



**MOUNTAIN PLAINS
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Newsletter

Big Horizons, Close Community

August 2023—September 2023

mpla.us

Volume 68 Number 4



2024 MPLA/ULA

Salt Palace
Convention Center
Salt Lake City, UT
May 8th - 10th 2024



We will see you at ULA
in May 2024!

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

In this Issue

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



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

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



Find us on 





MPLA on Facebook:

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

MPLA on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/MPLAtweets>



Big Horizons, Close Community



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.

MEMBERSHIP ADVANTAGES

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.

- 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!

Montana Library Association Statement

In response to State Library Commission Decision to Withdraw from American Library Association

The Executive Board of the Montana Library Association deeply regrets the decision by the Montana State Library Commission to withdraw from the American Library Association. The Library Commission's stated objective is to provide excellent library resources and services by encouraging collaboration and cooperation between libraries and institutional partners. The decision made today runs counter to this mission, and undermines the shared goals of Montana libraries.

An American Library Association membership offers useful resources, development and funding opportunities, and professional networks that serve our state, our libraries, and, most importantly, our library users. By isolating State Library professionals from their peers and fellow leaders, the Commission has effectively eliminated critical training and tools for not only State Library staff, but for local library boards and trustees.

It is our earnest hope that the Montana State Library Commission will reconsider its decision and choose not to sever ties with the American Library Association. We urge them to look beyond short-term partisanship and view this situation through the lens of what serves the public good and long-term interests of all Montanans.

The Montana Library Association remains firmly in support of the aims and goals of the State Library as an institution. The Montana Library Association will continue to be a resource and professional network for Montana's library communities. The Montana Library Association persists in fostering literacy, providing access to information, and promoting lifelong learning. We uphold these principles regardless of the decisions made by the State Library Commission because we believe that they are fundamentally American and fundamentally Montanan.

The Montana Library Association invites the public, library workers, and stakeholders to share their views on this matter and to continue to support their local libraries as pillars of education, inclusivity, and community building.

Sincerely,

The Executive Board and Executive Director of the Montana Library Association

Kelly Reisig, President

Sarah Creech, Vice President

Sean Anderson, Treasurer/Secretary

Kirk Vriesman, Executive Director



Montana Library Association

From the Mountains to the Prairies

ALAnews

[American Library Association Responds to Montana State Library Commission's Decision](#)



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/>



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/>

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



Return of the AZ Library Leadership Institute

The Arizona State Library hosted the 2023 Library Leadership Institute from April 23-26 at the Ak-Chin Resort in Maricopa, Arizona. Facilitated by Maureen Sullivan, this professional development experience taught participants the essential elements of good leadership and

provided an opportunity to engage in deep conversations about leadership, complete personal assessments, and develop a personal plan for leadership development.



The participants all rated the Institute as Excellent and noted the value of the concepts they learned to developing their leadership potential. "I really appreciated the discussion of creating boundaries for myself with staff while also maintaining trust, respect, and transparency," said one such participant.

The Arizona State Library Leadership Institute is supported with federal LSTA funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

AZ YA Library Summit

Through the collaboration between the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records and the Arizona Library Association, the 2023 AZ YA Summit connected and enlightened library staff in public libraries, schools, and other community partners on best practices for meaningfully engaging teens. The YA Summit takes place every other year, rotating with a similar event for Children's services staff.

Over 100 participants from a variety of libraries gathered for this two-day event, with keynotes Julia E. Torres: Nurturing Readers in Turbulent Times: Creating and Sustaining Inclusive Library Spaces, Brian Young, Author: Educational Journey: Diverse Stories from Authentic Voices and Naomi Bishop: Arizona Dreams: Culture and Community.



SPRING INTO LIBRARY SERVICES FOR TEENS

Participants surveyed commented on the importance of learning from the keynote speakers and networking with colleagues around the state who serve the same age group. "Attending the YA Summit gave me more in-depth insights into topics that I didn't realize were issues. This was a real eye-opener. Race issues, disability issues, and mental health. Although I was aware of the hardships individuals face, it opened my eyes to issues that are involved in these topics that I was not aware of."

This event was supported in part 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.



Shakespearean Science exhibit

In May, [students from the Radical Science Writing 3030 classes](#) installed their final projects on the 3rd floor corridor on the west side of Norlin Library at University of Colorado in Boulder, CO. The final assignment requires five-person teams to design and present their research as a series of posters about the sciences at the

time of Shakespeare. The series was initially developed with support from the Libraries Rare and Distinctive Collections in 2016.

“The Shakespearean Science assignment, perhaps more than any other I give my science writers, demands an awareness of the rhetorical situation,” said Writing & Rhetoric Program (WRTG) instructor Danny Long. “Once the posters are hung up on the wall, people will be zipping by them in a hurry. My students must capture their attention and hold it.”

One example from this year’s project is titled “Vignette of Color” Presenting four primary ingredients prominent in a painting by Giovanni Battista Salvi, the posters inform the reader about where painting materials were sourced and how they were mixed to create pigments used in paintings in the 15th century.



“We had to think about our audience and how to make it visually appealing, both of which are not things you typically do for research papers,” said Shreya Sharma, a graduating senior studying biochemistry. WRTG 3030 is a science writing class designed for engineering majors. The final assignment introduces an additional element.

“In the past working on research papers, I often would just follow the formula of finding sources with useful quotes and adding them to my paper as I went,” Jack McKinstry, a junior studying computer science related. “The difference with the creative freedom allowed with this assignment not only made it more fun to complete, but also forced me to actually understand the topic from the research we conducted.”



Travel Activity Kits

The Newton Public Library in Newton, KS added travel activity kits in 2023. These kits include car-friendly activities, Brain Quest cards, and games like Scrabble and Battleship that are perfect vacation diversions.



MIT Spokes Science & Math Workshop

Students from MIT are biking across the United States to offer science and engineering workshops, including a workshop at Newton Public Library. Youths ages 10-18 were invited to participate in this free, one-day camp experience.

Workshop session topics included: 3D Printing, Building Bridges, Under Pressure, Diffusion Through Membranes, Acids and Bases with Cabbage, Generating Power Through Biking, Magic of Making Electricity

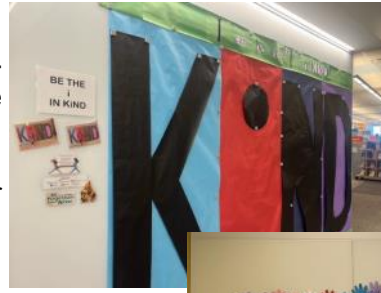
Area library, Moundridge Public Library of Moundridge KS took a school van load of teens to take advantage of the [MIT Spokes 2023](#)



Summer Decorating Inspirations

Libraries in the Johnson County Library - KS System decorated with getting the community involved in mind.

The Youth Services librarians at our Central Resource Library created a backdrop so you can be the I in kind!



At Monticello, Construction paper hands clustered around a drawing of our Summer Reading theme: All Together Now. Each of those hands represents a book taken home by a kiddo in the first week of Summer Reading!

At Antioch, there is an ever-growing construction paper chain and information displayed so it's easy for you to find what you're looking for.



At Gardner, you'll see Summer Reading activities and hand-drawn artwork by Assistant Branch Manager Nancy Birmingham! She drew these fun All Together Now scenes on upcycled plexiglass panels that were used during COVID!



Montana State's Jodi Allison-Bunnell to be inducted as fellow of the Society of American Archivists

Jodi Allison-Bunnell, head of Archives and Special Collections at the Montana State University Library, will be inducted this summer as a fellow of the Society of American Archivists, or SAA, the

oldest and largest archivist association in North America.

The distinction of fellow is awarded for outstanding contributions to the archives profession and is the highest honor SAA bestows on individuals. Allison-Bunnell will be honored during a July 27 awards ceremony at the joint annual meeting of the Council of State Archivists and SAA in Washington, D.C. Allison-Bunnell is one of four new fellows being named in 2023. That will bring the number of fellows for the SAA to 199.



[Full article here](#)





Keen Memorial Library's Eggstravaganza

By: Justin Ridder

Originally published in [Three Rivers Library System Newsletter June 2023](#)

Auditorium for more than six months now. Our library building has been under construction since September 2022. We feel blessed to have this temporary space so we can still offer thousands of books for people to check out. The biggest negative of our temporary location is the lack of space for programs. This has required us to be creative and reach out to partners in our area.

Over the winter months, we had monthly passive programs in the temporary library. These passive programs have been a hit. We have done simple picture scavenger hunts along with complicated scavenger hunts that required kids to decode messages and find hidden evidence. We considered doing an egg scavenger hunt in the temporary library, but we really wanted to do something different in April.

After reaching out to some of our community partners, the Fremont Mall agreed to be our location for an Eggstravaganza! This event would not have been a success with the partnership with the Fremont Mall. They supplied an Easter Bunny, a beautiful backdrop for families to take photos with the Easter Bunny, fun glasses to give away to all the kiddos, and eggs filled with candy. The library started the event off with storytime with the Easter Bunny. Then the kids got lined up based on their age ranges to go on an egg hunt. As many of you know, trying to estimate how many people will attend special programs is almost impossible. We had the Eggstravaganza during our normal Friday storytime where we, on average, get 15-20 people to attend. So we were trying to plan for about 100 people for this event since it was a 'no school' day. No amount of preparation could have equipped us for the crowd of almost 300 people attending! We look forward to doing this event again next year... with the edits that we have noted! We had a little over 800 eggs this year at our event, but next year we plan to have at least 1,500 eggs! We live and we learn.



Open House and William Kent Krueger

By: Becky Baker

Originally published in the [Southeast Signal June 2023](#)

The Seward Memorial Library first opened its doors on September 2, 2003. This year, we are celebrating our 20th anniversary! Over the past few months, we have been busy remodeling our library so that we may begin our next 20 years with increased capacity and better service for our patrons. On May 30, we held an open house celebrating the end of the remodel. The new configuration of the library added 219 square feet for patron spaces by adding fiction shelving, a new room for the Book Nook, one new meeting room, two new study rooms, and an area for our Library of Things. The former computer lab has been converted to an administrative area and two desktops for the public were moved to a seating area in the non-fiction section. Three laptops area also available to patrons who need to access the internet. We were excited to show our patrons the new improvements to our facility during the open house. To top off the evening, we had author William Kent Krueger give a presentation! We were excited to see that the event drew people from all areas including Lincoln, David City, Hastings, York, Papillion, and Omaha. The room was packed! Mr. Krueger's presentation was very enjoyable, and it proved to be a fascinating evening. He is very personable, and it is always interesting to hear how an author thinks and creates his work. The audience had many good questions at the end of the presentation, and the evening ended with an autograph session for those who brought or purchased books. To the right is a group photo with William Kent Krueger.





Legal Kiosk Project

The State of Nevada announced the launch of the Legal Kiosk Project at 22 libraries across Nevada with the intent of making information more available to older Nevadans, underserved communities, and all those with questions.

Nevada's Legal Kiosk Project grew out of an effort by the state's five leading legal aid providers, including Nevada Legal Services (NLS), to address the digital divide exposed by COVID-19 pandemic, which disproportionately affected communities, especially seniors, that lack the means to use technology to access the legal system. As underserved communities often seek legal information at their local libraries, placing the free Legal Kiosks in libraries throughout the state provides a needed resource for library staff and the people they serve. NLS took the lead in obtaining grant funding for and developing the Project. The Legal Kiosks are designed to be a user-friendly portal for Nevadans to learn about civil legal issues, find court information and forms, access legal aid providers, and locate community resources.

More information: <https://www.legalkiosks.com/projects/nevada>



New Library Branch in Rio Rancho, NM

The HUB @ Enchanted Hills is now open. More than 1600 people showed their support for the third library branch in Rio Rancho, NM by attending the Grand Opening event held on Saturday, June 17, 2023. There was food, family activities, and a ribbon cutting ceremony with Mayor Gregg Hull and children from the community. A big hit was the National Ocean Month themed scavenger hunt, and children enjoyed climbing through nooks to find their favorite books. Stop by and visit The HUB from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Wednesday-Sunday, or online at: www.rnm.gov/library/The-HUB





Hulsman Librarianship for Student Success

University Libraries assistant professor, Adrienne Warner, of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM, was named the inaugural recipient of the Jim and Mary Lois Friday Hulsman Librarianship for Student Success, a prestigious endowment that enables librarians in the University Libraries to work on projects directly related to helping students thrive in their academic careers.

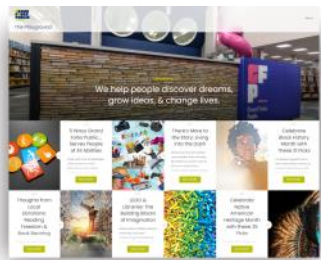
Warner has worked at the University Libraries since 2014 and currently holds the position of First Year Experience Librarian. This involves collaborating with new undergraduate students, campus organizations, faculty, staff, and high school students to support academic growth.

More information: <https://news.unm.edu/news/university-libraries-announces-inaugural-recipient-of-the-hulsman-librarianship-for-student-success>



2023 PR Xchange Award for External Communications

The [annual PR Xchange Awards Competition](#) recognizes the very best public relations materials produced by libraries in the past year. Entries are evaluated on content, originality, and design by a team of experts in public relations, graphic design, communications, and marketing, who select the winner(s) in each category.



Grand Forks Public Library received the 2023 PR Xchange Award for External Communications, recognizing the blog post "[LEGO & Libraries: The Building Blocks of Imagination](#)." More than 215 entries were submitted from over 100 institutions. Learn more about Grand Forks Public Library's blog at gfpstories.com.



2023 PR Xchange Award
LEGO & Libraries: The Building Blocks of Imagination
Grand Forks Public Library Blog

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library Recipient of Dakota OutRight's Champion Business Award

On Saturday, June 17th during Dakota OutRight's 2023 Capital Pride at the Bismarck State College Energy Center, Dakota OutRight recognized Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library as this year's Champion Business Award recipient. The award recognizes outstanding work throughout North Dakota with respect to and in partnership with the LGBTQ+ communities in our state. Dakota OutRight serves the LGBTQIA2S+ community of central and western North Dakota through connection, visibility, and advocacy.

The library received the award for its many services and welcoming atmosphere available to Bismarck/Burleigh County residents. The library provides an equal, high standard of service in a safe gathering space for all citizens with respect and appreciation for our BIPOC and LGBTQ communities.

"We are humbled and honored to be named Dakota OutRight's 2023 Champion Business," said Library Director Christine Kujawa. "Most rewarding are the shared stories of appreciation from patrons, knowing that the library welcomes all. We provide free services to anyone who comes to us seeking assistance, a mainstay for our community."





Solar Benches In Oklahoma

The Pioneer Library System placed solar benches to provide a spot to take a load off. These state-of-the-art benches are solar-powered to allow you to charge* your device, connect to Wi-Fi, and browse more than 100,000 eMaterials through the library's digital collection - no library card needed!

Benches are placed in each of our communities in a high-traffic area, areas with low connectivity, or away from our library facility. We bring the library to you!

Bench Locations:

Blanchard - Crystal Lake Walking Trail
McLoud - Lawrence Wahpepah Trails
Moore - Station at Central Park
Newcastle - Veteran's Park
Noble - Dane Park
Purcell - Purcell Lake
Shawnee - Rotary Boy Scout Park
Tecumseh - Tecumseh City Park
Norman & Southwest Oklahoma City - Coming Soon!



*Charging cable not included

Read more about them from this Libby post:

[Take a break, charge up & read with the Pioneer Library System's solar-powered benches](#)

Jim Lucas Checotah Public Library: Pickleball Courts

The Jim Lucas Checotah Public Library in Checotah, OK, had a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of new pickleball courts. Checotah Mayor Daniel Tarkington declared June 29th "Pickleball Day in Checotah," and he and some of the city's council members played a doubles game.



The pickleball courts are first-come, first-served for the public and are not affected by the library's open/closed hours. There are lights for evening play, and library cardholders can borrow paddles and balls for free.

Many thanks to all donors and supporters: Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Friends of the Library, Peoples National Bank of Checotah, Armstrong Bank, First Family Federal Credit Union, the family of Eli Wallace, and Dr. Maurice & Gretchen Payne.

Special thanks to the City of Checotah for funding to cover costs above and beyond the grant and donations.





SDSL Public Library Institute 2023

Originally published in

[South Dakota State Library's e-newsletter](#)

Eight librarians have graduated from the Public Library Training Institute, which took place earlier this month at Northern State University in Aberdeen. The institute, sponsored by the South

Dakota State Library, is a four-year program of education for librarian practitioners, support staff, and trustees of small to medium-sized public libraries who do not have library degrees.

Twenty-nine students, representing 26 libraries across South Dakota, attended this year's institute. The following individuals graduated this year with a Certificate of Public Library Management:

- Amy Smith, Hurley Public Library
- Sara Weishaar, Bison Public Library
- Janet Schmidt, Sisseton Memorial Library
- Tara Engel, Gregory Public Library
- Annie Crist, Beresford Public Library
- Jan Riggins, K O Lee Aberdeen Public Library
- Thea Teasley-Whiting, Custer County Library
- Tara Thomas, Emil M. Larson Public Library, Clark



"This year, students learned about creating early literacy kits. These kits can be checked out by patrons or used as education stations around the library for independent and interactive play," said Kathleen Slocum, Continuing Education Coordinator for the South Dakota State Library. "They're excited to take their learning back to their communities."

Students attend in-person classes for one week in June and take additional classes online between summers. Participants earn a minimum of 120 contact hours over a four-year period and two college credits each year from a South Dakota public university. Librarians who attend all four years receive a Certificate of Public Library Management and are recognized as certified library practitioners.

All Together Now: Gardening

Posted on [Langford Public Library Facebook](#)

Summer Reading is off to a great start! We planted our garden this past week, with many thanks due to [Town of Langford, SD](#) for the garden plot, [Farm Credit Services of America](#) for a grant to help make this possible and provide the kids with their own garden tools, [Thrivent](#) for a grant providing potting soil, fertilizer and garden hose holders, as well as all of our amazing volunteers in Langford and surrounding communities! [Amy Punt Joy Jensen](#) [Heather Holler](#) [@jessicalynn](#) [@carminwade](#) [@Fallon Glodrey-Deutsch](#) [@kelliealberts](#) [Yvonne Healy](#) and it wouldn't have been possible without Blair Healy for tilling up our garden! Also thank you to [Langford Community Foundation](#) for providing a grant to provide new books for our youth! Thank you all for investing in our children, both with your time and money!



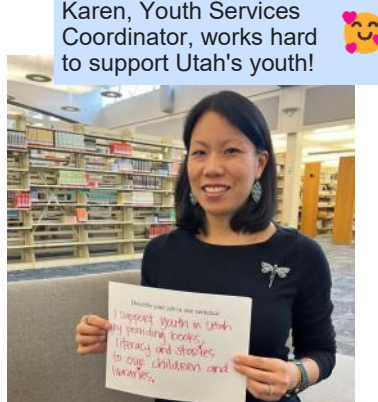


Describe Your Job in One Sentence

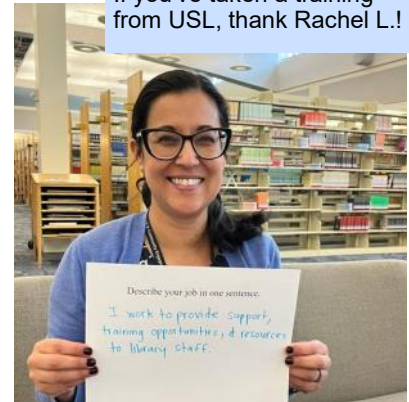
In June, Utah State Library staff members were asked to describe their job in one sentence. The results were shared on their [Facebook Page](#). #librarian #librarians #librarylove #librarylife



Faye helps Utah libraries get money!



Karen, Youth Services Coordinator, works hard to support Utah's youth!



If you've taken a training from USL, thank Rachel L.!

THU-SAT
MAY 18-20
Library's Viridian Event Center

Adult Night Out

SCAVENGER HUNT

Put your Salt Lake Valley knowledge to the test at this 48-hour, countywide scavenger hunt for adults. Work alone or in pairs to earn as many points as possible before Saturday evening's finale and awards ceremony.

Register at:
thecountylibrary.org/AdultNightOut

Adult Night Out

The Salt Lake County Library hosts quarterly interactive evenings for adults. It is a chance to connect with your partner, colleagues, or meet new friends. From live music and dancing, to [scavenger hunts](#) (held in May) and date night activities, Adult Night Out will provide engaging and unexpected experiences at the library.

scolibrary.org/events/featured/adult-night-out



AUG 19
7-10 pm
Library's Viridian Event Center

Adult Night Out

FAE MASQUERADE

thecountylibrary.org/AdultNightOut



Big Horizons, Close Community





Nancy Miller Retiring from Northwest College Hinckley Library

Nancy Miller, Director of the Hinckley Library at Northwest College, retired on June 30. Nancy was invited to share on the [Wyoming State Library Blog](#) about her time in libraries.

It has been a great blessing and privilege to discover the world of libraries and work with wonderful people. I wish to thank you all! After following a Zoology career and then a family pathway, I started my library career working evenings at the Sublette County Library under Daphne Platts who taught me that libraries are more than just caretakers of wonderful books. I advanced to the day shift, technical services, ILLs, and bookkeeping. After nine years, my career took me to Hinckley Library at Northwest College under Kay Carlson, then Dr. Susan Richards. Again, I learned much about the academic side of libraries and library instruction. I jumped at the chance to earn my MLIS when the University of Missouri-Columbia brought their online MLIS program to about five western states. What an opportunity to continue my education and stay in Wyoming! Online courses were a new adventure for everyone back in 2001. Again, I worked with many wonderful librarians and library staff at the college and statewide. It is really the people you work with that help you weather storms dealing with library issues and finances. Over the past 34 years, library changes have been mostly positive. I'm excited to see that tiny steps toward increased funding and adding back cut staffing positions are being discussed, even though it may take a while longer, especially for academic libraries.



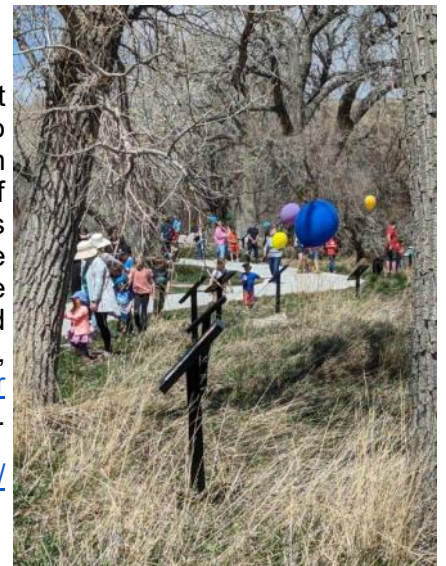
What will I do in retirement? Volunteer, pursue hobbies, see grandkids more, hike, camp, ski, and read. Faith already has acquired a stack of ILLs for me and soon I'll descend on my Powell public library! My heartfelt thanks to you all!

New StoryWalk® in Casper, WY

The Natrona County Library announced its newest addition, Casper's first and only StoryWalk®! The Library held a special launch event in April to introduce the new feature to the community. [The StoryWalk®](#) is an innovative concept that combines the joys of reading with the pleasures of walking in nature. The new attraction was funded by a generous grant from the [Wyoming Humanities Council](#) and the Friends of the Natrona County Library, and offered in partnership with [71 Construction](#), [the City of Casper](#), and the [Platte River Trails Trust](#).



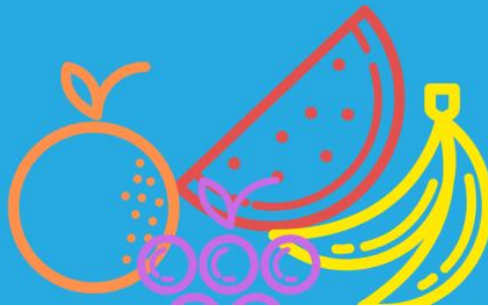
Learn more: <https://www.natronacountylibrary.org/new-storywalk-launched-along-platte-river/>



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
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- 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

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
Jason Bengtson	Associate Professor, Head of Systems	New Mexico State University Library	Las Cruces , NM
Kristi Roque	Rawlings Library and Customer Experience Manager	Pueblo Library District	Pueblo, CO
Shelia Collins	Director	Harvey Public Library	Harvey, ND
Christie Clarke	Director	Gering Public Library	Gering, NE
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