning while reminiscing about the recent joint MPLA/KLA conference that was held in October in Wichita, Kansas. Many hours went into the planning of the conference and MPLA and KLA worked hand in hand to present a meaningful, educational and fun conference for all attendees. MPLA's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday was celebrated with a lovely 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party that was held at the Wichita Advanced Learning Library. Months were spent planning the event and it was the highlight of the conference for me because it represented 7 decades of leadership, learning and building relationships. And it represents the fact that MPLA continues to evolve right along with libraries.



My charge to MPLA members this presidential year focuses on membership. Sharing the news about MPLA with colleagues, encouraging those new to libraries in your region to join, and renewing your own membership annually are all vital aspects of a healthy organization. If you've visited the membership page of the MPLA website you will have read, "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 us and laying the foundation for your career development. Participate in this process with MPLA's membership -- active leaders in our region's outstanding libraries." Let's do our best to spread this message.

I am honored to serve as your president this year and I look forward to connecting with you. We'll talk more about membership. In the meantime, I wish you all a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Until next time,  
Leslie Langley

**See MPLA through the years! [BIRTHDAY BASH VIDEO](#)**

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

# 70th Anniversary Bash!



Clockwise from top: Bash organizer Mary Ann Thompson, President Leslie Langley, and 2 time President Annie Epperson enjoying a drink; Reverie Roasters & Founders Bakery pouring drinks for the toast; MPLA members toasting 70 years!; Smiling Eileen Wright; MPLA members watching the 70th Birthday video; Cake made by Reverie Roasters & Founders Bakery; Jazz musicians the Jim Pisano Trio; the Past Presidents from L to R: Jean Hatfield, Mickey Coalwell, Judy Zelenski, Wayne Hanway, Eileen Wright, and Annie Epperson.





# #NotablesandQuotables



**Kansas Library Association**  
October 24 at 4:48 PM · 🌐

"If librarians are the most influential factor on voting for funding, and if our jobs are dependent on that funding, then we are political candidates for our jobs."

Big thanks to our Wednesday keynote speaker, Patrick Sweeney!  
#KLAMPLA2018



7 Likes · 1 Share

Like Comment Share

**carolyn knotts**  
@cjk1968

Follow

90% of funding for libraries come from local voters and local politicians - @pcsweeney KLA/MPLA 2018 Conference. #KLAMPLA2018

3:24 PM - 24 Oct 2018

1 Retweet 1 Like

**Carolyn Van Buren-Knotts**  
October 24 at 3:22 PM · 🌐

90% of funding for libraries come from local voters and local politicians - PC Sweeney KLA/MPLA 2018 Conference. #KLAMPLA2018

2 Likes

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**Librarian Jake**  
@itsjakersagain

Follow

You can leverage chaos to your advantage when there is change. #KLAMPLA2018 #librarianAF

9:48 AM - 26 Oct 2018 from Wichita, KS

1 Like

**Sumner Library**  
@sumnerlibrary

Follow

Thanks for attending my Seek the Truth media literacy session at KLA in Wichita, everyone! Keep fighting the good fight! @kckps\_sumner #librariestransform #KLAMPLA2018

**Meredith Snepp**  
@m\_snepp

Follow

I seriously get paid to be a #librarian?! I love professional conferences and attending @KansasLibraries @kslibassoc annual is one of my favorites! Great group of people, topics and presenters. Ahh! 🥰👍 #KLAMPLA2018

10:24 PM - 24 Oct 2018

5 Likes



9:33 AM - 29 Oct 2018

1 Retweet 2 Likes



# KLA/MPLA Conference, Wichita, KS

This year's conference featured great keynote speakers, a range of vendors, and engaging sessions. Best of all, the conference was an opportunity for friends and colleagues from across the association to meet, collaborate, and expand their professional networks.



Clockwise from top: Drop a pin! A neat way to see who came from near and far; President Leslie Langley chatting about the benefits of MPLA to new members; rubber ducky display through the years; hot tub roundtable—Eileen Wright sharing how it and the rubber ducky tradition began; VP/ Pres Elect Stephen Sweeney catching up fellow MPLA members; the outgoing 2017-2018 MPLA Executive Board.







NM Rep: Bradley Carrington, VP/Pres Elect: Stephen Sweeney, Eileen Wright, Annie Epperson, Theresa Jehlik, and ND Rep: Paulette Nelson combined their knowledge and presented on conference planning.

Passing of the Gavels from Annie Epperson to President Leslie Langley



President Langley recognizing Epperson for her service to MPLA.

## The 2018-2019 MPLA Executive Board



# 2018 Award Winners



Delaney Watling  
accepted on behalf  
of Counting  
Opinions

## **Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award**

This award is 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."

### ***Counting Opinions (SQUIRE Ltd) from Toronto, Canada***

This small company was an early leader, helping libraries capture meaningful data that can be used to tell their story to more effectively advocate for their community services. Carl Thompson, the company's founder and president, participated in the Public Library Association's 2013 "Performance Measurement Task Force" to develop standardized measures of effectiveness for library services and promote training and implementation tools for using the data collected. Counting Opinions currently holds the contracts for PLAmetrics (public library statistics and ACRLmetrics (academic library statistics).

Watling says, "It's an honour to be recognized by the Mountain Plains Library Association. We are so proud to contribute to the library community and to the great work libraries do serving their respective communities. Counting Opinions represents a wonderful team of individuals who are all passionate about making libraries a strong, vibrant part of our social fabric. So, thank you for choosing us as the recipient of this year's Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award."



Dean Stephanie  
Walker of Open  
Education Resources  
Working Group  
Pictured with Annie  
Epperson.

## **The MPLA Innovator Award**

This award recognizes an individual or group in the MPLA region for a creative, inventive, trail-blazing project that has significance to the library community.

### ***Open Educational Resources Working Group from Grand Forks, North Dakota***

Open Educational Resources Group, chaired by Dean Stephanie Walker, has brought open educational resources to the University of North Dakota on a large scale. This successful program is also working with other institutions across North Dakota to promote educational resources on a statewide basis. These resources have saved University of North Dakota students alone almost 6.1 million dollars in course materials costs over 3 years. Their efforts were recognized at a national level when Congress voted to allocate 5 million dollars to open educational resources based on the particular success of programs in North Dakota and Georgia.





### **Dan Chaney Unsung Hero Award**

This award named for MPLA's former webmaster, is 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."

#### **Ellen Fockler from Reno, Nevada**

Ellen is known to her MPLA colleagues as a gracious, thoughtful, enthusiastic, and extremely effective presence. Always tactful and smiling, Ellen, in her almost 20 years of membership, has been active and contributing board member, committee member, and volunteer. Ellen was also one of Dan Chaney's cheerleaders as he coped with his final illness.

Ellen manifests the professional dedication, friendliness, and fun for which MPLA is known. Though "unsung," Ellen is always willing to assist. She was asked to take over the chair of the Membership Committee when a chair abruptly resigned... and guided development of the MPLA Author membership category, a first for library associations.

Ellen retired in 2009 from the Washoe County School District after 27 years as a school librarian and teacher and 10 years as the District Library Program Coordinator. From 1998 to the present, Ellen has chaired the Nevada Reading Week Conference, which promotes reading for children and young adults throughout the state of Nevada. She is also an instructor for the University of Nevada, Reno.

Ellen says, "It's almost impossible to find the words to thank MPLA for such an honor. I'm so deeply honored and humbled by the award, and by the friendships and professional associations I've enjoyed as a member of MPLA. Thank you, MPLA – and a special thank you to Judy Zelenski, for her unending support."



Marci Penner Pictured  
with Annie Epperson

### **Literary Contribution Award**

The award is presented to an author whose published writing have successfully furthered an understanding and appreciation of the Mountain Plains region, through either a single work or a body of published works.

#### **Marci Penner from Inman, Kansas**

Marci's best qualification for this nomination is that she understands rural communities, their challenges they have, and how libraries work to help improve the quality of life in those communities. As an author, her books are well researched and fun to read. Her most recent book, *Kansas Guidebook 2 for Explorers*, was co-authored with WenDee Rowe. Marci is currently the Executive Director of the Kansas Sampler Foundation.



### **Distinguished Service Award**

The Distinguished Service Award is given to a 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.

### **Kathy Barco from Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Kathy Barco, currently a library consultant and book author, has been a library advocate for children and reading her entire career. One of her favorite reading philosophies is from Ranganathan's *Five Laws of Library Science*, "For every book a reader, for every reader a book." Kathy has spent her library career making sure that children find themselves in books. Kathy started her library career as a Children's Programs Coordinator at the Andersen Air Force Base Library in Guam. She moved back to her home state of New Mexico and worked in various roles with books and children for the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System. She also worked as the Youth Services Coordinator for the New Mexico State Library, serving children and youth librarians from all over the state of New Mexico.

She has continued to work as a library consultant on various projects including providing consulting services to librarians as they plan summer reading programs in Kansas. She recently co-authored a book with Melanie Borski Howard called *Storytime and Beyond - Having Fun with Early Literacy* (Libraries Unlimited 2018).





# EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

*School of* LIBRARY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

## Earn your Master of Library Science

A graduate degree in Library and Information Management complements previous education, offers prospects for increased earnings and provides flexible skills for the future. Be a part of the information profession that has exciting career opportunities such as public or academic librarian, media specialist, data manager, archivist, and many more.

- **Balance Online Learning and Occasional Weekend Intensive Classes**  
Enjoy personal interaction between students and faculty as you combine your MLS studies with an active life. Cohort locations include:  
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# Around the Region



## Celebrating Frankenstein

The Cholla Library of the Phoenix Public Library celebrated the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Those in attendance had some spooky fun as they learned how to use Tinkercad to design Frankenstein's neck bolts, created a paper Frankenstein Monster, and got to experiment with electricity using Snap Circuits. Teens participated in a writing lab and learned what they need to know to write Gothic Fiction. It was a monstrously good time. The program was made possible by the Friends of the Phoenix Public Library Cholla Chapter. @plfriends



## 2018 Emerging Leader Award

The Arizona Library Association's Emerging Leader Award recognizes exceptionally promising library leaders with no more than five years of full-time library experience. Suzanne Harvey, Director of the Huachuca City Public Library, accepted the award at the Arizona Library Association conference in Mesa on October 26.



Harvey said she was honored and humbled by the recognition. "I am very proud of our library, and know that our wonderful staff, community partners, and town have come together to make the library what it is," she said.

Under Harvey's leadership, the Huachuca City Public Library has introduced a wide variety of new programs for the public. These include weekly STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) programs for children, a grant-funded coding club, a series of speakers for adults, and a grant-funded Digital Literacy Center. Harvey has also taken an active role in countywide library leadership.



A graphic consisting of several concentric circles in shades of blue, purple, and pink, creating a rainbow-like effect.

## AUTHOR MEMBERSHIP

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





## 2018 Colorado Library Project of the Year



The Common Cents for Colorado financial literacy project, based at the Estes Valley Library, has received the 2018 Colorado Library Project of the Year Award. Marsha Yelick, who coordinated the program for eight successful years, joined Kurtis Kelly in accepting the honors at the Colorado Association of Libraries Conference.

The local program, which then expanded statewide, was funded by three consecutive Smart investing@your library® grants, offered by the American Library Association (ALA) and the FINRA Investor Education Foundation.

The Awards Committee stated: "Thanks to the Estes Valley Library and a 2010 grant from ALA and FINRA, a single library has been able to share information about financial literacy to 16 libraries, which held 727 workshops for the benefit of 10,764 individuals in Colorado by 2016. Through the resources created, the project will continue to benefit libraries and their patrons in the future."

The original grant proposal was written by the late Katie Speer back in 2009. Resources from the project remain available online at [estesvalleylibrary.org/financialliteracy](http://estesvalleylibrary.org/financialliteracy).

**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!

<http://www.mpla.us/forms/grocery-card-program.html>

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- QFC
- Food 4 Less
- Owen's
- Foodsco
- Hilander
- Pay-less Cala-Bell
- Bakers
- Jayc
- Fred Meyer jewelers
- Littman & Barclay Jewelers
- Loaf and Jug

A row of ten blue shopping cart icons.

## The Great Western Cattle Trail: The Longhorn Drives



The Cimarron City Library, Cimarron, KS and the Gray County Historical Society presented *The Great Western Cattle Trail: The Longhorn Drives*. Award-winning authors Gary and Margaret Kraisinger presented an afternoon program about the 12 seasons of the cattle trails that came out of south Texas toward Dodge City, on to Ogallala, Nebraska, and as far north as Canada. The Kraisingers have published three books and various articles on Texas cattle trails, an industry that lasted only about 50 years, from 1846 to 1897. The couple researches, lectures and writes about the Texas cattle trail industry.

## TEDx & Libraries

Carmaine Ternes - October 2018

Transform your Library with TED TALKS! What can you take and make from this information? What compelling and exciting reason can you give your community of learners to visit your library?

Intrigued by Dr. Barbara Stripling's conversation in 2014 at the ALA conference and by her "Declaration for the Right to Libraries" campaign, I imagined "How one articulated idea can impact the world!"

A TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) TALK is a memorized event of bias free programming, an orchestrated presentation to foster learning, inspiration, and wonder. By connecting with your audience, a library program can unleash new ideas to inspire and inform. This unique opportunity supports the move from "collection development to connection development." Consider the experts in your neighborhood and their unlimited talents in sparking dialogue and creating an occasion to bring people together with "ideas worth spreading."

Learn about TEDx & Libraries @ <http://www.ala.org/tools/librariestransform/tedx-libraries>

## IMLS Leadership Grant awarded to FHSU's Forsyth Library

A National Leadership Planning Grant for Fort Hays State University's Forsyth Library from the Institute for Museum and Library Services was announced by U.S. Rep. Roger Marshall, First District representative from Kansas.



Library Dean Deborah Ludwig and Claire Nickerson, a faculty librarian and principal investigator for the grant, accepted the award of \$49,997. Dr. Gordon Carlson, associate professor of communication studies, is the co-principal investigator and directs the university's Institute for New Media Studies.

Planning grants help project teams analyze needs and feasibility, solidify partnerships and develop work plans or prototypes, among other things. The Forsyth Library team is building a prototype of a smart classroom.

Marshall, in introducing the grant, noted the widespread tendency to focus on short-term benefits. The benefits of this project, he said, will be evident in two years, or five years, and will benefit life in western Kansas. Fort Hays State will provide \$11,892 in matching funds to develop programming for a replicable, modular smart classroom kit that provides access to new technology and teaches data literacy.

"The smart classroom space will enable faculty to implement new, more interactive teaching techniques," said Nickerson. "For instance, students will be able to stand inside 3D models and manipulate data across multiple screens at once."

She continued, "It will also enable the library to offer more interactive exhibits, where students can walk through history or a virtual art gallery. These capabilities are valuable because they help students to attain new media skills that are increasingly necessary in the workplace."





## A Civil Conversation: #MeTooMontana

Billings Public Library and Zonta Club of Billings hosted a panel discussion, "A Civil Conversation: #MeTooMontana." Motivated by the #MeToo movement, the panel discussed the availability of resources in Montana to assist victims of sexual assault and harassment, how the assault and harassment affects the victims and their families, and the reasons why victims do not report the incidents. According to a news release, continued public awareness with information-sharing and storytelling is intended to help to end this destructive behavior.

Panel experts included Jeff Hindoien, Deputy Attorney General, Montana Department of Justice; Aimee Rust and Dr. Jamee Free, licensed clinical professional counselors at Yellowstone Counseling Center; Valerie Route, human resources generalist at CTA Architects Engineers; Jeanelle Slade, journalist at KTVQ. The panel will be moderated by Renee Coppock, an attorney at Crowley Fleck PLLP.



## Traveling Creation Station

The North Platte Public Library, in North Platte, NE, is collaborating with the Library Innovation Studios Project to host a rotating makerspace in the library. The learning environment provides the opportunity for adults and young people to access technology and stimulate creativity, innovation and the exchange of ideas to facilitate entrepreneurship, skill development and local development.

North Platte is partnering with the Nebraska Library Commission, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska Innovation Studio, Nebraska extension and regional library systems to help enable collaborative community development efforts that bring together local libraries, extension educators, 4-H youth development specialists, business leaders, development professionals and volunteers, community organizations, educators and other community stakeholders to take charge of the community they want to build — and to experiment with using a library makerspace to help build it.



Lincoln County residents have through Jan. 20, 2019, to sample a broad range of equipment — including laminators, etchers, cutters, T-shirt "heat pressers" and audio and video editing devices — temporarily housed at the library as part of a Nebraska Library Commission touring program, which was funded by a three-year, \$530,732 grant from the national Institute of Museum and Library Services, the program lets host communities see how they might shape a permanent makerspace to stimulate access and education to computer technology.

## Welcome, Evonne!

Evonne Edgington is the new Nebraska representative. Here's what she had to say when asked, "What made you want to get involved with MPLA?"



"I jumped at the chance to get involved with MPLA because I like the regional aspect of the organization. I've attended a few of the conferences and enjoyed meeting the other members. I felt at home and not like a small fish in a big pond as with some of the national organizations. It is my hope and intent to increase MPLA's visibility and all that is has to offer to the librarians of Nebraska."

## Nevada Library Association Librarian of the Year

At this year's annual conference, John Crockett was named Nevada Library Association Librarian of the Year. He is the Branch Manager of Incline Village Library, part of the Washoe County Library System based in Reno, Nevada.



John has been active with NLA and MPLA, serving in many capacities including NLA President, MPLA Delegate, and a member of the delegation promoting Nevada libraries during Nevada Libraries Legislative days. He is a 2012 MPLA Leadership Institute fellow.

John promotes library services to community members of all ages. His work includes developing and delivering technology programming for kids, assisting with the development of a computer lab and beginning computer classes for the Washoe County Senior Center Library, and expanding the services of Incline Village Library to better meet community needs. John is also active with the Reno Mini Maker Faire, working with librarians at University of Nevada, Reno and active makers in the Reno-Tahoe area, laying the groundwork for libraries to be a central player in the Northern Nevada maker community.

## Playaway LaunchPad collection

Douglas County Public Library, based in Minden, Nevada, received a grant from the Smallwood Foundation to fund the initial purchase of 101 launchpads and a bookcase to house them. Launchpads are small tablets that contain a 7" high-definition touch-screen, protective "bumper" case, power adaptor, built-in speaker and audio jack. Each is pre-loaded with high-quality, ad-free apps grouped by age, grade level, topic and theme.

The mobile devices do not use the internet, making it possible for them to be taken anywhere. The launchpad collections cover a variety of topics: brain games (adults); ESL and language learning (adults), test preparation and courses (teens); casual games (teens), award winning reading and learning activities (kids), English language arts (kids); and S.T.E.A.M. (kids).

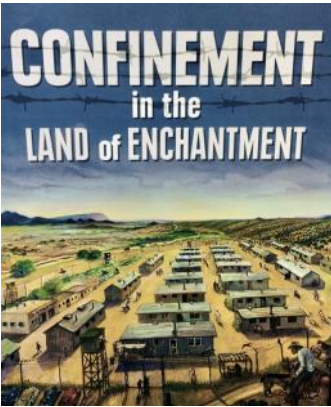




# NM NEW MEXICO

## Confinement in the Land of Enchantment Exhibit at the Santa Fe Public Library

During November, the Southside Branch of the Santa Fe Public Library will host an exhibit entitled "Confinement in the Land of Enchantment." The exhibit, created by the New Mexico Japanese American Citizens League, focuses on the stories of World War II Japanese American confinement sites located in New Mexico. Internment camps existed in Santa Fe, Ft. Stanton, Old Raton Ranch, and Lordsburg. The goal of the exhibit is to educate New Mexicans on the histories of Japanese American internment in the state and to inspire conversation about issues of citizenship, identity, and civil liberties. In support of the exhibit, the Santa Fe Public Library has organized a month-long series of programs around the theme of "Confinement in the Land of Enchantment." November programs will include two book discussions, a book talk by a children's author, short documentary and oral history screenings, a screening of the 1976 film Farewell to Manzanar, a performance by the Reader's Theater and lectures on Bosque Redondo/ Ft. Sumner (NM) and the New Mexico Dreamer's Project.



# ND NORTH DAKOTA

## 7th Annual Haunted Stacks Halloween Party

The Grand Forks Public Library hosted their 7th Annual Haunted Stacks Halloween Party and had a record breaking 450 people in attendance!



## The Feud

Those attending the North Dakota Library Association Conference in Minot had the opportunity to unwind after the awards banquet and play a little Family Feud, Library style. Long time NDLA member Laurie McHenry, Head of Technical Services at the University of North Dakota School of Law Thormodsgard Law Library in Grand Forks, ND was named Librarian of the Year by the Association. Shannon Miller, the keynote speaker, spoke on future ready libraries and also did a pre-conference for attendees.





**Southern Oklahoma Library System (SOLS)  
awarded health literacy grant**

SOLS received a grant of roughly \$9,000 from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to promote health literacy and create classes for their patrons. The library system was one of 26 libraries to be awarded the grant, and has received the same funding in past years.

SOLS Reference and Adult Services Librarian Pam Bean has been creating Tai Chi classes for seniors and other exercise programs for the library for the last several years. She said the library is expanding the class offerings to cover more topics and reach more people.

"We started out with cooking classes," Bean said. "Mostly, what I did was buy equipment. I've done canning classes, and right now I'm doing Instant Pot. Everybody's really interested in the Instant Pot." For presentations on hand washing, Bean bought Germ Kits, which use black lights and powder to show the bacteria on a person's hands. After January 1, the library will offer yoga classes in their Wilson location.

The grant covers outreach endeavors and kids' programs as well. Bean will be at the Love County Health Fair this month with pamphlets about healthy eating and exercise.

**Award winning author makes tour stop in Wagoner**

The Wagoner City Public Library, Wagoner, OK, played host to the Reading Roundup Author Tour. The book-signing tour promotes the love of reading, invites students to have fun with reading and encourages the discussion of books. Featured locally was young adult/adult book novelist Litricia Clifton, whose award-winning book *Seeking Cassandra* received the 2017 Oklahoma Book Award in the Young Adult Category.

The book is about 12-year-old Cassie, a protagonist who attempts to adjust to her new surroundings when she is immersed in an unexpected mystery. She chronicles her perspectives in her journal as she puts the pieces together. Clifton's first YA novel, *Freaky Fast Frankie Joe*, landed appeared on multiple Notable and Best lists of YA titles, was on the Sequoyah Book Award list, and was nominated for the Texas Bluebonnet Award. Clifton also publishes adult mysteries under the name Lu Clifton. Her first two mysteries were finalists for Oklahoma Book Awards in the fiction category.

While in Wagoner, Clifton gave presentations at both the library and at Central Intermediate School. A book-signing and meet-and-greet were also held at the library.

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# SOUTH DAKOTA

## Learning About Library Design

As part of the Library Journal Design Institute held in Minneapolis, South Dakota State Library staff library staff had an opportunity to tour four branches of the Hennepin County Library system: Webber Park, Brooklyn Park, Ridgedale, and Walker. Three branches are less than four years old, and Ridgedale was recently renovated. It was a chance to see current trends in library design and layout, including, for example, high ceilings, lots of windows, multipurpose spaces, and plenty of play area. Two fun touches were a giant “Lite-Brite,” and a wall panel which was a dry erase board.



Brooklyn Park, Hennepin County Library System  
Minneapolis, MN

## Welcome, Nita!

Nita Gill is the new South Dakota representative. Here's what she had to say when asked, “What made you want to get involved with MPLA?”

I got involved with MPLA because of encouragement and example. I've been working at the Brookings Public Library for over eight years, and since the beginning of that time, I have been encouraged to participate and rely on MPLA. My library makes sure staff are members of MPLA every year. I've seen how important and fun being a member of MPLA is through watching Elvita Landau, Mike Mullin, and Brenda Hemmelman all be active and encouraging members. I hope I'm able to do the same for my fellow MPLA and SDLA members.



# UTAH

## All-State Utah High School Art Exhibition

An exhibit of Utah's top student artwork is currently on display at the Cedar City Library, Cedar City, UT. The All-State Utah High School Art Exhibition features the award-winning works of art students from all over the state.

The annual competition and traveling show gives artists a professional forum in which to display their work and gives them a first taste of competition to prepare them for future contests. The competition is open to 11th and 12th grade students from public and private schools throughout Utah.

“This is an extremely popular exhibit,” said Steve Decker, library director. What makes it so special is that these talented young artists are portraying their life concerns. Not the concerns that adults think they have but concerns that come from the students.”

Part of the Utah Arts & Museums' Traveling Exhibition Program, the tour highlights exceptional student artists and a talented arts educator. Past senior class artists have received scholarships awarded by the art schools of Utah colleges and universities following their participation in the program. In addition to student awards, an outstanding arts educator from a Utah high school is recognized for his/her dedication to their students and the creation of art.

The competition is sponsored by the Springville Museum of Art and includes multiple formats including drawing, sculpture, ceramics, photography and watercolor.



## Wyoming Snapshot Day!

Wyoming Libraries celebrated Snapshot Day on October 9th. Where The Wyoming State Library collects photos, videos, comments, and statistics that tell the story of our libraries and the impact they make every single day of the year.

## Literary Pumpkins and Gourds

The Powell Branch Library of the Park County Library System in Powell, WY held an event giving the community the chance to decorate or carve pumpkins or gourds to represent book titles or characters. They were on display at the library through Halloween evening.

**Guiding Principles**

**1. Pursue outreach opportunities**

- Foster relationships
- Increase professional sharing
- Include diverse communities

**2. Encourage caring, respectful relationships**

- Mentoring
- Networking
- Collaborations
- Learning

**3. Realize our potential**

- Leadership development
- Professional growth opportunities
- Engagement with library community

Source: Agreement icon made by Grigor Chisnar; Telescope icon made by Freepress; Network icon made by NadejdaYelise from www.flaticon.com

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



## JENNY LOU – Dan Chaney’s Cocker Girl

Letter from Kelsy Hinton (married to Dan Chaney’s nephew Kyle)

I remember it like it was just yesterday. Kyle (Danny’s nephew) and I were at Kyle’s parents’ house before Christmas time. I was watching Sandy pull out all of Kyle’s grade school ornaments he made her; with each ornament her eyes lit up. Later that evening, Sandy received a call that changed everything. We were told Danny was in the hospital and many tests were being done. It did not seem like we had any answers by the time we left Kyle’s parents’ house in Illinois. Kyle wanted to stop and see Danny and without hesitation I agreed. Mind you, this is my first time meeting Danny. We were friends on Facebook but that’s different. I remember seeing him for the first time in his hospital bed. He had on a “Fear the Deer” shirt and plaid pajama pants. Danny talked to us about Jenny, his beloved cocker spaniel, the whole time.



All Danny ever wanted was for his “babe” to be cared for and well loved. Danny told me the story of when he first got her. She had been really neglected before he rescued her. Danny promised Jenny that from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, her “gotcha” day, from that day forward she would never go without ever again.

Danny was beside himself while in the hospital because Jenny was being boarded and her booked time in the vet clinic was coming to an end. With each new day, the reports for Danny seemed to only get harder and harder to take, and I knew he

The late Dan Chaney with Jenny Lou

was only worried about Jenny. I didn’t know how to help Kyle or his family, but I did know that I work at a vet clinic, so dogs are something I know. With several hours of persuading Danny and scheduled visits, I finally got the okay to bail Jenny out of boarding. I remember picking her up for the very first time. I was so excited to be bringing her to Danny for a short visit. Danny was thrilled to see Jenny, as was Jenny to see Danny.

- continued on page 20



The goodbyes were hard; I prepared myself for that. We had two weeks with Jenny before we got the devastating news that Danny had passed away. I remember hugging Kyle and holding Jenny. “How do I help Kyle?” “How will Jenny ever understand what is happening?” Then I remembered the promise I made Danny before I could go get Jenny. He asked me to promise him that I would find the perfect rescue to send her to, should he not get her back. I thought he was crazy; surely, she would get to come home to him. I remember the night we got the news. I laid awake thinking and praying. I remembered seeing on Danny’s Go Fund Me page, a lady, MiChielle Cooper, saying she would help with anything that Jenny needed, that she had a Cocker Spaniel Rescue. I reached out on a late-night whim and told her that I had read her post and what I had promised to Danny.

Rescue work usually takes several weeks to line up with transportation and tagging the dog and such. This had to be Danny’s doing, because within a matter of hours, MiChielle had everything lined up, Kyle and I were meeting his aunt and dad at Danny’s house to go through a few things, and MiChielle had friends that were traveling really close to where Danny lived. We set a time and date, and it was happening---I was really having to let Jenny Lou go. When the day came, I remember going through enny’s box of things at Danny’s house and picking out a t-shirt that Danny wore so she would have his smell as she traveled so far away. I know to some people a dog is a dog, but to Danny this was his whole world. so To let Jenny go was like ending a hard season in our lives. I remember telling Jenny Lou bye, I cried, a lot. MiChielle sends me lots of pictures and loves Jenny Lou so much. I couldn’t ask for a better rescue, a better person or a better place for Jenny Lou to go. I know Danny is at ease with this. Jenny Lou is now in a home with her new momma and is so loved. We miss Jenny Lou and Danny so much, but I know they are much happier now. I want to end this how I ended all of my topics about Danny... The world lost a great man, son, uncle and friend. Hug your loved ones tighter when you see them, love them a little louder than you did yesterday... All we will ever have is each other.





## JENNY LOU – Rescue Mission

Mi'Chielle Cooper, President  
Rockin' Paw Rescue & Adoption Network, Inc.

**January 1, 2017**

After two days of shaking the rescue friendship tree, I found several “friends of friends” who were able to help us get Jenny Lou en-route to Kansas. For those that don't know how rescue transport works, It usually takes weeks to set up a trip this long. So we all strongly felt that Dan was guiding the process from above, and felt his presence at work.

Kelsy and her fiancé' Kyle Hinton drove Jenny Lou from Childress TX to the Oklahoma City area. In OKC, we had found “friends of some friends” from Wichita who were on vacation in that area and offered to pick up Jenny Lou and bring her back to Wichita with them. So we met in the parking lot of Wyldewood Cellars at Mulvane to meet Jenny Lou for the first time.

Bless her heart, she seemed stressed and sad. I am sure she was mourning her person (Dan). I've seen dogs mourn their own dog friends when they pass as well. They truly have hearts and feelings and an incredible memory. I visited with Howard Schmidt and his wife as they told me about their trip from OKC to Wichita, and the many stops and walks they took Jenny Lou on so she could be comfortable and take little breaks along the way since she'd been on the road for so long that day.

Jenny curled up in my front seat, wrapped up in one of Dan's T-shirts that still had his scent on it. She slept like she hadn't slept in years on that hour and a half trip back to our farm to become our first foster Cocker child of the New Year 2017.

When we got home, we took a walk in the back yard, and one by one, we introduced Jenny to our 3 Cocker girls and the other existing foster dogs at our home. They all made their peace one by one, and then we had a bath, some supper, and she fell fast asleep.

*-continued on page 22*



### **First Night in Foster Care 1-1-2017:**

**Left to Right: Foster boy BEAR, New Foster girl JENNY LOU, JellyBean Cooper, CocoaBirdie Cooper, and Foster boy CODY. Foster Mom: Mi'Chielle Cooper/Rockin' Paw**

A few weeks down the road we did a well-check appointment with our Veterinarian and found that Jenny Lou had a congestive heart condition that required two medications (Lasix and Enapril).

Jenny Lou was an older Cocker girl, and finding an adoptive home for an older fur-kid, with a heart condition, and one that has been raised as an only child, is sometimes like finding a needle in a haystack.

There were months and months of advertising and showcasing photos of Jenny Lou with no good adoptive matches. By this time, it was October 2017. My husband and I decided then that Jenny Lou was possibly meant to be a Cooper Cocker kid.... Then we received a call from Denise Harris. Denise was a retired/disabled lady living in Lebo KS (my hometown). We took Denise's application and vet reference and made an appointment for a meet and greet with Jenny Lou.

The smile on Denise's face and the outright excitement on Jenny Lou's face at being the SOLE CENTER OF ATTENTION like she had been with Dan was amazing. I knew then and there that this was a "match made in heaven," again with Dan's guidance.

As it turned out, Denise also had a condition that required Lasix medication as well. So they both take their medicine each day on the same schedule. It's easy to see the love and light in both Denise and Jenny Lou's faces when I stop by to visit each month.

Denise had a fixed income, and an adoption fee and the ongoing care requiring daily medication was the only barrier to her adopting Jenny Lou.

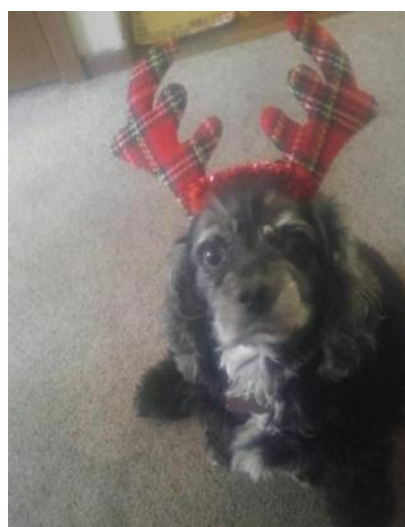
To make the adoption work, Rockin' Paw Rescue waived the adoption fee. We supply Blue Buffalo dog food and treats for Jenny Lou, and we also refill her medications each month so that Denise doesn't have to worry about cost factors and can just focus on the love between her and Jenny Lou. To the rescue, the added expense is worth it. Every time we stop by to visit Jenny Lou and Denise we see the love and happiness in both of their faces. Knowing that rescue provided that happiness makes all the hard work seeking donations to cover veterinary bills, and traveling hundreds of miles to help travel homeless and needy pets, and the stress involved in all of this kind of work worthwhile.

These furry faces finding their safe and loving homes are worth every moment. We feel that Dan would be happy and at peace knowing that Jenny Lou got her 2<sup>nd</sup> life and continued love until they meet again over the Rainbow Bridge in the future.



ADOPTION DAY:  
10-24-2017

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FIRST CHRISTMAS WITH  
DENISE: 12-25-2017

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# 2019 Conference Calendar

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January 25-29; Seattle, WA

**Oklahoma Library Association**

March 13-15; Norman, OK

**Montana Library Association**

April 10-13; Helena, MT

**Association of College and Research Libraries**

April 10-13, 2019, Cleveland, OH

**Utah Library Association**

May 15-17; Sandy, UT

**ALA Annual Conference**

June 20-25; Washington, DC

**The Association for Rural and Small Libraries**

September 4-7; Burlington, Vermont

**South Dakota Library Association**

September 25-27; Spearfish, SD

**North Dakota Library Association**

September 25-27; West Fargo, ND

**Nebraska Library Association**

October 2-4; La Vista, Nebraska

(Joint conference with Iowa Library Association)

**Kansas Library Association**

October 22-25; Overland, KS

**MPLA /New Mexico Association**

October 30– Nov 1; Albuquerque, NM

Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town

<http://www.hotelabq.com/>

**Nevada Library Association**

November 2-4;

**Arizona Library Association**

November 2019

**Wyoming Library Association**

TDB

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***Conference not listed?***

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Madison Public Library

Copy deadlines for articles, news, and advertisements:

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