

Mountain Plains Library Association

Big Horizons Close Community

Newsletter

August 2021—September 2021

www.mpla.us

Volume 66 Number 4

President's Message

As the first board meeting of my tenure approaches I find myself filled with excitement and at the same time mounting anxiety over the enormity of the decisions to be made regarding MPLA during the next year. This is a time for members to speak up and give their input. Our committees work hard to research and share their information and opinions with the board for discussion and action. We cannot have a mutually beneficial organization without membership participation. While "health and wellness" and "diversity, equity and inclusion" seem to be the hot topics in library land at the present time, how the organization defines and addresses these issues is really up to the membership and leadership. The board will be taking another look at the strategic plan that was proposed in 2017 and revisit the structure of the Leadership Institute at their July meeting. I encourage you to seek out other MPLA members in your state (contact your state representative for a list) and start conversations about these subjects and how MPLA can best serve its members and the profession, bringing those conversations back to the board via the state representatives. Thank you for your time and for helping MPLA become stronger with your input.



Robin Newell
Emporia Public Library
Emporia, KS
president@mpla.us
Phone: 620-340-6464



IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Guiding Principles

Special Features

Around the Region

Welcome New Members

MPLA Board and Staff

MPLA Quick Links

Arizona

Colorado
North Dakota

Kansas
Oklahoma

Montana
South Dakota

Nebraska

Nevada
Utah

New Mexico
Wyoming

Guiding Principles



1. Pursue outreach opportunities

- Foster relationships
- Increase professional sharing
- Include diverse communities



2. Encourage caring, respectful relationships

- Mentoring
- Networking
- Collaborations
- Learning



3. Realize our potential

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

Source: Agreement was made by Ginger Christy; Telescope icon made by Freepress; Network icon made by StockIllustration from www.freepress.com

LONG RANGE PLANS 2018

www.MPLA.us

Janet Lee, Colorado Association of Libraries/ILCE-IG named 2021 recipient of the ALA IRRT John Ames Humphry/OCLC Forest Press Award



Janet Lee, a board member of the International Library and Cultural Exchange-Interest Group of the Colorado Association of Libraries since its inception in 2012, has been named the 2021 recipient of the American Library Association (ALA) International Relations Committee's John Ames Humphry/OCLC/Forest Press Award, which is presented to a librarian or person who has made significant contributions to international librarianship.

The award, sponsored by OCLC/Forest Press, consists of \$1,000 and a plaque was presented virtually (via Zoom) at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois, USA. OCLC/Forest Press donated the cash award.

The ALA Press Release (link following) chronicles her professional achievements, starting with her Peace Corps experience in southern Ethiopia and multiple return visits to set up libraries and conduct workshops. It includes references to professional organizations such as the Colorado Association of Libraries, the American Library Association, and the International Federation of Libraries and Institutions. Her accomplishments include serving on numerous committees, delivering multiple presentations, editing several journals and newsletters (both print and electronic), writing more than a few articles, being awarded some small grants, and monitoring related social media.

In her acceptance speech, she acknowledged the great impact that her Peace Corps Ethiopia experience and multiple trips back "home" to Ethiopia had on her. She dedicated the award to "the students of Axum" where she lived for nearly a year as a Fulbright Scholar. She intends to use the monetary award for further projects in libraries and literacy in Axum, Ethiopia.

Click on link for Press Release: <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2021/07/janet-lee-receives-2021-john-ames-humphryoclcforest-press-award>



Big Horizons, Close Community



Have you heard about the POWER UP CONFERENCE???



POWER UP, is a leadership conference for Youth Services Managers and Staff. The conference will be March 24-25, 2022 in Madison, Wisconsin. I went to this conference the last time it was held in 2020- it was AH-MAZING!! If you are in youth services- this is the conference for you.

Here is the low-down... <https://ischool.wisc.edu/continuing-education/power-up/2022>

POWER UP is calling for proposals - Due August 3, 2021.

You can find the information here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sLzYdEPtrOgb5M7ibVQVKYS9VCOEJIXnrxMfPj4VZ6g/edit>



MPLA CHEW & CHAT



Led by lively hosts Jake Rundle and Mary Soucie, the informal discussions will occur every 4th Wednesday of the month.

Advance registration is necessary with link below:

Mountain Plains Library Association "Chew & Chats"

When: 4th Wednesdays of each month.

1 PM Central time; Noon Mountain; 11 am Pacific.

Register in advance for this meeting at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAuc-6sqT0iGtbqUkVclDcjtIzmJuvf87D1>

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

Feel free to forward this information to others interested in MPLA.

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

School of LIBRARY & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

VERSATILE

Get a graduate degree that can qualify you for a wide variety of careers.

CONNECTED

Interact with peers, advisors and professors.

CONVENIENT

Earn a graduate degree in as little as two years by taking classes part-time and online.

AFFORDABLE

Take advantage of competitive tuition rates.

Master of Library Science Program offered fully online.

To learn more, contact us at sliminfo@emporia.edu

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!

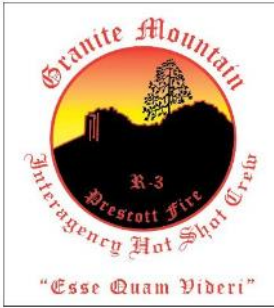
**SUPPORT
MPLA!**



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

Around the Region



Granite Mountain Hotshots Memorial Project

June 30, 2021, marked the eighth anniversary of the terrible day when 19 members of the Granite Mountain Hotshots firefighting crew lost their lives fighting the Yarnell Hill Fire outside Yarnell, Arizona. The Granite Mountain Hotshots were based in nearby Prescott, and after the tragedy the Prescott Public Library worked with community partners to preserve images from the impromptu memorial that sprang up outside their fire station. Images and videos from this collection are now a part of the Arizona Memory Project, where they are available to citizens and researchers. You may view and search the collection [here](#).



Empathy Through Literacy

At Arizona State University, library staff have worked with the university's Center for Child Well-Being to create a special collection of books highlighting the experiences of children with parents or caregivers who are incarcerated. The 64 books included in the “Empathy Through Literacy” collection include fiction and nonfiction titles written for young children through teens. The collection is intended to reduce the stigma families experience when loved ones are incarcerated, and help kids and teens talk about their feelings and experiences.

In addition to the collection housed at ASU's Noble Library, the Center for Child Well-Being is working to establish similar collections at public libraries across Arizona, as well as in the visitor areas of jails and prisons, where parents can read with their children. Read more about the project [here](#).



Connecting with Families

Youth services staff and librarians everywhere will see themselves in a great article by Pima County Public Library Children's Services Librarian Annie Wicks, [“How the Pima County Public Library Steps Up to Connect with Families.”](#) which appeared in the *Arizona Daily Star* in June. Wicks describes the satisfaction of connecting with kids and families through innovative library programs, and writes, “I cannot wait for the day when we can all get together again and share stories and rhymes and books and songs. Having the opportunity to work with children and to have a positive impact on their lives has been one of the greatest honors of my life.”



Capture and Share a Grand County Moment
Check Out a Sketchbook Kit
For ALL Artistic Levels

Benefits of being creative could help you:
Relieve stress and anxiety
Improve problem-solving skills
Improve your mood
Boost your self-esteem
Improve cognitive function
Increase happiness
Reduce dementia
Improve mental health
Boost immune system
Have FUN
(Source: Forbes and Scientific Magazines)

To view terms of the GCLD Sketchbook Art Project, scan the QR code:



Art by Tess Riley 6/13/21

Sketchbook Art Kits

GCLD staff is excited to now have two Sketchbook Art Kits in each of our 5 libraries for patrons to check out or for visitors to contribute to in the library. One kit is “Juvenile” with crayons, colored pencils, and markers along with “How to Draw Wild Animals” by Barbara Soloff Levy. The “YA/Adult” version includes watercolor pencils and crayons, charcoal, multilinear pen set, and one of various guides on how to draw animals or landscapes. Any age can check out either kit.



Farewell, Nicole Davies

In June, Colorado libraries shared a sad farewell when Assistant Commissioner, Nicole Davies (pictured left), left the State Library to start working as the City of Lone Tree (CO) Arts Center’s Executive Director.

While the State runs their hiring process, Debbi MacLeod (pictured right), Director of the Colorado Talking Book Library, has stepped in to serve as the interim Assistant Commissioner.



New Director at Linwood Community Library

The Linwood Community Library Board of Trustees recently announced the hiring of Kat McKee as the new director for the Linwood library. McKee has a passion for the library’s role in the community and brings a high level of experience to southern Leavenworth County, according to a release from the trustee board.

She most recently served as the teen and technology director at Abilene Public Library. Before her stint at the Abilene library, she served in secretary and treasurer roles at a small business for many years. McKee holds a bachelor’s degree from Kansas State University and a master’s in library and Information science from Emporia State University.





The State Library of Kansas Announces the 2021 Kansas Notable Books

State Librarian Eric Norris announced the 16th annual selection of Kansas Notable Books celebrating Kansas people, places, and events. The fifteen books feature quality titles with wide public appeal, either written by a Kansan or a Kansas related topic and published in the previous calendar year.

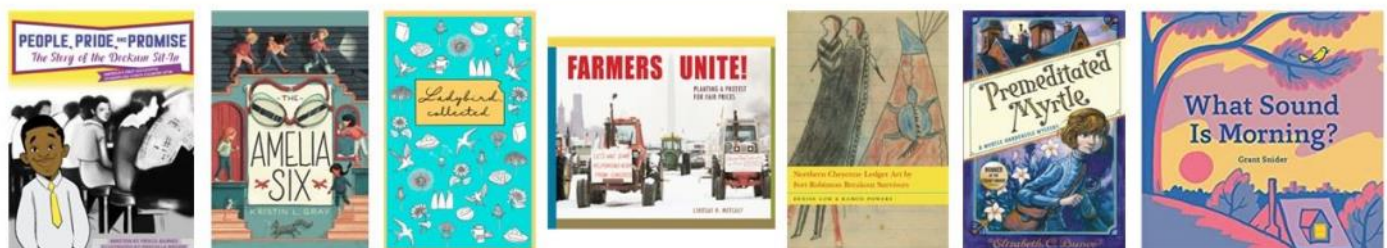
"I am proud to present the 2021 Kansas Notable Book list. This year's books bring to life the Kansas experience through the vivid storytelling of gifted writers, talented illustrators, essayists, and poets. The rich array of works on this year's list will both entertain as well as educate," State Librarian Eric Norris said. "Reading is more important than ever. I encourage every Kansan to contact their local public library and celebrate the artists and artistry of Kansas."

The State Library first launched the Kansas Notable Books Program in 2006. Since then, more than 200 books have been recognized for their contribution to Kansas literary heritage. This year's selection committee included representatives of public, university, and school libraries, teachers, academics, and historians. State Librarian Eric Norris selected the final list of 15 titles which includes nonfiction and fiction books that will appeal to a wide range of audiences and cover a variety of topics and issues.

Kansas Notable Books authors will be awarded their medals at the Kansas Book Festival on September 18 at Washburn University. The public is invited. Kansas Notable Books is a project of the Kansas Center for the Book, a program at the State Library of Kansas which is the state affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book. The Kansas Center for the Book exists to highlight the state's literary heritage and foster an interest in books, reading, and libraries. For descriptions, downloadable bookmarks, posters, and more information about Kansas Notable Books, visit kslib.info/2021KNB



2021 Kansas Notable Books





Montana State University Librarians recognized by MLA

Two Montana State University Library employees were recently recognized by the Montana Library Association for their outstanding contributions to the library profession.



Mary Guthmiller, program manager for MSU's Interlibrary Loan, was named Outstanding Support Staff of the Year in recognition of exemplary service. Humanities and outreach librarian Jan Zauha was awarded the Sheila Cates Award for Librarian of the Year in recognition of outstanding leadership and accomplishment in library service.

"I am so proud to work with Mary and Jan," said Kenning Arlitsch, dean of the MSU Library. "Both have provided exceptional service to MSU students and faculty, and both have touched lives far beyond the MSU community."

The Outstanding Support Staff award recognizes commitment to promoting library services and free access to information. Guthmiller was nominated by MSU Library's Hannah McKelvey, assistant professor and electronic resources and discovery services librarian.

"Mary's work reflects her passion for providing high-quality library services and getting patrons access to information," McKelvey said. "Mary is essential to the MSU Library and the Montana library community."

Guthmiller joined the MSU Library in 1996. Since then, she has made the Interlibrary Loan program one of the most popular, well-used and highest quality services at the library, Arlitsch said. As program manager, Guthmiller helps patrons by finding articles, books, videos and other materials that are not in the MSU Library collection, and she fulfills requests from users at other libraries looking to borrow MSU materials.

Library services worldwide were significantly disrupted by the pandemic, Arlitsch noted, and Guthmiller worked diligently to ensure the continuation of resource sharing services.

In addition to her work at MSU Library, Guthmiller has been active in the library profession. She has been a longtime member of the Montana Library Association, where she has served as secretary and treasurer, a co-planner for the association's annual conference and past chair of the interlibrary loan interest group. Guthmiller has also played active roles in the Pacific Northwest Library Association's leadership institute, Montana's TRAILS library consortium and the resource sharing group of the OCLC Research Library Partnership, an organization with international reach.

- continued on page 12



The Sheila Cates Award for Librarian of the Year recognizes a librarian for distinguished service to libraries and leadership in education and training for librarians. Zauha was nominated by Anne Kish, director of the library at the University of Montana Western.

“A map of Montana would be heavily dotted by librarians whose careers, accomplishments and love for the profession have been influenced by Jan,” Kish said.

Zauha began working at the MSU Library in 1995. She spent many years as a reference and instruction librarian before being named the humanities and outreach librarian in 2018. During her time at MSU, Zauha has taken a collaborative approach to establishing teaching and research relationships across campus, creating outreach events that engage the community and furthering the library profession on a state and regional level, according to Arlitsch.



“Jan is perhaps the best example I have ever seen of a librarian who lives and breathes the service and outreach imperative of the profession,” Arlitsch said. “Jan is the librarian that every librarian in Montana, and many across the Pacific Northwest region, knows, appreciates and admires.”

In recent years, much of Zauha’s work has centered around the Ivan Doig archive, which Doig’s widow, Carol Doig, donated to the MSU Library in 2015. Zauha’s accomplishments include co-leading the creation of an experiential exhibit at the Big Sky Country State Fair, launching the “Ivan Doig Writer’s Quest Traveling Trunk,” a portable teaching tool for Montana middle and high school teachers, and leading many community book discussions and courses on Doig.

“Thousands of people who would otherwise never have had any interaction with primary source materials have now had intellectually engaging, tactile and memorable experiences that have enriched their lives,” Arlitsch said. “Archival collections held by libraries reveal the research and writing processes of beloved authors like Ivan Doig, and Jan has demonstrated this value.”

Zauha has also been active in the Pacific Northwest Library Association, where she served as Montana representative, president of the association’s board of directors, and a mentor and developer for the association’s Leadership Institute. In addition, the association awarded her a lifetime honorary membership in recognition of her distinguished service.



Kreutz Bennet Donor-Advised Fund Granted to Bayard Public Library

Bayard Public Library has been selected to receive a \$8,500.00 grant from the Kreutz Bennet Donor-Advised Fund, an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation, to renovate the Bayard Public Library. This project will benefit community patrons of all ages by ensuring a safe, bright, comfortable and exciting environment for its patrons. Bayard Public Library is among 14 Nebraska public libraries in communities with populations under 3,000 selected to receive funding.

The Bayard library project includes the rehabilitation of its existing facility by replacing outdated fluorescent light fixtures, replacement of deteriorated carpet, and replacement of cracked and stained ceiling tile, according to a press release from the City of Bayard. All grants from the Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund require a 1:1 local match. In Bayard, matching funds will be provided by the City of Bayard.

“Before I applied for the grant, I went before the city council and presented my proposed project. The city of Bayard owns the building and the carpet and lighting have never been replaced. The city council agreed to match funds needed for this project,” Becky Henkel, library director for Bayard Public Library said. The renovations should be completed by June 1.

The Kreutz Bennett Donor-Advised Fund was established in 2010 by the estate of Shirley Kreutz Bennett. She was a retired Professor of Education at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

In accordance with Kreutz Bennett’s wishes, a Fund Advisory Committee composed of her nieces and nephews recommends grants in three areas: planning for accreditation grants to support steps taken toward gaining accreditation; enhancement grants to improve library services; and facilities grants for new construction or the renovation, restoration or rehabilitation of current libraries.

In total, the Fund has had an over \$665,000 impact on Greater Nebraska communities with populations under 3,000 and dozens of public libraries across the state.

Membership Advantages

Continuing education opportunities including conferences, workshops and special seminars.

First year Personal membership dues are half price!

Joint annual conferences with member states providing a marketplace of ideas where individuals can share their experience and talent with other librarians.

MPLA Awards recognize outstanding contributions to local, state and regional library services.

Opportunity for members to contribute to the profession.

Professional Development Grants for course work, institutes and workshops.

Information exchange and educational programs about technological developments and innovative library programming undertaken by MPLA libraries.

AND MORE!

MPLA bases its success on an active, enthusiastic, sharing membership. Where our people are so few and distances are so great, each librarian, staff member and library is a vital resource.



Extreme Heat Cooling Station

Library Director Kim Diehm, Boulder City Library

The National Weather Service issued an excessive heat warning a few weeks ago when the forecast called for highs of 112-114 in Boulder City, NV, with lows hovering in the eighties. We are not strangers to extreme heat in the desert, but reminders are always helpful.

Extreme heat can cause health issues like dehydration, heat cramps, heat stroke and exhaustion. Warnings were issued to drink plenty of non-alcoholic beverages, stay in a cool, air-conditioned room, and avoid sun exposure. Avoid strenuous activity outdoors. And keep young children and pets from being left unattended in vehicles, as car interiors can reach 180+ degrees in this heat, killing children or pets in ten minutes or less.

The City of Boulder City does not currently offer a standing cooling station, so they gathered a list of local businesses that were willing to offer a place for people to go to in case of a loss of power or just a place to cool down when the extreme temperatures happen this summer. The Boulder City Library is an obvious choice to be offered as a place to cool down since we are open 7 days a week and between 7-10 hours each day with lots of cool air conditioning! We have two new hydration stations where you can fill up your water bottles. And there's lots of seating with books, magazines, board games, and computers to keep everyone occupied as we wait for the sun to go down. <http://bclibrary.org/>

Introducing Administrator Mike Strom

Mike Strom is the new Administrator at Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Record (NSLAPR), most recently from Richmond, VA, where he served as Virginia State Archivist and Director of Government Records Services for two years at the Library of Virginia.

Mike was the Wyoming State Archivist from 2011 to 2019. Prior to entering state service, he worked for ten years in university archives, first as a processing archivist at Yale University and then as senior archivist at Texas Christian University. Mike has served on the executive boards of the Council of State Archivists and the Society of Southwest Archivists and is currently a member of the advisory board of the Archives Leadership Institute.

Mike's educational background includes an MLIS from the University of Texas at Austin, an MA in history from Central Washington University, and a BA in history from the University of Oregon.

Originally from the West, Mike and his wife Amy are thrilled to be back and closer to family and friends. They feel fortunate to be able to live in such a beautiful part of the country.

Mike is excited to be in a job where he can both use the skills he has honed over the years in archives and records management and expand his knowledge of libraries. He says he has a lot to learn but that was part of what made this job appealing. He looks forward to doing whatever he can to help Nevada's libraries and archives succeed and to put the Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records Division in a position to accomplish great things.





Summer Reading Fun at Magdalena Public Library with NM Museum of Natural History

by Ivy Stover, Library Director at the Magdalena Public Library

As part of their Summer Reading Program, the Magdalena Public Library had the New Mexico Museum of Natural History out on June 24, 2021.

We had 4 stations: making comets (which have tails!), learning about dinosaurs, sandbox animal toys, and dinosaur headbands. I also gave out Magdalena Public Library bracelets and dinosaur stickers.

All together we had about 30 people come by, which is a great turn out for our little library! The kids loved it! The comet table was a big hit. One girl made at least 4 comets! Most of the kids made 2. The headbands were also super cute, and the Museum was nice enough to leave me with a couple extras.

Major thank you to NM Museum of Natural History, I'm so glad they could come. The kids really had fun and learned a lot about comets and dinosaurs! Also thank you to Socorro Public Library for arranging this and our Magdalena Friends of the Library for providing the snacks.





Picture Credit: <https://www.las-cruces.org>

Branigan Memorial Library's Summer Reading Program a Success Because of 26 Teen Volunteers

by Margaret M. Neill, Library Administrator/Thomas Branigan Memorial Library

With the assistance of 26 teenage volunteers, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library's Tails & Tales summer reading program has been successful.

This is the first year for the Teen Summer Volunteer Program at Branigan Memorial Library. It was established to give teens valuable job and college application experience, and also to create a tighter bond between Branigan Memorial Library and community teens. The Teen Summer Volunteer program started mid-May with applications, interviews and orientation and will run through July.

The volunteers, ranging in ages from 13- to 17-years old, have offered their time this summer to make the reading program a good one. At the Rock the Amphitheater Kickoff, there were 12 volunteers who staffed tables during sign-up of Tails and Tales, assisted with rock painting, handed out water and Popsicles, and contributed to sidewalk chalk art that decorated the area.

Since then, the teen volunteers have been in Branigan Memorial Library helping create crafts for the weekly Take & Make activities, shelving books, handing out materials, and registering people for the reading program.

"The library staff is excited for a summer of opportunities to learn from and with the volunteer team," Library Manager Brita Sauer said. "We are so lucky to have the chance to work with such a great group of youth."

The exceptional teens have shared with library staff their short-term goals to help in their community and longer-term goals that include traveling the world, learning new skills and languages, and attending college and graduate school. Overwhelmingly, every volunteer wants a future where the work they do makes others and themselves happy.

To hear the teen volunteers describe the library as a space to feel calm, a resource for their education and entertainment, and most importantly, a place that is open to everyone, was inspiring and heartwarming to Thomas Branigan Memorial Library staff.

Carrington City Library Receives ALA Grant



The American Library Association (ALA) has announced 517 libraries to receive grants through Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small & Rural Libraries. Eligibility was limited to communities with

populations less than 25,000 in accordance with Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) definitions.

The Carrington City Library will receive online staff training in how to lead conversations, the skills vital to 21st-century librarianship, and \$3,000 to support their proposed community engagement work. Community engagement is the process of working collaboratively with community members — library users, residents, faculty, students, or partner organizations — to address issues for the betterment of the community.

Hebron Public Library Receives Grants and Donations

The Hebron Public Library was recently blessed with donations and grants totaling \$6,850! We first received a letter from the North Dakota State Library and the North Dakota Coordinating Council announcing the approval of our Library Vision Summer Reading Grant in the amount of \$1,145. We also received a grant from the NoDak Sportsmen's Club for \$3,000! We sent out 35 donation request letters in the mail and received 12 donations so far totaling \$2,705! The Sunflower Wind Project/Onward Energy is sponsoring the Hebron Public Library's Summer Reading Program and donated \$2,000 to our library. We cannot thank all of these wonderful donors enough!

Student supports School Library

A Watford City High School student has addressed his school district's book shortage by restocking them with more.

Over the last few months, through business support and selling crewneck shirts, Levi Sanford has raised more than \$6,000 and collected 400 books to donate to both the high school and middle school.



He says with the opening of a new elementary school earlier last year, a lot of the bookshelves throughout the whole district weren't as filled as they once were. So, this was his way of fixing that.

"I'm amazed. I'm very happy that I got that many books and that much money for the libraries to help out everyone," Sanford said. Sanford says the books he ordered with the money he made should be delivered early to mid-March.

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library displays American Pop Art by artist Michael Albert

The Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library thanks Michael Albert Pop Artist for visiting and sharing his Modern Pop Art with the community! The Library showcased his limited edition collages spanning nearly 30 years at the Library through the month of June. New York collage artist Michael Albert started creating art in the '80s. Since the publishing of his first book, an artist's autobiography titled "An Artist's America" (Henry Holt, 2008), he has developed a traveling Pop Art Enrichment Program called the "Modern Pop Art Experience."



Returning to a Sense of Normal

Grand Forks Public Library has been returning to normal by offering innovative programs this summer. Twice weekly toddler and baby Outdoor Storytimes draw a crowd of over 50 joyous attendees, on average.



Weekly Take & Make art kits, provided through a partnership between the library, ArtWise, and the North Dakota Museum of Art, have been very popular this summer. Patrons are able to bring home a creative project that may spark new artistic interests. Beyond the arts partnership, Grand Forks Public Library has expanded the Take & Make concept to develop additional craft kits for teens and adults in the Summer Reading Program, including activities such as a mindfulness coloring book and shooting star bookmark kit.



Welcome to the Board!

Gloria Farmer, Technical Services Coordinator
Eastern Oklahoma Library System



Why did I get involved with MPLA?

I have been involved with our local association for many years serving as secretary for OLA, chairing a number of committees as well as sitting on a variety of others. I enjoy being a part of OLA and have many friends and colleagues because of the involvement.

I was a member of the 2012 MPLA Leadership Institute in Estes Park and it had a great impact on me. I learned a great deal during that time and once again came away with new friends and colleagues. It had always been my intention to stay involved in MPLA so when I was asked to run for our state's representative I could not say no.

I am excited for this opportunity and look forward to the next three years with MPLA.



Spice of Life Club

by Mikaela Neubauer, Community Services Coordinator

The Brookings Public Library's "Spice of Life Club" has been a real hit! Each month we pick a specific spice and a recipe from one of our cookbooks here in the Library that features said spice, then we send a to-go kit home with our participants so that they can try the spice out at home. We package up kits with an information sheet about the spice, the recipe, and further resources, along with the exact amount of spices they need for the recipe, pre-portioned into plastic condiment containers. After the participants cook their dish, they can post pictures of their final product, commentary on the recipe, and ideas for future uses of the spice on a private Facebook group set up by the Library.

Since January 2021, we have had 126 participants, an average of 21 participants per kit. Some are repeat participants and some are just excited about one particular recipe. Our kits have contained everything from Urfa pepper for a hearty chili to regular ol' thyme used in Lebanese flatbread pizza! Our local international food store, Flavor, has even partnered with us to give the Library a discount on spices and to share tips and tricks for each spice from the store's owners. We're 6 months in and we still have major enthusiasm for the program- our registration forms fill up every time and participants are already sending in requests for what spices they'd like to try in the fall.

Even though our Library is slowly shifting back to in person programs, this club will be sticking around in a to-go format. Not only is it a low-pressure way for adult patrons to get involved in Library programming (they can cook at home, on their own time, and only have to interact with other club members if they want to), but it is also something that they can include the whole family in. For now, we think that this program will work best in its current format, but we are excited to see how this club morphs and grows as time goes on!

If your Library is interested in starting a spice club and you'd like further information, please reach out to the Brookings Public Library's Community Services Coordinator, Mikaela Neubauer, at mneubauer@cityofbrookings-sd.gov



Langford Public Library Offers New Summer Youth Program: TREP\$

by Nicole Hoines, Librarian

The Langford Public Library in Langford, SD, launched a new summer program for young entrepreneurs, called TREP\$. TREP\$ was piloted in the West Milford, New Jersey school district at Paradise Knoll School in Oak Ridge. Based on the merits of the program, the Paradise Knoll PTA earned the New Jersey PTA's Champion for Children Award for best new program.

TREP\$ is entrepreneurship education program for youth, created by Pamela deWaal and Hayley Romano, two certified teachers who reside in West Milford, New Jersey. It began when their then 10-year-old sons decided to go into business together selling hand-stamped wrapping paper at an adult vendor night at the school. The boys "sold out" of product and learned some great lessons. The kids were very proud of their success and shared the story with their peers. Their mothers, Romano and deWaal, saw a unique opportunity to create a program where all children, not only the physically or academically gifted, could achieve success, and in turn, improve self-esteem. The program was carefully crafted to support the standards of education our schools are currently using.

The Langford Public Library is excited to be offering the TREP\$ program at no charge to youth going into grades 4-8. Registration forms were sent home with the children through the local school district. The children were required to pre-register. Children are given instruction over the course of a series of weekly workshops, guided through various creative exercises to understand and implement the skills of entrepreneurship, as well as team dynamics. During this 6-week period, the children will research and develop the products or services they will sell or promote at the "TREP\$ Marketplace." The Marketplace will be held in conjunction with the Langford Summer Fest, in July. The annual Summer Fest draws in a large crowd from both near and far, as former residents come back to help celebrate. The public will be able to shop at the Vendor Fair, where the kids will be selling their goods or services along with other adult business-owners. The program ends with the final workshop after the Marketplace Event, where the children review what they have learned, talk about their successes and failures and are rewarded for their hard work and determination with a celebratory party. If this year goes well, we hope to offer this program in future years.



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



ULA Year of Learning!

Utah Library Association (ULA) is immersed in a special Year of Learning! The 2022 ULA annual conference theme is United in Diversity|Unida en la Diversidad, and the entire year is focused on improving our services to all of our patrons. To bring this about, The ULA Diversity Services Round Table, ULA as a whole, and The Utah State Library are joining forces to offer monthly diversity training workshops, book club reads, and additional resources to library staff throughout the state. The stated goal for the 2021-2022 Year of Learning Events is stated as: association members will learn, discuss, and take action on issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion. At the end of the year, participating members will have the skills to create unifying EDI experiences and solutions for their patrons, communities, and libraries.

ULA President Rita Christensen, commented. "The Utah Library Association joins community members statewide to extend greater opportunities to all Utahns, in an ever-changing landscape of people and culture. The success of our diverse communities is the link to the success of all of us in Utah. The Year of Learning curriculum will encourage librarians to participate in courageous conversations and equity challenges to emerge in 2022 as future focused leaders of change."

Each month offers a new focus and new training opportunities. June was the first month of the challenge. We were invited to make a choice to expand our usual collection development procedures to include BIPOC publishers. Our Zoom meet up was a discussion on publishers of color, and the book club is looking at diversity in children's books. To see more about the Year of Learning going on in Utah check out this link <https://ula.org/2022-schedule/>

Welcome to the Board!

Sherrie Mortensen
Wasatch County Library
Heber City, Utah



Hi! My name is Sherrie (Miss Sherrie to most of my pint-sized patrons). I am the children's librarian at Wasatch County Library, in Heber, Utah. I am active in ULA and believe strongly in the value of shared knowledge and experience, and in the good we can do for each other as we mentor and are mentored by those around us!

I first became involved with MPLA about 10 years ago when the library I was working with at the time got a new director, Mr. Robert Shupe. Mr. Shupe had been an active MPLA participant for several years and he invited me to begin attending and presenting with him at MPLA conferences. We did presentations on our in-house, librarian-run marketing program, and on our Latino Advisory Board and Spanish Storytime. I got so many ideas from the many children's librarians I met from across the region that I was hooked! I look forward to working more closely with the many librarians who are committed to library service and the consortium that is MPLA.



In Memory of Thomas Ivie

This month, the Wyoming State Library mourned the loss of one of our own. Thomas Ivie passed away on June 5 after a brief illness. He was 54. Thomas was the WSL's Research & Statistics Librarian, a position he had held since June 2015. He originally joined us on October 30, 2013, as the Digital Initiatives Librarian working on the Wyoming Newspapers project. Thomas's career spanned over 20 years in state, academic, school, and public libraries. [See our blog](#) for much more about Thomas and for some of the many photos we took of him here at the WSL. [His obituary](#) is also online. He was our STATMAN (always willing to don a Batman mask for the role) and our "What the Tech" guru, doing the work to bring that popular session to the Wyoming Library Association conference. He could not only dress as a pirate to promote a database, but also find and tell bad pirate jokes. He was always ready with a smile or a laugh and was a bright spot in our day. Thomas will be missed in our library.



Thomas Ivie, 1967-2021



Thomas with fellow members of the LDO team — Chris Van Burgh (left) and Paige Bredenkamp. Na-na-na-na-na-na-na-na STATMAN!

UW's George W. Hopper Law Library Honored for Statewide Outreach

The George W. Hopper Law Library in the University of Wyoming's College of Law has been recognized with the American Association of Law Libraries' (AALL) Excellence in Community Engagement Award for a program to provide legal research training to librarians around the state.

The initiative, "Access to Justice: Legal Research on the Road," was developed and administered by Tawnya Plumb, a law librarian and head of collections at the George W. Hopper Law Library.

The Excellence in Community Engagement Award honors outstanding achievement in public relations activities by AALL members, chapters and libraries focusing on law library outreach to their communities.

The goal of the project was to visit each county in Wyoming to work with public librarians, community college librarians, tribal librarians and community groups for the purpose of providing legal research training. Training librarians then allows them to assist the members of their communities who may need to research legal problems.

An important aspect of this program is the resulting networking between UW's law library and the various libraries in the state as they encounter issues with access to legal resources and information. Plumb says many individuals find legal research intimidating, and librarians often field requests from low-income Wyoming citizens with legal issues.

Plumb received support from UW's Office of Engagement and Outreach and Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research as a recipient of a 2019 Faculty Engagement Fellowship award.

WY WYOMING

Wyoming Reads

Wyoming Reads, held in all 23 counties, gifts a hardback picture book to every Wyoming first-grade student. More than 6,800 students received a book to cherish that they picked from this year's six selections. Last year, the event had to be postponed until the fall with children out of school due to the pandemic. This year, it's back on schedule, although with accommodations for current COVID restrictions and concerns. Wyoming Reads is a program of the Sue Jorgensen Library Foundation. It began in 1999 as "Casper Cares, Casper Reads" and expanded statewide in 2006. John Jorgensen established the Sue Jorgensen Library Foundation and the annual celebration to honor his late wife's commitment to literacy and books.



Students at John Paul II Catholic School in Gillette with their books



Wyoming First Lady Jennie Gordon was a guest reader at Natrona County Library.



Students in Lovell with their Wyoming Reads bags. Middle school students volunteered as guest readers. Students from Lovell and Cowley attended the event at the HYART Theater.



Wyoming First Lady Jennie Gordon and Natrona County Library staff with a welcoming message to students on Wyoming Reads day, May 18. From left to right: Chelsie Troutman, Teen/Youth Services Specialist; Jennifer Beckstead, Youth Services Manager; Jennie Gordon; Lisa Scroggins, Executive Director; and Kate Mutch, Assistant Director.



Welcome, New Members!



Name	Title	Institution/Library Name	City & State
Cheyenne Chontos	Library Technology Coordinator	South Dakota State Library	Pierre, SD
Jennifer Kofoed	Glenrock Branch Manager	Converse County Library	Glenrock, WY
Kate Kosior	Manager/Supervisor	SD State Library Braille and Talking Book Library	Pierre, SD

Find us on 

MPLA on Facebook:

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



MPLA on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/MPLAtweets>



MPLA on LinkedIn:

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



MPLA State Representatives



Arizona

Amadee Ricketts
Cochise County Library
Bisbee, AZ
arizona@mpla.us

Colorado

Elena Rosenfeld
High Plains Library District
Greeley, CO
colorado@mpla.us

Kansas

Maribeth Shafer
Central Kansas Library System
Great Bend, KS
kansas@mpla.us

Montana

Rachel M. Rawn
Havre-Hill County Library
Havre, MT
montana@mpla.us

Nebraska

Evonne Edgington
Omaha Public Library -Millard Branch
Omaha, NE
nebraska@mpla.us

Nevada

Luise Davis
Douglas County Public Library
Minden, NV
nevada@mpla.us

New Mexico

Dale Savage
New Mexico State Library
new_mexico@mpla.us

North Dakota

Randi Monley
Minot Public Library
Minot, ND
north_dakota@mpla.us

Oklahoma

Gloria Farmer
Eastern Oklahoma Library System
oklahoma@mpla.us

South Dakota

Nita Gill
Brookings Public Library
Brookings, SD
south_dakota@mpla.us

Utah

Sherrie Mortensen
Wasatch County Library
Heber, UT
utah@mpla.us

Wyoming

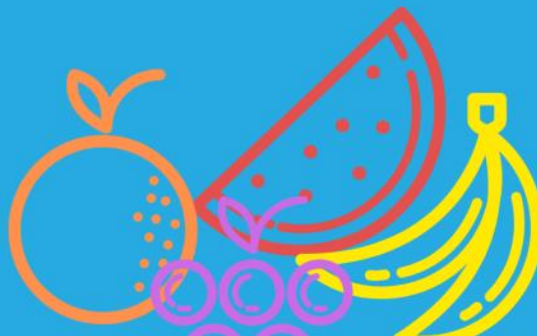
Katrina Brown
Goodstein Foundation Library
Casper, WY
wyoming@mpla.us

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



MPLA Board & Staff



President

Robin Newell
Emporia Public Library
Emporia, Kansas
president@mpla.us

Vice-President/President Elect

Brenda Hemmelman
South Dakota State Library
Pierre, SD
vicepresident@mpla.us

Past President / Administration

Stephen Sweeney
St. John Vianney Seminary
Cardinal Stafford Library
Denver, CO
pastpresident@mpla.us

Recording Secretary

Whitney Vitale
Oklahoma State University
Edmon Low Library
Stillwater, Oklahoma
secretary@mpla.us

Executive Secretary

Judy Kulp
Lakewood, Colorado
execsecretary@mpla.us

Newsletter Editor

Melanie Argo
Madison Public Library
Madison, SD
editor@mpla.us

Leadership Institute Coordinator

coordinator@mpla.us

Webmaster

Roy Degler
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK
webmaster@mpla.us

MPLA Archives

Abby Hoverstock
Denver Public Library,
Western History and Genealogy
Denver, SD
archives@mpla.us

Awards

Mary Ann Thompson
Hays, KS
awards@mpla.us

Nominating

Stephen Sweeney
St. John Vianney Seminary
Cardinal Stafford Library
Denver, CO
nominating@mpla.us

Bylaws and Procedures

Frances Brummett
Salt Lake City Public Library
Salt Lake, UT
bylaws@mpla.us

Communications

Co-chairs:
Shanna Smith-Ritterhouse
Mulvane Public Library
Mulvane, KS

Jennifer Williams-Curl
Western Dakota Tech Institute
Rapid City, SD
communications@mpla.us

Leadership Institute

Michael McDonald
Northeast KS Library System
Lawrence, KS
leadership@mpla.us

Membership

Mary J. Soucie
North Dakota State Library
Bismarck, ND
membership@mpla.us

Professional Development

Robin Hastings
Northeast Kansas Library System
Lawrence, KS
prof_development@mpla.us

Program Council

Brenda Hemmelman
South Dakota State Library
Pierre, SD
program@mpla.us



Or pick your own charitable organization:

Search

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.



The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is a twelve state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Its purpose is to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities.

Quick Links:

Website: www.mpla.us

Executive Board – Officers, State Representatives and Staff:
<https://mpla.us/about/executive-board/>

Join MPLA or Renew Membership:
<https://mpla.us/services/membership/>

Professional Development Grants:
<https://mpla.us/about/professional-development-grants.html>

Calendar: <https://mpla.us/quick-links/calendar.html>

Awards Nomination Form: <https://mpla.us/services/awards/>

Grocery Card Program: www.mpla.us/projects/grocerycard.html

Send Newsletter Information:
www.mpla.us/forms/newssubmission.html

Donate to MPLA: <https://mpla.us/donate-to-mpla.html>

Job line: <https://mpla.us/quick-links/jobline.html>

MPLA on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/MountainPlainsLibraryAssociation/>

MPLA on Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/MPLAtweets>

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

Advertising:

There is no charge to MPLA personal or institutional members for classified advertising.

Non-members are charged \$1.25/line. Display advertisement copy rates are available from editor@mpla.us.

MPLA Membership:

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

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