



**MOUNTAIN PLAINS  
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

# Newsletter

Big Horizons, Close Community

October 2023—November 2023

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

Volume 68 Number 5

## What's in it for me (and for you)?

This fall conference season, I look forward to co-presenting brief sessions about MPLA with our fearless Arizona and New Mexico representatives, Amber Kent and Erin Wahl. With those presentations in mind, I have been thinking quite a bit about the benefits MPLA offers members, and the ways I have been enriched by participating in MPLA.

If you are reading this, you can probably name some of the benefits of membership: regional networking opportunities, awards and recognition, professional development grants, and truly excellent conferences held across our beautiful region. Those things are all great – and I hope you'll tell a friend or ten – but for me, the key to getting the most out of our Association has turned out to be putting energy and effort into it.

I joined MPLA in 2014 because I received a free membership as MPLA Newsletter Editor. I had already been a librarian for more than a decade, and had been a member of a number of professional organizations during that time, but attending the MPLA/Arizona Library Association annual conference that fall was the first time I felt truly comfortable and engaged at a conference. Part of that was because MPLA folks are especially friendly and fun, but having an official role to play made a big difference, too. It meant that rather than standing around feeling awkward, I had a reason to talk to people, learn their names, and really engage with the wider organization.

*-continued on page 2*

**YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP  
MATTERS**

### 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

A few years later, as the Arizona Representative to MPLA, I had a similar experience on a bigger scale. Being part of the MPLA and Arizona Library Association Executive Boards was an invaluable experience. Along with getting to know some colleagues I absolutely cherish, I learned more than I would have thought possible. My first few months as MPLA President have followed the same pattern, in that I have put in some work but gotten back much more than I have contributed. Working with the committees and groups that keep MPLA moving forward has left me feeling inspired and energized by the talent, goodwill, and energy I see around me.

If you could use a dose of inspiration and energy, and you are not actively engaged with MPLA, I hope you will consider joining a committee. If you are part of a committee, think about whether there are leadership roles in MPLA that might be right for you. Not sure how to get started? Please reach out any time. If my experience is anything to go by, the effort you put in will be richly rewarded.



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# 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/>

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](http://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](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!**

# 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](mailto: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



## Books are for the Birds

Each year the Tempe Public Library in Tempe, AZ picks a theme to kick off its summer reading program — 2023's concept came with a library-wide art installation, “Birds of a Feather,” the product of the imagination of Arizona artist and illustrator Sarah Hurwitz.

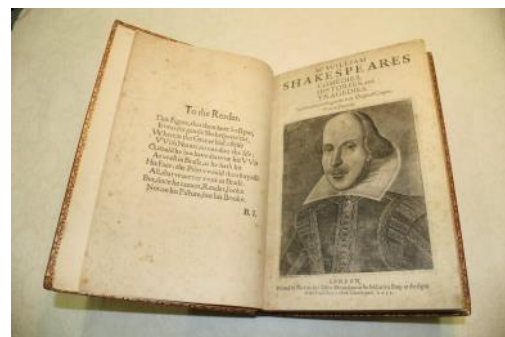


## Rare Book Room

Visitors of the Burton Barr Central Library in Phoenix AZ got a firsthand look at first editions by Henry David Thoreau and Jane Austen. This was a part of the library's Rare Book Room public tour that took place in August.

The largest collection came from Alfred Knight, a local businessman who left his personal library, 35,000 objects, to Phoenix when he died in 1958. Who had a particular interest in the lives and work of William Shakespeare and Napoleon Bonaparte, which are some of the items that are in the Knight collection.

Currently, the Rare Book Room totals about 5,000 objects which includes historic artwork, furniture and a still functioning 1895 Washington Printing Press built by the Ostrander-Seymour Company in Chicago that was donated by Zeke A. Prust in 1988. Lee Franklin, community relations manager for the Phoenix Public Library, said the library still uses it for special occasions, like printing memento items for Burton Barr's summer solstice event.





### Colorado State Library's New Development Director

The Colorado State Library has a new Director of Library Development – Tiah Frankish!

Tiah and her team will be working to develop goals and objectives for growing and strengthening library services throughout the state. They will also be working with libraries of all types to support them in achieving those goals.

Tiah comes to the State Library after over eight years working as the Library Services Coordinator Adams 12 (CO) Five Star Schools. She is also wrapping up her second year as the Colorado Association of Libraries board president. So, even as she learns the nuances of her new position, she comes to the role with a strong background of coordination and building partnerships. She is looking forward to connecting with library staff across Colorado and beyond as she grows into her role.

### New Middle School Program

Jefferson County Public Library, in Lakewood, CO, is thrilled to announce the launch of our highly-anticipated 500 Books Before Middle School program, the first of its kind (we believe) in Colorado! All children between the start of kindergarten and the end of 5th grade are eligible to register via our Beanstack app, even if they don't live in Jefferson County. There are prizes throughout, and when a child finishes their 500th book, they will be rolled into the next 500-book challenge automatically and will again be eligible for prizes. They may repeat the program three times (after all, it's the journey, not the destination, that counts).

Learn more at: <https://jeffcolibrary.org/500-books-before-middle-school/>



### Talk About Literature in Kansas (TALK)

This fall, Newton Public Library in Newton KS, presents "Family Land," a three-part TALK (Talk About Literature in Kansas) book discussion series.

The books in the series make direct connections to how people are shaped and sometimes burdened by their connections to land. They explore how the land has made us into who we are today, and how we have shaped the land in return. They tell family stories that are rooted in place, stories in which "home" is not only where we live, but a site of discovery, love, and loss for generations. Sometimes, home is in the past, a place we were not able to hold on to, or a place we had to flee.





## Missoula Public Library to Host 'NEA Big Read' Events Across County

In celebration of being one of 62 organizations nationwide selected to receive a 2023-2024 Big Read grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, the Missoula Public Library will host numerous events for residents countywide to explore this year's selection, "The Cold Millions" by Jess Walter.



MPL will kick off this year's Big Read program with a launch party from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, on Level One of the downtown library. At the event, patrons will be able to get a free copy of "The Cold Millions," enjoy snacks, specialty drinks by Bamboo Bar, live music by Wailing Aaron Jennings, and take pictures in an old-time photo booth. Patrons are also welcome to come to the library any time starting Monday, Aug. 14, to receive a free copy of "The Cold Millions" while supplies last.

Published in 2020, Walter's novel follows the story of two brothers as they navigate the labor movement, race, class, gender equality, civil rights and more in the early 20th century Northwest. The community will celebrate this year's selection with a full calendar of events, including book discussions, engaging presentations and a special visit from the author. A full calendar of events – including those in Seeley Lake, Lolo, Frenchtown and Potomac – is online at <https://www.readmissoula.org/>.

An initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read aims to broaden citizens' understanding of our world, our communities and ourselves through the power of a shared reading experience.

"Using the captivating power of literature, NEA Big Read events unleash the creative spirit that resides within all of us," said Torrie Allen, president and CEO of Arts Midwest. "We're thrilled to support the work of grantees across the nation, including the Missoula Public Library, as they inspire conversations and artistic expressions through shared reading experiences."

The NEA Big Read in Missoula is presented in partnership with the Missoula Public Library Foundation, the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation and the Friends of the Missoula Public Library, with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information on the Big Read program and related events, contact Mary Wooldridge at [maryw@missoulapubliclibrary.org](mailto:maryw@missoulapubliclibrary.org).



### Dancing in Seward

In the fall, Seward Memorial Library, in Seward NE, gears up for line dancing. Teacher, Jacki Mason, teaches the group how to do the Electric Slide, Pontoon and many other fun dances. There are a variety of age groups as well as ability levels. At the end of the session, just for giggles, the group does the chicken dance to top off the evening and everyone leaves with a smile!



### Serving the Community

In Minden, the Douglas County Public Library has had an amazing year so far. We had the great pleasure to partner with Dollar General, United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra (UWNNS) and University of Nevada, Reno Extension (Gardnerville) for our Summer Reading Program. Thanks to the combined efforts with our partners, we were able to reach marginalized sections of our community combining literacy skills and community building. Including for the first time, we will be hosting a special Summer Reading Program with the Washoe Tribe next month.

In addition, by the end of 2023 we will have completed our new Teen Space. Already, our Young Adult books have doubled in circulation and teen patronage has soared now that they have a dedicated space. The Teen Room has also inspired a number of teen volunteers in the library. Finally, we have many new programs and partnerships we are launching including 1000 Books before Kindergarten, Every Child Ready to Read and partnering with UWNNS for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. We look forward to continuing to support and grow with our entire community.





## CSWR Collection Items on Display at Albuquerque Museum Exhibit

by Patricia Campbell, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

written by Sara Velasquez, Marketing Rep, College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences

The University Libraries Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections recently teamed up with the Albuquerque Museum on the exhibition, "Dictators and the Disappeared: Democracy Lost and Restored" by loaning several collection items to be on display.

The exhibit delves deep into the turbulent history of South American countries during the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. A majority of the collections on display comes from the Sam L. Slick Collection of Latin American and Iberian Posters. This large collection contains posters from Cuba, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Panama, Nicaragua, and Spain among a few. CSWR has over 10,000 of these posters available in their archive. The posters address themes such as elections, imperialism, solidarity, human rights, and revolution.

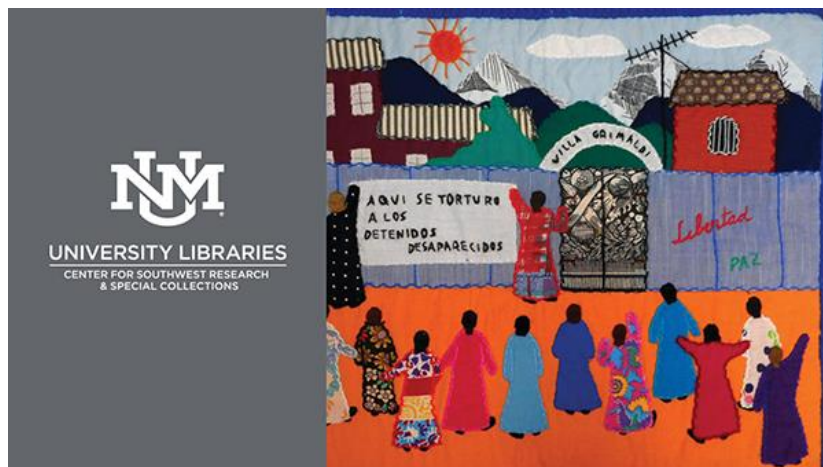
Co-curated by Russ Davidson and Leslie Kim, This powerful exhibit aims to document the collapse of democratic governments and the rise of military dictatorships in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Bolivia, while highlighting the global fight to restore democracy in these regions.

"It has been such a joy to work with our Albuquerque Museum colleagues as they selected posters for the exhibit," said Cindy Abel Morris, CSWR pictorial archivist. "We have many researchers access our collections, and we don't always see the end result of their work. But to see these posters framed and on the walls, well, it really reinforces the value of preserving items in an archive."

The exhibition will be on view at the Albuquerque Museum until February 11, 2024. Visitors are encouraged to engage with the compelling narrative that emerges from these captivating historical artifacts. "Dictators and the Disappeared: Democracy Lost and Restored" promises to be an educational and thought-provoking experience, reminding us of the resilience of the human spirit and the importance of safeguarding democratic freedoms.

The Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections at the University of New Mexico is dedicated to preserving and providing access to the historical and cultural records of the Southwest and Latin America. Its extensive collections serve as a vital resource for researchers, scholars, and the general public interested in the region's rich history and heritage.

Source: <https://libguides.unm.edu/blog>





### LGBTQ2S+ Committee

This past June, the North Dakota Library Association approved the formation of an LGBTQ2S+ Committee. Our purpose is to sustain the ND library community's commitment to diverse LGBTQ2S+ collections and create inclusive and supportive environments for our patrons, as well as the library staff of North Dakota.

Our goals are:

- To help provide resources to libraries, such as infographics and collection development tools
- Assist the library community to organize positive LGBTQ+ programming, events, and speakers
- Create a safe space for conversations and educational opportunities
- Be a visible/vocal presence and source of support for LGBTQ2S+ patrons and staff

The committee is co-chaired by Mariah Ralston and Renee Newton.

You can learn more about our committee and the resources we are offer at <https://ndla.info/LGBTQ2S+>

### All Together Now

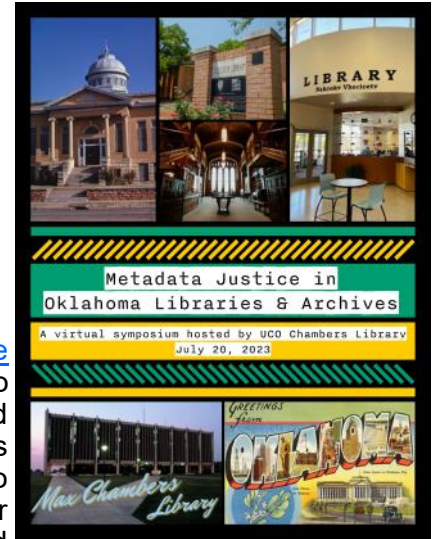
Summer Reading at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library is a wrap! The summer reading program kicked off with a party on the plaza in early June. It culminated with an ice cream social in late July. The theme "All Together Now" was about paying it forward and embracing community. The readers took to the challenge, collectively logging over 4,100 hours of reading. Instead of accumulating hours of reading to earn a prize, each hour was converted into a vote for one of five local nonprofit organizations. The clear favorite was Central Dakota Humane Society, which ultimately received the grand prize of \$1,500. The other four nonprofits (United Way's Backpack Program, Global Neighbors, Sporting Chance, and Mentor Squad) received many votes, each receiving a prize of \$250. A huge thank you goes to the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library, the Bismarck Library Foundation, and the Tom and Frances Leach Foundation for making it all possible.



### Second Annual Librarpalooza

The Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library hosted the 2nd annual Librarpalooza open house event and it was a huge success! We welcomed 400+ people on a beautiful summer evening to explore all the library offers and enjoy some fun free activities, food, music, and more. A huge thank you goes out to the Friends of the Bismarck Public Library for sponsoring and spearheading this fantastic community event.





### Metadata Justice in Oklahoma Libraries & Archives Symposium

On July 20, 2023, UCO Chambers Library hosted the 2023 [Metadata Justice in Oklahoma Libraries & Archives symposium](#) on Zoom and at no cost to attendees. Despite the title, attendees ranged from across the country and around the world, totaling 229 unique attendees during the symposium. This event started as a mechanism for Oklahoma librarians and archivists to share strategies on how they are improving access to library materials by or about members of historically overlooked communities. Now in its second year, this symposium sets UCO apart from other institutions as it is the first of its kind in the library and archives professions. Session presenters represented a variety of Oklahoma institutions in addition to UCO, such as the Chickasha Public Library, Bristow Public Library, Oklahoma State University, and National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. An especially well-received session showcased the new [Tribal Nations in Oklahoma Metadata database](#), a collaborative project that resulted from the 2022 symposium. Speakers from outside Oklahoma also shared their expertise about metadata justice-related matters. A panel consisting of subject heading funnel coordinators gave attendees the opportunity to learn about the process for proposing new and revised subject headings to the Library of Congress. Of particular interest was a presentation about prison labor with the Oklahoma Correctional Industries' suspended Yearbook Project as a case study. The keynote was given by Suzette Chang, CEO of non-profit Thick Descriptions, whose goal is to disrupt traditional methods of education with anthropology. Suzette challenged attendees to consider politeness and courtesy both help and hinder the work being to create metadata that is inclusive and ensures access to materials for historically overlooked communities. Presentation slides and symposia proceedings are available on [SHAREOK](#).

### Free Passes

We're so excited! Thanks to [Muskogee Parks and Recreation](#), anyone with an Eastern Oklahoma Library System card can borrow a free pass to the beautiful Butterfly Papilion in Muskogee's Honor Heights Park! Visit [eols.org/passes](#) for more information! #freepasses #butterflies

*Borrow a Pass!*  
Free entry for four to the Butterfly Papilion at Honor Heights Park in Muskogee!  
For all Eastern Oklahoma Library System Cardholders!  
*Easy to use!*  
• Reserve using the online catalog & pick up at the Muskogee Public Library  
• Use the pass at the Papilion within three days





## Celebrating Teen Volunteers, the Heroes of Summer Reading

On the last day of their Summer Reading program, the Metropolitan Library System hosted an after-hours event for their summer teen volunteers at the Downtown Oklahoma City Library. In attendance were 70 of the 210 teens who assisted all summer long with the library system's largest program of the year.

Teens spent April and May applying for volunteer positions and receiving specialized training. In June and July, teen volunteers signed up participants for the reading program, awarded prizes, logged reading, helped with library programs and events, prepared carts and shelved, shadowed library staff for career insight, and more. The goals for 2023 summer volunteers were to gain job training and work experience, develop skills including self-motivation and initiative, and to encourage teamwork with staff and other teens. A large-scale volunteer recognition event at the end of the summer was just one of the acknowledgments provided by the library to thank the teens for their hard work.

During the recognition event, volunteers could choose from numerous activities in rooms planned and run by library staff. Led by the library's Volunteer Coordinator and Teen Services Manager, the event was staffed by 25 library employees, many of whom served as teen volunteer supervisors at their branches over the summer. Activities available for teens included: a Mario-themed escape room, therapy dogs to pet and love, giant party games and board games, a photo booth, video games, cookie crafts, karaoke, and a general room for pizza and beverages. At the end of the night, teens gathered in the library atrium for an epic dance party, complete with a balloon drop.

As parents and guardians picked up teens from the library, the staff created a "high five tunnel" to provide one last opportunity to cheer for them and thank them on their way out.



*A dance party caps the end of the night at the teen volunteer party.  
Photo by Zoe Travers, Metropolitan Library System*

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*Teen volunteers pose with photo booth props.  
Photo by Colby Ballard, Metropolitan Library System.*

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## University Libraries presents 'Bound and Unbound VII' Altered Book Exhibition

"Bound and Unbound VII" is located in the exhibition case on the second floor of the I.D. Weeks Library, in Vermillion, SD, and is open to the public for viewing during library operating hours, which can be found [online](#). The exhibition

can also be viewed online in the [Digital Library of South Dakota](#).



The University Libraries Art and Exhibits Committee, sponsor of the exhibition, seeks to both showcase a diverse range of current and international altered-book art and to present the work locally. Sixty-three artists entered the call for the exhibition with 199 works from nine countries, 29 U.S. states and one U.S. territory.

"Arguably, 'Bound and Unbound' is now established as a leading exhibition of altered books in the United States," said Dan Daily, dean of University Libraries. "Submissions from artists throughout the U.S., Europe and Latin America attest to the growing prominence of the exhibition. More importantly, altered book art, as 'Bound and Unbound VII's' juror Brian Dettmer eloquently reflects upon, is a testament to the power of books and the ideas that they hold."

"AI [artificial intelligence] has been on my mind lately. It has dominated the news, intrigued and concerned us all about how information will be collected in the future," said Dettmer, whose work has been the subject of over 25 solo exhibitions at both international galleries and institutions. "The conventional conversation would lead one to believe that the world of ideas is all digital and that books are outdated; yet the fact that books are still the focus of such sharp attacks goes to prove that they are the most powerful and impactful tool we have to share stories and communicate complex ideas to others."

"This is why I feel that the field of book art is more vital and relevant than ever. An artists' book or altered book can take a familiar form and question and expand its direction without erasing its power. It enters the realm of art yet retains the tangibility and intimacy that only a book provides," he continued.

One of the leading contemporary artists working with book art today, Dettmer selected 44 works from 29 artists. "While reviewing the list of entries for 'Bound and Unbound VII,' I was reminded that the potential for book arts can span as far as any genre or medium in the visual arts," Dettmer said. "I am proud of the originality and diverse approaches to the work in this exhibition. The entries for this exhibition have cast a new light on my own perception of the field and inspired me to see altered books in several new ways."

Artists featured in the exhibition include the following: Aileen Bassis (New York), Katina Bitsicas (Missouri), Martin Brief (Missouri), Dillon Bryant (South Dakota), Lisa Co (Florida), Magdalena Cordero (Santiago, Chile), Guylaine Couture (Quebec, Canada), Gina Fowler (South Carolina), Kathryn Frund (Connecticut), Gesine Janzen (Montana), Bonnie "Bebe" Kuhr (California), Carole Kundstadt (New York), Curt Lund (Minnesota), Sarah Matthews (Maryland), Piotr Pandyra (Małopolskie, Poland), Chris Perry (Connecticut), Gina Pisello (Washington), E. Y. Reilly (Arizona), Ken Reker (Massachusetts), Sabine Remy (Germany), Janet Reynolds (Texas), Catherine Robinson (Colorado), Heather Ryan Kelley (Louisiana), Claudia Sbrissa (New York), Lynn Skordal (Washington), Nancy Steel-Makasci (Utah), Lorna Stevens (California), Rhonda Urdang (Arizona), Nanette Wylde (California). Read more about each artist and their work on the ["Bound and Unbound VII" LibGuide](#).

"This year's exhibition is dedicated to the memory of altered book artist, muralist, painter, teacher, author, social justice activist, and original Freedom Rider Janet Braun-Reinitz from Brooklyn, New York, who passed away on May 3," said Sarah A. Hanson-Pareek, curator of digital projects. "Braun-Reinitz was an avid supporter of 'Bound and Unbound' and one of the exhibition's most loyal artists. She entered every call and is greatly missed. The University Libraries wants to honor her impact and legacy."

For more information about the exhibition, contact Sarah A. Hanson-Pareek at [Sarah.HansonPareek@usd.edu](mailto:Sarah.HansonPareek@usd.edu), [Danielle De Jager-Loftus](mailto:Danielle.DeJager-Loftus@usd.edu) at [Danielle.Loftus@usd.edu](mailto:Danielle.Loftus@usd.edu), or Michael Boring at [Michael.Boring@usd.edu](mailto:Michael.Boring@usd.edu).



### International Dot Day

Students in grades JK-5 at Crow Creek Tribal School, in Highmore, SD, started out the new school year by reading [The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds](#).

The students then traced a circle and let their imagination create whatever they wanted. The dot became a solar system, flowers, animals, and beyond! The following week they read [Be You! by Peter H. Reynolds](#)

followed by making a Be You! creation. All this is to celebrate [International Dot Day!](#)



### Branch Out Mini-Conference Offers Networking, Career Development Opportunities

On Aug. 16, the South Dakota Library Association (SDLA) kicked off its 2023 Branch Out mini-conference series in Pierre at the South Dakota State Library. Branch Out is designed for South Dakota library professionals to exchange information for continuing education, to network with one another and, ultimately, to gain tools that enhance career performance in the field of librarianship.



“I’m so thankful that we were able to host the first SDLA Branch Out event since 2019 in Pierre,” said Josh Easter, SDLA Support Staff Section Chair, “It is a joy connecting, collaborating and sharing with library staff across the state.”



Easter coordinated the Pierre location Branch Out and worked with Melanie Argo of Madison Public Library and Sarah Myers of Custer County Library, whose Branch Out events took place on Aug. 18 and Aug. 23, respectively.



### Kearns library opens room designed for telehealth use

Book a Virtual Visit room at the Kearns Branch of the County Library in Kearns, UT, for your next virtual doctor’s appointment, court appearance, therapy session, job interview, etc.

Virtual Visit rooms are equipped with WiFi, webcams, and medical equipment you might not have at home.

Learn more here: <https://www.ksl.com/article/50720284/kearns-library-opens-room-designed-for-telehealth-use>





*Natrona County Library Director Lisa Scroggins*

### **Natrona County Library unveils New Outreach Vehicle**

The Natrona County Library is thrilled to announce the acquisition of a 2023 Chrysler Pacifica as the latest addition to its outreach vehicles. The purchase was made possible by two generous \$25,000 grants – one from Casper Area Transportation Coalition (CATC) and another from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund. The Pacifica will be an additional outreach vehicle, as the Library owns a 10-year-old Toyota Sienna, and marks a significant milestone in enhancing the Library’s outreach capabilities and strengthening community engagement.

After the Library received the first \$25,000 grant from CATC, they turned to the Natrona County Public Library Foundation to help fund the rest. The Library Foundation, which exists to support the goals, services, and programs of the Library through private fundraising, was able to secure a matching grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund.

The acquisition of this modern vehicle elevates the Library’s ability to extend its services beyond the Library’s physical walls and bring educational and cultural opportunities to various neighborhoods, schools, and community centers throughout the county.

“We are beyond excited to introduce the 2023 Chrysler Pacifica to our outreach fleet,” said Lisa Scroggins, the Library’s Executive Director. “This new addition allows us to meet our community members where they are, delivering our resources and programs right to local daycares, senior resident facilities, and community centers. We extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to CATC and the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund for their invaluable support in making this vision a reality.”

CATC’s support has played a pivotal role in elevating the Library’s outreach capabilities, ultimately benefiting the entire community. While no longer providing transportation services, CATC remains committed to using their remaining funds to help move people and resources around the community.

The \$25,000 grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund showcases the Fund’s dedication to fostering cultural enrichment and educational initiatives throughout the state. This contribution enabled the Natrona County Library to secure the much-needed minivan, ensuring that the Library remains at the forefront of community connection and outreach.

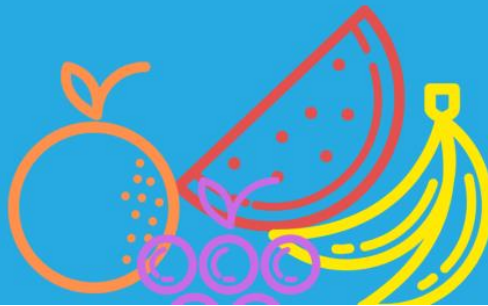
Having only one outreach vehicle has limited the Library’s ability to schedule community outreach. This second vehicle means the Library will be able to send more staff into the county, taking Library services and programming to more locations and partners than ever before. It will serve as a vital resource, bridging the gap between the Library and the community, and providing access to invaluable resources and educational opportunities.



# 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!

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Ever wondered about the conference Rubber Duckies?

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

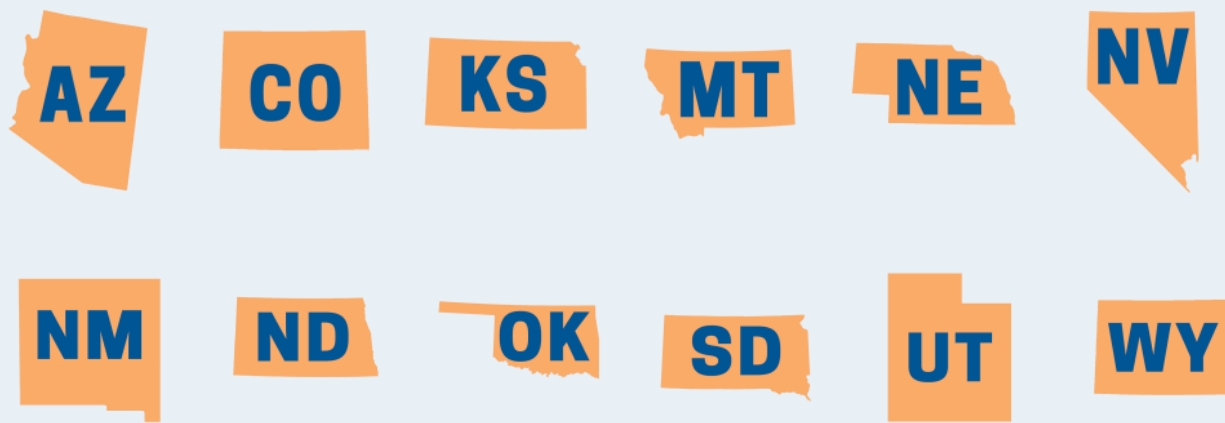
"The MPLA Hot Tub Roundtable began in 2009, with the hopes of creating another avenue for MPLA folks to gather for an evening of laughter and fun. We had to have rubber duckies join us, of course. So each year we make sure to have a night set aside for our Hot Tub Roundtable and the naming of the ducks,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





# Welcome, New Members.

Name	Title	Institution/Library	City & State
<b>Cheyenne Weller</b>	Library Associate	Pioneer Library System, Moore Public Library	Moore, OK
<b>Christine Clarke</b>	Director	Gering Public Library	Gering, NE
<b>Gering Public Library</b>		Gering Public Library	Gering, NE
<b>Isabel Soto-Luna</b>	Business Librarian	University of Nebraska Omaha Criss Library	Omaha, NE
<b>Roseanna Andrade</b>	Library Technician	Santa Fe Public Library , Oliver Lafarge Branch	Santa Fe, NM





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

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- **September 1**
- **November 1**

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