

Mountain Plains Library Association

Big Horizons Close Community

Newsletter

June 2022—July 2022

www.mpla.us

Volume 67 Number 3

Good friends and colleagues,

It gives me no joy to tell you that I have submitted my resignation as the current MPLA president. It does give me joy to let you know that these old bones will be relocating to warmer climes in June, which necessitates my resignation from the board. While I realize that I could have been a little more intentional and chosen one of the southern MPLA states in which to retire, that is not the direction that life in retirement is taking me. The Gulf of Mexico calls . . .

I have been a member of MPLA since 2005 when neighboring librarians came back from the South Dakota/MPLA joint conference with photos and stories (the theme that year being "Stories Worth Telling") about the fellowship and learning that they had experienced during their visit. I had already heard about the MPLA Leadership Institute, as some of my professional leadership mentors had already attended from 2002-2005 and spoke more than highly of the Ghost Ranch experience. I started looking through the online lists of LI participants just now thinking of listing the fellows and mentors that I have known and that have made an impact on my career and frankly, starting in 2002, they are too numerous to list. What a wonderful, encouraging profession we share.

While my body may be moving out of the MPLA region, I will always have a special place in my library heart for this organization that has surrounded me with encouragement and provided me with the enhanced skills and leadership that has made my career a very pleasurable experience. There has always been someone there to call, contact, question, poll, and receive advice from without fear of feeling less, always building towards the future, lifting me up when times were – let me say – questionable. You have taught me this with your actions and your words - "Courage doesn't mean you don't get afraid. Courage means you don't let fear stop you." (quote from Bethany Hamilton)

Thank you MPLA members for making a difference in my life and in the many lives I've touched over the years as a circulation clerk, bookmobile driver/clerk, children's librarian, branch manager, assistant director, director and as an officer in many library and community professional organizations. Kudos to you!



Best wishes always,

Robin Newell

Goodbyes
are not forever,
are not the end;
it simply means
I'll miss you
until we meet again.

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MPLA/MLA/PNLA 2022 Tri-Conference



Conference Registration is now open!

Tri-Conference Details:

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

Dates: August 3-6, 2022 (Pre-conference sessions August 3)

Location: Downtown Holiday Inn, Missoula, Montana, USA

Highlights:

- Over 60 speakers from 15 US states and Canada
- Pre-conference workshop from EveryLibrary, Inc.
- Montana Book Awards author event with Abe Streep, Caroline Patterson, Mara Panich, and Michael Punke
- Conference receptions at Missoula Public Library and University of Montana Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library
- Easy walking access to downtown restaurants, bars, and shopping
- Conference schedules, updates, happenings via the *Whova* app

Register for the 2022 Tri-Conference at <https://www.mtlib.org/event-4668579>

Early Registration Discounts end June 24th

Conference Hotel Registration Information

The Conference Hotel is the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown. The conference room rate is \$239 when booking rooms for August 3-7.

Instructions on how to reserve your room can be found here:

[Tri-Conference Booking Info for Holiday Inn Missoula.pdf](#)

Please note: Conference room rates expire 7/4/22 - book your room soon!

Meet the Candidates

Voting Information

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

Thanks to all of the candidates for their willingness to serve!

President Elect / Vice President

Candidate #1



Amadee Ricketts
Director, Cochise
County Library

*MPLA member
since 2014*

I have been an active member of MPLA since 2014, and served as a non-voting board member during my term as Newsletter Editor (2014-2016). Since being elected Arizona Representative in 2018, I have served on the Arizona Library Association board as well as the MPLA board. I was a member of AzLA's Membership, Marketing, and Outreach Committee (2017-2020), and served as chair of the Arizona County Librarians (2017-2019).

I have been the director of the Cochise County Library District, and County Librarian for Cochise County, since 2016. I was previously the Youth Services Supervisor at Durango Public Library in Colorado (2011-2016), and Lead Librarian, Youth Services at Prescott Public Library in Arizona (2008-2011).

What ability, talent, interest, or strength would you bring to this position?

I love connecting people with one another and building relationships across organizations and specialties. I think this would serve me well in a leadership role with MPLA, which represents such a wide range of library types and individuals.

Having worked in youth services for many years, I bring a sense of humor to whatever I do, and tend to be unflappable. (I also know rhymes and songs on every possible theme, though that may not be a plus in this context.)

What would you like to accomplish during your term of office?

I hope to support the good work of the Professional Development Committee and the Leadership Institute Committee to build on the existing strengths of MPLA, and work with the state representatives and the board to boost the membership and visibility of our great Association.

Meet the Candidates

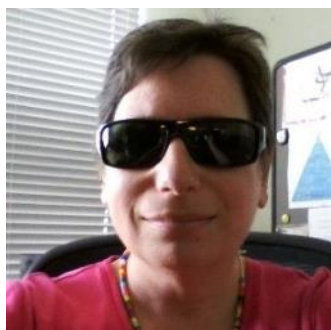
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President Elect / Vice President

Candidate #2



My knowledge of MPLA has been acquired through my serving as Colorado's representative since filling the role for Stephen Sweeney in 2019 and through serving as a member of the Professional Development Committee.

I have an awareness of organizational processes and the challenges of aligning priorities between agencies, thanks to my work with the Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL). My experiences with CAL include both serving as a member and chairing the Legislative Committee, serving a term as CAL's Past-President during a year of transitions due to my institutional knowledge, filling in as a parliamentarian, and representing Colorado as the chapter's councilor to the American Library Association (ALA).

Currently, my regular job is focused on building relationships with other organizations and creating measures to assess whether our efforts are making a difference for community members. This focus may align well with the roles played the President Elect and the ensuing responsibilities.

*Elena Rosenfeld
Community
Engagement &
Strategies
Manager, High
Plains Library
District*

*MPLA member
since 2019*

What ability, talent, interest, or strength would you bring to this position?

To misquote Kipling, I have a 'satiabile curiosity, and that means I love learning a bit of everything -- a quirk which seems like a good fit for an organization that supports continuing education and strives to build partnerships between the Mountain Plains states.

What would you like to accomplish during your term of office?

It is likely that we will continue to experience times when opinions are treated as facts, when people treat what they want to believe as truth, and when unwanted information are lies.

This puts the traditional role of libraries, as a supporting hub of a democratic society, at great risk. However, times of great risk are also times of great opportunity. I would be thrilled if we were able to help our greater library community have the resources and skills to refocus conversations. Or, in short, I'm hoping that we can survive it all and be a bit stronger and wiser from the experience.

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Recording Secretary

Candidate #1



*Luise Davis
Douglas County
Public Library
Currently the
Nevada Library
Association
Representative*

*MPLA member
since 2002*

I am an active member of MPLA and Nevada Library Association. I have served as the Nevada Representative to MPLA Executive Board since 2017.

Part of my NLA activities include being Douglas County Public Library's representative on Nevada Library Legislative Day for the past several legislative sessions and being involved in the NLA mentor program. I served as the president of the local employees' association for four years including being part of the negotiation team for two contracts. I maintain detailed records of the Douglas County Public Library's volunteers.

What ability, talent, interest, or strength would you bring to this position?

In addition to serving as a state representative, I was a fellow of the 2010 Leadership Institute. I deeply appreciate the work of all the members of MPLA Executive Board and would welcome the opportunity to serve the board in a new capacity. It is important to me to maintain detailed and accurate records for the organization.

What would you like to accomplish during your term of office?

I would like to be a part of the Executive Board as they move forward with the long-range plan for MPLA. I hope to contribute to MPLA as it continues to grow and reach other library personnel throughout the MPLA region.

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Recording Secretary

Candidate #2



Maribeth Elaine Shafer

*Currently the Kansas
Library Association
Representative
2020-2023*

*MPLA member
since 2016*

*2014 Leadership
Institute
Participant*

Professional activities, especially those in MPLA or relevant to this position

--Library Ethics 101, Collins, Patty; Santy, Gail; Shafer, Maribeth: Illinois Heartland Library System (IHLS) Workshop, March 4, 2021; Great Bend Public Library Board Meeting, November 9, 2020; ARSL Virtual Conference September, 2020; ARSL Conference October 2021, Reno, NV; KLA Conference, October 2021, Wichita, KS.

--From Dysfunctional to Functional: Moving Library Board to the Next Level, Collins, Patty; Santy, Gail; Shafer, Maribeth: IHLS Workshop, November 10, 2020; And ARSL Virtual Conference September, 2020.

--Accessible to All Techniques for Creating User-Friendly Presentations, Sheppard, Margie; Shafer, Maribeth: Virtual KLA Conference, October 28, 2020.

--Consumer Health & Wellness Information for Your Community, Sheppard, Margie; Shafer, Maribeth: KLA Conference, Overland Park, KS, October 23, 2019.

--The Kansas story: a sea of Koha green on the plains, Hastings, Robin; Braum, Heather; Willems, Harry; Hutchinson, Crystal; Santy, Gail; Shafer, Maribeth; Robb, Jason; Carswell, Roger; Digital Library Perspectives 2016 32:4, 239-252, <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/abs/10.1108/DLP-02-2016-0004> .

--Building Tech Confident Staff: Core Tech Skills Needed for Library Staff, KLA Conference, April 11-13, 2012, Wichita, KS and MPLA Conference, Omaha, NE, October 19, 2012.

What ability, talent, interest, or strength would you bring to this position?

--Strong foundation in training librarians on library law, policies, bylaws;
--Ability to condense complicated information into notes and major points
--Good note taker
--Active in the library world and want to continue to be a part

What would you like to accomplish during your term of office?

I will record excellent minutes for the MPLA Executive Board and Administrative Committee meetings, publish them in a timely manner, and provide documentation and archive files as needed for the Board.

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/>

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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 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/>





CLiC Supports Great Libraries for Everyone – Including Those Who Are Incarcerated

The Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC), in addition to hosting the State's courier service and collective purchasing of databases, also provides services such as talent development and a shared online catalog known as AspenCat.

AspenCat, a Koha-based catalog, has served as the online catalog for a mix of 132 Colorado libraries which includes academic, public, and school libraries. As of April 11, 2022, AspenCat added 22 Colorado Department of Corrections (CDOC) libraries – a project that has been years in the making and brings the total number of AspenCat libraries to 154.

Services for the CDOC libraries are separated from the rest of the catalog for security reasons. However, the correctional institutions will be getting their first ever Integrated Library System designed specifically for their requirements.



It took the passion and support of too many people to name individually to make the project a success. However, a few names need to be shared and those are: Erin Boyington, project lead; Renee Barnes, supervisor of Institutional Library Development; Molly Bassford who provided input as a library staff member and now as part of the ILD group; and Katy Schorling for her input as library staff from the Colorado State Penitentiary. These people along with the CLiC team, State Library staff, CDOC staff, and the residents of the facilities that will benefit from expanded services worked together to build something new and exciting which will hopefully share benefits with a unique group of library patrons.

For more information on this project visit the CLiC website: <https://www.clicweb.org/aspencat/>

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/>

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.



MPLA CHEW & CHAT



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

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.



MPLA CHEW & CHAT



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.

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.



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



New AzLA President-Elect

Casey Van Haren, the Community Services Director for Prescott Valley, is the Arizona Library Association's new President-Elect. The position became available after Lisa Lewis, who was elected in fall 2020, was appointed as President. A special election was held in February for the President-Elect position, and AzLA is excited to welcome Casey to her new role in the Association.

AzLA Annual Conference will be back in October 2022

The AzLA Annual Conference will be back in-person, October 27-28, at the Prescott Resort & Conference Center in Prescott. A call for proposals will be available soon at azla.org.



Bisbee's Copper Queen Library a finalist for National Medal

On April 7, Bisbee's Copper Queen Library was announced as one of 30 finalists for the National Medal for Museum & Library Service. The Copper Queen was the only Arizona library to be named as a finalist for 2022. Winners will be announced in June, and you can see the full list of finalists [here](#).



Preschoolers Get STEAMED in Summit County

Summit County Libraries is connecting STEAM programs with parents, guardians, and their preschool-aged children by introducing step-by-step science projects, crafts, color theory experiments and more! If you would like to see what they are doing while considering whether it's a fit for your library, check the [video version](#) created during COVID-19 closures.



Colorado Libraries Welcome Back Nicolle Davies as State Librarian ...AND... Colorado Libraries Say Farewell to Debbi MacLeod



About eleven months ago, Nicolle Davies left her role as Colorado's State Librarian to pursue new (non-library) opportunities. This April she found her way back to the State Library from her departure-turned-sabbatical. "Not long after I left, I realized that libraries are my passion," said Nicolle when sharing her decision with the Colorado Association of Libraries Board.

While we are thrilled to have Nicolle back, former Interim State Librarian, Debbi MacLeod, has even more reason to celebrate as Nicolle's arrival means that Debbi can now retire, which has been her plan for a while. Initially, Debbi served as interim State Librarian, even as she continued her work as Director of the Colorado Talking Book Library and the Colorado State Publications library. In January she was able to transition to focusing on just the Interim State Librarian position as she hired her replacement for the two libraries. And now, she can focus on non-work-related pursuits.

Summit County Libraries Open the Doors to the Next Chapter

On Saturday, March 26th, the Main Library in Frisco, Colorado opened its doors after being closed for the last seven months for an extensive remodeling project.

After a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the County Commissioners, visitors were able to explore the new spaces while enjoying a scavenger hunt, live music, storytimes, and more.

The refreshed library reflects requests from the public for updating the 25-year old facility by providing more quiet study areas, meeting rooms and comfortable seating, and adding exciting colors. The new look and new feel are expected to be a hit with new and returning patrons.

And to celebrate the success? Summit County Libraries will start work on renovating their North Branch in Silverthorne! If you are interested in reading more about the grand opening, check: <http://summitcountylibraries.org/programs-news/news/main-opens>.

Want to see the video of the grand opening? It's on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THpTYdUNnNk>





“Never underestimate the power of a planted seed.”

The Erie City Public Library has been fortunate to qualify for grants to improve their programs. We received a grant from Neosho County to buy a greenhouse and start a seed library in November 2020. We used those seeds to plant tomatoes in the greenhouse so our community could grow food in their own gardens. We shared 500+ tomato plants and seeds for these gardens.

This past summer, our local Walmart of Chanute donated \$5000 worth of seeds to the library. Baker Creek of Mansfield, Missouri donated 1000 packages of seeds to our program. Erie is a very small town and 2000 + packages of seeds would never be used. The Erie City Public Library offered boxes of seeds to the small libraries in Southeast Kansas. Thirteen of those libraries asked for the seeds, so they were boxed up and sent by library courier to the requesting libraries. We also shared seeds with a startup seed library in Nebraska, a library in Gadsden, Alabama and with BSBC Pathways programs in Labette and Montgomery County, Kansas, to re-start the Community Garden in Parsons. We still have about 6 plastic tubs of seeds to give to our community for gardens here.



As we gave these seeds to local libraries who were new to the Seed Library concept, Southeast Kansas Library System started a Zoom interest group which meets monthly to share ideas and plans for the Seed Libraries they are starting. We meet with Sharon Moreland and Amy Eiben from SEKLS and share our success stories as well as our programs.

Andrea Sobba from the Garnett Library is using seed to make seed bombs in a program for children. They plan to start the seed library this season and share with their community. The Bronson Public Library's Director, Diana Huff, has set up a series of programs, starting with "Growing and Cooking With Herbs" and "How Seeds Germinate and Grow." They plan to plant sunflowers at their library.

Berta Willis from the Pleasanton Public Library has produced a display with books and seeds and has gotten copies of *Our Family Gardening Journal* from the extension Service to share with future gardeners. Regina Casner, Mound City Library, displayed the Seed Library along with Gardening books from the library. The Iola Public Library has plans to plant flowers beside their new pavilion.

The Thayer Friday Reading Club Library has begun plants in the lobby of their new location and have acquired mineral tubs to plant their container garden with vegetable seeds. They have an active gardening group and they are thrilled with the seeds.

Of course, The Erie City Public Library is expanding their programs to include gardening and planting salad greens and herbs to use in our Summer Cooking for Kids Program. All of these were made possible from the seed library packets. We will be giving away 500 + tomato plants this next week to our community. These will go into family gardens in our community.

The amazing thing about all of this is – We started with \$50 in seeds and the program has grown to include more than 13 libraries offering seeds and programs to benefit Southeast Kansas. **“Keep planting seeds, you never know what may take root.”**



Library Welcomes Furman as Budget Operations Manager



Lewis & Clark Library is pleased to welcome Martha Furman as the Library's Budget & Operations Manager. Furman brings an extensive background in library management and leadership to her new position at Lewis & Clark Library.

Prior to joining the team at Lewis & Clark, Furman was the Interim Director of Imagine! Libraries in Kalispell,

MT. Furman joined the Imagine! team in 2006 as a Public Services Librarian working with both teens and adults. Later, Furman became the Youth Services Librarian, overseeing services for youth from birth to age 18. Furman was then promoted to Senior Librarian in 2018 and Assistant Director in 2021.

Library Director John Finn says "the Library is happy to welcome Martha to the team. We look forward to continuing our decades-long traditions of service to the public and fiduciary excellence."

Originally from Milaca, MN, Furman earned her MLIS degree from Dominican University in 2006 and a BA in English with a minor in Anthropology in 2001 from Hamline University. Furman is excited to join Lewis & Clark Library and contribute to its success. "My area of expertise is in systems-thinking, strategy, and process improvement of library operations. Experience has shown me that when library operations run smoothly and efficiently, staff can focus on community impact and patron experience." Furman looks forward to working collaboratively with library staff and leadership to help provide the best possible services to the community.

Kearney Library celebrates 10-year anniversary of building project

In April, Library staff celebrated the 10-year mark since its big addition and renovation. They organized a scavenger hunt, offered prize drawings and set up a photo display of the library's history - a fun project for Reference Librarian Sarah Haack.

"Looking at it now and seeing how much more space we have, it's kind of like, how did we function in that tiny space before?" Haack said.

Physical books remain popular, but the library has added other offerings as the world has moved online. "Our digital collection, which you don't see when you come into the library, has gotten even more popular with COVID," Haack said. "We have a makerspace with creative equipment for people and a community space for people to use. So we'll be around for a long time and it's nice to continue to grow."

The renovation added public meeting rooms, which are drawing more people than ever. The library set a record with 99 groups hosting meetings last month. Staff expects to be busy over the coming months, with the summer reading program starting June 1st.





Library Renovations at Washoe County Library System

Washoe County Library System is excited to announce the recent completion of two library renovation projects! The Northwest Reno Library reopened in March, and the Sparks Library reopened in April. Both branches were closed for several months to undergo upgrades to their interior spaces. These renovations are part of Washoe County Library System's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, which includes a goal to provide welcoming spaces through renovations and improvements to furniture, fixtures, and equipment.



The Northwest Reno Library, located at 2325 Robb Dr. in Reno, was formerly a manufacturing plant. It was converted into a library and opened to the public in June of 1999. After two decades of service, the building's interior was ready for a refresh. The branch has been rejuvenated with fresh paint and new flooring and furniture. Its Young People's Library has been updated with

new children's materials, vibrant paint, and an improved floor plan.



The library's art gallery, which regularly hosts exhibits by international, local, and regional artists, has been rejuvenated by new flooring and turned into a beautiful exhibit space.

The Sparks Library has been in operation since 1931, moving from 814 Victorian Ave. to its current location at 1125 12th St. in 1964. This pillar of the Sparks community now boasts multiple improvements throughout the building. The story time and STEAM areas in the Young People's Library have been expanded, and the children's collection has been refreshed with popular new bestsellers. In addition, a clearly defined Teen Zone and young adult collection have been created for the benefit of teenaged patrons at the branch. New lounge seating and laptop tables provide convenient access for research and study while access to electricity for device charging has also greatly increased.



Funding for these renovation projects was provided by Washoe County in partnership with the Tacchino Trust. These improvements are part of an ongoing effort to create welcoming spaces that benefit the community. Look for additional branch improvements in the future, as Washoe County Library System seeks to fulfil the next steps in the timeline of its Strategic Plan.



For the most up-to-date information on Washoe County Library System hours and services, please visit washoecountylibrary.us.



librarySTRONG
October 26-28 Albuquerque
NMLA 2022

In 2019, the American Library Association identified sustainability as a core value of librarianship. Sustainability has always been a part of libraries, though we do not always see our work as meeting those challenges. In a world that is living with a pandemic, threats of climate change, political unrest, and other factors that affect our lives and planet, the sustainability and resilience of libraries is increasingly important for our communities. Now NMLA wants to hear how you and your library meet the challenge of sustainability.

This year, the NMLA 2022 LibrarySTRONG Annual Summit will focus on Sustainability. We know that libraries are:

- Sustainable
- Thriving
- Resilient
- Open
- Network Builders
- Green

What does sustainability mean to you? What are your sustainability stories? What conversations can you facilitate to help others build more resilient and just communities? In writing your proposals, consider how you incorporate concepts and perspectives of sustainability. Maybe you have a cool new recycling program, maybe you invite elders from the community to lead programs, maybe you have re-envisioned your library spaces to be more inclusive or changed the way you do your work daily. Sustainability is much more than just a commitment to improving and maintaining our environments. It can be found in library budgets, workflows, planning, pedagogy, community engagement, and equity initiatives, among many other things.

NMLA's 2022 annual conference will be in-person October 26-28.

<https://nmla.wildapricot.org/Conferences/>

Americans and the Holocaust traveling exhibition at Bismarck Library

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library was 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 2022 to 2024.

"We are honored to be selected from a pool of more than 250 applicants and chosen as the only library in North Dakota to host *Americans and the Holocaust*," said Library Director Christine Kujawa. "We encourage citizens to experience this powerful exhibit. We are eager to connect with community partners to offer informative programs, as well. The exhibit will challenge people not only to ask 'what would I have done?' but also, 'what will I do?'"

Americans and the Holocaust was on display at the Library along with a series of related special events through May 3, 2022.

Grand Forks Public Friends Host Mini Art Show on Library Giving Day

To kick off the [Grand Forks Public Friends' 2022 focus](#) of "Retuning You in 2022," the Friends presented a Mini Art Show on April 6, 2022. Community members of all ages and artistic abilities were invited to pick up a Take & Make Art kit including a 3x3" canvas and supplies. The kits disappeared within one day, and after restocking later in the week, the Friends gave out a total of 200 kits and received 85 completed artworks back for the show.

Community members gathered for an evening reception on April 6 to admire the Mini Art Show, including artwork from "local celebrity" artists, and enjoy live music and sweet treats. The artwork remained on display in the library for two weeks. In addition to celebrating the community's vast artistic talents, the Friends promoted Library Giving Day at the event. Between the spring book sale and Library Giving Day, the Friends raised more than \$5,000 to support 2022 wellness programming at Grand Forks Public!

Muskogee Public Library Awarded Grant to Develop Digital Preservation Program

Muskogee OK – Muskogee Public Library was recently awarded \$10,000 of grant funding by the [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\)](#), with support from the [American Library Association \(ALA\)](#) and the [National Endowment for the Humanities \(NEH\)](#), to develop a “Memory Lab,” a digital preservation program to allow the public to convert old family tapes, photos, and documents to digital files for the purpose of preserving important family memories or documents. With these funds, the library will obtain digitization equipment for all formats, including video, audio, photographs, documents, and slides, to be installed in a public computing space within the library’s Genealogy & Local History area.

“The goal of this program is to provide free public access to digital transfer equipment for personal use and to secure long-term preservation of community photographs, primary source documents, and media for the Grant Foreman collection in our Genealogy and History department,” said Christina Linz, Assistant Director at Eastern Oklahoma Library System.

Staff will assist patrons in preserving their personal media, offer support and instruction in equipment use, and offer programs to promote and encourage the use of the Memory Lab. The library also plans to use this digitization project as a tool to evaluate the potentiality of curating a digital local history collection available for future generations and will promote and encourage the use of the Memory Lab by providing programming opportunities for the public and offer events such as “How to Preserve Your Home Movies”, Home Movie Day screenings, and creating Personalized Digital Scrapbooks.

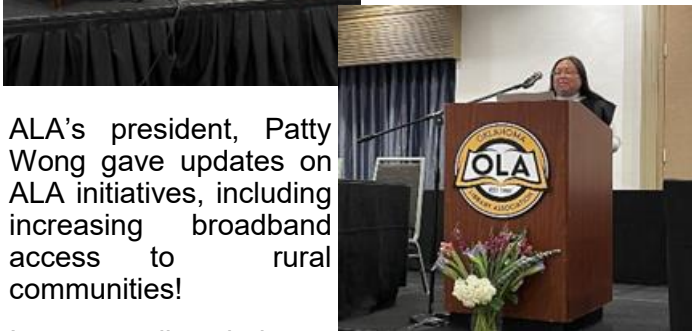
The library will provide these services free to the public and begin the installation of the Memory Lab in March. Visit eols.org, Muskogee Public Library on [Facebook](#), or call 918-682-6657 (press 0) for more information.

OK Conference News

The Oklahoma Library Association held their annual conference March 9-11 at the Downtown Hyatt Regency in Tulsa. Hannibal B. Johnson, an attorney, author, consultant and college professor opened the conference as the keynote speaker and



gave an impactful presentation about the Tulsa Race Massacre as well as a Q&A session moderated by Pioneer Library System’s Director Lisa Wells.



ALA’s president, Patty Wong gave updates on ALA initiatives, including increasing broadband access to rural communities!

It was totally tubular at Thursday nights 80s prom themed Endowment Scholarship Bash! The event raised money to support OLA scholarships and participants enjoyed lots of big hair, neon, dancing and fun.



Friday’s Program featured Moises Echeverria, President and CEO of the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice who shared an uplifting message of why libraries matter and the importance of every human connection we make.



Loud Librarians Lead with Laura Kelly

SD State Library's Children and Youth Services Coordinator, Laura Kelly, is conducting interviews with librarians across South Dakota who are excited to share their knowledge and expertise. This is an opportunity to recognize community partnership successes, highlight new programs and spaces and reach out to others in the field. Kelly interviews librarians and shares ideas and experiences with South Dakota's librarians to energize and feed librarians forward to accomplish our goals! Remember LIBRARIANS are not buns and shushing any more!

Vlog: <https://library.sd.gov/LIB/CYS/IIIvlog/>



Yard Game Collection @ Brookings Public Library

Thanks to funding from [the Friends of the Brookings Public Library](#), The Brookings Public Library just added a new collection - yard games! Yard games check out for 1 week, and you can check out 1 per card. They currently have the following games:

Kubb, Yard Yahtzee, Scatter, Bucket Ball, Toss Combo Game, Bocce Balls (soft rubber), Giant Jenga, Ladder Toss

Find them in the catalog here: <https://bit.ly/BPLYard>



Kids Nature Kits @ Salt Lake County Library

Take a closer look at the bug you nearly stepped on. Identify nearby vegetation and wildlife. These Kids Nature Kits, made possible by a grant from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the Disney Conservation Fund and provided by Utah's Hogle Zoo, contain everything kids need to explore the great outdoors in their own backyards and beyond. Backpacks contain binoculars, bug viewers, butterfly nets, clip-on camera lenses, common species ID cards, and information on the Jordan River ecosystem.

Kids Nature Kits are located at all libraries for checkout, subject to availability.

These kits are best for children and families, and a smartphone may be helpful

See what else they have @

<https://www.slcolibrary.org/what-we-have/library-of-things>



Personal Archiving Workshop

The Personal Archiving Open House was held on April 11 in Merrill-Cazier Library at Utah State University. "The goal for this workshop is to share the importance of archival preservation and familial histories to historically excluded people in the hopes that their history can be preserved in their own homes and in archival repositories," Davila said. "Learning such significant information will let minority communities know that their history matters and that their histories must be preserved and documented for future knowledge."

The Open House included workshop stations that allowed students to browse archival materials, experience different archival methods, and learn how to properly care for archival materials, such as photos, journals, papers, letters, digital files, oral histories and other materials.

The event was a collaboration with USU's Inclusion Center and Latinx Cultural Center, USU Special Collections & Archives.

Wyoming State Library hosts Historic Carnegie Library Exhibit

A special exhibit now at the Wyoming State Library, “Cowboy Carnegies: Wyoming’s Historic Libraries,” explores the history, architecture, significance, and preservation of these buildings. Wyoming’s Carnegie libraries were located in Albany, Big Horn, Converse, Fremont, Hot Springs, Johnson, Laramie, Natrona, Niobrara, Park, Platte, Sheridan, Sweetwater (Green River and Rock Springs), Uinta, and Weston counties. Some still serve as libraries, or as part of newer, expanded library buildings. Some were repurposed as museums or for local government. Others were demolished and exist only as fond memories for those who once walked through their doors.

This traveling exhibit was created by the Alliance for Historic Wyoming (AHW) with funding from Wyoming Humanities. Linda Waggener, now deceased, contributed greatly to “Cowboy Carnegies” by sharing her extensive research on Wyoming’s Carnegie Libraries with the AHW. Waggener’s research materials are now held at the University of Wyoming’s American Heritage Center.



Lesley Receives Intellectual Freedom Award

Terri Lesley, Executive Library Director of the Campbell County Public Library System, is the recipient of the 2022 John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award honoring contributions to intellectual freedom and demonstrations of personal courage in defense of freedom of expression. The award from the American Library Association’s Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) will be presented on Friday, June 24, ALA’s Annual Conference in Washington D.C. Terri Lesley has led the staff and library board of Campbell County Public Library in Gillette, Wyoming through an

onslaught of challenged materials and protests that began in the summer of 2021. Terri has not only stood up for intellectual freedom for her patrons, she has also continued to build community support for her library through her interactions with the public. She has also strived to support her staff and maintain a strong working relationship with her board. Terri has shared what she’s learned with other library directors in Wyoming. “Terri’s commitment to intellectual freedom, her community, and her staff is second to none,” said Conrado Saldivar, President of the Wyoming Library Association. “Her resolve and defense of library materials has been an inspiration to all library staff in Wyoming and ensures that her community can continue having a robust exchange of ideas and opinions.”



Big Horizons, Close Community





Welcome, New Members!



Name	Title	Institution / Library	City & State
Brandon Katzir	Digital Services Librarian, Digital Resources & Discovery Services	Oklahoma State University	Stillwate, OK
Christine Braddy	Director	Goshen County Library	Torrington, WY
Elektra Greer	Director	Nederland Community	Nederland, CO
Ginger Williams	Dean of Library Services	Fort Hays State University	Fort Hays, KS
Lisa Martin	Director	Madison Public Library	Madison, SD
Rebecca Grizzell	Assistant Director of Public Services	Dodge City Public Library	Dodge City, KS
Renada Khin	Programming Specialist	Avondale Public Library	Avondale, AZ
Sara Munn	Director	Plains Community Library	Plains, KS
Sara Wright	Deputy Director	Colorado Library Consortium	Englewood, CO
Sarah Husley	Library Operations Manager	Summit County Library	Friscoo, CO
Tina Packard	Communications & Marketing Specialist	Casa Grande Elementary School District 4	Casa Grande, AZ
Wendy Ketelsen	Director	Lied Lincoln Township Library	Wausa, NE



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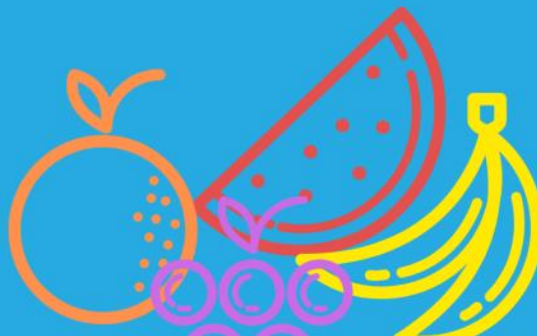
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The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is a twelve state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota,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

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

ISSN 0145-6180

Editor: Melanie Argo,
Madison Public Library

Copy deadlines for articles, news, and advertisements:

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

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