

Mountain Plains Library Association

Big Horizons Close Community

Newsletter

February 2023—March 2023

www.mpla.us

Volume 68 Number 1

75 Years Strong!

“From Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas, Utah, and Wyoming they came - 217 librarian delegates - to the 1948 Mountain-Plains Library Conference. Invitations had been mailed to all librarians within a 600-mile radius of Denver. The purpose? To discuss creating a regional library organization.”

Thus was the beginning of the Mountain Plains Library Association in 1948. MPLA is now a 12-state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries. Over the years, this association has provided opportunities for networking, amazing professional development, and just plain fun.

Read the comprehensive history of MPLA at <https://mpla.us/about/a-history-of-mpla/>

At the OLA/MPLA joint conference coming up in March, the MPLA faithful will gather to celebrate our history and our future. Part of that history will be a conference session in which we will hear many great stories from past presidents of our association. Don't miss this one! Register for the conference at <https://whova.com/web/fhSdM3cAhpHnNiRDK0R2QQ99SkK-znTIFmljBX9@Veg%3D/>

As my term as president comes to an end, I want to thank you for the opportunity to lead the organization. We are doing great things and I look forward to supporting what we already have going and new things that future leadership will bring to the table.

Hope to see many of you at conference!

Brenda



IN THIS ISSUE

Nominations—Last Call!

Building for the Future—Conference 2023

Special Features

Around the Region

Welcome New Members

MPLA Board and Staff

MPLA Quick Links

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

LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE!

MPLA Awards

Taking Nominations NOW!

Submit by end of day Feb 1st

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



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.

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.

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.

Carl Gaumer, Gaumer Reference Services, was a popular library book vendor and a major supporter of MPLA in the 1970's. Based in Denver, Gaumer Reference Services served a number of western states. Carl traveled throughout the MPLA region and often exhibited at Library Association conferences. Among MPLA members, he was most famous for sponsoring a train from Denver to Reno for a joint conference with the Nevada Library Association in 1978, providing a band and refreshments for the 106 librarians who took the train. The award, originally named the Carl Gaumer Exhibitors Award, was later expanded and renamed to include any person or group who significantly supports and champions libraries.

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.

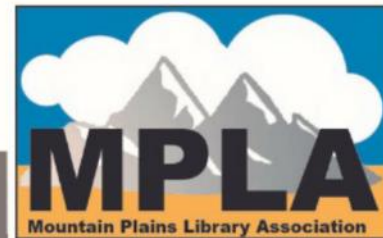
Taking Nominations NOW!

Submit by end of day Feb 1st

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

OLA/MPLA Joint Conference 2023

Building for the Future **BLOCK BY BLOCK**



https://www.oklibs.org/page/annual_conference

MPLA Conference Events:

MPLA/OLA Agenda: <https://whova.com/web/fhSdM3cAhpHnNiRDK0R2QQ99SkK-znTIFmljBX9%40Veg%3D/>

Board Meeting 1: Weds, 3/8, 4 pm

75th Anniversary Celebration: Weds, 3/8, 5 pm

Hot Tub Roundtable: Weds, 3/8, 9:30 pm

Membership Meeting: Thurs, 3/9, 7:30 am

President's and New Members Reception: Thurs, 3/9, 9:30 pm

Board Meeting 1: Friday, 3/10, 4 pm

Keynote Speaker



Scarlett St. Clair

USA Today Best-Selling author Scarlett St. Clair, also known as Ashley Nixon-Amador, is a citizen of the Muscogee Nation and the author of the HADES X PERSEPHONE SAGA, the HADES SAGA, KING OF BATTLE & BLOOD, and WHEN STARS COME OUT.

She has a Master's degree in Library Science and Information Studies and a Bachelors in English Writing. She is obsessed with Greek Mythology, murder mysteries, and the afterlife.

Luncheon Speaker

Marilyn Hudson



Oklahoma author Marilyn Hudson is a storyteller extraordinaire. She is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, with degrees in History and Library Information Studies.

Marilyn A. Hudson has been a public library, school library, and academic library professional. Along the way, she also learned to tell stories as a professional storyteller and began publishing tales of history and her imagination. She specializes in haunting tales in the persona of The Ghost Teller.

She has been a featured performer at such venues as the Overholser Mansion, Lawton Community Theater, Paracon, Tejas Storytelling Festival, Oklahoma City Storytelling Festival, Spirit of Oklahoma Storytelling Festival and many libraries and schools.

President's Program

Deborah Caldwell-Stone
& Megan Cusick



Deborah Caldwell-Stone is the Director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom.

Throughout her tenure, Caldwell-Stone has worked closely with librarians, teachers, and library trustees on a wide range of intellectual freedom issues, including censorship of library resources, book challenges, internet filtering, meeting room policies and the impact of new technologies, regulations, and government surveillance on library users' privacy and confidentiality.

Megan Cusick is Assistant Director of State Advocacy in ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office.

She supports the advocacy efforts of librarians, library staff and advocates across the country in cooperation with other ALA offices, state chapters, and affiliates. She also provides training for advocates to strengthen all types of libraries. In addition to her work with ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office, Megan assisted the Center for the Future of Libraries in identifying library initiatives that intersect with broader social trends. She has presented and published on topics such as partnerships, library trends, civic engagement, curriculum development, intellectual freedom and advocacy.



Sequoyah Authors



Kristin Tubb

Kristin O'Donnell Tubb is the author of *The Story Collector* and *The Story Seeker*, the award-winning *A Dog Like Daisy*, *John Lincoln Clem: Civil War Drummer Boy* (written as E. F. Abbott), *The 13th Sign*, *Selling Hope*, and *Autumn Winifred Oliver Does Things Different*. Kristin lives near Nashville, Tennessee, with her bouncy-loud family. Just like her two dogs, she can be bribed with cheese.

Victoria Jamieson

Victoria Jamieson is a New York Times bestselling author and illustrator of books for young readers. She received a Newbery Honor for her graphic novel *ROLLER GIRL*. She loves traveling around the world meeting young readers and talking with them about writing and drawing comics. While she has retired from playing roller derby, she remains a passionate fan of the sport and especially of her old team, the Rose City Rollers. She lives in eastern Pennsylvania with her family and grumpy cat.



Rachel Bright



Rachel Bright is a bestselling author and illustrator, as well as being the brains behind the multi-million selling global card and gift phenomenon, the brightside. Her picture book hits include *Love Monster*, which has now been adapted into an irresistible TV series for CBeebies. She is also the author of a hugely popular picture book series, illustrated by Jim Field, whose titles include *The Lion Inside*, *The Squirrels Who Squabbled*, and *The Koala Who Could* (winner of the Sainsburys Book Award and the Oscar's Book Prize). Rachel lives in Dorset, England.

Colorado Association of Libraries Sponsors International Library Conference *Better Together*



Have you ever wanted an international partner for your library? Have you ever wanted to work overseas?

The International Library and Cultural Exchange Interest Group of the Colorado Association of Libraries and the Arthur Lakes Library of the Colorado School of Mines are sponsoring a two-day international

conference, *Better Together: The Power of Global Library Connections*. *The unique two-day format will include, first, a one-day free online conference, and then a one-day in-person conference in Colorado.*

On Monday, March 6, a free online conference will feature speakers worldwide. Highlights include Dr. Jesús Lau, Professor at Universidad Veracruzana and Co-Chair of UNESCO Media and Information Literacy Alliance, speaking on the value of international cooperation among libraries. A panel of librarians from China and the Colorado School of Mines will discuss their successful STEM project. Librarians from Park City, Utah, will describe their partnership with a library in Nepal. Representatives from Sister Cities International and the ALA International Relations Round Table Sister Libraries committee will provide examples of partnerships and tips on making them successful.

Registration for Monday's online conference is free but required to receive the zoom link. Information for registering will be coming soon.

On Tuesday, March 7, the venue will be in-person only at the Ben H. Parker Student Center, Colorado School of Mines, in Golden, Colorado. Highlights of the Tuesday conference include a keynote by Dr. Jesús Lau, a panel of three successful international partnership projects in Colorado, and a presentation by Sister Cities Colorado on finding a library partner through Sister Cities. Participants will also have time to discuss their goals for a library partnership.

A small registration fee for the conference will cover continental breakfast, lunch, a reception following the conference at the Mines Museum of Earth Science, and parking. Information on registering will be coming soon.

We are still seeking speakers for Tuesday's in-person conference. If your library has an international partnership or you have international library experience, contact Nancy Bolt at nancybolt@earthlink.net for an application to be a speaker.



View from the backroads of Colorado

Anna Szczepanski travels to rural libraries as part of her role as a Colorado Library Consortium consultant. A few highlights from the road:



View from the road: Sunset behind the Norwood Canyon northwest of Telluride, Colorado

A new “high” in community partnerships: When visiting the Naturita Public Library, the Library Assistant mentioned a rise in new library card registrations. At first they couldn’t figure out what was driving the uptick, until one of the proud new cardholders told them: “The marijuana dispensary is giving 10% off if you have a library card!”

Allergies, be damned: Books, (pictured) the cat who lives at the Meeker Public Library, is a favorite among lots of patrons, but especially the area’s ranchers. According to Mike Bartlett, the director there, “They have to pet Books before they can do anything else in the library. He seems to know when people are having a bad day and he goes and sleeps on or by them.”



Library card that doubles as a lift ticket: The Grand County Library District, near Winter Park Ski Resort, checks out daily lift tickets to the world-renowned resort as part of their “Access Grand” Pass Program. Talk about a deal, since a lift ticket can climb to as much as \$279 day at peak season. Prefer skinny skis? The program also has trail access for a Nordic ski center, as well as museums, recreation centers, and a ropes course in the summer months. <https://www.gclid.org/accessgrand>



Anna Szczepanski, the Colorado Library Consortium (CLiC’s) Col-league on Call Consultant for Western Colorado

Artist Showcase: *Social Signs* by Cherish Marquez

Submitted by: Sarah Braveman | Creative Lead - Writer/Editor

<https://www.anythinklibraries.org/>

The “Social Signs” installation, at Anythink Huron Street in Thornton, Colo., was an interactive mural that can be activated with augmented reality (AR). Created by artist Cherish Marquez with help from community members, the installation highlights the unique cultural landscape of Anythink Huron Street and aims to generate deeper understandings of each other and the greater community. “Social Signs” was on exhibit and it is part of the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art (BMoCA) at Anythink Fall Artist Showcase. See full press release: [BMoCA at Anythink Fall Artist Showcase](#).



Artist Cherish Marquez stands in front of the “Social Signs” mural. This work of art was created as part of the BMoCA at Anythink Fall Artist Showcase help from community members and is on display through Jan. 31, 2023. Image courtesy of J Amado Photography.

From left: Anythink Director of Strategic Partnerships Stacie Ledden and Anythink Executive Director Mark Fink explore the augmented reality (AR) activations found in the “Social Signs” installation at Anythink Huron Street. Image courtesy of J Amado Photography.



Anythink Guide Luke Sorge holds an iPad displaying an augmented reality (AR) activation in front of artist Cherish Marquez. A similar experience is available to customers who visit the “Social Signs” installation at Anythink Huron Street. Image courtesy of J Amado Photography.

MPLA Access to Information Statement

The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) represents librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries in our 12-state region. As a professional organization:

MPLA stands in support of the freedom to read, free speech, and unfettered access to information as inalienable rights protected by the First Amendment; and

MPLA supports librarians' expertise in their selection of reading materials and provision of information resources to their patrons and communities. Professionally trained librarians use their expertise to purchase resources and books to develop collections appropriate for the communities they serve, while also allowing for the opportunity to learn about other populations or ideas that may be different from their own; and

Librarians around the world have studied S.R. Ranganathan's five laws of library science, and MPLA would call out two of them:

- Law 3 states "Every book its reader" – MPLA interprets this to mean that all books have a place in the library, even if only a small demographic might choose to read them; and
- Law 5 states "A library is a growing organism" – MPLA supports everyone's right to books and information; libraries should be a safe place where people can learn and grow; and a library should be a dynamic institution that is never static in its outlook





PNLA QUARTERLY

Pacific Northwest Library Association

This journal is all about regional content, open access, and discoverability.

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/>



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.

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..."



Even though there was no Hot Tub Roundtable in Missoula (alas!), Roy gets credit for bringing some truly excellent ducks. I'm already looking for the perfect web-footed characters to bring to Oklahoma next March!



Amadee Ricketts
MPLA Vice President

Membership Advantages



Continuing education opportunities including conferences, workshops and special seminars.

First year Personal membership dues are half price!

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

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

Opportunity for members to contribute to the profession.

Professional Development Grants for course work, institutes and workshops.

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

AND MORE!

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

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



Public Library Administration Certification

Congratulations to Amber Kent, Library Manager for the City of Casa Grande Public Library! Amber recently earned her Certified Public Library Administrator designation from ALA, making her one of only 122 individuals with this designation across the U.S. The Certified Public Library Administrator program is a voluntary post-MLS certification program for public librarians with three years or more of supervisory experience and requires the successful completion of seven courses in library leadership and administration.

AZ Health Zone

In partnership with the Mohave County Department of Public Health's "AZ Health Zone", the Kingman Mohave County Library invites the public to become more self-reliant by growing food at home through a Seed to Supper gardening program. "A garden is a way to state: 'I want variety. I want taste. I want the convenience,'" said Zen MocarSKI, health education specialist with AZ Health Zone, adding "there's nothing quite like eating food moments after harvest." Each week includes two, separate one-hour presentations. Classes are free and the three-week series will take each individual from vegetable/fruit garden development to harvest. The program can benefit first-time gardeners and those with more experience as well.



AZ Initiative

The AZ Librarians Enhancing Resilience in Rural Communities Initiative is a partnership between the Arizona Center for Rural Health (AzCRH) and the Arizona Library Association (AzLA). The aim of the program is to support rural libraries in community efforts to enhance local resilience, address inequities, and build community cohesion. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the role of libraries and their staff in linking individuals, neighborhoods, and communities with much-needed information, resources, and services.

Part of the project is a video series focused on health for rural communities. The second part of the project is a mini-grant program for rural Arizona libraries. AzLA helped promote the grant opportunity and will administer the \$5,000 grants to the 14 awarded libraries. Each of the grantees will use the funds to do some type of health-related program or service in their libraries. Through this initiative, the AzCRH and AzLA intend to provide capacity-building training and education to libraries interested in enhancing local communities' ability to respond to disasters and events that have the potential to disrupt livelihoods and adversely impact human health and well-being.





In Memory of Joyce Meskis

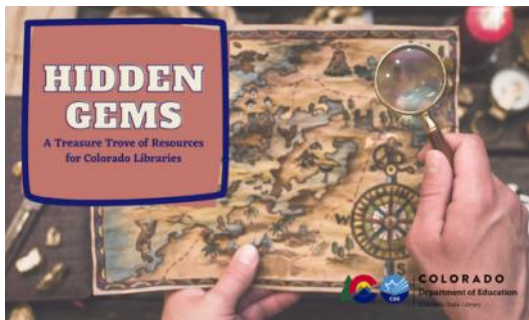
In December, the library community lost literary force, Joyce Meskis, at the age of 80. Meskis, owned [Colorado's Tattered Cover Bookstore](#) from 1974 to 2015. During her tenure, Tattered Cover was a bastion of the First Amendment, earning Joyce many awards for her activism. In the 80s, her leadership with the American Booksellers Association Task Force ultimately created the [American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression](#) in 1990.

She was a constant force in respecting the importance of customer privacy and led a successful fight against a Colorado ballot initiative that would have expanded the State Legislature's ability to ban sexual speech.

The Colorado library community appreciates all that Joyce Meskis has done and offers our sympathies. You can learn more about Joyce's work in an article available at the [National Coalition Against Censorship](#) website.

Hidden Gems: Treasure Trove of Resources

Colorado State Library presents [Hidden Gems](#) and its companion, [Virtual Partner Forum](#), a monthly series to connect libraries in the state with partners and resources. Hidden Gems highlights a resource that is available to Colorado libraries to support their communities through programming, services, or collections. In the following week, the state library hosts a Virtual Partner Forum where participants have the opportunity to learn more about the resource from the partner organization or agency that provides it. Partners featured include Colorado Humanities and Center for the Book, 211 Colorado, Get Ahead Colorado, Living Room Conversations, League of Women Voters Colorado, and many more.



Currently, Virtual Partner Forum events are scheduled now through April 2023. Registration is free and open to all librarians and library workers in Colorado libraries. Visit the calendar of current offerings [here](#). Sign up for new posts on Colorado Virtual Library, including the latest Hidden Gems posts [here](#).



Terri Farley is an MPLA member and this ad is a perk of an Author membership.

Galloping Your Way!

The Phantom Stallion beloved middle grade series about a girl, her horse and their adventures in the American West returns in March 2023 with stunning art and new content created by author Terri Farley
pre-order
<https://www.simonandschuster.com/series/Phantom-Stallion>

Let's chat
Terri Farley presents at MPLA/OLA Joint Conference March 8-10th, in Norman, OK.



Plains Community Library Outreach Focus

Submitted by: Sara Munn, Director

The Plains Community Library is set in Southwest Kansas in the town of Plains and is a Service Center 1. I became the Director in 2020 with a big goal to focus on community outreach, the library serves a community of roughly 1,300 and houses an elementary school. The school system is spread out between 3 towns but the library serves all. Our Elementary school has 121 students that come to us for books during the school year. Recently we have been working closely with the Plains Elementary School to do outreach programs as well as hosting programs here to help benefit the students. The students love getting to come to the library whether it is for a party or a STEAM lesson! I currently have a goal to offer STEAM programming which will also be used in the community as well. The feedback from the school and parents has been amazing and we are seeing local businesses want to help support in the way of sponsoring kits.

On December 15th the library hosted an AR (accelerated reader) party for the 5th grade to close out the school year before starting the winter break. This week (January 2nd) we received a public thank you from the school recognizing the library and its importance to the community as well as the newest items we have to offer. The library has been working hard to gain community sponsors to add STEAM kits to the library. We now offer 4 different ready-to-go STEAM kits along with 3D printing pens. On the 15th this was the first rollout of the 3D pens in the hands of students. It was a huge success and very popular. Starting in February I will be doing regular lessons with the 5th grade using the different STEAM kits. Third and fourth grade will follow as we build a schedule. We are so excited to offer these new kits and we will be using them this summer too for our Peace, Love, and Reading June program.



The Library has relaunched a Friends Group and we are having a Friends of the Library recruitment dinner Monday, January 9th with guest speaker Amy Brucker. Our Friends Group loves the TV show Friends so that is their theme. The Friends of the Library motto is: "The One Where We Promote Literacy & Inspire Community". We are thrilled to have a group and hope to gain even more members this month. We are really working on getting some teens involved as the group grows.



Metalwork exhibit

The Montana State University Library was home to a unique collection of art created by students in MSU's metalsmithing program. The exhibit was housed on the second floor of MSU's Renne Library. The artwork, created by students in metalsmithing academic courses in the School of Art, includes works by students in various stages of their studies. The pieces included jewelry, sculpture and wearable pieces made from metals such as sterling silver, copper, brass and nickel.

Metalsmithing is an option within MSU's BFA in Studio Arts, which is housed in the College of Arts and Architecture. Other options include ceramics, printmaking, sculpture, painting and drawing. Students in the metalsmithing program learn a variety of modern and traditional techniques and work in dedicated studio areas designed to create everything from jewelry to metal blades and functional dishware.

"Being able to feature the work of our students is such a privilege, especially objects as beautiful as these," said humanities and outreach librarian Jan Zauha. Additional information about library hours and the artistic exhibits in the library can be found at lib.montana.edu.



Above: Metal art by MSU student Rita Ramsey

To the right: A piece of art by MSU student Athena Garron.



In Humboldt, NE: a "Chair"itable Fundraiser and a Holiday Tea

The Humboldt Friends of the Library's somewhat unique and really fun "chair"itable fundraiser, which was coordinated by Deb Costello of 3rd Street Studio. A total of 53 chairs were donated, painted or embellished by local members of the community. Artists ranged from age 7 through nursing home residents. It included children's chairs, rocking chairs, folding chairs, high chairs, step stools, and even several vintage children's tables. Bids ranged from \$10 to \$155, and all chairs were sold, including some that were bought by the artists or their family members. Pictures of all the chairs can be seen on 3rd Street Studio's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=3rdstreetstudios>)

Bruun Memorial Library had their annual Holiday Tea on Monday, December 12. Friends of the Library and the Library Board helped with refreshments, which included cookies and hot spiced cider, coffee, cocoa, tea and water. Four door prizes were given away--a tabletop Christmas tree, a wreath, an afghan and a children's bag. Everyone who attended got to pick a homemade ornament from the tree. It was a fun afternoon filled with food and fellowship.



The Humboldt Friends of the Library (Bruun Memorial Library) held a unique "chair"itable fundraiser. Photos by Jorene Her

Gingerbread House Competition

Using cookies, graham crackers, candy, and frosting, patrons at the Carson City Library built your best "gingerbread-like" house. There were 8 entries at this 1st annual event and the community voted on their favorites.



The Hansen family created a delightful candy and cookie train to run away with the win.

Winter Programs Shine at Grants Public Library

December was filled with winter magic at Grants Public Library in Grants, NM. December opened with the reveal of a huge model train village, *Kind Town Humble Mountain*, installed in their indoor courtyard by a generous resident to share with the community. At the reveal event, Grants Councilwoman Beverly Michael did a read-aloud of *Charro Claus and the Tejas Kid* (a spin on *Twas the Night Before Christmas*) for local students from St. Teresa of Avila school.

A "seek and find" list encouraged folks to revisit to find all the hidden details within the village. Library Director Nadine Jiron reports that the library was so excited for the expanded village to open and a fun time was had by all at the opening.

The library's weekly *Tot & Me Time* for December was filled with reindeer fun, snow globes, and frosty snowmen. Grants Public Library offers *Tot & Me Time* for families with littles between birth and 5, focusing on fine motor skills, eye hand and shape and color recognition through story time, fingerplays, interactive stories, nurse rhymes and songs and crafts.

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



North Dakota Department of Commerce Community Main Street Initiative Vibrancy Grant

The North Dakota Department of Commerce has awarded a total of \$28,985 of funding from round four of the Main Street Initiative Vibrancy Grant for fiscal year 2022 to 20 North Dakota communities.

Area award recipients are:

- Morton Mandan Public Library received \$1,500 for a jigsaw puzzle competition and public art mosaic.
- Mandan received \$1,500 for the Holiday Lights on Main (a 2022 Main Street Awards recipient).

The Main Street Initiative Vibrancy Grant program seeks to add activity and energy to communities across North Dakota by providing investments to community projects or events that encourage public art, activate underutilized space or promote walking and biking. (The Bismarck Tribune)



Rugby Legion Auxiliary members fill library's Mitten Tree

Members of the Rugby American Legion Auxiliary dropped off more than 50 pairs of gloves and mittens, hats and socks they collected for the 38th Annual Mitten Tree at the Heart of America Public Library, in Rugby, ND.

The winter necessities were part of a larger collection the auxiliary gathered to help area families and children. Auxiliary members Tootie Fueller and Janet Johnston made the donations. Library Executive Director Jackie Johnson said, "We appreciated their generosity." "These donations are split between the schools in Rugby and Angela Kitzman, who works in Rolette, works for us in the summertime and she gives them to Rolette School."



Bristow Public Library to Open Indigenous and Local History Resource Room



PLEASE JOIN US AT THE GRAND OPENING OF THE
CHOSKA TALFA ROOM
A genealogical, Indigenous,
and local history room

Bristow Public Library
November 30, 2022
11:30am - 12:30pm
Refreshments Provided

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, the Bristow Public Library, in Bristow, OK, opened their new genealogical, Indigenous, and local history research room for the Bristow area. Known as the Choska Talfa Room (pronounced "chus-kuh tall-fuh"). Choska Talfa translates to "Place of the Post Oaks" in the Muscogee language and is what the Bristow area was called by its earliest Muscogee Nation inhabitants. The newly overhauled room houses the library's growing collections of research materials pertaining to tribal and early Oklahoman histories.

The Choska Talfa Room is organized using the new Fus Fixico Classification System, a classification system contrived by the library's Executive Director, Heather Hutto, and Local History Librarian, Amanda Harding. This new classification system is specifically designed for tribal and Oklahoma history collections. This system was created over the last year

and has been operating in beta since June. The Fus Fixico Classification System is meant to grow in tandem with improved Library of Congress subject headings.

Montfort & Allie B. Jones Memorial Library
Bristow Public Library
111 West 7th Ave.
Bristow, OK 74010
(918) 367-6562
joneslibrarybristow@gmail.com

Tulsa City-County Library High School Diploma Program

The Tulsa City-County Library library partnered with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries and Gage/Cengage Learning to offer five Tulsa County residents up to 24 months of online, self-paced programs through Excel High School to earn a high school diploma.

29-year-old Jasmine Edmundson was one of the first to seize the opportunity as she had been wanting to earn a high school diploma for a while, but as a mother of six, she needed flexible options.

"Being able to be at home and work on my assignments to complete my diploma was excellent because I don't always have the time to go take classes," said Edmundson. Within a week of signing up, she was notified she'd been awarded the program scholarship.



"I've always wanted to be a nurse or teacher, and now I'm finally taking those steps," said Edmundson. "I have enrolled in TCC in the nursing program, and I have now received a higher paying job because I have my diploma."

More information: <https://www.tulsalibrary.org/press-releases/earn-high-school-diploma-free-through-library>

"Greetings from Buffalo".

Northwest Regional Library in Buffalo, SD was featured in the January episode of South Dakota Public Broadcasting's Dakota Life (SDPB) called "Greetings from Buffalo". SDPB visited Northwest Regional Library in December 2022 to interview and video librarian Vicki Anderson at work. In the video, Vicki shares information about how the library started, how the bookmobile which goes out monthly provides services to remote areas and rural schools and more!



Dakota Life

The description from the website:

Join us as we spend a day with the Painter family ranch as they work cattle. We visit Riley Pass, the site of a reclamation project, to restore the landscape to its original beauty. Tour the Northwest Regional Library and learn how they serve the local residents with a staff of one person. And we introduce you to a local columnist that keeps people up-to-date on Harding County.

Here's the link to the show: <https://www.sdpb.org/tv/dakotalife/>



The Doland Community Library is now an Accredited Library of South Dakota! This is something everyone involved with the library has worked hard to achieve.



Elementary Library Assistant for this quarter, 5th grader Wyatt Lambert! Wyatt has already hit the ground running and is busy organizing puzzles and games!

Interested in any of these happenings? Contact the Doland Community Library at dolandcommunitylibrary@gmail.com





University of Utah Libraries announces New Dean of Libraries



After a national search, Sarah Shreeves has been selected to join the University of Utah as the new dean of libraries. She will begin in June. Current Dean of Libraries Alberta Comer will continue in her position until that time.

Shreeves was selected from a competitive pool of candidates that was narrowed down by a search committee chaired by Catherine Soehner, director of the Eccles Health Sciences Library and associate dean for research and Sylvia Torti, dean of the Honors College.

“I am grateful to the committee for their hard work,” said Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Mitzi Montoya. “The dean of libraries plays a vital role in advancing research and I’m excited to welcome Sarah to the University of Utah.”

Before joining the University of Arizona, Shreeves served as associate dean for digital strategies and faculty affairs at University of Miami Libraries, co-coordinator of the Scholarly Commons and associate professor of library administration at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Libraries, and project manager for integrated library system migration at Massachusetts Institute of Technology Libraries. She serves on multiple national and international advisory boards and steering committees, including the APTTrust Governing Board and U.S. Repository Network Steering Group.

“As someone who has long appreciated the power of research in finding solutions for the problems of our time and believes in the role of public universities to provide opportunities for all, I am thrilled to join the University of Utah as the dean of libraries,” Shreeves said. “I am humbled and eager to begin collaborating with the campus community.”

After serving for nearly a decade at the U, Comer will continue as dean over the J. Willard Marriott Library for several months to assist Shreeves in transitioning to her new role.

Dissolving Contradictions Art Show at Salt Lake City Library



Artist and arts educator Mollie Hosmer-Dillard saw the lack of representation in gallery spaces in Salt Lake City as an opportunity for collaboration with incarcerated youth and community members in the Salt Lake City area. "Dissolving Contradictions" is the product of that opportunity. The result: Dissolving Contradictions, a two-fold exhibition which includes a series of paintings by incarcerated youth from the Salt Lake City area as well as a large-scale “multi-vocal” painting (Clouds) made by over 200 citizens of Salt Lake City.

DISSOLVING CONTRADICTIONS

The title of the exhibition unites all the paintings on display: All of them utilize art as a space where we can practice dissolving contradictions. The exhibition works to showcase different perspectives on how the world is and how it can be imagined. "Dissolving Contradictions" was on display at the Salt Lake City Library from Dec. 5- Jan. 4.

Using Book Clubs to Address Death, Dying, and Grief

Whether you're dealing with the grief that comes after losing a loved one or facing the reality of your own mortality (or everything in between), it's hard to not only cope with death, dying, and bereavement, but to even talk about it. The irony of death's taboo nature is that dying is a universal issue each and every one of us will eventually face. To help overcome these stigmas, the [Natrona County Library](#) in Casper, WY partners with Central Wyoming Hospice and Transitions to offer a quarterly book discussion group that focuses on life, death, and grieving at their 'Til Death Due You Part Book Club.

This gathering provides a comfortable atmosphere in which to share a respectful, thought-provoking, and life-affirming conversation on the topics of death, dying, and bereavement. Anyone is invited to attend, not just those who are currently utilizing hospice services.

This unique book discussion group has been meeting since January of 2019, and the meeting location alternates between the Library and Central Wyoming Hospice and Transitions to make the gathering more accessible. Participants even get a free copy of the book. In 2023, the group will read and discuss the following books:

- “Everything is Horrible and Wonderful: A Tragicomic Memoir of Genius, Heroin, Love and Loss” by Stephanie Wittels Wachs
- “Smoke Gets in Your Eyes: And Other Lessons from the Crematory” by Caitlin Doughty
- “Tuesdays with Morrie” by Mitch Albom
- “Someone You Love is Gone” by Gurjinder Basran



These books, and the books discussed over the past several years, provide readers with a glimpse into the variety of experiences death offers and the paths others have found through the trials of the dying process. There are no better teachers about death and dying than those who have encountered it already. Starting an end-of-life book club like this in your community is a great way to unite people around a shared human concern that we often ignore until it's too late.



Welcome, New Members!



Name	Title	Institution/Library	City & State
Amanda Raiche	Youth Services Coordinator	South Dakota State Library	Pierre, SD
Angela Watkins	Library Director	Aztec Public Library	Aztec, NM
Aubrey Iglesia	Assistant Professor and Cataloging Librarian	New Mexico State University	Las Cruces, NM
Benjamin Vandenboom	Library Systems Analyst, Associate	New Mexico State University	Las Cruces, NM
Sarah Jones	Director	Carlsbad Public Library	Carlsbad, NM
Caroline Hess	Assistant Archivist	East Mountain Historical Society	Tijeras, NM
Shari Kendell	Director	City of Pauls Valley Nora Sparks	Pauls Valley, OK
Courtney Oliphant	Instruction and Virtual Services Librarian	Oklahoma City Community College	Oklahoma City, OK
Cristy Moran	Adult Library Services Senior	Colorado State Library	Denver, CO
Hannah Vanorny	Circulation Services Manager	Bismarck Veterans Memorial Library	Bismarck, ND
Ivy Stover	Director	Magdalena Public Library	Magdalena, NM



Welcome, New Members!



Name	Title	Institution/Library	City & State
JaKLyn Galley	Graduate Student	Emporia State University	Omaha, NE
Jamie Holmes	Reference & Instruction Librarian	Tulsa Community College	Tulsa, OK
Jay Edwards	Circulation Supervisor	University of Oklahoma Libraries	Norman, OK
John DesGeorges		New Mexico State University Archives	Las Cruces, NM
Katherine Witzig	Library Administrative Assistant	Oklahoma City University	Oklahoma City, OK
Kathleen Ryan		Eastern Oklahoma Library System	Muskogee, OK
Kelly McCabe	Youth Services Coordinator	New Mexico State Library	Santa Fe, NM
Keno Catabay	Assistant Professor, Cataloging & Metadata Librarian	University of Northern Colorado University Libraries	Greeley, CO
Lacey Rogers	Access Services Librarian	University of Nebraska-Omaha Dr. C.C. and Mabel Criss Library	Omaha, NE
Laura Gonzales	Northeast Bookmobile Manager	New Mexico State Library	Cimarron, NM

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/>



Welcome, New Members!



Name	Title	Institution/Library	City & State
Melissa Beavers	Library Manager	High Plains Library District LINC Library Innovation Center	Greeley, CO
Melissa Kummen		Arizona State Library	Phoenix, AZ
Rebecca Chavez	Director	Central Wyoming College Library	Riverton, WY
Roslyn Dean		Las Vegas Clark County Library District	Las Vegas, NV
Samantha Keeney	Librarian	Central Wyoming College Library	Riverton, WY
Sarah Jones	Director	Carlsbad Public Library	Carlsbad, NM
Shannon Brennan	Children's Librarian	Bemis Public Library	Littleton, CO
Shari Kendall	Director	City of Pauls Valley Nora Sparks Warren Library	Pauls Valley, OK
Spencer Naar	MLIS Graduate Student	University of Washington iSchool	Los Ranchos, NM
Varina Kosovich	Library Information Specialist	University of New Mexico Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center	Albuquerque, NM



MPLA State Representatives



Arizona

Amber Kent
City Librarian | City of Casa Grande
Casa Grande, AZ
arizona@mpla.us

Colorado

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

Kansas

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

Montana

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

Nebraska

Michel Straatmann
University of Nebraska Libraries
Lincoln, NE
nebraska@mpla.us

Nevada

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

New Mexico

Erin Wahl
New Mexico State University
Zuhl Library
Las Cruces, NM
new_mexico@mpla.us

North Dakota

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

Oklahoma

Gloria Farmer
Eastern Oklahoma Library System
oklahoma@mpla.us

South Dakota

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

Utah

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

Wyoming

Judi Boyce
Sublette County Library
Pinedale, WY
wyoing@mpla.us

King Soopers/Krogers

COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM

Link your loyalty card to
MPLA to continue raising
funds for MPLA's
professional development,
leadership, and educational
programs!

SUPPORT
MPLA!



Cards Are Accepted By

- Kroger
- Fred Meyer
- Ralphs
- Fry's and Fry's marketplace
- King Soopers
- Dillons
- Smith's Food & Drug City Market
- QFC
- Food 4 Less
- Owen's
- Foodsco
- Hilander
- Pay-less Cala-Bell
- Bakers
- Jayc
- Fred Meyer jewelers
- Littman & Barclay Jewelers
- Loaf and Jug



MPLA Board & Staff



President

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

Vice-President/President Elect

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

Past President / Administration

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

Recording Secretary

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

Executive Secretary

Judy Kulp
Lakewood, Colorado
execsecretary@mpla.us

Newsletter Editor

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

Leadership Institute

Leslie H. Langley
Wister Public Library
Wister, OK
P: 918.655.7654

Webmaster

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

MPLA Archives

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

Awards

Mary Ann Thompson
Hays, KS
awards@mpla.us

Nominating

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

Bylaws and Procedures

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

Communications

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

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

Leadership Institute

Tom Taylor
Kansas
leadership@mpla.us

Membership

Erin Wahl
New Mexico State University
Zuhl Library
Las Cruces, NM
membership@mpla.us

Professional Development

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

Program Council

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



Big Horizons, Close Community





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

Quick Links:

Website: www.mpla.us

Join MPLA or Renew Membership:

<https://mpla.us/community/membership/>

Professional Development Grants:

<https://mpla.us/community/professional-development-grants/>

Calendar: <https://mpla.us/news-and-events/calendar/>

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

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

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

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

MPLA on Facebook:

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

MPLA on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/MPLAtweets>

The MPLA Newsletter is published bimonthly online by the Mountain Plains Library Association:

<https://mpla.us/archives/mpla-archives/publications/newsletter/>

ISSN 0145-6180

Editor: Melanie Argo,
Madison Public Library

Copy deadlines for articles, news, and advertisements:

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

Advertising:

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

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

MPLA Membership:

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

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