

Mountain Plains Library Association

Big Horizons Close Community

Newsletter

April 2021—May 2021

www.mpla.us

Volume 66 Number 2



MPLA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2021

FREE ONLINE EVENT



Good news bears repeating! The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is excited to announce its first MPLA Virtual Conference, an online event that will include the annual member's meeting, awards ceremony, and lightning talks April 28-30, 2021! What exciting news, and what a fantastic way to end the MPLA year on a high note, our first ever Association-wide virtual gathering.

Come find out what award-winning activities and people we have around our 12-state region. Stay for the Lightning Talks and find out what your colleagues have been up to during the past 15 or so months. We have so many accomplishments to celebrate, and now we need you! Here's how the virtual experience is scheduled to go:

Wednesday, April 28 - The Current Board will have our last meeting, the Membership Committee will host a Chew & Chat, and the Lightning Talks! The full lineup of the Lightning Talks starts on the next page.

Thursday, April 29 - The current Board President will host the business/membership meeting, and we will have the Annual Awards Presentation

Friday, April 30 - The newly installed Board will have their first meeting

All three of these days promise to have so much information about the force for good that MPLA has been during this pandemic time, and we will be able to celebrate all those things. Please join us!



Stephen Sweeney, MPLA President

Up to Date information can be accessed here:
[MPLA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2021](#)

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Around the Region

Welcome New Members

MPLA Board and Staff

MPLA Quick Links

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



Zoom information for the 3-day event will be sent out via email listed in your MPLA member profiles.

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 28TH

Need to update?

Login at mpla.us

or contact: Judy Kulp @ execsecretary@mpla.us



FREE ONLINE EVENT

Up to Date information can be accessed here:

[MPLA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2021](#)



MPLA LIGHTNING TALK SCHEDULE



10:00am CST; 9:00 MT; 8:00 PT

Drive Through Services - Lisa Scroggins

While many libraries offered curbside services through the pandemic, we did something slightly different. We set up a drive through for patrons to use when picking up their hold items.

10:20am CST; 9:20 MT; 8:20 PT

VirtualLITly Yours: How to Reach Readers During Virtual Times - Molly Dettmann

Nothing shut down reading and book access faster than when school and public libraries closed down because of Covid-19. Despite not being in the physical library, learn about how one high school library reached its readers through book talks, social media, digital displays, and more, as well as how this continued in even more inventive ways when school was back in session, but the library still needed to enact safety protocols.

10:40am; CST; 9:40 MT; 8:40 PT

Blogging Through the Pandemic @ KCKPL - Laura Loveless; Kim Woolery

Like every public library out there, KCKPL had to think outside the box when looking for ways to serve the public remotely. We hit upon an idea to do some activity based things on a programming blog. Using WordPress we have so far provided 660 posts for 35,000+ views! It has turned out to be a fantastic way to hit on staff strengths and knowledge areas! We have everything from craft activities to local history to recipes to guitar lessons.

11:00am CST; 10:00 MT; 9:00 PT

- BREAK -

-continued on page 3



CURRENT BOARD MEETING

TBA



11:05am CST; 10:05 MT; 9:05 PT

Reaching Out: Rural, Realistic & Relevant PD for School Librarians - Joan Upell and Julie Erickson

Join us for an overview of the IMLS Reaching Out School Librarian Professional Development Grant and it's how-to guidebook. Learn how school librarians from ND, SD and WY are increasing their digital skills, implementing Open Education Resources (OER) and expanding their expertise as instructional leaders through synchronous and asynchronous learning experiences. The replicable model includes yearly face-to-face sessions; webinars, regional meetings and online workshops. In addition, the participants have built a community of learners who support each other in the development of their leadership skills to collaborate with teachers and facilitate student learning through OER and digital resources.



**WEDNESDAY
APRIL 28TH**



11:25am CST; 10:25 MT; 9:25 PT

Shifting Instruction for Sustainability - Erin Renee Wahl

Prior to the pandemic, the New Mexico State University Library approached instruction following a traditional model. The switch to online coupled with budget issues, meant it was necessary to imagine a more sustainable model, moving one-shot instruction into the university's LMS. Rather than see this as a temporary solution, this acted as the catalyst to reimagining our teaching philosophy as a department to reflect the changes taking place in libraries, and to bring instruction closer and more accessible to more faculty members and students than ever before. This lightning talk will detail the process and successes of these efforts.

11:45am CST; 10:45 MT; 9:45 PT

2021 Children's Bilingual Book Festival at the National Hispanic Cultural Center - Cassandra Osterloh

With a ban on in person events, the NHCC had to cancel our 2020 Children's Bilingual Book Festival. For 2021, we moved to an all virtual festival. Join us for an overview of our virtual, what we learned, and what we plan to do in the future.

**12:00pm CST; 11:00 MT; 10:00 PT
- BREAK -**

12:05pm CST; 11:05 MT; 10:00 PT

Digital Services Help During a Pandemic - Elizabeth vonTauffkirchen

Liz vonTauffkirchen, Digital Services Manager at Pine River Library, shares her struggles to help senior patrons with their technical difficulties while being unable to get within six feet of the patron or their device. Getting people to use Zoom for tech help can be next to impossible when patrons aren't able or willing to navigate Zoom. Liz will share what worked (almost nothing) and what didn't work (nearly everything) for the rural Bayfield community during these trying times.

12:25pm CST; 11:25 MT; 10:25 PT

Finding Connection: Top City Reads - Autumn Friedli

What do you do when opportunities to share a great book are dampened because of a pandemic? You start a Facebook group and encourage people to share their latest reads! TSCPL created Top City Reads as a place for readers to engage with other readers and share great books. Created during a library shut down, Top City Reads is the place for readers to find connections. We've learned a lot since the group started in May, 2020 and we look forward to continuing this group on into the future. I'm excited to share how we did it.

12:45pm CST; 11:45 MT; 10:45 PT

Thinking Outside - Noah Lenstra

As public library buildings closed, public librarians turned their attention to outdoor spaces as venues for programming. This session covers some of the lessons learned from this COVID-fueled experiment in outdoor programming, including the vital importance of partnerships with those already used to doing things outside (think Parks & Recreation Agencies). Learn what librarians across the country are up to, and get the



MPLA CHEW & CHAT

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



WEDNESDAY
APRIL 28TH

Please join us on to connect with fellow MPLA Members.

[Click here to register for April's Meet Up!](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meetings.



FREE ONLINE EVENT

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

Zoom Information for the 3-day event
will be sent out via email listed in your
MPLA member profiles.



THURSDAY
APRIL 29TH

Need to update?

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or contact: Judy Kulp @ execsecretary@mpla.us



FREE ONLINE EVENT

Up to Date information can be accessed here:
[MPLA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2021](#)



MPLA AWARDS PRESENTATION

TBA



BUSINESS / MEMBERSHIP MEETING





FRIDAY
APRIL 30TH



NEW BOARD MEETING

TBA



FREE ONLINE EVENT

Find us on 

MPLA on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MountainPlainsLibraryAssociation/>



MPLA on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/MPLAtweets>

LinkedIn 

MPLA on LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3041358/>

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:

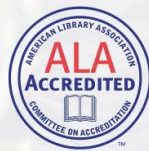
Salt Lake City, UT	Portland, OR	Denver, CO
Overland Park, KS	Emporia, KS	Boise, ID
Las Vegas, NV	Sioux Falls, SD	Conway, AR

- **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



“Abraham Lincoln: A New Birth of Freedom”

Thanks to the miracle of technology, the Williston Community Library, in Williston, ND, opened a window to the past to share the story of President, Abraham Lincoln. On February 12th, the public took part in an interactive Zoom session with the 16th President, hearing a first-hand account from Abraham Lincoln himself of the history of the United States of America during his time, from his childhood on the frontier to his political rise and eventual presidency, including the Civil War and the country’s “new birth of freedom”.

Lincoln was portrayed by Kevin Wood, a professional Lincoln presenter who bears a striking resemblance to the former president. Mr. Wood has been portraying Lincoln for 20 years, doing so professionally since 2015. Wood has made over 1,200 appearances in 27 states and Washington, D.C., as well as Canada and Spain.

As Lincoln, Wood quotes from the President’s best-known speeches and writings, remaining in-character as Lincoln as he shares the story of how he rose from a humble background to the highest office in the land through self-study, hard work, ambition, and a strong moral character. The program ran about 60 minutes, followed by about 30 minutes of time of Q&A and informal interaction.



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

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

Not your Big City Library Conference

The Colorado Library Consortium's (CLiC's) Virtual Spring Workshops hallmark is practical content geared for rural communities. Does this sound like you? Then consider registering. CLiC's goal is that you will never come away feeling that the sessions do not fit your community, your budget, or your staff. Small libraries across our state are doing amazing work, but it may look a little bit different than at the larger library systems. So why not learn from your peers?

Dates for Virtual Spring Workshop are:

Thursday April 22, 3 - 5 pm. Keynote with Jim Duncan and informal meet ups in the lounge.

Friday April 23, 8:30 - 3. Lounge opens 8:30, Sessions 9:30 - 3. Colorado State Library Update with Nicolle Davies

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register. Cost is just \$25.

Questions? Just ask at clichelp@clicweb.org

9th Annual Kraemer Copyright Conference

The Kraemer Copyright Conference, hosted by University of Colorado Colorado Springs, is a dynamic and enriching FREE conference that offers public, academic, special, and school librarians the opportunity to learn about the U.S. Copyright Law, recent updates to the law, and how it impacts the services we offer our library users. This conference provides an opportunity for professionals at every level and across libraries to discuss the importance of copyright in libraries.

Theme: Open Roads to Open Access

Location: Online

Monday, June 7 and Tuesday, June 8, 2021

**Registration is FREE and opens Monday, April 12, 2021
(Space is limited to 300 attendees)**

For more information: <https://copyright.uccs.edu/>

MLA Virtual Annual Conference

The Montana Library Association cordially invites all active MPLA members to attend the 2021 MLA Virtual Annual Conference, April 14-17 at MLA member rates. Please use the following link to register and sign up as an MPLA member: <https://mlai.wildapricot.org/event-4038508>

For more information about the conference go to the MLA website:

<https://www.mtlib.org/mla-annual/2021-conference/>



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
E: execsecretary@mpla.us

Around the Region

AZ ARIZONA

CARES Act Calling

The Arizona State

Library, Archives, and Public Records has awarded CARES Act Calling grants to 18 libraries and library systems across Arizona, enabling them to implement Dial-a-Story, Calendar Events, and/or Resource Hotline services from LibraryCall, through September, 2021.

The State Library has also awarded a range of more traditional grants of CARES Act funds, but grants of materials or services, rather than money, offer a streamlined process that makes them especially accessible for small and rural libraries. Read more [here](#).



Virtual Tucson Festival of Books

COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the 2020 Tucson Festival of Books, but the annual event came back strong this year with its first-ever completely virtual program, March 6-7. Dozens of authors presented live talks and readings and interacted with attendees from across the state and all over the world.

Look for highlights at tucsonfestivalofbooks.org.

100 years of Public Service

The Yuma County Library District is celebrating 100 years of public service in 2021, with exhibits, events, and a special centennial library card. Read about the history of the library, and see some wonderful historical pictures of Yuma County libraries, at yumalibrary.org/100years.



Big Horizons, Close Community



5-Stars: San Miguel Public Library District #1

The San Miguel Public Library District #1, in Telluride, Colorado, more commonly known through their Telluride location, the Wilkinson Public Library, has once again received a Library Journal 5-Star Rating. This makes it the thirteenth time in a row! Huge congratulations go to Library Director Sarah Landeryou and her staff who led the library to continue their tradition of quality service in the midst of a year of challenges compliments of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Read Wider

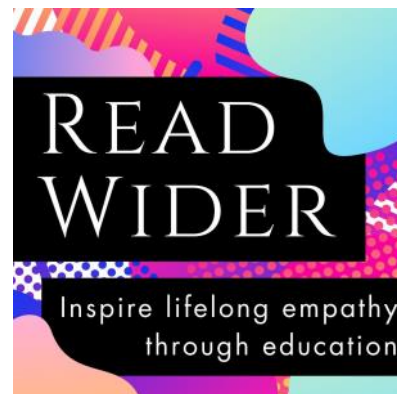
The Pitkin County Library, in Aspen, Colorado, recently launched the Read Wider program, aiming to build empathy through curated books, movies and music that might help local readers walk some miles in other peoples' shoes.

Building from the “own voices” movement, the monthly program will focus on stories told about the experiences of diverse communities by their members. February’s Read Wider is inspired by Black History Month. The library recently released voluminous resource lists online for reading, listening and viewing as well as interactive tools and virtual discussions on Zoom.

The library has Read Wider programs planned through November, which will honor Native American Heritage Month. In between, the series will highlight women’s history, Arab Americans, Jewish Americans, Asian American and Pacific Islanders, LGBTQ stories, immigrants and refugees, Hispanic heritage and people with disabilities.

Each month’s Read Wider program will include virtual presentations by authors and book club-style discussions with library staff and local readers. The first was a free online talk on wrongful convictions with the exonerated prisoner Ndume Olatushani and Anne-Marie Moyes, director of the Korey Wise Innocence Project at the University of Colorado-Boulder School of Law.

Read Wider is part of a growing ecosystem of Aspen-area initiatives using books to broaden perspectives, an education movement that’s gained steam here since the Roaring Fork Valley’s Black Lives Matter demonstrations of summer 2020.



Polar Express StoryWalk in Livingston

by: Lisa Sukut & Michele Boyd, Youth Services Librarians, Livingston-Park County Public Library

As 2020 waned with Covid-19 restrictions dimming the holiday season, Livingston-Park County Public Library partnered with the Livingston Recreation Department to spread some cheer to families through a Polar Express StoryWalk. The Livingston Business Improvement District provided the funds to bring this classic story to life in sixteen downtown business windows.

Librarians distributed coupons for hot cocoa or an ice cream scoop to 700 children in the community via school backpacks which included a downloadable file from the web. Each story board included a QR Code that could be scanned linking participants to a GoogleMap of route as well as access to the coupon for goodies. The final story page included a stop at the Murray Hotel for a photo in front of their Christmas tree and the first gift of Christmas (a bell) for each child.



Judging from the social media stats it was very well received by the community. Families were assured of a safe and socially distanced activity with the dual goal of bringing foot traffic and business to the downtown over the holiday season.

We were so encouraged by the response that we will be teaming up with the Recreation Department each quarter in 2021, providing mobile StoryWalks to Park County, using our Bookmobile to bring it to far-flung locations.

Libraries Welcome Back Students with meeScan Self-Checkout

by: Patti McKenzie, Dean's Assistant Mansfield Library, University of Montana



Photos by Mark Fritch

Self-checkout is now easier than ever. Mansfield, Missoula College Payne Family and Law Libraries welcomed back Spring semester students on January 11th with meeScan, a new self-checkout service. Users are able to check out items where they find them and use the scanner at the checkout desk to deactivate items. Curbside pickup and campus delivery of physical materials is available by the Mansfield Library.

Mansfield Library and Missoula College Payne Family Library are offering modified Course Reserves during the 2021 Spring semester. All physical materials placed on Reserve will be allowed to leave the library, have a minimum check out period of 24 hours and will be quarantined upon return to the library.

Library social media team members posted pictures of library faculty and staff bookshelves to promote Library Shelfie Day on January 27th. Follow the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library on Instagram at mansfieldlibrary_umt for Spring semester highlights!

Clay Center Library Provides Community with Quarantine Kits
 With a grant from the Kansas Leadership Council, the Clay Center Library After School Club, in Clay Center, Kansas, assembled and distributed 100 quarantine kits for families to help beat the coronavirus in our community.



CHICKENSTOCK
 It's like Woodstock, but with chicken.

3 WEEKS of BOOKS & CHICKEN

PITTSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY

WITH **KJ Dell'Antonia**
 author of *The Chicken Sisters*

PITTSBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY presents
A CELEBRATION of SOUTHEAST KS CHICKEN

FEB 1-28 Curbside Crafts Prize Drawings Virtual Story Time Chicken Books Trivia Outings StoryWalk ...and more!	FEB 21 Virtual Visit with KJ Dell'Antonia author of <i>The Chicken Sisters</i> 2 PM via Zoom
FEB 15 <i>The Chicken Sisters</i> Community Read Book Discussion with Pittsburg Public Library 4 PM via Zoom	FEB 24 <i>Backyard Chickens 101: How to Raise and Care for Chickens</i> with K-State Research and Extension 4 PM via Zoom

Pittsburg Public Library
301 N. Warren, Pittsburg, KS
(620) 231-8110 PPLonline.org

All the details and event registration at
PPLonline.org/chickenstock

**Chickenstock:
 It's like Woodstock, but with chicken.**

In February, Pittsburg Public Library in Pittsburg, KS hosted Chickenstock: three weeks of Peace, Books, and Chicken—to celebrate the fun, new book *The Chicken Sisters* by KJ Dell'Antonia.

The novel is loosely based on Southeast Kansas' own Chicken Annie's and Chicken Mary's restaurants and the author has local connections. The book revolves around two sisters and a legendary feud over who serves the best fried chicken in the state. *The Chicken Sisters* is a New York Times Best Seller and a Reese Witherspoon Book Club Pick.

They pulled out every "chick" in the book for chicken-themed events provided by the Pittsburg Public Library, including chicken crafts, jokes, trivia, giveaways, and much more. Chickenstock concludes with a virtual visit from KJ Dell'Antonia, author of *The Chicken Sisters*. The Zoom event was held on Sunday, February 21.



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.

People News

After 23 years as the Director of the University of Nebraska Omaha's Library Science Education programs, Dr. Becky Pasco retired on December 18, 2020. She is off to new adventures!

At UNO, Dr. Pasco is affectionately and accurately referred to as "The Library Goddess". For those who have had the opportunity to know and work with her, even this grand term falls short. As head of UNO's Library Science programs, she was a visionary leader, an inspirational teacher and a powerhouse executor of major initiatives. She was also a shining example of "boots on the ground", driving hundreds of thousands of miles across our state to meet, encourage, and support Nebraska librarians. Her work has ensured accessible, quality library science education for the betterment of libraries across our profession.



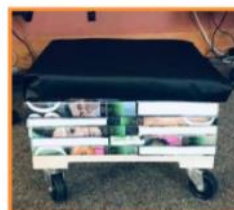
Ponca Carnegie Library's Pandemic Project

Article by Patti Goodier

Ever wonder what to do with all those old books that are still in decent shape, but in which the information is outdated? How about the books that have been in circulation for decades though they haven't been checked out in years? Maybe you have a lot of patrons calling about donating their twenty-year-old encyclopedias. This is where we found ourselves in the summer of 2020. After completing an extensive weeding of our collection and receiving several large donations of outdated books, we were at a loss as to what to do with them all. After donating what we could to local shelters, nursing homes, and clinics we were left with quite a few large textbooks, nonfiction hardcovers and, of course, the dreaded encyclopedias. Since we did not want to just throw them in the trash, Director Melissa Kebaili set out to find a way to make use of them. We opted to try to make something functional, practical, and that met a need for the library.

Melissa settled on making book stools as they are functional and provide extra seating, which is something the library needs. We decided to use encyclopedias for our first attempt because they are all the same basic size with a few differences in thickness. This made assembly a bit easier. Tammi Thiem, Director of the Three Rivers Library System, brought us several sets of encyclopedias from surrounding libraries.

Each stool is constructed out of 4 three-inch swivel casters (two with locks) secured to the base with screws, 1 piece of quarter-inch plywood topped with foam padding and covered with vinyl fabric for the cushion. We used a construction adhesive to secure all the books, the plywood base and cushion together. We chose vinyl fabric because it is easy to wipe down with disinfectant and will hold up to regular use for several years. We made two stools with a seat height for children and another two with a seat height for youth-adults.



Mary Gubbels, Public Services Librarian at Sump Memorial Library in Papillon, NE retired in December after 20 years of dedicated service to the library. Mary made countless contributions to the library as a whole over the course of her tenure. From designing adult programming to creating a more user-friendly space for library goes

to making sure that patrons are served and satisfied with their experience overall at the library, she did it all. Congratulations Mary!

Henderson Library District, located near Las Vegas

Henderson Libraries continues to serve our community in creative ways. In addition to our curbside services and digital resources, the team at Henderson Libraries has developed an array of interesting and engaging programs to meet community needs during these difficult times. A few recent examples include our Drive-In Storytime where community members enjoy storytime inside their cars. The storytime is broadcast through their radio and all stories selected are available on hoopla for families to read along in their cars. Another timely service that our team is offering is Online Interview Coaching (<https://hendersonlibraries.com/v/assets/382>). This service allows community members to book time with a library team member – during their time, they practice logging in to an online platform and receive coaching feedback on the virtual interview process. Finally, we’re so glad to be able to offer paired Chromebooks with WiFi Hotspots for our patrons to check out so they can utilize library technology to access the internet from the safety of their home. This service was made possible with CARES Act funds, provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records.



North Las Vegas Library District

The North Las Vegas Library District has been working hard to support efforts to vaccinate our residents against COVID-19, with a focus on our at-risk populations. Along with supporting the City of North Las Vegas, NV to distribute CARES dollars to local businesses and residents, we have assigned 8 full time staff members to operate a vaccine call center for our residents. Through this process staff members are responsible for answering general questions related to the vaccine, registering residents for vaccine appointments, and calling residents in specific zip codes with large at-risk populations. Even with our libraries still closed to the public due to COVID restrictions, we are finding ways to use our unique skill set to help our residents and businesses.

Carson City Library

The Carson City Library is currently offering an average of 16 virtual programs, with a total of 120 participants per month. Virtual programs are offered through Zoom and include storytimes for Pre-K ages, STEAM activities for elementary ages, coding and leadership programs for middle and high school students, as well as art classes, a book club, and computer courses for adults.

Our newest program is an LSTA grant funded project focused on connecting middle school students with bionics and providing tools to explore STEAM careers. The first multi-day Think Bionics Camp launched in February 2021 with 3 additional camps planned through August 2021. This includes one camp being hosted in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Western Nevada. During the camp, students create three different builds, learning how a fish swims, how an elephant uses its trunk, and how a chameleon uses its tongue to grab items.



NM NEW MEXICO

Healing Library Box

In November, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, in Las Cruces, New Mexico, partnered with The Healing Library to bring materials designed to assist families dealing with a trauma navigate and personalize their journey toward healing. The boxes include books, conversation starters, activities, and community engagement ideas geared toward helping families deal with a range of difficult situations. The new box that will be available for check out is *Death of a Loved One*. Other Healing Library Boxes available in the collection include *Death of a Pet*, *Divorce & Separation*, *Alzheimer's & Your Family*, and *COVID-19*.

Library card patrons can check out The Healing Library boxes for three weeks. The boxes may also be placed on hold, just like books and DVDs, using a library card. Healing Library boxes include a checklist to assist patrons in returning all the box's elements and a pricelist for replacing these elements if lost or damaged.

The Healing Library is a project that started in the Fall of 2016 as a conversation between Kirsten Cappy of Curious City, a company which creates promotional experiences and materials for children's books, and Megan Emery, then a student at Syracuse University earning her MLIS.

The Healing Library project became a series of kits designed to make a family's journey of healing following a trauma easier to navigate and personalize.

For more information or to register for the program, contact the Children's Department at 575/528-4225 or library.childrens@las-cruces.org.



ND NORTH DAKOTA

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives.

The Minot Public Library celebrated Black History Month with a new series called "Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives." The library asked local black business owners, professionals, artists and other community influencers to choose an influential African American and share a little about what this person did and why he/she influenced them. In addition to sharing the stories of these important people, we hope to highlight the amazing people within our community and all of the great things they are doing. Minot Public Library plans to extend this new program series beyond Black History Month and hopes to showcase other populations such as indigenous people, LGBTQIA, and Latinx.

Extra Layer of Protection

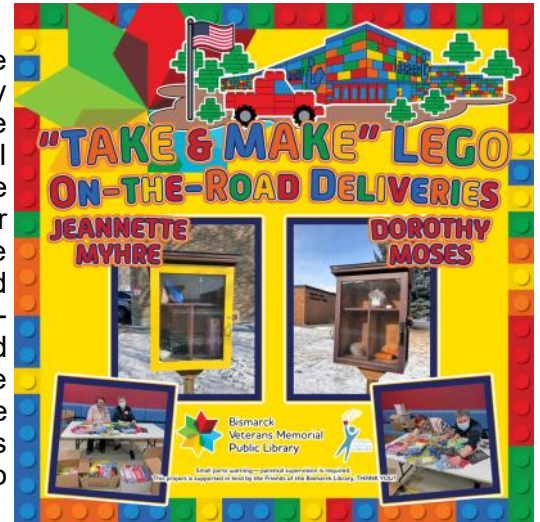
The Williston Community Library recently garnered attention for their new piece of equipment, the Electrostatic Sprayer. The sprayer is adding an extra layer of protection, and convenience, for library patrons and staff. The bright green blaster sprays a solution called VitalOxide, which is an EPA registered disinfectant cleaner, mold killer and odor eliminator. The disinfection eliminates a wide range of germs and viruses, including COVID-19. The library recently acquired the sprayer, which is similar to ones already being used in other facilities such as Williston Public Works and the Convention and Visitors Bureau.



ND NORTH DAKOTA

Lego Mini Kits in Bismarck, ND

The Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library is reaching outside its walls to offer opportunities for engagement and creativity by providing LEGO bricks to youth, especially those who might not be able to get them otherwise. Providing sets of bricks for children will allow them to use their imaginations and enjoy storytelling play. The sets have over 100 pieces, in random shapes, sizes, and colors for kids to do with whatever they would like. The giveaway sets have been distributed to The Banquet, Heaven's Helpers Closet701, and AARC, in addition to being randomly placed in the Friends'-sponsored Little Free Libraries and local Little Free Pantries around Bismarck. Keep following our Facebook page to see where we have delivered the next batch of Take-and-Make kits! Thank you to the Friends of the Library for making it possible to take the Library's vision - personal enrichment for all - out to the young people who might need it most, especially this time of year.



Big changes are coming to the Morton Mandan Public Library!



In October of 2020, we broke ground on an incredible new expansion/renovation project, which will include a floor-to-ceiling facelift for our existing building, and an expansion featuring an attached garage for our bookmobile, a large meeting room/presentation space, and public restrooms that will be accessible from the outside for events in the park next to us, even if the library is closed. Our staff area will also be moved into the expansion, which will give our Easy, Junior, and Young Adult collections more breathing room. Completion of this exciting project is scheduled for fall of 2021.

We have also been excited to start a new “Let’s Create” program this year, which has become far more popular than we anticipated, much to our delight! This program started as a children’s take and make program, and included a monthly kit full of art supplies and activity ideas/instructions given for free to any family who signed up to receive one, as well as a slew of virtual programming including pre recorded storytimes, LEGO challenges, STEAM challenges, family activities, and much more. This program quickly became so popular that it became the “flagship” of our multigenerational “Let’s Create” program, which includes take and make projects tailored to teens and adults, and several “whole family” projects designed to engage and interest every level of development and get families creating something together.

S.T.E.A.M. Missions
Get your brain buzzing with these puzzling pursuits!

Art Discovery
• 3-4 Art Activities
• Directions
• Needed Supplies & Materials
• Access to video demos

LEGO Challenge
Building tasks to keep you hopping!

Move & Groove
Ventures that will get you and your family up off your feet!

Kitchen Capers
It's family food creativity time! Try recipe ideas or make your own.

MMPL Virtual Kids Access
<https://symbaloo.com/mix/mmpl-virtual-kids>

TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE KIT, CONTACT BARB @ MMPL (701) 667-5365

Community Garden

In Checotah, Oklahoma, Jim Lucas Checotah Public Library Branch Manager Kathe Smith arrived with some of the fruit trees that will be placed around the Community Garden. The garden was made possible by a Health Literacy Grant from the OK Dept of Libraries. Funded by The Institute of Museum and Library Services, this grant will make it possible for community families to grow and enjoy their own fresh produce.



New Executive Director at Metropolitan Library System

The Commission of the Metropolitan Library System (MLS) has appointed Dr. Larry Nash White to serve as executive director of the MLS which serves Oklahoma County, Oklahoma.



White joined MLS in August 2019 and has held several leadership positions since that time. Most recently, White held the position of interim executive director while also serving in his position as deputy executive director of strategic programs and services. “He has served Metro by being inclusive and humble and then deliberate in his decision-making,” Dr. Ann Caine, chairman of MLS Commission said. “Above all Dr. White has listened and learned during his tenure as the interim Executive Director.”

White has a Ph.D. from Florida State University in Library and Information Studies, a Master of Science in library science from Florida State University and a bachelor of arts degree in history from the University of Florida. He has an extensive resume with more than 27 years of experience in the library and information service field.

Prior to being at MLS, White worked at the University at Buffalo – SUNY and East Carolina University where he taught library management for nearly 14 years and developed an international reputation as a researcher and presenter in organizational performance assessment and the use of competitive information within libraries.

“The Metropolitan Library Commission appreciates all Dr. White has done so far and looks forward to his leadership in moving Metro (Libraries) to the next level,” said Caine.



Loud Librarians Lead

Laura Kelly, the Children and Youth Services Coordinator at the South Dakota State Library, started Loud Librarians Lead in January. It is a vlog where she interviews librarians across the state to share their knowledge and expertise. She says it is an “opportunity to recognize community partnerships successes, highlight new programs and spaces and reach out to others in the field”. Watch these vlogs here—

<https://library.sd.gov/LIB/CYS/lllvlog/index.aspx>.

Virtual South Dakota Library Legislative Day

SDLA held Library Legislative Day virtually this year. Instead of going to Pierre, we used FlipGrid to tell stories about our libraries and then sent these to our legislators. Some libraries recorded a video and some used more of a PowerPoint type presentation. Check out the FlipGrid responses to South Dakota legislators here - <https://flipgrid.com/25cdbcd8>.

One Book South Dakota

The South Dakota Humanities Council announced 2021’s One Book South Dakota – *The Children’s Blizzard* by Melanie Benjamin. This historical fiction book is about the 1881 blizzard that struck the Dakota Territory and killed many children walking home from school. All grant-sponsored programs featuring this book will be virtual only. <http://sdhumanities.org/host-a-program/obsd/>

Book Sale with a Twist

The Brookings Public Library has not been able to have a books sale since fall 2019 and our the storage room is completely full of donations. The Friends of the Library decided to hold a spring book sale, but with some changes. Starting March 15th patrons can try their luck and purchase a “grab bag” full of books to take home. Each grab bag will be marked with a genre or theme. We’re hoping patrons will be happy with this type of book sale, the Friends will be able to support the library with the funds they receive, and we’ll make some room in our donation room. We’re calling it Try Your Luck! Grab Bag Books Sale.

Libraries as Safe Spaces

The librarians at Mountain Ridge Junior High School in Highland, UT are among educators who are going to extraordinary lengths to keep kids positive. Those efforts are bringing kids into the library, not just for your typical study and book reading, but now for social experiences.

"At first it just felt like everything was just stripped away. It was like, 'No, we can't do any fun activities. We're just in, out, we have to just let a few in the library at a time,'" explained Robyn Rhoton, a teacher librarian at the school. "My goal with this library is just to make a place where students come and feel comfortable. We want it to be the heart of the school."

"Me and my friends usually hang out here, too, just because I know it's friendly and fun," said a student, Valeska Bushman. "Sometimes, they'll (librarians) do things like scavenger hunts where you go and decode like books stuff and find out what books, and it's really fun, and they just make it really enjoyable."

Between monthly, weekly, and daily activities, students are invited into the media center to participate in activities that are changing the way they see and use the library. Changing the perception of what a library is for is making a world of difference at their school among students and teachers. With educators having a lot on their plate juggling both in-person and online teaching, the library is serving as a resource for them as well.



People News

Sue Hollingshead has retired as Laramie County Library System's Information Technology Division Manager after a 24-year-long career with the library. Sue began working at the organization in 1996 as a Network Specialist, moving on to become a Network Administrator before being promoted as the library's first IT Division Manager. She served on many of the library's internal committees, as well as the Laramie County Community College Business and Computer Science Advisory Committee and the Wyoming Library Leadership Committee. Sue played a crucial role in growing the library's network from a single, small server into the intricate and advanced system that it is today.



Cathy Summerall retired in December from her job as part-time bookkeeper at the Sublette County Library. Cathy served the Libraries for 10 years, keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes while performing "other duties as assigned," such as her role as Mrs. Claus! Cathy hopes to spend the winters with family in Orange Beach, Alabama and do more summer hiking and fishing in Sublette County.

Online with Cyber Safety Programs

Wyoming libraries are taking advantage of the Wyoming CAN (Cybersecurity Action Network) videos to help their patrons become more cyber safe. These 10-minute video-based programs are designed to be distributed at local libraries. The latest is on how to [Configure Your Password Questions](#). The Wyoming State Library partners with the Wyoming CAN Committee to offer this free "cyber-in-a-box" educational program.

[Cyber in a Box Youtube Playlist](#)



<https://www.cyberwyoming.org/wyocan/>



Welcome, New Members!



Name	Title	Institution / Library Name	City & State
Rachel Crocker	Director	Albany County Public Library	Laramie, WY
Kendra Ellison	Lead Circulation Librarian/ Young Adult Consultant	Andover Public Library	Andover, KS
Stephanie Fulton	Branch Manager	Elfrida Library	Elfrida, AZ
Eric Gustafson	Director	Derby Public Library	Derby, KS
Leslie Haas	Dean	Fort Hays State University, Forsyth Library	Hays, KS
Kyra Hahn	Assistant Director of Public Services	Dodge City Public Library	Dodge City, KS
Maria Klesta	Creative Learning Manager	Carson City Library	Carson City, NV
Kelly Kornkven	Director	Mayville State University Byrnes-Quanbeck Library	Mayville, ND
Jacob Lee	Adult Services Librarian	Omaha Public Library- Millard Branch	Omaha, NE
Traci Lund	Director	Divide County Library	Crosby, ND
Alex Mosakowski	Weekend Supervisor	Emporia Public Library	Emporia, KS
Matthew Nickerson	Dean	Southern Utah University Gerald R. Sherratt Library	Cedar City, UT
Michelle Olsen	Library Director	Richfield Public Library	Richfield, UT
Amanda Pena	Director	City of Ralston Baright Public Library	Ralston, NE
Joan Upell	Retired		Eagle Butte, SD





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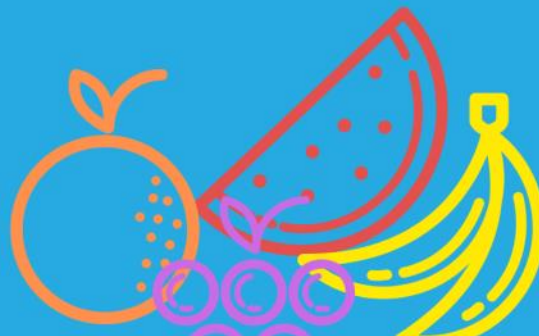
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The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is a twelve state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, 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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The MPLA Newsletter is published bimonthly online by the Mountain Plains Library Association:

<https://mpla.us/documents/newsletter/>

ISSN 0145-6180

Editor: Melanie Argo,
Madison Public Library

Copy deadlines for articles, news, and advertisements:

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

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