

Mountain Plains Library Association

Big Horizons Close Community

Newsletter

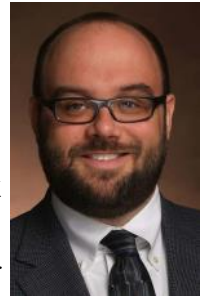
December 2020—January 2021

www.mpla.us

Volume 65 Number 6

President's Message

We are months into new ways of thinking about our work. For the many of us who find ourselves in 'traditional' academic settings, we may now be finding ourselves coming up on Thanksgiving Break. For those of us in public (and other) library settings, there is a broad variety of possibilities of whether (and how) the Library is open to our publics. It is important to remember that your own health and safety are so important. Each day, many of us have to somehow log our symptoms in order to come into work but one question most forms don't ask is 'how are you?'



A sustainable work-life balance is so critical. In one of the institutions where I teach, they offer the following for consideration:

- Look at different ways to schedule breaks during your day for reflection, exercise, connecting with family and friends or just rest;
- Plan at least one day each week that's devoid of a Zoom/Teams/electronic meeting;
- Limit Zoom meetings to 30 minutes and schedule breaks, even if short ones, between meetings;
- Invite members of your libraries/offices/departments to a socially distanced circle lunch;
- Make time for a lunchtime walk, even if it means blocking out the time on your calendar;
- Hold meetings while walking around campus;
- If possible, create no-email and no-work zones that allow you to spend the time you need for family and personal matters

Remember, the COVID-19 crisis has caused all of us to suffer losses, whether of companionship, freedom to move around the country and world, or even a loved one. I think of Atla as a supportive community to find creative, scholarly, and academic outlets. Find what works for you and take steps in that direction, while taking care of yourself.

Stephen Sweeney

Mountain Plains Library Association President

St. John Vianney Seminary, Cardinal Stafford Library
Denver, Colorado

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September 25, 2020

Judy Kulp
Executive Secretary, MPLA
14293 West Center Drive
Lakewood, Colorado, 80228



Dear Judy:

Enclosed is my current membership payment – a check for \$15.00 as a retired member. I have not been as regular as I should have been for the last several years and used to regularly submit my membership when asked but I've not been asked in the usual January notification as in many, many years past.

Let me introduce myself. I am a former President of MPLA and was elected so in 1973 at the annual meeting in Cheyenne. At that time, I was not a member and was not even attending since I was snowed-in at Pierre, South Dakota, having become South Dakota State Librarian in July of that year. I served as President for at least two years and maybe more. My last meeting as President was the one at Lake Tahoe that the membership attended by taking the train all the way from Kansas City and subsequent stations to Carson City, Nevada with one of our service industries managing the trains' whole bar car at their expense. It was a happy group that I met in Carson City. They had literally filled the AMTRAC train for the full several days that it took to get there.

We hosted the association meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota jointly as SDLA and NDLA in partnership in the late 1970s. The last meeting I attended was one of the anniversary meetings in Salt Lake City (perhaps sometime between 1980 & 1990) with most Past Presidents in attendance. I moved to Arizona from South Dakota in 1980 and served as Director of the Mesa, Arizona, Public Library until I retired in 1999-2000 and currently live in a retirement center in Tempe, Arizona, after having travelled extensively throughout Europe, North Africa and the Near East on two to three excursions a year.

I hope MPLA is as healthy as it once was and is still as lively and interested in a good rowdy time at least once a year. For many of us in the west, it was the site for many long-time relationships to develop and was of even more value in developing cooperative relationships throughout the west. Just let me know when and where my membership is due whenever you can and I'll submit my payment in the usual slow mail way. When my E-mail has a change in the next month or so, I'll let you know of that change.

Take good care of MPLA

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vince Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Herschel V. ("Vince") Anderson
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Tempe, Arizona 85282
Telephone: 480-831-3479 – E-Mail: andersonvince@aol.com





MPLA Membership Chats



Please join us on the
4th Wednesday of each month to connect
with fellow MPLA Members.

1:00 Central time
Noon Mountain time
11 am Pacific time

In the odd months, we'll discuss a library related topic and even months will be a virtual picnic so pack a lunch or your favorite snack and join us for a social hangout.

[Click here to register for future meetings](#)

Topics for future chats
can be submitted to membership@mpla.us

The banner features a blue background with white mountain silhouettes. At the top, there is a row of logos for ALA, CAL (Colorado Association of Librarians), KLA (Kansas Library Association), an open book, and NLA (Nebraska Library Association) with the tagline 'EDUCATE • ADVOCATE • INNOVATE'. Below this, the text 'Big Horizons, Close Community' is written in large white font. At the bottom, another row of logos includes NEVADA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (Turning Passion into Action), NMLA (New Mexico Library Association), NDLA, OLA (Oklahoma Library Association), SDLA (South Dakota Library Association), Utah Library Association, and WLA.

Election Information

An online ballot will be emailed to all eligible voters via MemberClicks for our next MPLA Officers. The ballot will be sent to the email listed in MPLA member profiles, so now is a good time for members to login at mpla.us and update their profiles as needed. Thanks to all of the candidates for their willingness to serve!

President Elect / Vice President



Mr. Victor Baeza serves as the Graduate Initiatives and Engagement Coordinator, and Business Librarian, for the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Libraries. He provides leadership to the library in all areas of services to graduate students, and provides research support to the School of Business. He continuously works to develop new outreach opportunities and collaborations locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. A member of MPLA since 2006, he has frequently presented at MPLA conferences, and has served on several committees including currently serving on the Professional Development Committee. His 25 years of involvement in library instruction has given him diverse experience in designing, directing and delivering workshops and training sessions to the academic community. Victor has a BS in Communication from Eastern New Mexico University. He earned his MLS from the University of North Texas and received his MBA from Texas Christian University.

Hello! I'm Brenda Hemmelman, Collection Services Librarian at the SD State Library. I've been an MPLA member since 1994 and over the years have served in different capacities in the organization.

In 2010, I became chair of the membership committee. I served two terms (2012-2018) as the MPLA state representative for South Dakota. After that, I served as Recording Secretary for 2018-2019. Currently I serve as a member of the Professional Development Grants Committee.



I have also served in various capacities on the SD Library Association Executive Board. I was the SDLA Executive Secretary/Treasurer for almost 10 years as well as a committee chair and conference planner. I currently serve as the chair of the SDLA Professional Development Grants Committee.

I was privileged to be selected to attend the MPLA Leadership Institute in 2014. Through that, I was able to focus on improving not only leadership skills, but project management skills. Since then, I served as a trustee on my local library board, and currently serve as the president of the local Friends of the Library group, organizing fundraisers and other activities. I have organized a craft show to raise scholarship funds for a local service organization, and also serve on the board of a local educational support organization.

We are all experiencing strange and historical times right now. In South Dakota and every other state, I have been humbled and impressed with how libraries have stepped up in innovative, creative ways to continue to serve their patrons. Library associations, including MPLA, have stepped up too. I would be privileged to help move MPLA forward as the next VP/President Elect.

Recording Secretary



Whitney Vitale is Associate Professor and Head of Access Services at Oklahoma State University's Edmon Low Library where she oversees the Circulation & Information Desk, Interlibrary Services, stack management, course reserves, and the Edmon Low Creative Studios. Prior to this position, she served as Assistant Head of Access Services at OSU and as the Associate Library Director at the Boston Architectural College in Boston, MA. Whitney received her MLIS from Simmons College and has over a decade of experience in library public and access services. She is a member of several library organizations and served on numerous statewide, regional, and national library committees. She has been active in MPLA since 2015, presenting and attending at the annual conferences, serving on the MPLA Membership Committee from 2015 to 2017, and, currently serving as Recording Secretary.

Joint Conference Decision

"At the MPLA Executive Board Meeting of September 21, and after much discussion and conversation, the Board voted to withdraw from participation in the 2021 Utah Library Association joint conference. This was a decision that was not taken lightly, and I value everyone's input to this difficult decision. We look forward to the next time we can come together in person to celebrate the good work of MPLA and our member states. In order to conduct the business of the Association, a future announcement is forthcoming on days for a virtual meeting (in Spring 2021) and celebrating our successes of the past year."

-Stephen Sweeney, President



MPLA Membership Chats

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October 2020 Beta Phi Mu Beta Epsilon Chapter Meeting, Initiation, and Program

The [Beta Epsilon Chapter](#) of the Emporia State University Library and Information Science Honor Society held its annual meeting during the 2020 Kansas Library Association (KLA) [Big Think: Innovation, Inspiration, Impact Conference](#). Congratulations to new initiate Sara Schoenthaler! Due to **Laura DeBaun**'s retirement, former president **Jan Brooks**, the Interlibrary Loan librarian and instructor from Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, was nominated and will serve as treasurer. Her leadership, commitment to the profession, and her dedication the [Beta Epsilon Chapter website](#) and social media platforms are impressive. Praise was also extended to Laura from librarians across the state for her efforts spanning over twenty years in the management and planning of budgets, personnel, strategic planning, legislative advocacy, insight, and leadership.



Top down: Mirah Dow, Michael Lang, Amanda Harrison, Carmaine Ternes

Dr. Amanda Harrison was voted president. Harrison is a Library Media Specialist in four [McPherson Elementary School Libraries](#) and is known for her endorsements in Library Science, Early-Late Childhood Generalist, Reading, English Language Arts, History, Government, Social Studies, and Journalism. Serving on the William Allen White Selection Committee is one of the numerous examples of her commitment to students, faculty, and community. Amanda has written and been awarded over \$300,000 in grants for books, technology, programs, and professional development. Her **Navigating Change Chats** support on online discussion forum for librarians during this pandemic. She succeeds immediate past president **Carmaine Ternes**, author, retired Emporia High School Librarian, former Kansas Association of School Librarians (KASL) president, and a member of the planning committee for the Kansas Summer Institute for School Librarians for ten years.



Top row left to right: Jan Brooks, Mirah Dow, Laura DeBaun
Bottom row left to right: Carmaine Ternes, Michael Lang, Amanda Harrison

Tabitha Hogan was nominated and agreed to serve as vice-president. She is a [School Library Media & Technology Specialist at Winfield High School](#), contributes to various committees, administers the [KASL Facebook Online Community for Kansas Librarians and Advocates](#), and much more. Active in KASL, Tabitha presents at district workshops and state conferences. As a Certified Google Educator and EdPuzzler, she remains current in technology. Her Project Book Lit Club demonstrates her interest in empowering readers as leaders.

Faculty sponsor **Dr. Mirah Dow**, a professor and director of the Ph.D. Program at Emporia State University, School of Library and Information Management provided an update. Dr. Dow accepted a two-year appointment by Kathryn Roots Lewis, American Association of School Librarians (AASL) President, to the AASL School Library Research Editorial Board and is the recent recipient of the Beta Phi Mu Award recognized at 2019 ALA conference! As an advocate at many levels to ensure librarians are deeply involved in teaching and learning via the Summer Institute for School Librarians and other workshops, Dr. Dow remains a steadfast leader and mentor.



Secretary **Michael Lang** reported the minutes and presented the program ***Celebrating Fifty Years of Kansas Talking Books!*** The Director of the State Library of Kansas, Talking Books Service, Lang researched and shared amazing services and experiences. The [Governor's Proclamation Talking Books Week!](#) is one accolade. He provided details about this free program providing more than 100,000 accessible audio books and reading materials for Kansans with visual impairments, physical impairments, and other print disabilities. The recording of the program is available at <https://youtu.be/7OszmNHP3dc>.

Thanks to **SLIM Dean Wooseob Jeong** for funding our conference program advertisement and promoting our organization. Details are available at <https://slimbetaepsilon.wordpress.com/>. The virtual meeting, program, and conference united numerous outstanding leaders in the information profession. The recorded meeting can be accessed at <https://youtu.be/6nX1d8WhWdo>.

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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.

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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:

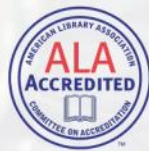
Salt Lake City, UT	Portland, OR	Denver, CO
Overland Park, KS	Emporia, KS	Boise, ID
Las Vegas, NV	Sioux Falls, SD	Conway, AR

- **Leadership Development**
Practice advocating for your library or information organization based on your new understanding of adaptive leadership.
- **SLIM's Heritage of Excellence for Over a Century**
Share the inherited legacy of a worldwide network of SLIM alumni to further your career objectives.

Special tuition rates available for certain residents of Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana

For more information contact:
sliminfo@emporia.edu or 620.341.5203

emporia.edu/slim



Halloween Creativity!

By: Casey Lansinger-Pierce (Windsor, Colorado)

Like most librarians across the world, the staff at Clearview Library District in Northern Colorado got creative with library services as a response to a global pandemic that has left people burned out, stressed out, and Zoom'ed out. We discovered early on, that take-home programming kits were hugely popular as our increasingly home-bound community needed activities to stay engaged and entertained at home.

When the Clearview Library District Friends and Foundation group asked how they could help fund library services and programs, we knew take-home kits would be the perfect project to put on their list. We determined together that the Friends and Foundation would support special take-home kits for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

For Halloween, we offered spooky shadow boxes. The take-home kits came with a small shadow box, a couple containers of paint, and black and orange construction paper. In total we made 120 kits for all ages, and they all went out the door in just 48 hours.

We directed patrons to a YouTube video where they could watch one of our programmers create the Halloween shadow box. We encouraged patrons to bring their shadow boxes back to the library so that we could light them all up to create a spooky Halloween village. A total of approximately 20 shadow boxes were returned to the library; we added tea lights to each shadow box and set them in windows around the library.



In November, we will offer a leaf craft for the Thanksgiving take-home kit. Patrons can pick up a kit after they have donated one non-perishable item to a canned-food drive that will be located in our library lobby. We will encourage patrons to bring their leaf back to the library so we can hang them up for everyone to enjoy. Likewise, we plan to offer several ornament activities for the December take-home kits, and we will encourage folks to bring the ornaments back and hang them on the tree in our library.

The kits are simple and low-cost, but they deliver huge rewards for our community and our library district. In addition to being family-friendly and — as always — offered at no cost to our patrons, the kits give people a sense of accomplishment during a time where motivating to complete a task seems especially challenging. As the pandemic continues to change the world around us, we want our community to know they can always expect creative services from their local library.

Fargo Library, Fargo Park District and Fargo Park District Foundation announce permanent StoryWalk® installation at Brunsdale Park

Melisa Duncan, Community Relations Specialist
Fargo Public Library

The Fargo Public Library, the Fargo Park District and the Fargo Park District Foundation recently installed a permanent StoryWalk® at Brunsdale Park (1702 27th Ave. S.) in south Fargo. Due to the pandemic, officials from the library and the park district held a Facebook Live virtual grand opening event Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 10 a.m. on the Fargo Public Library's and Fargo Park District's Facebook pages.

The StoryWalk® is a series of permanent signs designed to connect reading and learning with physical activity. The first walk features the art and words from the book *Move* by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page. This self-paced, family-friendly activity is spread out to encourage residents of all ages to read, move and enjoy the outdoors. Featured books will change every few months. StoryWalk® is a free activity available to residents during regular park hours.

"We're excited to offer an activity-based learning opportunity in collaboration with the Fargo Park District and Fargo Park District Foundation," states Librarian Sarah Nelson, "and hope the community has fun reading and moving at the park."

Fargo's StoryWalk® project was made possible with support from the Fargo Public Library, the Fargo Park District Foundation and the Fargo Park District Foundation Matching Grant Program.

"The Fargo Park District Foundation is proud to partner with the Fargo Public Library on their creative StoryWalk® project through our Grant Match Program," shared Brian Arett, Fargo Park District Foundation Director. "Our continued goal for this program is to provide opportunities to support projects, like this one, that enrich the lifestyle of our community through recreation."

The original StoryWalk® project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vt., and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library to promote literacy.



Fear Not! Taking the Makerspace Coding Plunge

Dayna Winter
Huron Middle School Library Makerspace
Huron, South Dakota
605-353-6900
dayna.winter@k12.sd.us

This Election Day was one of those mornings when I couldn't wait to get to work! I woke up at 5 a.m., dreaming vividly about writing code. This is not usual. In fact, I've had few opportunities to delve into the world of computer coding, always with strong trepidation tempered by a bit of curiosity.

Our Huron Middle School Library Makerspace, even during this time of social distancing, is busy four class periods of the day. I had thought about coding as an option but when & how? It is a challenge getting everything needed in the library done plus planning & executing activities for so many middle schoolers. It takes effort to implement all of the new routines needed to keep our students & staff safe. It is time consuming dividing craft supplies into individual containers for each student & then sanitizing everything before the next eager group arrives.

Thanks to the support of our administrators, we've had robots in our Library Makerspace but we've left it to our students to figure things out. We have Little Bits kits purchased by the district. We have Lego Mindstorms kits donated by another library. We've borrowed Ozobots from the MMERC Library when available & even own four. These hands on activities have been a positive experience for our students, though I've recognized that it's not what it could or should be.



What changed this year? Having a student in need of an alternative classroom made the difference. Beginning this quarter, I've been given the opportunity to provide a space for individualized learning. So far this has included experimenting with optical sensors after assembling a Mindstorms robot, using facial expression to control a Sphero Mini, learning block coding for Ozobot Evos, & journaling to document all activities.

With directions to provide Makerspace activities for a very bright student, I knew I had to step up my game. Lacking educator materials for any of our robots, I watched a couple of YouTube videos on a Monday. Between checking out books to patrons & supervising crafts in Makerspace, I played with block coding for the very first time. Tuesday morning I dreamed about coding. In under a week we're programming Evos to navigate mazes. My student is also my teacher. I'm learning so much!

Block coding is easier than I thought, even for someone admittedly more experienced with the marvel of using an electric typewriter or the wonder of attending a school with indoor plumbing. I've started lobbying for a classroom kit of bots so more of our students can know the joy of coding. If fear is a deterrent to including coding in your Makerspace, jump in! Both you and your students will have a great time!

Grocery Rewards—King Soopers/Kroger

There are no longer grocery gift cards linked to MPLA. Instead, you can link your loyalty card to our MPLA Community Awards Program account.

To do so: Go to <http://www.kingsoopers.com>

Once logged into your King Soopers/Kroger account, search for Mountain Plains Library Association by name or our account: KK820. Then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a loyalty card. If you previously purchased grocery cards they may still be used and reloaded but they will no longer provide rebates for MPLA. Instead, there is a quarterly designated funding amount which is shared by all Community Rewards organizations. Amounts are determined by the percentage of purchases by each organization.

If you are in an area with Kroger stores this is an easy way to support MPLA!

King Soopers/Krogers

COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

There is a change!
There are no longer grocery gift cards linked to MPLA.
Instead, you can link your loyalty card to MPLA to continue raising funds for MPLA's professional development, leadership, and educational programs!

**SUPPORT
MPLA!**



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

Professional Development Grants

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.

Value of Grants

Annual budget equals the funding for grants approved but not yet awarded from the previous year plus the funding awarded for grants in the coming year. Funding for grants that have been approved but are not awarded is returned to the MPLA general fund.

MPLA sponsors the two categories of grants:

Mini-grant

Funding for projects requiring minimal financial support. (Maximum amount: \$150)

Regular grant

Funding for projects requiring substantial financial support, and for occasional funding of professional development opportunities requiring travel outside the United States. (Maximum amount: \$600)

Grant Funding

- Reimbursement of actual expenses incurred during a project.
- Transportation reimbursement for the lowest possible fare or for personal vehicles, mileage for the shortest route at the amount per mile allowed for deduction for federal income tax deductions.
- Grant funding for course work limited to tuition, fees and books.
- Funding approved but not needed to reimburse expenses is returned to the MPLA general fund.
- Expenses in excess of the grant funding approved are not reimbursed.

Find out more: <https://mpla.us/about/professional-development-grants.html>

Robin Hastings
Professional Development, Chair
E: prof_development@mpla.us

Judy Kulp
Executive Secretary
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
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Around the Region

AZ ARIZONA CO COLORADO

Removing Fines = Eliminating Barriers

In September, the Sierra Vista Public Library in southeastern Arizona became one of the most recent libraries to eliminate overdue fines. Emily Duchon, the Sierra Vista's Arts, Culture, and Education Division manager, said that the change was meant to eliminate barriers to library use: "We want to encourage library patrons to come back and use the library, and fines tend to discourage return visits."

Expanding Internet Access

The Maricopa County Library District has expanded its popular Wi-Fi Hotspot lending program to include four community libraries. Each Wi-Fi Hotspot kit contains a Chromebook laptop as well as a Wi-Fi hotspot, and they may be checked out for three weeks at a time. Read more about the program [here](#).



Encouraging sharing among Researchers

A new service created by the University of Arizona Libraries is helping students and researchers share and amplify their work while ensuring compliance with the university's retention and data sharing policies. ReDATA is a free data repository that can be used to archive all kinds of data, including spreadsheets, audiovisual content, and computer programs.

According to Fernando Rios, a research data management specialist at the libraries, the project is designed "...to increase the university's capacity to steward and preserve research data for the long term, as well as make non-traditional scholarship publicly available." Read more about this project [here](#).



Taking Halloween Virtual

The Longmont Public Library hosted an online version of the annual Halloween parade. Patrons shared their favorite picture of their little pirate, princess, or ghost in a Halloween costume and on Friday, October 30, they kicked off Halloween by posting a virtual Halloween Costume Parade for the whole library community to enjoy!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sO3M-zJx7PE&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3-qQJqKkvsAEVed3T_ReRvPvSj27RoZqQSw0yISREWcTRIYkhRoW2Y2Fw

Connecting through Pen Pals

Looking to connect with others from the community? Rockrimmon Library of Pikes Peak Library District in Colorado Springs hosted a pen pal program for adults over age 18. Interested participants registered and pen pals were randomly assigned. Pen pals may use the Rockrimmon Library as a drop-off point for handwritten letters and postcards (pen pals are also free to exchange addresses to have mail delivered directly). After a quarantine period, staff will notify the intended recipients that they have mail to pick up. All pen pals assume responsibility for the contents of their own correspondence and communication. Each pen pal participant received a starter kit with stationery, envelopes, postcards, a pen, and tips on getting started with pen pals.





Innovate, Inspire, and Impact your Library with TED TALKS!

The virtual Kansas Library Association (KLA) and Kansas Association of School Librarians (KASL) held [The BIG THINK: Innovation, Inspiration, Impact!](#) Conference on Thursday, October 29, 2020. Former KASL President Carmaine Ternes presented *Innovate, Inspire, Impact your Library with TED Talks*. Participants learned how to collaborate and engage “ideas worth spreading” and the application process for hosting a TEDx event. Based on TED TALKS <http://www.ala.org/transforminglibraries/tedx-libraries>, the session sparked dialogue, created opportunities to bring people together, enhanced digital programs, and provided a wealth of resources.

“A TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) TALK is a memorized event of bias free programming,” an orchestrated presentation to foster learning, inspiration, and wonder. During this epidemic, librarians can mentor patrons through uncharted waters with vision, guidance, programs, and resources that are factual, entertaining, educational, and therapeutic. Learn about TEDx & Libraries and TED-Ed Educator Talks and much more [here](#).

As a 2000 Emporia State University School of Library and Information Management graduate, Ternes is also a coauthor along with Dr. Robert J. Grover, Kelly Visnak, Miranda Ericsson, and Lissa Staley of *Libraries Partnering with Self-Publishing: A Winning Combination*. Carmaine is the [Beta Phi Mu Epsilon Chapter President](#) and volunteers in local school libraries.

Welcome Maribeth!

Maribeth Shafer, Assistant Director and General Consultant from Central Kansas Library System in Great Bend, KS was elected to serve on the MPLA Executive Board. Here is what she had to say when asked “What made you want to get involved with MPLA?”

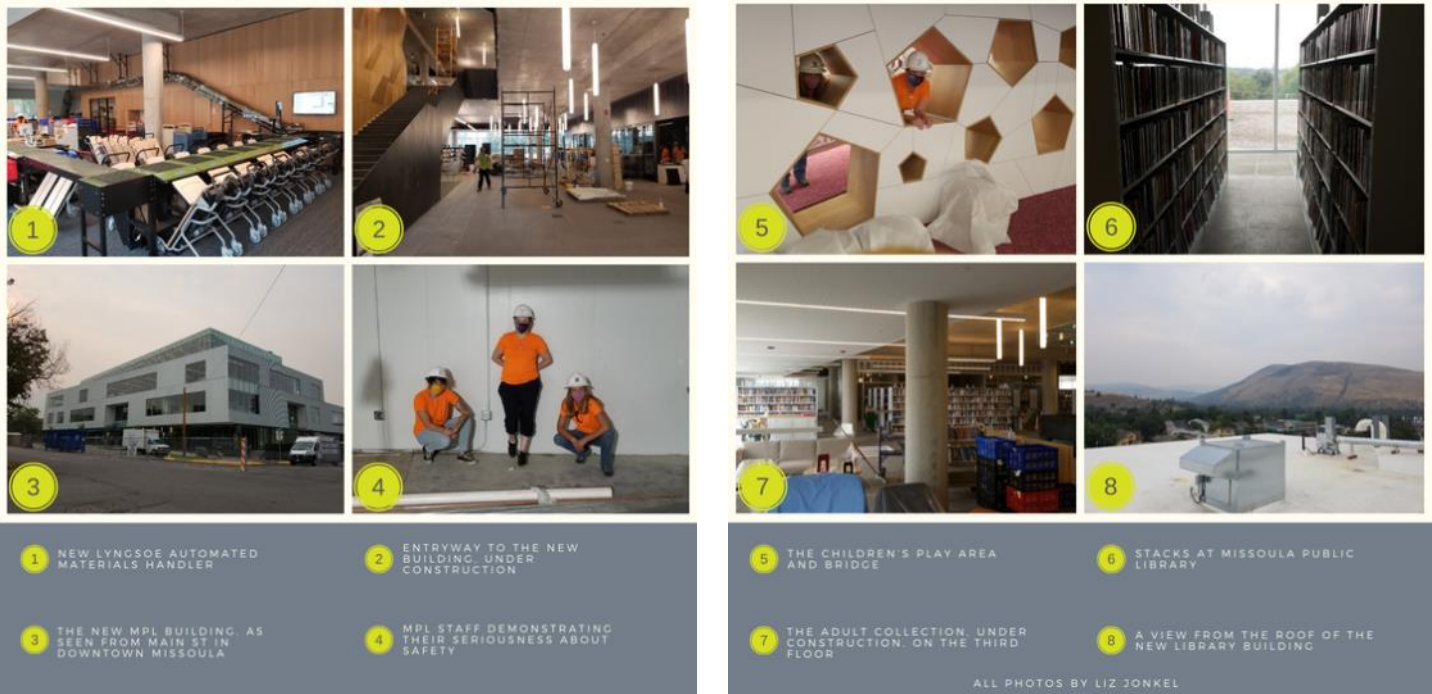


“The great thing about the library profession is that librarians share. We share ideas, programming, planning, policies--anything that will help our colleagues. Mountain Plains Library Association is a great example of cooperation amongst libraries in different regions and states. I wanted to become a part of MPLA, because the multi-state partnership provides leadership, education and networking opportunities for libraries. When I participated in the MPLA Leadership Institute in 2014, I was impressed with the wide range of backgrounds of my fellow students and how well we all came together for a common cause--to make our libraries the best that we can!”

Sneak Peek of the New Missoula Public Library

Check out a few sneak peek photos of the new library building under construction in Missoula! Despite construction, we are moved in and offering limited curbside service to our patrons. It's been a challenge but really exciting. Hope to see you all come visit when our doors finally open.

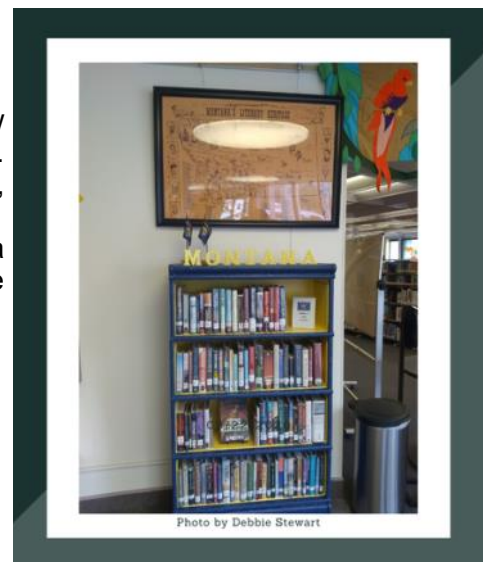
Elizabeth C. Jonkel
 ejonkel@missoula.lib.mt.us
 Missoula Public Library



Great Falls Library Introduces New Bookcase

A bookcase was painted the colors of the Montana flag for our new Montana display. Montana authors or stories of Montana are included. Authors start with David Abrams and end with Kim Zupan. Fiction, non-fiction, memoirs, biographies, and YA are all included. They are already flying off the shelves! Hopefully we will have a never-ending supply. We have a rich literary heritage in Montana and we love to introduce our patrons to new adventures in reading.

Debbie Stewart
 dstewart@greatfallslibrary.org
 Great Falls Public Library



Retirement

After more than 30 years of dedication, Library Director Joan Birnie of the Broken Bow Public Library in Broken Bow, NE is moving on to the next chapter in her life. Birnie began her career with the library as a library assistant in 1987, was hired in 1989 as a full-time librarian, became President of the Nebraska Library Association in 2005-2006, received the Excalibur Outstanding Public Librarian Award in October 2007, and played a vital role in the library remodel which was completed in January 2018.

“It’s starting to be very real now but [I’m] very appreciative of their kind words and the recognition, and the acknowledgement of what the library means to the community and we—all the staff—really appreciate and enjoy the support of the citizens, and the city officials,” Birnie said.

One of the shining stars of her career was seeing the fundraising, renovation, and addition to the building completed in January 2018. “It’s a fabulous addition to our community and all the services that are offered there and I know Megan (Svoboda, Assistant Director) and Kim (Blackburn, Children’s Service) will continue to provide great opportunities for people of all ages to learn and expand and grow,” Birnie said.

Birnie added that one of her favorite things has been all of the people she has gotten to know throughout the years. “It is bittersweet. I love my job! You know, I’m very lucky for all these years; I’ve gotten to go to work and really love what I do. It’s nice and varied; I get to meet a lot of people that I may not have had the pleasure of meeting. I’ve worked with wonderful staff, great boards, and it really is a dream job. It’s been my pleasure and I was just very lucky to be paid to do it,” Birnie said. Congratulations Joan!



Mayor Rod Sonnichsen congratulates Library Director Joan Birnie on her retirement along with her husband Dave Birnie on Tuesday, September 22.

Serving libraries amidst COVID-19

Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Record (NSLAPR) has been supporting Nevada libraries since the beginning of COVID-19. One of the first things they established was a weekly communication format so all libraries had a way of connecting with one another. The “Q&A/Library Check-in with Nevada State Librarian Tammy Westergard” has been in place since March 24. Everything from helpful announcements, guest speakers, and check-in from library districts are covered in the weekly meetings.

NSLAPR had already purchased Beanstack software for all Nevada public libraries to assist them with managing programs like the summer reading programs. This made it possible for all participating libraries to have online summer programs and helped relieve budgetary constraints for those libraries that had already had subscribed to the program.

LSTA Coordinator, Sulin Jones, spoke about two grants that have been offered to Nevada public libraries. For the first one, NSLAPR partnered with the Nevada Library Association to purchase materials for virtual program toolkits for the Summer Reading Virtual Programs Support grant. Each toolkit contained an iPad mini with case, tripod, lighting, greenscreen, lapel mic, digital clicker, and HD camera. Thirty-one digital toolkits were created for fifteen public libraries. As part of the grant, participating libraries were required to present virtual summer programs through platforms like Facebook or YouTube, depending on the library.

The second grant comes from CARES funding and is directed towards digital inclusion. Items that can be requested through this grant include hotspots for lending, devices for lending, community wi-fi hubs, MESH networks, wi-fi extenders/repeaters, technical support, and other pre-approved technology assistance. Each library must present a plan for consideration for this grant.

Halloween at the Magdalena Library

Ivy Stover, Library Director Magdalena Public Library, Magdalena, NM

I decorated the library on the first few days of October, and the decorations will probably stay up for another week. Everyone really loved the tree in the front room, and kids made it a game to count how many spiders I hid around the library. I also frequently played Halloween music – kids and adults both really love the Monster Mash! Thriller was also popular, though I didn't get any pictures of the kids trying that dance.

Halloween Goodie Bags each had an array of small toys, pencils, bookmarks, Halloween treats, candy, and a free book! Books were given out based on age, so I don't have a picture of those. Bags were totally free, paid for by our Friends of the Library.



All we needed were parents to fill out participation forms so we could track them, and they were ready to pick up the whole last week of October. I gave out about 30 bags and 15 more were given to the Fire Station to be handed out at night with their goodies.

I also did a #booktober project, where I highlighted a different book (or sometimes books) each day of October and posted them on social media.



Donation to benefit and serve the community

The Friends of James River Valley Library System received a \$20,000 donation in honor of Made line Bellows to provide meeting room audio-visual equipment for Alfred Dickey Library and a 3D printer for Stutsman County Library, with the remainder of the funds to be used as needed.

Painting Classes go Virtual

New Town City Library in New Town, ND has continued hosting online painting classes where participants can follow along and complete a painting along with the instructions. Students learn to prepare a canvas, mix paints in the palette, and try different painting techniques.

Soap Dispenser Take & Make

Pam Carswell, Teen Librarian
Minot Public Library

With Covid19 cases rising rapidly in our local area, the Minot Public Library Teen Dept. is reminding teens about good handwashing with two Teen events in November. With the help of a grant from Humanities North Dakota, our first event is a Take and Make craft. Teens will put together their own liquid soap dispenser complete with soap pod, which will make a full bottle when combined with 12 oz. of water, and a choice of a water resistant sticker. The sticker not used on the dispenser can be used on a bathroom mirror or a similar place to remind teens to wash up. The second event is a virtual 3D build of a soap dish. Our soap dish will be large enough to accommodate a full size bar of soap including drainage space and can be personalized with text. Soap dishes can be printed in a choice of colors. We've opted for neon green and frog spawn soap in the photo! Connect, Enrich, Inspire and Wash your hands!



Powerful Tools for Caregivers

The Chickasha Public Library hosted an online class series called *Powerful Tools for Caregivers, presented by the Oklahoma Health Aging Initiative*. In the six-week series, caregivers develop a wealth of self-care tools to reduce stressors, change negative self-talk, communicate their needs to family members and healthcare or service providers, effectively communicate in challenging situations, deal with difficult feelings, and make tough caregiving decisions. Class participants will receive a copy of *The Caregiver Help Book, developed specifically for the training*. For more information: centralOHAI@ouhsc.edu



Coach-A-Kid Partnership

The Enid Public Library partnered with Coach-A-Kid Enid to offer online mentoring services, with hopes of connecting more youth with adult mentors. Coach-A-Kid Enid's mission is to improve academic achievement with a focus on reading and math, building self-esteem, establishing positive relationships and to help children overcome negative behaviors.

Theri Ray, teen librarian at the library, said when she heard Gray wanted to expand virtual mentoring and thought the library was a natural place to offer a dedicated mentoring space. "Providing resources for area teens is really my passion, so it seemed natural we would talk about ways to collaborate and help more teens in our area," Ray said.

One of three study rooms on the ground floor of the library has been converted to a mentoring room, with a table, chairs, a large monitor and camera. The space can be used for youth to connect with a mentor anywhere in the world, for local mentors to connect with kids, or for in-person mentoring, for those who meet COVID-19 prevention criteria.

Ray said making connections between youth and mentors to facilitate that kind of information-sharing is in line with the library's core mission.

"Because the library is all about providing information, this is a natural fit — to connect young people with older people who can provide information not just about career paths, but relationships and life in general," Ray said. "There's a wealth of information there that we are losing as we separate from each other in community, and there's real value in rebuilding those connections."



Theri Ray, teen librarian at Public Library of Enid and Garfield County, (left) and John Gray, director of Coach-A-Kid for Youth & Family Services of North Central Oklahoma, discuss mentoring in a dedicated mentor space at the library Thursday, Sept. 24, 2020.

Newspapers at the Brookings Public Library

Between being closed or mostly closed and keeping our newspapers in the back so that multiple patrons are not touching them and possibly transmitting COVID, we wanted to find a way to let our newspaper readers still be able to have access to the local paper, which isn't available in any newspaper database. A staff member reached out to multiple papers in the area and asked for temporary permission to post pdfs of the newspaper on the library's website. We had some yeses! – including the newspaper published in our city. The one condition was that we had to wait 72 hours after the publication date to make it fair to their paying subscribers. One major advantage with reading a digital pdf of a newspaper is getting to see pictures in color!

Performance Showcase

For the last three years the South Dakota State Library has been putting on a showcase where performers can show off their talents to librarians and staff in hopes of booking children's program at a library. These include musicians, storytellers, jugglers, and magicians. The 4th annual performance in November this year will be a virtual showcase. They've also compiled a Performer's Database on the SDSL website for any library or organization to browse.

New to VPL

In September the Vermillion Public Library got a new Youth Services Librarian, Amanda Raiche. She previously worked at Yankton Community Library but lives in Vermillion. She holds a masters' degree in library science with a specialization in youth services, and has substitute taught for the Vermillion School District in past years. We're excited to have her join the team!



What's been happening @ Vermillion Public Library

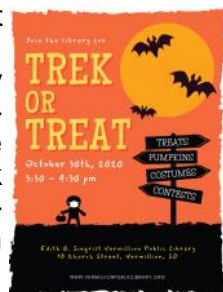
The library is open, but we are still unable to host in-person programming. We started running a Take 'n Make Craft program for adults in September, and expanded it for Teens and Children in October! Each kit is set out next to our book pickup shelf, and a corresponding how-to video is also posted.



We've done a few digital escape rooms using Google Forms. One earlier this year for National Library Week was entitled *Help Fez Escape the Library!* And our most recent, *Trick or Treat with Muskie and The Fez*. Both feature our resident stuffed (real) animals, a pheasant and a muskrat, who have been with the library for years.



Each year we run a Trunk-or-Treat from the parking lot of our library. Because the CDC's recent holiday guide determined that Trunk-or-Treats are a higher risk activity, we scaled back to a medium risk activity that we've named Trek-or-Treat! Patrons were invited to join us outside the library on Friday, October 30th to follow the makeshift path around the front of the building. Proper masks and social-distancing are encouraged with signage. Kids could grab a free treat bag, vote for their favorite pumpkin carving, and pose for a photo costume contest.



Pumpkin Walk

Springville Public Library in Springville, UT
On Oct 26th, patrons were invited to walk around the library grounds and enjoy Springville's jack-o-lantern creations with a cup of hot cider! The event was held outdoors with costumes welcomed as well as social distancing and masks. Judges awarded prizes for their top in the following categories: Best Book-Related, Best in Show, Best Group, Funniest, Scariest, Most Artistic.



See more here: [Facebook](#)

Alphabet Soup Reading Challenge!

Washington County Library System in St. George, UT invites patrons of all ages to join in the "Alphabet Soup Reading Challenge!" The goal for this challenge is to read one book for each letter of the alphabet A – Z. The letter can be in the book title, the author's name, or the subject of the book.

To join in the fun, register online through the ReadSquared app for the Alphabet Soup Reading Challenge. Worried that you won't get through the Alphabet Challenge? No problem! This challenge began October 1, 2020 and ends April 3, 2021, which gives you 26 weeks (or one week per letter) to finish the challenge. Participants will earn various prizes and badges throughout the program, and you can track your progress with the ReadSquared app.

The individual with the most badges at the end of the program will win a gift card. In case of a tie, a drawing will be held to determine the winner.



Cyber-in-a-box

The Wyoming State Library has partnered with the Wyoming CAN (Cybersecurity Action Network) Committee, to offer free, monthly "cyber-in-a-box" educational programs. This 10-minute video-based program is designed for local libraries to use to increase cyber safety in Wyoming communities. Videos can be shared with patrons or used as a ready-made program. October's program is on website trickery – how to avoid clicking on a scammer's link. Each month, the Wyoming State Library sends out an email to our list



of libraries with a graphic promoting the current month's program. The email is ready to send out to your own patrons— just delete the boilerplate language above and below the image and forward it to your lists. What's up for November? Watch your email inbox—it'll be sent in the first couple of days of the month. Find all programs at library.wyo.gov/wyocan.

Linda R. Waggener Memorial

Date of Death: September 12, 2020

Linda Rae Waggener, 55, librarian at the University of Wyoming since 2006, died September 12.

Waggener, a 1991 graduate of Simmons College, worked as a librarian for the Natrona County Public Library in Casper, Wyoming, and the Fort Worth (Texas) Public Library system. In 2019, while being treated for cancer, Waggener completed a second MA degree in American Studies, focusing her research on Wyoming's Carnegie libraries and their importance in the public sector. Her research materials are available at the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center. She had been a member of the Mountain Plains Library Association since 2010.





Welcome, New Members!



Contact Name	Title	Institution	Library Name	City	State
Jessica Gilbert Redman	Online Resources & Services Librarian	University of North Dakota	UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences Library Resources	Grand Forks	ND
Katie Boyle	Library Assistant		Renn Memorial Library	Arkansas City	KS
Kelly Thompson	Digital Initiatives Librarian	Augustana University	Mikkelsen Library	Sioux Falls	SD
Sara Westall	Reference Librarian		Fargo Public Library	Fargo	ND
Shannon Yarbrough	NW Clinical Campus Librarian/ Director Angus Cameron Medical Library	SMHS/University of North Dakota	SMHS/UND - NW Clinical Campus/ Trinity Health	Minot	ND
Victoria Carper	Student	University of Wyoming		Laramie	WY

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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.

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