

# Mountain Plains Library Association

*Big Horizons Close Community*

# Newsletter

December 2021—January 2022

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

Volume 66 Number 6

## *President's Message*

MPLA is all about leadership development, either during our joint conference presentations or during our outstanding Leadership Institute which reinforces that anyone can lead, anytime, anywhere. After quite a bit of reflection and conversation with a respected colleague about the subject of leadership and professionalism and where those worlds collide, I thought I'd pass these questions on to you, as valued professionals, for some out of the stacks input:

PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT



- ♦ ***What are the top three "professional behaviors" you want to see in your employees?***
- ♦ ***Have recent years and/or current events changed your ideas about what "professionalism in libraries" looks like?***

I hope you will take these questions to heart. They are meant to make you a wee bit uncomfortable. The answers to these questions will most likely run the gamut and I expect to have some unpopular comments about the questions themselves. So run with it. Sit with it. Talk it over with your esteemed colleagues. And then if you are brave enough and have the time, share back with me at [president@mpla.us](mailto:president@mpla.us). You can make a difference – remember, leadership is an activity, not a position.



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# Haunted Quarantine

From the [Grand Forks Public Library Stories: The Playground](#)  
[Originally posted January 7 2021] North Dakota

When 6'7" Marquis moved to Grand Forks from Missouri about a month ago, he didn't expect a 5'2" elderly man and 4' young boy as house guests.

"I had this instinct when I walked in the house," explains Marquis. "The rental felt warm and cozy with its stained-glass windows and old-time charm. I had a gut feeling it would be comfortable."

The first night in his new home quietly revealed the first hint as to why it was so "cozy."

## Cozy or Creepy?

"I was exhausted from moving in and fell asleep on the couch," shares Marquis. "When I woke up, I noticed something strange in the kitchen." A laundry basket, which held neatly folded bedding the night before, was now a mess of blankets. "They were just wadded up in a bundle in front of the fridge. I thought it was weird, but I was also very tired. Maybe I did it and forgot?"



Yet the strangeness didn't end there.

Two weeks later, Marquis was relaxing in his room and fell asleep. Moments later, he was jolted wide awake. He sat up in bed and peered into the living room, where a shorter old man stood.

"He wasn't looking at me directly," shares Marquis. "I saw his side profile. He was wearing a shirt and brown overalls, like he was from the olden days."

The man disappeared as quickly as he appeared, and Marquis again questioned if he was just seeing things. He was still tired from the cross-country move, after all.

## November 16 Connection

A few days later, on November 16, Marquis dozed off while watching TV. At 3:47 a.m., he was again jolted awake. This time, a new house guest appeared.

"It was a little boy. And he wasn't transparent. He was black and white, like he stepped out of an old television. He stood there for about seven seconds with his hands by his side, his head tilted, and his eyes looking into the other room. There was so much detail—a buzz cut, a wool gray suit and vest, and a puffy tie that looked like it was straight from the 1950s."

Marquis reached out to grab his phone, and by the time he looked up, the boy was gone.

## Seeking Answers

By now, Marquis was certain he wasn't imagining things. After a night of restless sleep, he called Grand Forks Public to dig into the past. Marquis was connected to an information services librarian and explained his home situation.

Information Services Librarian Leif Fritzell found that the home was originally built in 1904. The husband and wife lived there for many, many years. She died in 1965, most likely inside the home. *On November 16.*

-continued on page 3

the couple also lost their firstborn son in his middle age. Cause of death: undetermined.

“The boy was looking for someone,” explains Marquis. “The pieces are starting to make sense.”

Leif explains, “The Grand Forks Public Library is unique in that we are in physical possession of local history resources that make this sort of question answerable definitively. First, we check the reverse listing in the Grand Forks City Directories, which are locked in the Grand Forks Room inside the library, for the names of past residents of a particular building. Using their name, we then use the North Dakota State Death Index to determine the date and county of death. Once we confirm this information, we search the Grand Forks Herald microfilm reels the old-fashioned way for details about the person and the circumstances of death. In other words, you can’t Google this stuff.”

Leif continues, “Marquis’s story is a refreshing query from a reference standpoint. As with any reference query, you’re simply listening very carefully to the patron, trying to tease out pertinent details.”

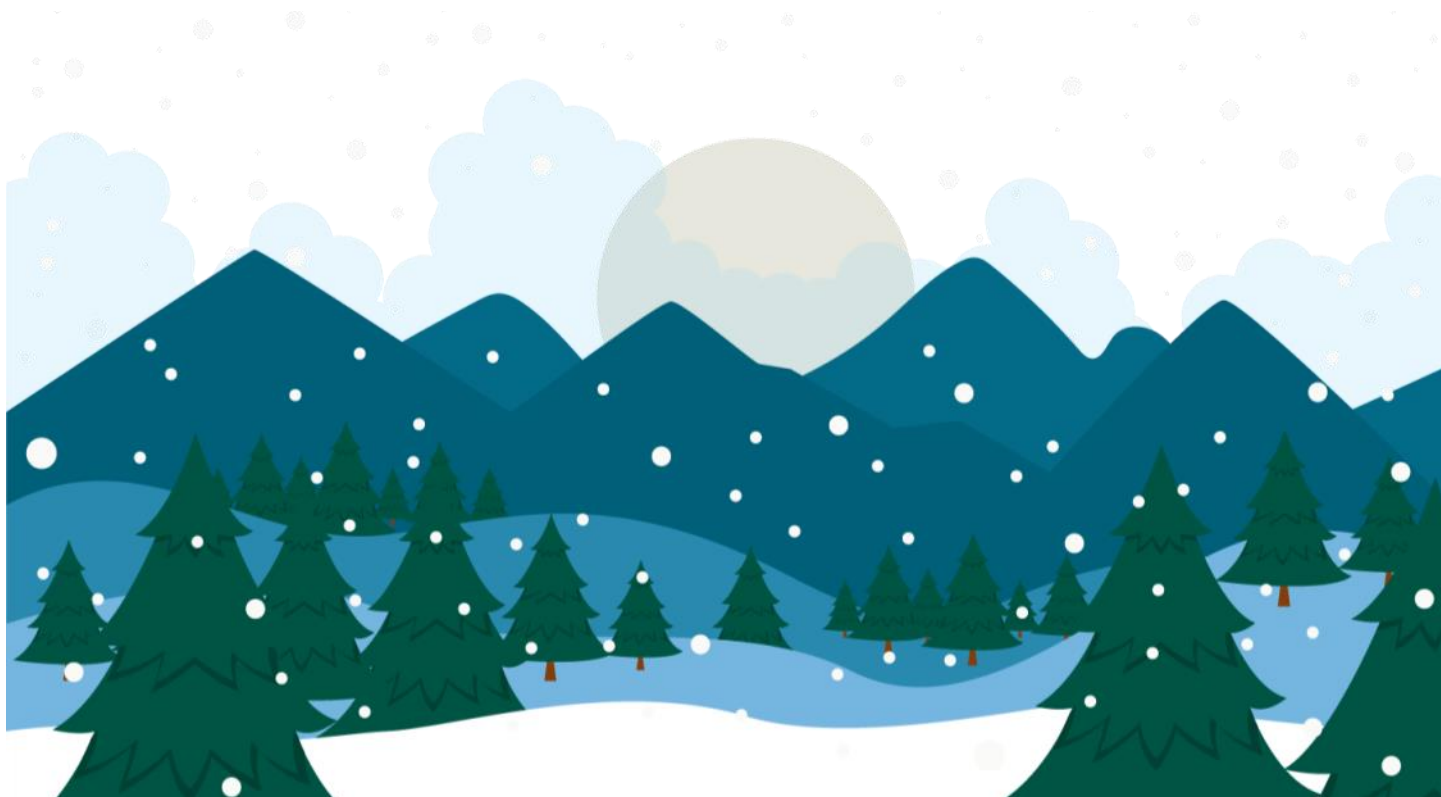
### **Small Hints**

The strange occurrences continue today. One recent Sunday, the home was a toasty 75 degrees after Marquis cooked dinner, and suddenly it dropped to 60 degrees with a gust of cold air. Another time, Marquis was playing a video game and heard a weird sound on the porch. He paused the game, opened the front door, and heard a strange “Zoomzoomzoom” whispering sound. It wasn’t the last time he heard voices on the front porch when no one was there.

“I probably sound crazy, but my friends have heard it, too,” Marquis laughs.

So what’s next for Marquis? He knows the history. He’s curious but not fearful. He knows the former residents attended church around the corner, and he has his own cross on the wall.

“I don’t want to make them mad. We relate on a spiritual level. We’re going to have a conversation about living here together in peace,” he explains. “It’s their place.”





The North Dakota State Library partnered with the Bank of North Dakota to bring the College SAVE Summer Reading Champions Campaign to participants of the 2021 Collaborative Summer Library Program, “Tails and Tales.”

Every student completing their library’s goal for “Tails and Tales” received a redeemable certificate for a \$10 contribution to an existing College SAVE account or a \$25 contribution to a new College SAVE account. More than 350 children took advantage of the contribution. In addition, there were ten recipients selected from random drawings who were awarded \$529 College SAVE contributions.

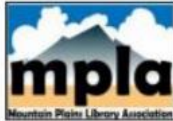
“Once again, thousands of families from across the state chose to make reading a priority in their households over the summer,” says State Librarian Mary Soucie. “We look forward to a continued partnership with the Bank of North Dakota and North Dakota public libraries to continue to provide wonderful opportunities to the youth of our state.”

Over 3,800 youth from over 40 libraries participated in this year’s summer reading campaign. The \$529 scholarship recipients are Dillon Gregoryk, Jack Heib, and Nolan Holien from the Fargo Library; Ian Lach from the Ward County Public Library; Samia Cartwright from the Grand Forks Public Library; Jayden Kornkven from the Casselton Public Library, Jack Myklebust from the Hazen Public Library; Aliethia Nelson from the Beulah Library; Stella Perleberg from the Lakota City Library and Abigail Hovde from the Edna Ralston Library in Larimore.

“Bank of North Dakota congratulates all of the young people who participated in their local library’s summer reading programs,” states Todd Steinwand, Bank of North Dakota president. “It is well-established that reading is an important component of academic success which leads to a well-prepared workforce.”



## Guiding Principles



# LONG RANGE PLANS 2018



### 1. Pursue outreach opportunities

- Foster relationships
- Increase professional sharing
- Include diverse communities



### 2. Encourage caring, respectful relationships

- Mentoring
- Networking
- Collaborations
- Learning



### 3. Realize our potential

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



Source: Agreement icon made by Ginger Creative; Telephone icon made by Freepress; Network icon made by VectorStock.com from www.freemove.com

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



## 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.

# NOW IS THE TIME



## EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

School of LIBRARY & 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. Learn more at [emporia.edu/slim](http://emporia.edu/slim).



## 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

## AZ ARIZONA

### University of Arizona Libraries Awarded Teaching with Primary Sources Grant

The University of Arizona Libraries were awarded a grant of \$83,226 from the Library of Congress, to increase students' access to and opportunities to work with primary source materials in a variety of disciplines. The grant program, called "Fostering the 'Aha!' Moments of Learning with Primary Sources through Librarian-Faculty Partnerships," will facilitate collaboration between library faculty and their counterparts in the interdisciplinary Honors College, the College of Education, the Fred Fox School of Music in the College of Fine Arts, and several other departments, to identify and digitize primary sources, and design learning activities featuring the primary source materials. Read more about the project [here](#).



University Libraries

Fast At-Home **COVID-19 Tests**  
Free from your Library

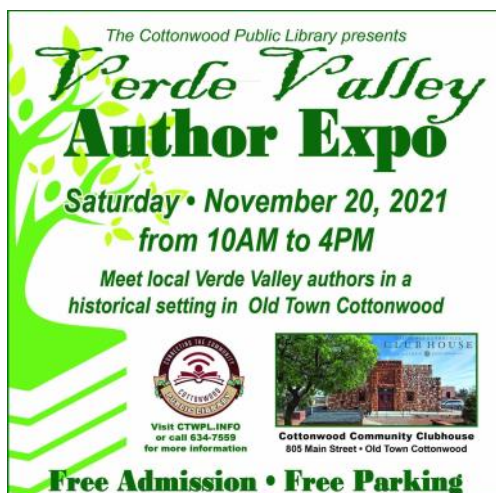


### Maricopa County Library District Offers COVID-19 Rapid Tests for the Public

The Maricopa County Library District (MCLD), based in Phoenix, is partnering with the Maricopa County Health Department to distribute BinaxNOW test kits at all 18 MCLD branch locations. The self-administered antigen tests provide results in 15 minutes. Library Director Jeremy Reeder said that the pilot program is intended to "remove barriers to access, and to help our residents experience an improved quality of life." Read more about the project in the [West Valley View](#).

### Verde Valley Author Expo

The Cottonwood Public Library presented the Verde Valley Author Expo on November 20, featuring authors from across the region. The event was held at the Cottonwood Community Clubhouse, and attendees had the opportunity to meet local authors and purchase books.





# CO COLORADO

## Challenge Accepted

This winter, Summit County Library is making reading more fun with [Yeti...Set...Read! All Ages Winter Reading Challenge](#). On November 1, patrons were invited to register on the library's Beanstack app or website to participate in a winter reading challenge in which participants will earn a free book of their choice as a prize just for registering! Read or listen to a variety of genre categories to complete virtual Beanstack badges.



## Promoting Writers

[Grand County Community of Writers](#) is a one-of-a-kind program through the Grand County Library District, in Granby, CO, designed to encourage and develop the skills of local storytellers interested in producing works of both fiction and nonfiction. Working with local radio station KFFR, several writers have produced audio versions of original works to share their stories in the community.



Listen to recorded shows on Wednesdays at 7:00 am or available on-demand at [kffr.org](http://kffr.org)

# KS KANSAS

## SHARP Recovery Grant

Humanities Kansas recently awarded a SHARP Recovery Grant in the amount of \$6,024.00 to Morrill Public Library in Hiawatha, KS. The SHARP Recovery Grants support Kansas cultural organizations that provide humanities programming and are facing financial hardship due to the coronavirus.

Funding made available through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to assist cultural institutions affected by the coronavirus as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) approved by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden.

For more information visit [humanitieskansas.org](http://humanitieskansas.org).

## Fundraising in Wamego, KS

The Wamego Library participated in the Wamego Community Foundation's Match Day event to add to their library expansion and renovation project. From the event, the library received \$24,485 in generous support as well as qualifying for \$5,000 in matching funds to help furnish the new Children's Library that will have 50% more space. Construction for the addition is anticipated to begin this spring and fundraising continues for the renovation portion of the project.



Learn more about the expansion project here: <http://wamego.lib.nckls.org/expansion-project/>

Library Director Erin Verbick serves as project director. Morrill Public Library is a center for lifelong learning, providing a variety of resources to meet the community's information, education, and recreation needs. We serve patrons of all ages and backgrounds with an enthusiasm for community connection. Funds from this grant will support our staff through wages, updated equipment, and training

## #NocturnalNovember

As part of our investigation into the nighttime world for #nocturnalnovember, Madison Valley Public Library in Ennis, MT, has a Starry Sky Survey Kit from @mtlearningctr available for checkout. With this kit, kids and families will learn about the negative effects of light pollution and will be able to measure and record the light pollution at their homes.



## 2021 Renovation Projects in Twin Bridges MT

Twin Bridges Public Library in Twin Bridges, MT made some changes to their space in 2021 to better serve their community. A front desk remodel was completed in January and flooring was replaced in July. During each of these projects the library was closed but they kept their community connected by sharing regular Facebook updates of the progress.

More can be seen on their Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Twin-Bridges-Public-Library-143687952329557>



# 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.**

## Welcome to the MPLA Board: Interview with Michael Straatmann

*What made you want to get involved with MPLA?*

In one of my previous roles as Executive Director of the Nebraska Library Association for approximately a decade, I developed an extensive familiarity with MPLA and the important role that it plays. I have had the opportunity to work alongside many individuals who had chosen MPLA as one of the facets of their professional service and have always been impressed with the Association's work. I had the opportunity in 2012 to serve as one of the primary planning individuals for the MPLA conference, co-hosted by NLA and the Nebraska School Librarians Association. Additionally, some of my most enjoyable conferences to attend -- and to present at - have all been MPLA conferences. I am delighted to start the next chapter of my service by branching out and helping serve an organization that has done so much to support the development of both institutions and individuals within our shared profession.



## Morton-James Public Library Wins Front Porch Award



We are happy to announce that Morton-James Public Library, serving the community of Nebraska City, NE, is the 2021 Southeast Library System Front Porch award recipient. The Front Porch Award is presented annually to a library in the 20-county area of southeast Nebraska that displays ingenuity in creating an atmosphere that welcomes citizens and helps community members connect with each other, much like the front porches of our homes do for our neighborhoods, friends, and families.

The letters received supporting the nomination mentioned how the library continued to serve the community during the uncertain times of the pandemic, providing services and materials in many ways, while continuing to emphasize individual connections to the people who use the library. The Morton-James Public Library is also participating in national projects to bring the community together.

Morton-James Public Library has served the community of Nebraska City in good times and in tough times, and we applaud all those who have helped in that effort. In recognition of this – we happily award them the Front Porch Award.

## North Las Vegas gains \$425,000 in outside aid

The North Las Vegas Library District was named a finalist for the IMLS 2021 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. We are extremely humbled and honored to receive this recognition for our programs supporting our residents, especially during the time that we were closed to the public during the pandemic.

Our library district has been busy applying for grants and other funding sources to improve our services for our patrons. Some of the larger projects include funding to purchase 300 Chromebooks with added data service for patron checkout, new self-check-out stations and 2 multi bin self-check-in conveyor belt units, 2 tablet stations to allow patrons to self-check Samsung tablets for in-house use, and an LSTA grant to assist our district with an updated strategic plan. In total we have garnered over \$425,000 in outside aid to enhance our library services to the public over the past year.



## Positive Steps Forward at Washoe County Libraries

submitted by Joan Dalusung, Assistant Director, Washoe County Library System

**Additional Staff and Hours:** Washoe County Library System is grateful to receive tremendous support from Washoe County Library through the addition of 15 additional positions this year. With additional staff, we were excited to announce to our community that beginning Monday, October 11, several branch locations can now offer newly expanded hours.

The [Downtown Reno](#), [Northwest Reno](#), [South Valleys](#), and [Sparks Libraries](#) now offer services seven days a week, while the [North Valleys](#), [Sierra View](#), and [Spanish Springs](#) libraries will be open six days a week. The [Incline Village](#) and [Senior Center](#) libraries will continue to be open five days a week. Additionally, all partnership libraries located inside or on the campuses of public schools are open to the public during after-school hours.

Patrons have full access to library services at each location and will be able to browse library collections, pick up holds, and use public computers and printers.

**In-Person Programming:** We are also thrilled to resume in-person programming after 18 months of incredible virtual programming from our Youth Services and Library Events team. Using registration, social distancing, and masks for patrons over the age of two, we offer safe and engaging story times that help our youngest patrons sing, talk, read, write, and play.

*-continued on page 13*

We recently welcomed two very special guest storytellers! On July 30, we were honored to host Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak, who shared stories with a thoroughly enthralled audience at the Downtown Reno Library. Then, on October 14, Washoe County Manager Eric Brown read to an excited group of toddlers at our South Valleys Library. We've even offered story times outdoors at our Spanish Springs Library! Indoors or out, from library to library, we are so happy to be offering in-person story times again!



**Workforce Development Partnership:** Finally, we are honored to partner with the Northern Nevada Literacy Council on a new partnership to offer English Language Acquisition and Citizenship Classes at our Sierra View Library. This partnership, which started in October, 2021, will assist job seekers as they gain skills to pursue their career goals. Technology and materials in English and Spanish were purchased to support this partnership with support from an LSTA grant through the Institute of Museums and Library Services. We look forward to expanding these classes to other library locations in 2022.



Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak

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Washoe County Manager Eric Brown

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## Americans and the Holocaust Traveling Exhibition at Rio Rancho, Loma Colorado Library

by Jenna Wells, Adult Services Supervisor, Rio Rancho Public Library



Rio Rancho's Library and Information Services Department is one of 50 U.S. libraries selected to host *Americans and the Holocaust*, a traveling exhibition from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum that examines the motives, pressures and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s.

The touring library exhibition — based on the special exhibition of the same name at the Museum in Washington, D.C. — will travel to U.S. libraries from 2020 – 2022.

*Americans and the Holocaust* will be on display at the **Loma Colorado Main Library**, along with a series of related special events, from **October 12 to November 13, 2021**.

Based on extensive new research of that period, *Americans and the Holocaust* addresses important themes in American history, exploring the many factors — including the Great Depression, isolationism, xenophobia, racism and antisemitism — that influenced decisions made by the U.S. government, the news media, organizations and individuals as they responded to Nazism. This exhibition will challenge the commonly held assumptions that Americans knew little and did nothing about the Nazi persecution and murder of Jews as the Holocaust unfolded.

Drawing on a remarkable collection of primary sources from the 1930s and '40s, the exhibition focuses on the stories of individuals and groups of Americans who took action in response to Nazism. It will challenge visitors to consider the responsibilities and obstacles faced by individuals — from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to ordinary Americans — who made difficult choices, sought to effect change, and, in a few cases, took significant risks to help victims of Nazism even as rescue never became a government priority.

In addition to the traveling exhibition on loan, Rio Rancho's Library and Information Services department received a cash grant to support public programs. The grant also covered one library staff member's attendance at an orientation workshop at the Museum.

*Americans and the Holocaust: A Traveling Exhibition for Libraries* is an educational initiative of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association. To learn more about the exhibition, visit [ushmm.org/americans-ala](https://ushmm.org/americans-ala).

*Americans and the Holocaust* was made possible by the generous support of lead sponsors Jeannie & Jonathan Lavine. Additional major funding was provided by the Bildners — Joan & Allen z"l, Elisa Spungen & Rob, Nancy & Jim; and Jane and Daniel Och. The Museum's exhibitions are also supported by the Lester Robbins and Sheila Johnson Robbins Traveling and Special Exhibitions Fund, established in 1990.

Additional programming support was made possible, in part, by the [New Mexico Holocaust Museum and Gellert Center for Education](#).

# ND NORTH DAKOTA

## New Director

Tuya Dutton is the new Director of Libraries of Raugust Library at the University of Jamestown. She started her new position on July 8, 2021, and has a business and electronic resources management background.



## Tables of Content Fundraiser

The Williston Community Library Foundation hosted their 20th Annual Tables of Content Fundraiser on Sunday, September 12th. 200+ Attendees walked through the newly renovated library viewing tables decorated by community members in all different fashions while enjoying refreshments, good conversation, and a silent auction. A total of eighteen tables were scattered throughout the library and included jungle themes, Christmas, children's birthday party themes, weddings, antique dishes, presidential china, fairy gardens and so much more. This year's event raised over \$3,000 for the Williams County Bookmobile replacement fund.



## Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library: Commissioner Guy Receives Library Champion Award

The North Dakota Library Association (NDLA) awarded City Commissioner Nancy Guy the 2021 Library Champion Award during their Annual Conference Award Banquet on October 7 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. The NDLA presents the Library Champion Award to an individual in a federal, state, city, or county leadership position who has supported or advocated for a library or libraries in North Dakota.

Pictured L to R: Janet Anderson, NDLA Legislative Committee Chair; Nancy Guy, Bismarck City Commissioner; Christine Kujawa, Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library Director

Read More at <https://bit.ly/BVMPL-PressRelease>



### 2021 Banned Books Display/Programming Contest

The Oklahoma Library Association’s Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Intellectual Freedom Roundtable (EDII) celebrated the freedom to read by encouraging libraries across Oklahoma to share their programs and displays for our 2021 Banned Books Week. The theme: *Books Unite Us, Censorship Divides Us*.

Here are the winners and honorable mentions:

- 1st Place: Yukon Public Library
- 2nd Place: Hulbert Public Library! Creator credit goes to Pam Davis, Library Assistant.
- 3rd Place: Moore Public Library with displays submitted by Erin Gericke and AJ Soliven
- Honorable Mention: Idabel Public Library
- Honorable Mention: Altus Public Library

Photos of winners found [here](#).



### EDII Activity Kit Drive

By: Hailey Carrell, Library Associate at Pioneer

Earlier this year, the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Intellectual Freedom Roundtable (EDII) held a supply drive for activity kits to take to the Oklahoma County Juvenile Justice Center (OCJJC). We had an origami star kit with the book *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda* by Tom Angleberger, and a blackout poetry kit with the book *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander. Thanks to OLA Members, we were able to collect supplies for 26 of each kit.



*The Origami Yoda kit included supplies for origami stars, a word search, and The Strange Case of Origami Yoda by Tom Angleberger*

EDII members were able to visit the center and do the activities with the kids on three different days, seeing a total of 22 kids. We are hoping to return and use the rest of the kits later in the year.

The kids loved the activities! They especially took to the origami activity, even showing off their own origami knowledge. Some kids attempted the Origami Yoda from the book, while others tried an easier pattern we found later.

The kids were so excited to have someone come visit them. They talked a lot about the books they like to read and were delighted when we told them they got to keep the kits, including the books!



*The blackout poetry kit included a book page, markers, and The Crossover by Kwame Alexander*

These activities kits were only possible because of the generous donations from OLA members. EDII is incredibly thankful to all who donated, as were all of the kids at the OCJJC.



## Jan Enright Named Librarian of the Year

By: Jennifer Burris Strategic Communications Coordinator Dakota State University

Dakota State University (DSU) Library Director Jan Brue Enright has been named South Dakota Library Association (SDLA) Librarian of the Year for 2021.

“It means a lot to me because it’s a recognition from my colleagues and peers,” Enright said. “I think that’s what makes it extra meaningful for me, and it feels like it’s a recognition for a 25-year career.”

According to [SDLA](#), the award was created in 1972 to recognize librarians who have made significant contributions to effective and improved library service in South Dakota.



From her beginnings as an assistant to her current role as library director, Enright has been working in the library industry since 1995 at university libraries. In her time at DSU as library director, Enright helped the Karl E. Mundt Library celebrate 50 years with a year of programming and special events. While COVID-19 limited what could be offered at the library the last year and a half, she’s been busy working on events and programming for the fall and spring.

Enright was celebrated with a small event when she received her award. During the award presentation, Enright was described as a mentor: (Enright) has worked with many young librarians and helped guide them through what it means to be a librarian – all with a welcoming smile.”

Beyond offering mentorship, the award highlighted her ability to overcome budget cuts and staff shortages during a global COVID pandemic, while maintaining and emphasizing the importance of services to her campus and her community.

Her nominator shared that “one of the problems I faced when putting together this nomination was narrowing down whom I should request letters of nomination from.”

Whether Enright is recommending a book to patrons or justifying the budget to stakeholders, she is invested in the Karl Mundt Library and the broader community.



## Big Horizons, Close Community



## Celebrating Indigenous Culture

The J. Willard Marriott Library at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, UT is celebrating Native American Heritage Month. This exhibition seeks to amplify Indigenous voices and highlight and celebrate the diverse and rich culture of Native American people. It is presented by the Indigenous Student Association and Allies.



## New Library Opening in Davis County

The Clearfield Branch Library, finished in 2021, is the newest in the Davis County System, replacing the old North Branch Library which was built in 1975. The new library at 1 North Main in Clearfield is located in the heart of Clearfield and offers a reliable and safe environment for patrons of all ages, especially children. Due to the location, this branch also makes the most of the reciprocal borrowing agreement between Davis and Weber County, benefiting patrons from both systems.

Read more here: <https://www.daviscountyutah.gov/library/locations/clearfield-branch>



*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.

## Wyoming Library to Business

By: Stephen Boss

Established in 2020, the ALA Libraries Build Business (LBB) program is a national initiative to “build capacity in libraries offering programming or services to local entrepreneurs and the small business community.” The program is supported by Google.org.



The Studio, Campbell County Public Library, Gillette, WY

ALA and Google.org ask the following important question, “What library-led entrepreneurship models will best help low-income and/or underrepresented entrepreneurs start and grow small businesses?” The Wyoming Library to Business (L2B) network is an outgrowth of the ALA and Google.org initiative. The goal of the Wyoming L2B network is to connect Wyoming entrepreneurs and business owners with a curated network of business experts, resources to learn new skills, and the tools to succeed at every stage. It is business-focused, community-driven, and a completely free resource to Wyoming citizens.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3c1r2Ct>

## Welcome to the MPLA Board: Interview with Judi Boyce

*What made you want to get involved with MPLA?*

My term on the Wyoming Library Association Executive Board was ending and WLA’s Board President Jeff Collins asked if I’d be willing to serve as the MPLA Rep. I jumped at the chance as I love serving on the board and getting to connect with and meet librarians from all over the place, so it seemed like the perfect fit. I’m excited to join the team and hope to contribute to the success of MPLA.

I am the adult programming coordinator at Sublette County Library in Pinedale, Wyoming. I have been in this position for 7 years and when the pandemic brought everything to a standstill, and two colleagues decided to retire, I took over cataloging. I now catalog everything in our library except children’s books, as well as continuing to create and host programs for adults. One of my favorite programs is our onsite outreach to local senior centers. We don’t have a bookmobile, so I load a cart full of books, audiobooks, and DVDs into my car and take them to three local senior facilities twice a month.



In our local community, I serve on the town council, planning and zoning, and a joint powers board that manages our aquatic center. I am honored to be part of the MPLA board and look forward to getting to know everyone.

### Why do people love their Wyoming Libraries?

On Wyoming Snapshot Day, we asked patrons why the library was important to them. We had so many great comments, it was tough to narrow it down to a few to share here on the blog. You can [read all of them](#) over on the [Wyoming Snapshot Day](#) website. We'd also encourage you to check out the photos and video.

Libraries make a difference every day. Here are some of our patrons telling us why:

- ◆ When I think of places I like to go just for the pure pleasure of it . . . the Goshen County Library is way up high on my list. Thank you for making it the great place that it is! — Alice Williams, Goshen County Library
- ◆ I love that it is so child friendly and filled with many wonderful books! — Glenrock Branch Library
- ◆ The library is one of the few free places a community has. All ages can benefit from the library.” — La Barge Branch Library
- ◆ I recently moved from Texas and had it not been for CCPL, I would not have had access to the information and equipment I needed to land a wonderful job and begin the process of starting my own business. — Rene Rios, Campbell County Public Library
- ◆ My source to reach out to the world. — Lyle Reizenstein, Converse County Library
- ◆ We LOVE Laramie County Library! Virtual Tales Together have been a joy during COVID and the staff is always so upbeat and positive, with numerous creative activities and events. Thank you! We really appreciate all you do. — James Cassidy, Laramie County Library
- ◆ I grew up using the library and I can't imagine my life without it. It is an oasis in a volatile world and I hope everyone realizes what having a library in your community means to everyone. — Virginia Mees, Park County Library
- ◆ Libraries are an important part of our communities, especially in rural areas. They supply needed books and information. Not everyone has access to computers or the internet and the library is where they can access these. — Shirley Terry, Star Valley Branch Library
- ◆ The library provides community connections, amazing access to materials and provides the opportunity to expose my son to a wealth and diversity of books. The materials and programs here rival those of communities two to three times our size. — Mary Greenwood, Big Piney Branch Library

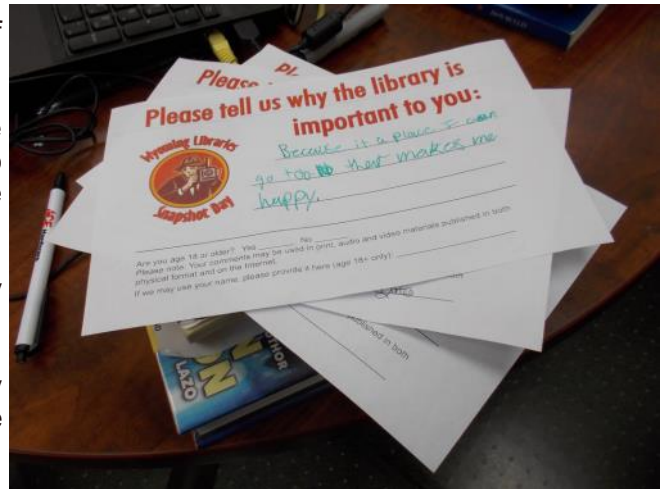


Photo: Washakie County Library

This is just a sampling — [read them all!](#)



# Welcome, New Members!



<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Institution/ Library Name</b>	<b>City &amp; State</b>
<b>Abby Werth</b>	Library Assistant	Louisburg Library	Louisburg, KS
<b>Angie Laxdal</b>	Marketing Director	Grand Forks Public Library	Grand Forks, ND
<b>Breanna Vegas</b>	Youth Services Librarian	Estes Valley Library	Estes Park, CO
<b>Cassandra Osterloh</b>	Tribal Libraries Program Coordinator	New Mexico State Library	Santa Fe, NM
<b>Charlotte Bedlion</b>	Assistant Librarian	Bottineau County Public Library	Bottineau, ND
<b>Connie Weber</b>	Director	Richmond Public Library	Richmond, KS
<b>Denis Shannon</b>	Resource Acquisition and Management Librarian	University of Wyoming Libraries - Coe Library	Laramie, WY
<b>DesiRae Churchwell</b>	Library Director	Jay Johnson Public Library	Quinter, KS
<b>Ella Gibson</b>	Online Learning & Instruction Librarian	University of Colorado Colorado Springs	Colorado Springs, CO
<b>Genea Reynolds</b>	Director	Lyndon Carnegie Library	Lyndon, KS
<b>Holly McLain</b>	Adult Services Coordinator	Louisburg Library	Louisburg, KS
<b>Jen Kramer</b>	Librarian	Velva Public Library	Velva, ND
<b>Judi Boyce</b>	Adult Programming Coordinator	Sublette County Library	Pinedale, WY
<b>Julie Kent</b>	Director	Erie City Public Library	Erie City, KS
<b>Katherine Weadley</b>	Program & Outreach Services Supervisor	Estes Valley Library	Estes Park, CO
<b>Kirbie Sondreal</b>	Assistant Children's Librarian	Grand Forks Public Library	Grand Forks, ND
<b>Laura Solkey</b>	Librarian/Library Para	Georgia Matthews Elementary School	Garden City, KS
<b>Lu Benke</b>	Consultant	Linking Libraries and Literacy	LaPorte, CO
<b>Marie Petry</b>	Library Director	Cavalier Public Library	Cavalier, ND
<b>Miah-Joy Kay</b>		McKenzie County Public Library	Watford City, ND



# Welcome, New Members!



Name	Title	Institution/ Library Name	City & State
Michael Straatmann	Access Services Coordinator	University of Nebraska - Lincoln	Lincoln, NE
Morgen Cote	Children's Librarian	Williston Community Library	Williston, ND
Nicole Thibodeau	Patron Experience Coordinator	Hays Public Library	Hays, KS
Patty Steele	Librarian	ASB Innovation Academy, Williston Basin	Williston, ND
Shanta Dickerson	Operations Manager	Friends of Johnson County Library	Overland Park, KS
Stephanie Beene	Librarian for Art, Architecture, and Planning	University of New Mexico Fine Arts and Design Library	Albuquerque, NM
Tori Lee	Mobile Library Coordinator	Williston Community Library	Williston, ND
Valerie Brown-Kuchera	K-12 Library Director	Quinter Schools	Quinter, KS
Virginia Shaffer	Library Director	Allen Community College	Iola, KS

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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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Madison Public Library

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

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