

Mountain Plains Library Association

*Big Horizons Close Community*

# Newsletter

February 2022—March 2022

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

Volume 67 Number 1



## 2022 Library Tri-Conference Program Proposal

Participating Associations: Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) / Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) / Montana Library Association (MLA)

Call for Proposals: 2022 Tri-Conference with Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA), Montana Library Association (MLA) and Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA)

**Program Proposal Deadline: March 1, 2022**

Link to proposal form:

<https://forms.gle/f41Fgr1TCMmMutwD7>

***Building Bridges | Renewing Community***

***Conference Dates: August 3-6, 2022***

***Location: Downtown Holiday Inn, Missoula, Montana***

If you have questions please contact  
Kirk Vriesman, MLA Executive Director,  
email: [kirkv@mtlib.org](mailto:kirkv@mtlib.org)

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# Awards Committee Seeks Nominees

Do you know an individual, group, or organization in your state or library who is deserving of recognition? Please nominate him/her for an MPLA award! You must be an MPLA member to nominate, although only some of the awards require membership of the honoree.

**MPLA Dan Chaney Unsung Hero Award:** To be given to an MPLA member who has consistently worked behind the scenes to create, administer, or support a library-related organization or project and who has not previously been recognized to the degree their work merits.



*At his death at age 52, Dan Chaney was Associate Professor and Social Sciences Librarian at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He had been an MPLA member for over 20 years. He served as MPLA Webmaster, unofficial photographer and social media contact, and received the Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award in 2009 for his service to MPLA. Witty, profane, probingly intelligent, creative, irascible, and deeply caring, Dan was beloved by his students and his colleagues.*

In 2017, MPLA's Unsung Hero Award was renamed the MPLA Dan Chaney Unsung Hero Award, and a \$100 stipend was added in Dan's honor.

**MPLA Beginning Professional Award:** To recognize an MPLA member who, as a librarian/media specialist within the first five years after being awarded a library/media degree, has made a positive impact on the quality and role of library service. Factors such as innovative programming and planning, use of resources, and special projects will be considered.

**MPLA Innovator Award:** To recognize an up-and-coming individual(s) or group(s) in the MPLA region for a creative, inventive, trail-blazing project that has significance to the library community.

A link to the Award Nomination Form is available at  
<http://www.mpla.us/services/awards/>

Nominations are due March 1, 2021



-continued on page 3

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**MPLA Distinguished Service Award:** To be given to an MPLA member who has made notable contributions to the library profession, furthered significant development of libraries in the Mountain Plains region, or performed exemplary service for an extended period of time. If the individual is retired, the nominee may be a past member of MPLA.

**Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award:** To be given to the individual, organization or company whose positive support of the Mountain Plains Library Association is demonstrated by repeated conscientious endeavors towards libraries, library staff, trustees and professional activities.

**MPLA Literary Contribution Award:** To be given to an author whose published writings have successfully furthered an understanding and appreciation of the Mountain Plains region. The author need not reside in the region. The nomination may be based on either a single work or a body of works. Published works will be evaluated on the basis of literary worth, readability, and evidence of responsible research.

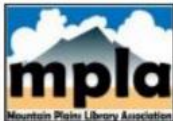
**A link to the Award Nomination Form  
is available at:**

**<http://www.mpla.us/services/awards/>**

**Nominations are due March 1, 2021**



## 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

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

# LONG RANGE PLANS 2018



## 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/join/zoom/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



## Arizona State Library issues more than \$120,000 in grants for library renovations and improvements

The Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records recently approved \$121,400 in grants for library renovation and improvement projects. The funding comes from the Arizona State Legislature through the State Grants-in-Aid Construction (SGIA-C) program. The funds approved this year will be used to install a new 24/7 library branch for the Camp Verde Community Library; renovate the historic Grand Canyon Community Library, a branch of the Flagstaff City-Coconino County Public Library; and make the outdoor event areas at the Globe Public Library accessible for patrons with mobility challenges. Read more about the SGIA-C grants [here](#).



## Phoenix Public Library expands laptop and hotspot lending for students

The Phoenix Public Library will purchase 425 additional laptops and 200 additional wi-fi hotspots, using an \$850,000 grant from Arizona's Department of Education through federal relief funds. This expansion will double the number of devices available to lend to Phoenix students, and the new devices will be earmarked for the College Depot access center at the Burton Barr Central Library. Look for additional information about the project at [KJZZ](#).

## Therapy dogs help take the bite out of finals at University of Arizona Libraries

During finals week in December, volunteers from Pet Partners of Arizona brought therapy animals to the Main Library at the University of Arizona to interact with students. More than 100 people showed up to visit the animals, which included several dogs and a rabbit. Many students enjoyed talking with the therapy animals' owners about their pets and being reminded of their own pets at home. The UA Libraries have been collaborating with Pet Partners to bring therapy animals to campus during finals week since 2012. Read about this year's visit [here](#).





### **University of Colorado Boulder's (CU-Boulder) Jews of Color Initiative**

Thanks to a three-year, \$250,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, CU's Program in Jewish Studies is partnering with University Libraries in an effort to "recover, study and elevate" the voices and experiences of Jews of color in the United States. The content, which will be gathered from the Library's Post-Holocaust American Judaism Collections, will provide a basis for oral histories that will be made accessible to the public through the CU Digital Library, programs and presentations. This effort may be creating the first-ever oral history archives of Jews of Color.



Taken from the *Colorado Arts and Sciences Magazine*

The article printed by CU is at: <https://www.colorado.edu/asmagazine/2021/12/20/jews-color-initiative-gets-250k-boost>

Samira Mehta is the principal investigator of the project.

### **Impact of Fires in Boulder County (CO) is Being Assessed**

According to the preliminary list of damaged and destroyed buildings as of January 2nd, the Boulder (Colorado) Emergency Management estimates at least 991 structures have been destroyed and 127 damaged by the Marshall fire which tore through the towns of Superior and parts of Louisville. At this time it is known that the Town of Superior's town hall has been damaged.

The Louisville Public Library was not in the fire zone and is now serving as a location to distribute bottled water and host vaccine clinics. Not surprisingly, fines and fees for lost or damaged materials are being waived for those who were impacted by the fire.



### **Help Write History: Tell your COVID Story**

Since the beginning of the pandemic, you've likely seen the phrase "unprecedented times" repeated often in many contexts. Often when documenting times of great import to our history, historians use firsthand accounts as key resources for shaping the narrative of important events. Things as simple or seemingly pedestrian as diary entries, family photos, or text messages and emails about daily events can provide invaluable context to life during "unprecedented" times.

The Wichita Public Library received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to document the effect of COVID-19 in Wichita. We need you to help us document this moment in history.

Learn more here: <https://www.wichitalibrary.org/tell-your-story>



### Look What Just Flew into the LCC Library!

After years of planning and different renditions, different platforms, and different concepts, the Labette Community College Library is now home to a wonderful mural, *The Evolution of the Cardinal*. The mural leads in with magnificent cardinal wings, outstretched to welcome people in to view how the Cardinal mascot has evolved over the years, superimposed over background pictures of the three sites the college has occupied in its history. The mascots from 1927, 1931, 1967, 1975, and 1998 are featured. The mural was designed by five students, Alivia Benedict, Lydia Handshy, Sara Hannigan, Peyton Simpson, Chris Womeldorf, in Ms. Melissa Kipp's Graphic Design class. Mr. Phil Jack, Director of Office Services, printed the design on vinyl and installed the mural as his last act before retiring after over 30 years at the college.



### Trust for Montana Libraries Receives Six-Figure Donation

An anonymous donor has committed more than \$100,000 to the Trust for Montana Libraries. The Trust will receive this funding in May of 2022. The donor has expressed a wish that the funds be dedicated to building the capacity of the newly formed Trust.

"It is more important than ever to be able to access quality information, since it's a driver of our education system, our communities, and our economy," said Sara Groves, President of the Trust. "Libraries create opportunities for people who may not have access to the information they need to move forward with their lives – in one way or another. Our donor understands this need and has very graciously provided funding to help us do more throughout the state of Montana to provide vital access and services."

The Trust has helped to fund a statewide project to loan Wi-Fi hotspots through Montana's public libraries, which was especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic when access to public computers and free Wi-Fi were essentially unavailable.

If you would like to talk with someone about how you or your organization can become a Trust Partner, please email [info@mtlibrarytrust.org](mailto:info@mtlibrarytrust.org) or visit The Trust for Montana Libraries' website at [www.mtlibrarytrust.org](http://www.mtlibrarytrust.org).



### Making Library Lemonade

The theme of the Montana Library Association's 2022 Virtual Poster Session, "Making Library Lemonade out of Life's Many Lemons," seems appropriate: because of ongoing pandemic concerns, organizers of MLA's Offline-Fall Retreat assembled this inaugural poster session instead of an annual in-person meeting.

The session includes five poster submissions from Montana public, state, and academic libraries. There is a discussion forum open at the bottom of this page - we encourage you to participate by logging-in and posting comments on the presentation: <https://www.mtlib.org/2022-Virtual-Poster-Session>



### Looking forward....

Our renovation project is completed! Thanks in part to private donations from individuals and fundraising efforts, our renovation project was also made possible with the following grants: the NE Department of Economic Development's Civic and Community Center Financing Fund matching grant, Peter Kiewit Challenge Grant, Kreutz Bennett Donor Advised Fund, and the Ethel S Abbott Foundation. Thanks also to the Kitty M. Perkins Foundation and the Arapahoe Area Foundation for their continued support.

The city of Arapahoe formally awarded Paulsen, Inc. the project. Wilkins Architecture Design Planning of Kearney designed the renovation and the addition.



A 1,720 square foot addition added a community room dedicated to activities. A new ADA accessible entry and new accessible bathrooms have transformed the building. 1,200 square feet of intensive renovations were undergone to better utilize the existing library spaces which increased security and overall library function. A drive-up service window with a new drive-up lane was also added to the east side of the building, allowing patrons another avenue to use the library's services. The building opened for all services on June 21st, 2021.

### "School Librarians in the Digital Age."

A January Challenge for Nebraska School Librarians! We are trying to fill up the month of January with short helpful recordings on the theme "School Librarians in the Digital Age." You can see what has been scheduled so far here, as well as keep an eye on updates: <https://lexmslibrary.weebly.com/sl-in-the-digital-age.html> (a portion is shown below).

For information on this effort, please view this very short video. We are all more successful when we share ideas and information with each other! Please consider meeting the challenge ASAP by emailing your ideas and/or questions to Erin Hanna at [erin.hanna@lexschools.org](mailto:erin.hanna@lexschools.org).

Watch for School Librarians in the Digital Age—online in January! Jointly sponsored by the Nebraska School Librarians Association and the Regional Library Systems.

JANUARY 2022 --TIP-OF-THE-DAY SCHOOL LIBRARIANS IN THE DIGITAL AGE						
WEEKLY PLANNER						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					JAN 1 ANDIE B (LEX) CODE SPARK	JAN 2 KONNI IN DEN BOSCH CANVA
JAN 3 BARBIE ESTRADA SOSA / PUBLIC LIB CONNECT	JAN 4 DANA FONTAINE - DIGITAL ESCAPE ROOMS	JAN 5 DEANN BERRY SYMBALOO	JAN 6 EMMALEE NELSON - TELLS IN THE LIBRARY	JAN 7 DAVEY STEVENS - SOCIAL MEDIA PODCAST W/ THE LIBRARY	JAN 8 JUSTINE RIDER - COLLAB EUS AND SCHOOL LIBS	JAN 9 KONNI IN DEN BOSCH SOSA



## Inviting the Uninvited:

### An Unconventional Partnership Helps Bridge the Digital Divide

By Kelvin Watson, executive director of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District

Since joining the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District (LVCCCLD) in February 2021, one of my top priorities has been to expand our customer base by reaching out to more underserved and diverse communities, addressing the digital divide, and further expanding our role as an essential, free, resource for all Las Vegas Valley residents.

I know from experience that developing dynamic partnerships enables us to combine their resources with ours for the common good. In this case, the goal was to provide a new means of delivering our digital resources to new audiences. In March 2021, I met with M.J. Maynard, CEO of the Southern Nevada Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), and she immediately saw the benefits to her ridership. With the RTC's existing onboard WiFi, we agreed that it would be simple to provide a downloadable app that bus riders could use to access movies, music, ebooks and e-audiobooks, at home, on their commute, or anywhere on the go.

Ease of use was essential for this audience, and our branding and marketing (BAM) team designed a custom landing page, with simple instructions in English and Spanish. They then worked closely with the RTC marketing team, and our OverDrive representative on the finer points and the "Anywhere, Anytime" campaign was ready to launch. The BAM team's design carried over to interior signage in 400 buses, along with the main RTC terminal, along with bus shelter advertising in our library neighborhoods and on a full-sized city bus, spectacularly wrapped with our colorful campaign.

The campaign also featured a QR code, which took the user directly to the Libby app instructions page on LVCCCLD.org. Once downloaded, the users simply entered their mobile number and the Library District instantly verified the new account, allowing immediate access to our digital collection.

I extend a sincere thank you to Ms. Maynard for joining me in this bold partnership. Together, the Library District and the RTC are introducing new audiences to the educational, entertaining, and life-changing resources that the library offers every day. Once they connect to the Libby app landing page, we hope they will be drawn into our website and learn the many wonders of a visit to our branches.

In closing, I believe that as librarians, we must strive to create transformative unique service delivery methods that reach outside of our walls and beyond our websites. I remain convinced that the way forward, for libraries large and small, is to partner with businesses and organizations that have a shared purpose in uplifting and serving the underserved. We are truly stronger together.





## 100th Birthday for Elko County Library

After the last few years of uncertainty and adapting services for our community, the Elko County Library has something big to celebrate this year; we are turning 100! Founded by the Elko County 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club, our library located in Northeastern Nevada will celebrate our centennial on January 31, 2022. This will just be the kickoff of what is sure to be a wonderful and fun year-long celebration.

The first known iteration of the Elko County Library was actually in 1910 but was located in the Commercial Hotel and only available to guests and the local businessmen who had donated it. In 1919, members of the Elko 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club began collecting donated books, cataloging them for general use, and creating the foundation for the library to come.



Founded on January 31, 1922, the library was small, containing only a few shelves and books that had been donated by the community. It shared its space with the County Law Library before moving into Elko's original high school, taking up the second story. Here the library was able to grow its collection and was officially taken over by the county in 1926.

Disaster struck in 1942, when the library burned down, destroying 8,000 titles and the entire floor it was situated on. It could have been easy for our history to end there, but the community pulled together once again. Books and furniture were salvaged, and the library rebuilt. Through fundraising and generous donations, the library continued to grow and prosper and in 1974, it was moved to its current location, where it continues to thrive today.



We are so very excited for the things that we will bring not only into this new year but hopefully the next 100 years. Our library did not begin as an institution of government decree; rather, it represents the dedicated spirit of our community (past, present, and future), and it is an honor to be a part of this momentous and joyous occasion.

To see more of what we have planned for this year, visit our website at [www.elkocountylibrary.org](http://www.elkocountylibrary.org)



# Big Horizons, Close Community



## NMHU librarian receives New Mexico Library Leadership Award

Ruben Aragón, director of the Donnelly Library at Highlands University, received the 2021 New Mexico Leadership Award from the New Mexico Library Association, or NMLA.

Aragón has served as the director of Donnelly Library for 30 years and has worked at the library for 37 years. This is the first time he has received the NMLA Leadership Award—a fact that surprised Valerie Nye, president of the New Mexico Consortium of Academic Libraries, and the person who nominated Aragón for the award.



Nye said she's known Aragón since 2002 and has been working with him since 2009. She said she nominated him for many reasons, including his work on the General Obligation, or GO, Bond—which involves ongoing efforts to secure funding for libraries around the state.

"It's a year-round project for him, and I wanted to make sure he was recognized because the work he does really benefits all the libraries in New Mexico," said Nye. "He's been doing it for a long time and because of the work Ruben does we usually pass the GO Bond with 60 or 70 percent approval."

Aragón describes himself as a people person and said he would not be well-suited for cataloging or archival work. He said because Donnelly Library is relatively small, he is able to work closely with faculty and students, in addition to his staff members, to ensure that the library has all of the resources the campus and community need.

In 2018, Aragón served as the chair of the AMIGOS Library Services, and he served as president of NMCAL in 2008, 2013, and 2018. Aragón previously received the Academic Librarian of the Year award from NMCAL in 2013 and remembered being told then that he was the glue that kept the consortium together.

"I find that there are so many new library directors coming in and I appreciate the fact that they call me to ask, 'what can you tell me about this?'" said Aragón. "I like that; I like helping other people."

Nye said the pandemic helped highlight the inequities so many people face, particularly in terms of access to electronic resources, but she said libraries like Highlands were also uniquely equipped to meet some of the needs that arose due to the pandemic.



Aragón has served as the director of Donnelly Library for 30 years and has worked at the library for 37 years. This is the first time he has received the NMLA Leadership Award.

"He brings people along with him. One of the things that has impressed me most is that he's preparing for a day when he won't be the library director," said Nye. "I think that speaks to his humility—that he knows it's important work and he's willing to share his knowledge with people so the work can continue."

## New Mexico Veterans Memorial Library

Story submitted by Teresa La Chance, Librarian,  
New Mexico Veterans Memorial

### Colonel Gil Martinez Memorial Library

Unbeknownst to many in the great city of Albuquerque, there is a quiet little gem housed in the Visitors Center at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial, near the corner of Louisiana and Gibson Boulevards. Since the Memorial was first dedicated in 1995, the military history library's collection has grown tremendously largely due to donations from veterans and their family members whose desires were to put the material to use. From an initial setup of a few dozen books to an inventory of approximately 6,000 books, periodicals, DVDs, and VHS tapes, the collection is now ready to take a giant leap forward in an endeavor to reach out to our local scholars and students, and perhaps, even seek an academic sponsor for further collaboration.



This library is organized into 41 categories, ranging from subjects such as American History to the Cold War to Leadership to Prisoners of War and to the War on Terror. The largest two categories are World War II with over 1000 books, pamphlets, scrapbooks, magazines, reference material and more; and Biography with approximately 880 books. 306 volumes, outside of Special Collections, pertain to studies on the U.S. Civil War. There are over 250 works relating to the Vietnam War.

One of our highlights is the historic Special Collections located on the main floor and in the basement. We have constructed a unique cabinet to showcase some of the more precious books dating back to the 1860s, including some that concern the American Civil War. An additional source of pride is an aggregation of World War II unit histories, amounting to about

50, many of which were published during the War. A circular mahogany table in the library holds all the Medal of Honor books, with more supporting material shelved in cabinets downstairs. We have been graced with an inventory of almost 300 autographed books.



Another treasure for history hunters and teachers is our Oral History collection, consisting of approximately 600 cassette and CD recordings of interviews conducted with veterans who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

The library, per se, is located on the first floor of the Visitors Center; the overflow bulk of our material is shelved in the basement; the photos show both locations.

For further information, contact the New Mexico Veterans Memorial librarian at 505-768-4497/4498.

### Bucks for Books Drive

The Greater Grand Forks Young Professionals (GGFYP) partnered with local businesses to host the *Bucks for Books* drive. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, many books were taken home with kids and didn't make their way back to the school libraries.

The fundraiser kicked off in late October and ran through November. The GGFYP group asked people to donate using a QR code posted at businesses around Grand Forks. By the end of the drive, community members had contributed \$875 and businesses kicked in an additional \$3,143.

"We were blown away by the generosity of the more than 30 people who gave anywhere from \$5 to \$100 to the drive, whether they lived within the school district or not," said GGFYP Community Involvement Chair Dan Bryant.

The library media specialists at Grand Forks Public Schools will use the donation to strategically choose titles that most effectively meet the learning needs of students. The funds will be distributed in a weighted manner to the schools that need it most.

### Generous Donation in Williston

The Williston Community Library and Williston Community Library Foundation would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Robert E. Herman Family Foundation for the recent donation of \$40,000.

With these funds, we look forward to purchasing a book bike, adventure backpacks, Playaway launchpads, and adding to our Williams County Bookmobile replacement fund.



Over the past seven years, the Herman Foundation has awarded our library over \$170,000 for special events, programs, children's furniture, children's librarian desk, book shelves, library materials, our annual summer reading program, children's technology, STEAM kits and so much more. This past year we were able to completely remodel our Community Room with these funds--new carpet, paint, lighting, and technology, a complete makeover! Without generous donors like the Robert E. Herman Family Foundation, we would not be able to provide our community with the opportunities listed above. Our many thanks and appreciation.

### ND State Librarian appointed to serve on United for Libraries

Mary Soucie, State Librarian at North Dakota State Library, has been appointed to a trustee at large position. Soucie has 20 years of experience as a librarian. She has worked in public and school libraries; as the Youth Services Consultant for a Regional Library System; and was also an adjunct professor at a community college teaching Reader's Advisory and Adult Programs. She has served as a trustee for both her local public library and an Illinois Regional Library System. She has served in many volunteer capacities, both within the library community and her own community. Soucie believes that libraries serve as community centers, connecting all the parts of the community that they serve.

United for Libraries: The Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations, is a division of the American Library Association with approximately 4,000 personal and group members representing hundreds of thousands of library supporters. United for Libraries supports those who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for libraries, and brings together library trustees, advocates, friends, and foundations into a partnership that creates a powerful force for libraries in the 21st century. To join, please visit [www.ala.org/united](http://www.ala.org/united) or call (800) 545-2433, ext. 2161.

## Stay Connected

The Chickasha Public Library, in Chickasha, OK, now offers patrons the option to check out Facebook Portals and T-Mobile Hotspots. The Library recognizes the critical importance of connecting with loved ones and hopes these free resources will help families and friends stay connected this holiday season and beyond.

The Facebook Portals were purchased through a Health Literacy Grant in 2020. To use a Portal, you must have a Facebook account, and you can call loved ones using Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp, Zoom, GoToMeeting and more.

Through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the Library was able to purchase and provide one year of service for the internet hotspots through T-Mobile. Hotspots allow users to access the internet wherever T-Mobile provides service.

Any adult with a valid Chickasha Public Library account can check out a Hotspot and/or Facebook Portal for up to two weeks at a time. They can be checked out together or separately.

If you have questions or would like to check out a Portal or Hotspot, visit the Chickasha Public Library or call them at (405) 222-6075.

This project was supported in whole or in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Opinions expressed in this publication or presentation do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries or IMLS and no official endorsement by those entities should be inferred.

## 'A Christmas Carol' virtual escape room

Hannah Hiller, an associate at the Lawton Public Library, designed a [virtual escape room based on Charles Dickens' 1843 holiday staple, "A Christmas Carol."](#) In the game, visitors play as Scrooge, the central character of the novel, responding to prompts and solving riddles to bring Scrooge — and themselves — into the Christmas spirit.

Hiller thought of the idea while looking at online programming for libraries throughout the country. She saw that among the more popular libraries, both in Oklahoma and in the U.S. as a whole, virtual escape rooms were popular.

## Book Boxes

It has been one year since the Watertown Regional Library started a subscription book box program. This Once a month a box includes a library book that a librarian has personally selected for you, a trinket, and treats! Here is a link to the online form: <https://bit.ly/2WbAITf>



## Wegner Library wins NLM Poetry Contest

By: Kara L. Vehar

When the National Library of Medicine (NLM) put the call out for the next Maya Angelou, Pablo Neruda, and Claude McKay, the Wegner Health Sciences Library answered. National Medical Librarians Month is recognized in October, and the NLM celebrated by creating a Book Spine Poetry Contest. Libraries could create poetry using a minimum of three medical-themed books, post the poetry to social media, and tag them on Twitter. Ten winners were selected, including Wegner Library! We received fifteen (15) books to add to our collection, recognition from the NLM on social media, and bragging rights. You can follow Wegner Library @WegnerLibrary on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



*cases in bioethics:  
Who Owns Life?  
Who Should Decide?  
DO WE STILL NEED DOCTORS?  
WHAT is the PURPOSE of a BANANA?  
I ONLY HAVE A MINUTE... So Lets Make It Matter*



## **Utah Library Leaders and Supporters Reaffirm Libraries' Purpose to Protect First Amendment Rights and Prepare Students for Success**

Calling libraries “an investment in our future,” representatives from the Utah Library Association (ULA), Utah Education Association (UEA), Utah Educational Library Media Association (UELMA), and Utah Library Media Supervisors (ULMS) announced the release of an eBook titled [Utah Libraries: Keystone of Healthy Democracy, Student Success, and Prosperous Communities](#). The eBook highlights the value of libraries and their role in defending the freedom to read by providing useful information and actions that Utahns can take to fight censorship, including a parents' guide for talking to kids about difficult topics. Also announced was a petition, available at [saveschool librarians.org/utah](https://saveschool librarians.org/utah), that Utahns can use to let elected officials know that they oppose censorship.

Speakers at the event included the following:

- ULA President, Rita Christensen
- UELMA Executive Director, Davina Sauthoff
- UEA President, Heidi Matthews
- NAACP Salt Lake Branch President, Jeanetta Williams
- Utah Pride Center Director of Youth, Family, & Education Programs, Amanda Darrow
- Equality Utah Executive Director, Troy Williams
- SchoolLibraryPALs Board Member, Jim Wilson
- LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce President, Liz Pitts
- PIK2AR Literary Coordinator, Lehua Parker
- ULA Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, Peter Bromberg
- UELMA President, Tricia Fenton

### Informational Links:

- [Utah Library Book Challenge Statement](#) (UTLA)
- [President's Message: Libraries Safeguard our Democracy](#) (ULA)
- [UTLA Press Conference | December 14, 2021](#)
- [Utah Libraries: Keystone of Healthy Democracy, Student Success, and Prosperous Communities](#) (UTLA eBook)
- [Utah Libraries eBook Handout](#) (UTLA eBook QR Code for Libraries)
- [Petition: Don't Ban Books or Censor Teaching in Utah Schools](#) (Every Library)



### **Impactful Service Award**

The Utah State Library has granted the Summit County Library the "Impactful Service Award" for the staff's assistance to the community during the beginning of the pandemic.

Summit County Library Director Dan Compton worked with the IT department to expand the internet to parking lots, allowing residents to surf the web from their cars. The move helped those without internet when the pandemic sent everything online and virtual.

The team at the library also worked to establish picnic tables and other safer outside workspaces to allow for social distancing.

"At the beginning of the pandemic, they were instrumental in supporting the Emergency Operation Center," Assistant County Manager Janna Young said at a county council meeting. "The libraries were the ones manning our phones, doing the phone bank, answering all the questions and concerns from the community. They stepped up big time, and did that for an extended period of time, in addition to helping with all sorts of other efforts."

"I just want to thank the library team as well," Compton said. "They really did step up... I was just so impressed with them."

"Their actions allowed community members to safely access the internet, reading materials, educational and entertaining programs, and more even when many entities were shut down. Internet access in particular proved to be necessary during the pandemic," [wrote Chaundra Johnson of the Utah State Library.](#)





## Wyoming Library Association's 2021 Outstanding Librarian Award

Laramie County Library System's Business Services Coordinator Rachael Svoboda received the Wyoming Library Association's 2021 Outstanding Librarian Award.



Rachael's work to secure funding for and implement the Wyoming Library to Business program was one of her many incredible contributions to the community this year, and her dedication to providing comprehensive business services to anyone who needs them made her an exceptional candidate for the prestigious award.

Please join us in congratulating Rachael for this incredible recognition of her dedicated work. [Learn more about the award and Rachael's contributions.](#)

## MPLA member Saldivar stepping up in WY

On December 1, the Wyoming State Library welcomed Conrado Saldivar to our staff as the Outreach and Development Librarian. Among his duties, he will handle library statistics, work with the state institution libraries, and serve as LSTA coordinator for federal grant funds. He comes to us from the Natrona County Library, where he began in 2015 as an Adult Services Specialist and recently had his title changed to Adult Services Librarian. Conrado graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2013 with a BA in anthropology and another in Spanish. Over the summer, he graduated with his MLIS from the University of Washington.



During graduate school, he was selected as an ALA Spectrum Scholar and a Husky 100 student (100 students who apply classroom knowledge to the outside world). In 2020, he received the Wyoming Library Association's Outstanding Librarian award. He currently serves as the organization's Vice President and chair of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee.

After the Wyoming Library Association President and Past President accepted positions out of state, Vice President elect Saldivar also stepped into the role of President.

### 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, New Members!



Name	Title	Institution/Library	City & State
Carissa DeVoss	Programming & Outreach Librarian	Dodge City Public Library	Dodge City, KS
Emily Duchon	Library, Recreation and Cultural Services Manager	City of Sierra Vista	Sierra Vista, AZ
Julia Bordeaux	Instruction Librarian	Red Rocks Community College	Lakewood, CO
Mica Hunter		Bradford Memorial Library	El Dorado, 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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- **September 1**
- **November 1**

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