



**MOUNTAIN PLAINS
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Newsletter

Big Horizons, Close Community

December 2023—January 2024

mpla.us

Volume 68 Number 6

The Good Work

I had the pleasure of attending the New Mexico Library Association's centennial conference in late October, and the opening keynote was presented by American Library Association President Emily Drabinski. Her premise was simple and powerful: libraries do good work. Throughout the conference in New Mexico, and at the Arizona Library Association conference earlier in the month, I was reminded just how true that is.

From academic libraries working to explore the power and perils of artificial intelligence and provide open access to course materials to public libraries expanding access to telemedicine and preserving local history, libraries of all kinds are vital forces for good in their communities and institutions.

As we head into another holiday season, and another season when the value and importance of libraries seems to be under attack, my spirits are lifted by the good library work being carried out every day. Thank you for the work you do, and for the part you play in making libraries so special.



Amadee Ricketts
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Job Title: Webmaster

Organization: Mountain Plains Library Association
<https://mpla.us/>

About Us:

The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is a twelve-state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries. Its purpose is to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities.



Job Description:

MPLA is seeking a webmaster to play a critical role in enhancing and maintaining our online presence, ensuring that our website serves as a valuable resource for our members and the wider community. The webmaster will work closely with our Executive Board and various committees to develop and implement strategies to improve user experience, drive engagement, and promote our mission.

Key Responsibilities:

- Manage and maintain the association's website, ensuring it is up-to-date and user-friendly through use of uniform fonts, formatting, icons, colors, templates and layout.
- Post new content and updated and revised material identified or created by the Communications Committee or other MPLA sources.
- Ensure the website is accessible and complies with all relevant web accessibility standards.
- Troubleshoot and resolve website issues and technical glitches promptly.
- Stay up-to-date with the latest web development trends and technologies.
- Provide training and support to staff and volunteers contributing to the website.

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Big Horizons, Close Community



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

Additional Duties and Activities:

- Attend Executive Board meetings.
- Serve ex-officio as a non-voting member of the Communications Committee and the Professional Development Committee.
- Serve as a resource to all MPLA committees.
- Advises the Executive Board and the Communications Committee about emerging technologies, applications and additional uses for the web site
- Retains Board Reports posted on the Association web site in electronic format for at least five years.

Qualifications:

- Proven experience as a webmaster or web developer, preferably with interest in library services.
- Proficiency in web development languages and tools, including HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Bootstrap, and content management systems (MODX).
- Strong understanding of web design principles and UX/UI best practices.
- Excellent problem-solving skills and attention to detail.
- Strong communication and collaboration skills.
- A passion for libraries and a commitment to our association's mission.

Compensation:

This is a contract position. The MPLA Webmaster receives an annual stipend of \$1000, subject to evaluation and determination of the Executive Board; free MPLA membership; reimbursement of all travel expenses to in-person MPLA meetings if attendance is requested by the MPLA President.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates must be located within one of the 12 MPLA member states (Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, or Wyoming).

Candidates should submit a resume and cover letter outlining their qualifications and interest in the position to president@mpla.us by December 8, 2023.

MPLA encourages applications from candidates of all backgrounds and experiences.

Find us on 



MPLA on Facebook:

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

MPLA on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/MPLAtweets>

MPLA on LinkedIn:



The Mountain Plains Library Association honors outstanding libraries, individuals, businesses, and library supporters during its annual conference.

<https://mpla.us/community/mpla-awards/>



MPLA Elections are coming!

TIMELINE

- Special Candidate Edition out Mid-January
 - 2 VP/Pres-Elect
 - 2 Recording Secretary
- Elections Early February
- Winners Announced in March



NOTE:

An online ballot will be emailed to all eligible voters and 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!

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

We will see you at ULA in May 2024!



Just Winging It

MAY 8-10, 2024
SALT PALACE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

2024 Joint MPLA Conference

More information

<https://mpla.us/community/mpla-conference/>



KEYNOTE



Emily Drabinski
ALA President



Sy Montgomery
Author and Naturalist

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

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.





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://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZllcOCqz4qGtG2_j4UOBZ6VUAzZ0r_41k8

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 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.

MEMBERSHIP ADVANTAGES

- Joint annual conferences with member states providing a marketplace of ideas where individuals can share their experience and talent with other librarians.
- Continuing education opportunities including conferences, workshops and special seminars.
- First year Personal membership dues are half price!
- MPLA Awards recognize outstanding contributions to local, state and regional library services.
- Professional Development Grants for course work, institutes and workshops.
- Opportunity for members to contribute to the profession.
- Information exchange and educational programs about technological developments and innovative library programming undertaken by MPLA libraries.

AND MORE!

Only one filly was worth risking her secret –

SIERRA BLUE, by Suzanne Morgan Williams, author of the award-winning MG/YA novel, **BULL RIDER**, is rooted in Western high-country ranches, and high stakes racetracks.

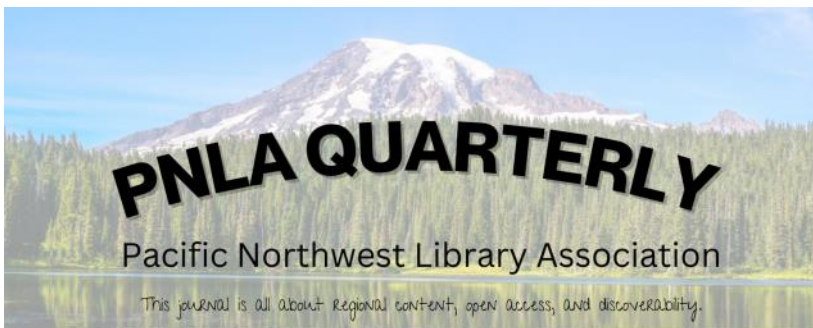
Rosanne Parry, author of **A WOLF CALLED WANDER** says:

A perfect tale for young horse lovers, brimming over with adventure and magic, found family and the mysterious power of healing.

For middle school and HS readers, horse lovers, and adults who love a good fast read. When Magic's best friend spills her secret, she escapes to her great-aunt's horse ranch to avoid constant teasing. She never imagines she might do the same to someone else, who her real friends will turn out to be, or that one horse could make a difference to them all.

Available from Ingram: ISBN 979-8-9890255-0-3 LCCN: 2023916711

Visit www.suzannemorganwilliams.com



PNLA Quarterly includes a combination of peer-reviewed and editor-reviewed articles focusing on issues of interest to libraries in the Pacific Northwest. Who better to provide this content than the practitioners, students, and educators who live in or are affiliated with the region? This regional focus and mix of content offer diverse but balanced information relevant to public, academic, and special libraries.

The journal is available as one large PDF or individual article PDFs, which, along with keywords for each article, improves the discovery rate of PQ content and give our authors more exposure on the Web, while improving indexing by vendors such as EBSCO. The journal conforms to the Open Access model, where content is made available free of charge to readers upon publication. Thanks to the sponsorship of PNLA, no costs are charged to content creators.

PQ publishes on a quarterly schedule. While submissions on topics of interest to librarianship in the Pacific Northwest region of the US and Canada are welcome anytime, issues are often organized around themes like leadership or the annual PNLA conference. Please see the latest issue for the active call for proposals or contact the editor with inquiries or submissions.

Robert Perret and Jennifer Ward are the current co-editors of PQ. They can best be reached at PQEditors@gmail.com.

<https://pnla.org/pnla-quarterly/>



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



Ribbon Cutting in Pinal County

On August 20, 2023, Pinal County officials and community members cut the ribbon on Arizona City's new Community Center and Library.

The \$3.2 million project saw Arizona City's existing library undergo complete renovation and modernization while an additional 3,700 sq ft was added, including a Community Center and kitchen. As part of the project, the County's Library District will take over the day-to-day operation of the library from the Friends of the Library Arizona City. Dean Whitney, President of Friends of the Library Arizona City, remarked, "There's a little bit of everything here, It's going to be a real good resource center, and I think the Community is really going to like this. It was nice to see all the kids in here, they're the future customers."



Writer in Residence



Adiba Nelson is the newest writer in residence at the Pima County Public Library. From Sept. 13 to Nov. 18, the freelance journalist, author of two books and disability rights activist will host workshops and one-on-one sessions with local writers of all "stripes, ages and genres." Nelson aspires for her work as the library's writer-in-residence to extend to the community as a whole. Adiba Nelson, whose memoir *Ain't That A Mother* was hailed as a "must-read" by *Essence*, *Bustle*, *Ms. magazine*, and *Shondaland*, is the Library's 18th Writer in Residence. This program is made possible by the Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/4618OdY>.

MPLA @ AzLA Annual Conference

MPLA was well represented at this year's Arizona Library Association Annual Conference on October 19-20 at the We-Ko-Pa Resort at Fort McDowell. MPLA President, Amadee Ricketts, and Arizona Representative, Amber Kent, presented a session on the many benefits of MPLA membership. They highlighted professional development and grant opportunities, along with information about the MPLA Leadership Institute.

Also at the AzLA Conference, Arizona Representative, Amber Kent, was presented with the Library Leadership Award. Criteria include, among other things, significant accomplishments and leadership, mentoring, and promoting libraries in Arizona and the Mountain Plains region. "Amber Kent have. truly is one of the best Library Managers that a library system could She cares about her staff, the patrons of the library, and the community of Casa Grande. She lives in the community she works in; her kids go to school here; she and her husband have a business here as well. She always puts the best interest of others ahead of hers and she truly deserves this recognition.





Members of a UNC Libraries Taskforce Receive Award

October 20, 2023

Members of the UNC Libraries Liaison Model Taskforce recently accepted the Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) award for 2023 Project of the Year at the CAL annual conference in Loveland. The taskforce members,

Rachel Dineen, Jen Leffler, Brianne Markowski, Jen Mayer and Stephanie Wiegand were recognized for their work completing the Libraries Strategic Plan objective to re-envision our liaison model.

The group took a collaborative and inclusive process to gather feedback from Libraries employees during the months-long process, which involved investigating models at other academic libraries and evolving draft models. The resulting changes acknowledged a reduction in our personnel, while continuing to serve students and faculty at the same levels with a more flexible approach, while allowing for more focus in our areas of expertise: archives, collections, information literacy and scholarly communication.

Folklore of Japan

Koelbel Library, in Centennial, CO, hosted a one-of-a-kind, immersive experience celebrating the history and mythology of Japan's fabled folk hero Momotaro. Momotaro, a popular Japanese character, was born from a peach and destined to become a hero. His story has been retold in books, movies and countless cultural performances.

More information here: <https://arapahoelibraries.org/news/momotaro-comes-to-life-at-koelbel-library/>



Kansas State Libraries held AI and the Future Symposium

“AI and the Future: Exploring the Intersection of Language(s), Science and Ethics” will be held at Hale Library, with one session taking place at the Manhattan Public Library. The free artificial intelligence symposium, featured a variety of panels, lightning talks and workshops, offering a way for the K-State and

Manhattan community to expand their knowledge of AI. Participants learned how AI can be used for educational purposes as well as some of the ethical issues surrounding the topic.

<https://lib.k-state.edu/technology/ai-and-libraries/ai-symposium/>

Sackett Folklore Collection Digitally Available at Fort Hays State University’s Forsyth Library

Just in time for the holidays, a collection of audio recordings featuring polka music, folk stories, oral histories, and more are now digitally available in the Samuel J. Sackett Folklore Collection at Fort Hays State University’s Forsyth Library.

This online archive brings history to life with recordings from Dr. Sackett and his graduate assistants who interviewed immigrants, homesteaders, and other community figures between 1954-1977. Listen to the sonorous tones of dulcimer music, hear folk songs in Swedish, Volga German, Czech, etc., and enjoy poems, stories, and jokes from a bygone era.

ARCHIVES ONLINE

Samuel J. Sackett Folklore Collection

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During his tenure at FHSU, Dr. Sackett founded the Kansas Folklore Society. A 1968 meeting and concert is one treasure found in this collection. In this recording you will hear Christmas songs sung in German, jokes, and stories about Sternberg, a tale of a Fort Hays Settler, and more.

Digital Curation Librarian, Mary Elizabeth Turner, said, “This collection provides a unique connection to our shared past. I found my own great Aunt and Uncle in the recordings. I hadn’t heard their voices since I was little and hearing them again has been a priceless experience.”

Faculty and staff at Forsyth Library spent nearly three years working to digitize and digitally restore these recordings that were originally recorded on reel-to-reel magnetic media and later migrated to cassette tapes in the 1990s. The recordings underwent audio enhancement in order to improve the user experience where possible. The original, unaltered recordings are still available by request for interested researchers.

“We are so proud to be able to preserve and share oral histories that may otherwise be lost. Listening to the songs and stories in the Sackett Folklore Collection helps us learn about Kansas folklore and connect with the experiences of people in our region long before our time.” said Library Dean, Ginger Williams. These works would be a fantastic resource for anyone researching American folk music, local history, traditional customs and cuisine, relations among migrants and indigenous populations, and even a genealogy. Explore the Samuel J. Sackett Folklore Collection for yourself at <https://scholars.fhsu.edu/sackett/>.



Great Falls Public Library receives AI Huntsman Award

The Montana State Genealogical Society recently awarded the Great Falls Public Library with the Alan Huntsman Award for 2023. It is an acknowledgement for dedicated service to the genealogical community by a non-genealogist.

The Library was nominated by the Great Falls Genealogy Society. In their nomination they stated, “From the first (library) director to the current director, our Library and Genealogy Society have formed a close working relationship. So much so that in the future remodel of the Library they are including us.”

Susie McIntyre, director of the Great Falls Library, said she felt honored to receive the award on the library’s behalf. “I have loved our partnership with the Great Falls Genealogy Society since I first started at the library,” McIntyre said. “The amount of work that the Genealogy Society does to maintain our heritage and to connect people with the past, which really means to help connect them to the present, is astounding.”

The award is named in recognition of AI Huntsman, a dedicated genealogist and Past President of MSGS. He was quite active in MSGS and also was a member of the Gallatin County Genealogical Society.

Article source: [Fairfield The Sun Times](#)



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

MPLA on Twitter:



Creative Aging: Arts

The Chadron Public Library has been awarded a grant of \$3,900 by the Nebraska Arts Council for the Creative Aging Through the Arts Program, a series of free workshops for adults 55-and-older. The Library is partnering on Creative Aging Through the Arts with Crestview Care Center and the Chadron Senior Center, which will provide the space for the weekly workshop sessions. An art show and reception was held on November 16th.

Article source: [Chadron Radio](#)

Old Building New Purpose

After school consolidations, the towns found other uses for the former school buildings in their communities. In Orchard, NE, the Orchard Public Library moved into 2 rooms, the former computer lab and first-grade room in September.



Left, Donna Hamilton, director of the Orchard Public Library, stands in the new library space.



Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Maggie Harris, winner of the James S. McPhee Memorial Scholarship!

Maggie is currently a Library Technician II at the College of Southern Nevada

and is only a semester away from graduating with an MLIS from San José State University! She found her love of reading with the Harry Potter series and haven't stopped since. She enjoys being around books and in an educational environment, starting with volunteering in her high school library and working in the campus bookstore while pursuing her undergraduate degree in Communications.



Customer service has been a passion of Maggie's. She participated in the Disney College Program while working at Walt Disney World to learn about their world-renowned customer service practices, which she's been able to tap into when training public and academic library staff. Her career goal is to become an academic librarian in Las Vegas and to contribute to student success by helping students be successful in their endeavors and ensuring all students have a great library experience.

Best of luck in all of your future library endeavors!

#nevadalibraries #futurelibrarian #libraryscholarship #scholarshipwinner



And There's the Humor of It Traveling Exhibit

The Loma Colorado Main Library, in Rio Rancho, NM, is hosting the National Library of Medicine traveling exhibit, "And There's Humor of It" where it examines the language of the four humors of Shakespeare's plays, and their influence is felt above all in a belief that emotional states are physically determined. Carried by the bloodstream, the four humors bred the core passions of anger, grief, hope, and fear—the emotions conveyed so powerfully in Shakespeare's comedies and tragedies.

More information: [NLM Traveling Exhibition](#)



'Conversations Beyond Life'

The Williston Community Library hosted "Conversations Beyond Life", a Leadership Williston project presentation created by Alex Johnson, to demystify and destigmatize discussions around death and dying.

"The Leadership Williston program is such an asset to the community," said Andrea Placher, the library director. "We are always excited to see what community project ideas the participants come up with and how we can assist in their efforts. I think the Conversations Beyond Life program is something everyone can benefit from."

When asked why this was the project chosen, Johnson said, "This series is designed to provide a safe, empathetic space for everyone to openly discuss and explore the many aspects, experiences, and emotions associated with death. It's not just about understanding death better, it's about learning to live more meaningfully, to connect more deeply with our own being and with those around us, and to support one another through challenging times with empathy and love."

College SAVE Summer Reading Champions

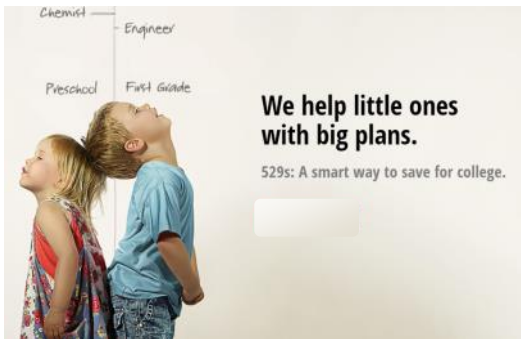
The North Dakota State Library partnered with Bank of North Dakota to bring the College SAVE Summer Reading Champions Campaign to participants of the 2023 Collaborative Summer Library Program, "All Together Now."

Every student completing their library's goal for "All Together Now" 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 450 children have taken advantage of the contribution and families have until December 31, 2023, to redeem the certificate. In addition, there were 10 recipients selected from random drawings who were awarded \$529 College SAVE contributions.

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“This partnership with the Bank of North Dakota allows us to continue supporting North Dakota libraries with summer reading programs,” says Lexi Whitehorn, North Dakota State Library literacy specialist. “Our libraries serve North Dakota children of all ages while encouraging them to not only read, but to enjoy all the other activities and programs the libraries have to offer. Programs like College SAVE allow libraries to offer incentives for reading that not only benefit our children now, but in their future as well.”



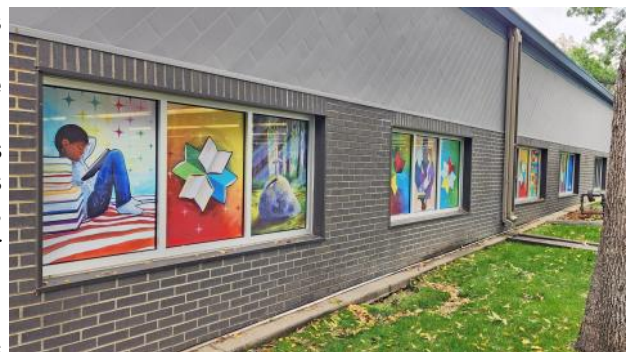
Over 3,500 youth from over 35 libraries participated in this year’s summer reading campaign. The \$529 scholarship recipients are Ruth Karges, Fargo Public Library; Mila Lende, Fargo Public Library; Theodore Wentz, Grand Forks Public Library; Loveleigh Henry, Dickinson Area Public Library; Hawkins Hubrig, Minot Public Library; Brynlee Boger, Morton-Mandan Public Library; Kennedy Wiedrich, Hazen Public Library; Devaughn Moore, New Town City Library; Carson Follman, Cando Community Library; and Nora Brown, West Fargo Public Library.

“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.”

The College SAVE Plan is a 529 plan established by the State of North Dakota. Bank of North Dakota acts as trustee of the College SAVE Trust and is responsible for administering the Plan. To learn more about College SAVE, visit collegesave4u.com.

Local Art Window Coverings Transform Library Building

There is a growing movement in Bismarck to infuse our cityscapes with creativity and beauty with local art, and the library is no exception. The library recently added colorful, inspiring art on the east side windows facing 6th Street. Local artist Crystal Tretbar created twelve unique art pieces transformed into window coverings conveying the following qualities: happy, energized, inviting, fun, modern, all ages, universal, and colorful. The library’s Public Information Specialist, Kevin R. Tengesdal, created two digital art pieces to accompany Tretbar’s collection. This installation not only beautifies the library’s exterior and engages the community, but also provides Tretbar and Tengesdal with a platform to showcase their talent.



These thought-provoking and visually captivating art pieces will add character to the modern, urban ambiance of the library building. The art display provides a visual escape and offers a respite for busy pedestrians and drivers, as well as a source of inspiration for those who take the time to appreciate them. The window coverings serve as conversation starters, prompting passersby to discuss and appreciate the art, further enriching the downtown fringe of Bismarck.

Library Director Christine Kujawa said, “Anyone passing by on 6th Street will be treated to a visual experience that connects them to not only the library but the community. The window coverings are attractive and engaging works of art that transform the exterior of the library into a vibrant art gallery.” The Friends of the Bismarck Public Library is funding this creative project. Thank you, Friends!



Ribbon Cutting

Pioneer Library System of Norman, OK, held a ribbon cutting for the Shawnee 24 Hour Library in the Homeland parking lot. The Library can be accessed with a PLS library card and includes its own dedicated collection of over 300 items available for browsing and checkout, and serves as another location option for picking up library items placed on hold.



#PioneerLibrarySystem
#Shawnee Homeland Stores City of Shawnee
OK Government Shawnee Forward, Inc.
Shawnee Public Schools
The Shawnee News-Star First United Bank - Shawnee Harrison

Muldrow, Sallisaw Library Branch Manager Receives Rural Renewal Citizenship Prize

The Rural Renewal Initiative at Oklahoma State University has awarded Bethia Owens the 2023 Rural Renewal Citizenship prize for "being an exceptional role model, promoting community welfare, and advocating for community needs."

Owens is the shared branch manager for Muldrow Public Library and Stanley Tubbs Memorial Library in Sallisaw. She was nominated by Eastern Oklahoma Library System (EOLS) Assistant Director Christina Linz with special letters of support from Executive Director Mary Moroney and local retired educators Dwight and Debbie Phillips.



"The Rural Renewal Citizenship Prize supports collaboration and research to improve the lives of people in rural communities," Moroney said. "I can't think of anyone who does that better than Bethia Owens."

During her 40-year career at EOLS, Owens' accomplishments include working tirelessly to fundraise for a new public library in Muldrow—where the library was first housed in two rooms in City Hall. The Muldrow Public Library opened its doors at its current location in 1998.

Also through many other accomplishments, projects, and initiatives over the years, Owens has "directly or indirectly affected the lives of thousands of children, parents, grandparents, teachers, and visitors from all over eastern Oklahoma," Linz said.



NEED A CHANGE? STARTING OUT?

CHECK OUT MPLA'S
JOBLINE FOR OPENINGS

MPLA REGION

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

AND BEYOND...

Jobline

<https://mpla.us/jobs/>



Distinguished Achievement in the Humanities Award

Originally published: [SDSL Cornerstone Newsletter](#)

During the September 2023 South Dakota Festival of Books, the South Dakota Humanities Council recognized Misti Burns, Library Director at Tripp County Library Grossenburg Memorial, with the

Distinguished Achievement in the Humanities (DAH) award. This recognition is a testament to Burns' outstanding dedication to promoting the humanities in her community. The DAH awards are given to an individual, a librarian, and an organization throughout South Dakota. These honorees are carefully selected for their enduring commitment to enriching their communities through the humanities.

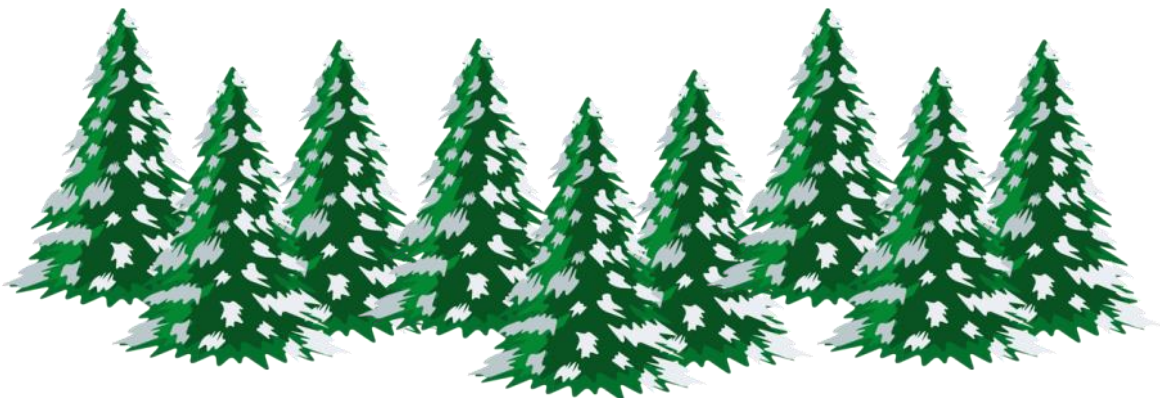
“Humanities hold a special place in my heart,” said Burns. “To be recognized on a professional level for these efforts is truly an honor. It’s wonderful when personal interests align with occupational endeavors. Passion combined with purpose is the fuel to make great things happen. I know there are many in the librarian field with the same heart.”

Burns has worked with the South Dakota Humanities Council on several occasions to bring humanities programs to her community. Founded in 1972, the South Dakota Humanities Council’s (SDHC) mission is to deliver humanities programming to the people of South Dakota. They support and promote public programming in the humanities, provide grant funding for community programs and research and discussion projects, and carry out the mission of the South Dakota Center for the Book through reading and literacy programs and the annual Festival of Books.

“There are many different SDHC programs to reach all ages and backgrounds,” said Burns. “As a highlight for the summer reading program, we hosted Homespun Musical Instruments, which was a hit with the school-aged children, including two with special needs. We also had adults ranging from 19-75. All thoroughly enjoyed the program. They felt a part of creating the sounds of music and experiencing sound in a new way. Music unleashes emotion and connects in ways that the verbal language cannot.”

Burns shared that she is grateful for the opportunities that SDHC has provided for her library and community. She shared, “We are fortunate to have the SD Humanities Council make these programs accessible and affordable for smaller communities such as ours. Just because you’re rural or small, doesn’t mean you are excluded from learning opportunities found commonly in larger communities.”

When asked what her biggest challenge was when putting together humanities programming, Burns responded, “Time and energy. I wear many hats, as I know so many librarians in South Dakota do. You must prioritize so that you can say yes to the right things. Humanities programming is something that we love to say yes to! Money can be an issue. Thankfully the SDHC has quick grants which make the grant writing process simple and the programs affordable.”



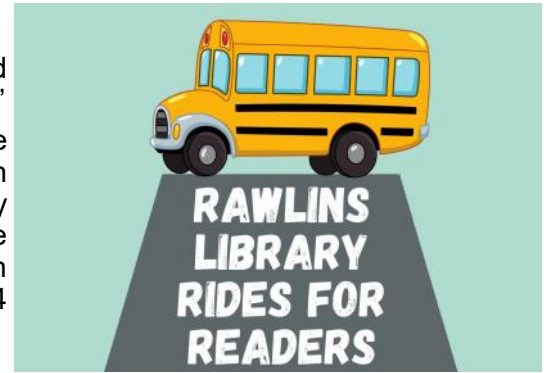


Rides for Readers

The Rawlins Public Library in Pierre, SD, held its first Super Senior Day "Rides for Readers."

This program for senior citizens free ride to the library on the second Thursday of every month from November through April. The library partnered with River Cities Transit to provide these round trip rides. Any senior citizen residing within Pierre city limits just calls 24

hours in advance to reserve a ride. Light refreshments are served.



Patent and Trademark Resource Center

Utah Tech University's Library, in St. George, UT, was chosen as a central location for a new Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC). The PTRC is part of a nationwide network of libraries designated by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The new resource center will offer entrepreneurs access to a network of intellectual property experts in helping them to

protect their inventions. The new site will have regional access from various states and will provide resources that can save both time and money.

[Grand opening Video](#)

For more information contact John Burns, <https://utahtech.libguides.com/patents>



How Art Enhances Libraries

Originally published: [Utah Library Association | November 2023](#)

Many libraries display art. Is it to enhance the environment? Add beauty to the lives of patrons and employees? Give opportunities to community members to display their work? Provide unique opportunities for communicating important ideas and messages?

In fact, art in libraries can serve many functions. Cassandra Belliston, Art and Design Librarian at Brigham Young University, noted "the art that the library has purchased . . . helps the library be a more pleasant and comfortable place to study in than if it were just white walls."

Additionally, since the art department at Brigham Young University is temporarily located in a facility that is remote from the main campus, many university members would miss the opportunity to see their art. Ms. Belliston described that displaying their art in the library "provides an opportunity for students and faculty to display their work in a nice space and to the broader campus community." Further, "the artists/curators and their respective departments forge a deeper connection to the library and are more likely to use it, and the exhibits provide an enrichment opportunity to our patrons."

The power of art as a communication tool fits nicely within the mission of libraries. According to the American Library Association, "the arts play a vital role in our ability to communicate a broad spectrum of ideas to all people. Developing an understanding and appreciation of visual and performing arts promotes artistic literacy. Libraries should offer opportunities for the community to experience art."

<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/arts>

-continued on the next page



Art’s ability to promote creativity also fits right in with what libraries do. According to PC Sweeney, libraries “support local artists, curate spaces that encourage art, and contribute to building an awareness and appreciation of the arts. Many libraries serve as incubators for creative minds.” (<https://medium.com/everylibrary/how-dolibraries-expand-access-to-the-arts-b666b1652540>)



Finally, art’s ability to bridge divisions and promote understanding is another natural connection to what libraries do. Archivorum describes how “libraries and archives are often perceived as public spaces, and art as the universal language is the perfect tool to broadcast ideas and ignite discourses and engagement in those spaces.” (<https://www.archivorum.org/post/art-in-the-library>)

Take time to enrich your life by enjoying the art in your libraries!

Dan Broadbent
Physical and Computer Sciences Librarian
Brigham Young University



New Director of the Laramie County Library System

Originally published:
[Outrider, Wyoming State Library Newsletter](#)



Antonia Gaona

Antonia Gaona has been named Executive Director (County Librarian) of the Laramie County Library System. Antonia attended college at the University of Colorado Boulder, where she majored in political science and economics. She paid her way through college by working at the library. On the precipice of attending law school after graduation, she realized her true calling was library work. She changed course and attended graduate school at the University of Denver, where she graduated with honors with a Master of Library and Information Science.

With over 20 years of library experience and over 15 years in management and leadership roles, Antonia is a passionate librarian with a focus on providing an excellent user experience, maintaining responsive and dynamic facilities and staff, and forging unique partnerships to expand opportunities for all patrons.

Most recently, she served as Deputy Director of the Boulder Public Library, overseeing a department of 80 employees and a budget of nearly \$7 million. She was the lead project manager for capital improvement projects including a multiyear, \$16 million project building a new library in north Boulder slated to Antonia Gaona open in 2024.





Library Journal Honors Park County Library

Originally published: [Outrider, Wyoming State Library Newsletter](#)

Park County Library’s main building in Cody recently received national recognition with an Honorable Mention in Library Journal’s Best Small Library in America 2023 competition. “Anyone that has visited the Cody Library is struck by the beauty of the library building and the location of the library,” said Library Director Karen Horner. “But what really makes the Cody Library stand out is the patron experience received once someone enters the library and the awareness of the extension of that experience out in the community wherever we go to deliver outreach.” [Read more from Karen on our blog.](#)



Park County Library System’s community of just over 10,000 has limited access to quality internet, meeting spaces, and health and business resources. To help fill those gaps, Cody Library prioritizes its community’s wellness through a wide range of tools and collaborations. These include the library’s Health Resource Center, with a collection curated in partnership with the Cody Medical Foundation, and an Outreach Garden, which provides hands-on education and nature literacy. Well-used meeting rooms, a café that employs special needs adults, wellness and nature backpacks to check out, and a seed library, among many offerings, allow Cody Library’s staff of 10 to deliver a wealth of support and services — and eliminating late fees and expanding open hours removes traditional barriers to service.

MPLA Elections are coming!

TIMELINE

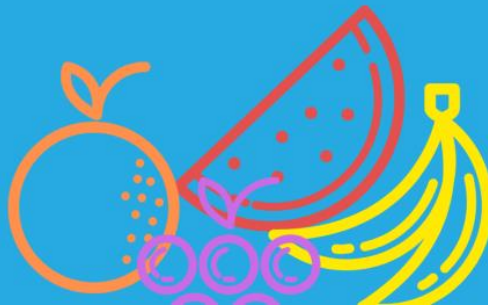
- Special Candidate Edition out Mid-January
 - 2 VP/Pres-Elect
 - 2 Recording Secretary
- Elections Early February
- Winners Announced in March



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Ever wondered about
the conference
Rubber Duckies?

This was the scoop from Hot Tub Roundtable cofounder Eileen Wright:

"The MPLA Hot Tub Roundtable began in 2009, with the hopes of creating another avenue for MPLA folks to gather for an evening of laughter and fun. We had to have rubber duckies join us, of course. So each year we make sure to have a night set aside for our Hot Tub Roundtable and the naming of the ducks, which change each year..."





Welcome, New Members.

Name	Title	Institution/Library	City & State
Abbie Steuhm	Research Librarian	Dakota State University	Madison, SD
Allen Arnoldsen	Director	Brigham Young University	Provo, UT
Amanda Walch	Reference & Instruction Librarian	Raugust Library, University of Jamestown	Jamestown, ND
Ananda Campbell	Teacher-Librarian		
Angela Bailey	Director	Huron Public Library	Huron, SD
Brenna Franklin		Rock Springs JH	Rock Springs, WY
Brigham Young University		Brigham Young University	Provo, UT
Cassie Russell		Big Horn School District	Basin, WY
Chad Deets	Metadata Librarian	Arizona State University	Tempe, AZ
Chaitanya Furlong	Student	Student - University of Arizona	Glendale, AZ
Crystal Paulus	Event Program	Deadwood Library	Deadwood, SD
Dana Schmidt	Director	Yankton Community Library	Yankton, SD
Danielle Kappel	Library Director	Dickinson Area Public Library	Dickinson, SD
Darby Porter	Branch Manager	Lyon County Library System	
Dawn Seopa	Librarian	Jim Hill Middle School	Minot, ND
Elizabeth Niles		Gilette College	Gilette, WY
Emily Roberts	Library Services Coordinator	Center for Development and Disability	Albuquerque, NM
Emmeline Weber	Library Operations Manager	South Dakota State University Briggs Library	Brookings, SD
Erin Verbick	Director	Morrill Public Library	Hiawatha, KS



Welcome, New Members.

Name	Title	Institution/Library	City & State
Esther Rydzik	Reference Librarian	Santa Fe Public Library	Santa Fe, NM
Eva Dahlgren		Teton County Library	Alta, WY
Ginny Nading	Elementary	Natrona County School	Casper, WY
Hannah Reidell	Reference Librarian	State Library of Kansas	Lawrence, KS
Heather Lee	Library Assistant	Hot Springs Public Library	Hot Springs, SD
Holly Kuhlmann	Professional Development Consultant	NSLAPR	Carson City, NV
Holly May	Supervisory Librarian	United States Marine	Yuma, AZ
Holly Traxler	Youth Library Supervisor		
Huron Public Library	Angela Bailey, Director	Huron Public Library	Huron, SD
Jason Bengtson	Associate Professor and Head of Systems	New Mexico State University Library	Las Cruces, NM
Jason Shoup	Library Director	Rio Rancho Public Library	Rio Rancho NM
Jeanie Bartel	Director	Hillsboro Public Library	Hillsboro, KS
Jenna Kahly	Director	West Fargo Public Library	West Fargo, ND
Jennifer Cole	Librarian I	Washoe County Library	Reno, NV
Jennifer Schroeder	Director of Library Services	Cloud County Community College	Concordia, AL
Jessica Buhrman	Director	Horton Public Library	Horton, KS
Jessie Mann	Director	Beulah Public Library	Beulah, ND
Kallie Kronberg	Director	Bison Public Library	Bison, SD
Karalyn Ostler	STEM Librarian	Arizona State University	
Kathy Martinez	Librarian I	Taos Public Library	Cerro, NM



Welcome, New Members.

Name	Title	Institution/Library	City & State
Kerry Stendell	Library Assistant II		
Kiyomi Wilks	Youth Services Librarian I	Rio Rancho Public Library	Albuquerque, NM
Laura Blair	Learning & Development Training Mgr	Johnson County Library	Overland Park, KS
Laura Hinman	Assistant Director	Watertown Regional Library	Watertown, SD
LeAnn Kaufman	Director	Freeman Public Library	Freeman, SD
Leslie Ross	Instruction Coordinator	New Mexico State University Zuhl Library	Las Cruces, NM
Linda Herget	Public Services Specialist	Laramie County Community College Ludden Library	Cheyenne, WY
Linde Furman	Branch Manager, Joel D. Valdez Main Library	Pima County Public Library	Tucson, AZ
Lucretia Calonder	Director	Altoona Public Library	Altoona, KS
Lynette Schirado		Glen Ullin Public School	Glen Ullin, ND
Maree Pascall	Engagement Specialist II	Community Libraries Metropolitan Library System	Oklahoma City, OK
Marisa Ostendorf	Director	Edgeley Public Library	Edgeley, ND
Mary Terrones		Hot Springs Public Library	Hot Springs, SD
Mikaela Neubauer	Community Services Coordinator	Brookings Public Library	Brookings, SD
Mirjam Caster	Librarian		
Nathan Bender		McCracken Research Library Buffalo Bill Center of the West	Cody, WY
Nathan Camp	Assistant Professor/ Emerging Technologies Librarian	New Mexico State University	Las Cruces, NM
Nicole Mortimer	Library Assistant II	Washoe County	
Paula Doty	Tech Services Program Manager	Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records	
Rachelle McPhillips	Reference & Instruction Librarian	Dakota State University Karl Mundt Library	Madison, SD
Randi Swanson	Librarian	Max Public Library	Max, ND



Welcome, New Members.

Name	Title	Institution/Library	City & State
Raquel Martínez	Administrative Specialist & HR Liaison	New Mexico State Library	Santa Fe, NM
Rayel Starling		City of Globe, Globe Public Library	Globe, AZ
Rhonda Carter		Ten Sleep Library	Ten Sleep, WY
Ruby Nugent	Biomedical Research Librarian	National Jewish Health Tucker Memorial Library	Denver, CO
Samantha Romero	School Librarian	North Star Elementary - Albuquerque Public Schools	Albuquerque, NM
Sarah Hood	Reference and Instruction Librarian	Santa Fe Community College Library	Santa Fe, NM
Sarah Neubauer		Natrona County Library	Casper, WY
Sharon Lepire	Librarian		
Shelley Reddy	Library Supervisor	Maricopa County Library District	Gilbert, AZ
Shelly Gilliam	Manager: Public Services & Instructor	Yavapai College Library	Prescott, AZ
Sierra Percival		Northwest Kansas Library System	Norton, KS
Stephanie Oplinger	Senior Library Assistant	Apache Junction Public Library	Apache Junction, AZ
Susan Asplund	Online Resources and K-12 Collection Librarian	Eastern New Mexico University, Golden Library	Portales, NM
Teree Yount	Library Assistant III		
Tonia Blakeman		Crook County Library	Sundance, WY
Tracey McCormick	Assistant Law Librarian	University of Wyoming College of Law Hopper Law Library	Laramie, WY
Travis Lobsinger	Library Assistant	Valley City Barnes County Public	Valley City, ND
Tressa Graves	Librarian & Archivist	University of North Dakota, Energy & Environmental Research	Grand Forks, ND
Trilby VanDeusen	Electronic Resources Librarian	Arizona State University	Tempe, AZ
Zack North	Adult and Teen Services	Mitchell Public Library	Mitchell, SD
Zoey Melberg	Library Program Aide	Williston Community Library	Williston, ND



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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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