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Arizona State Representative Report

Culture, Connections & Community December 4-6, 2002

AzLA has nearly 100 programs scheduled for its conference including a wide range of programs about our diverse cultures and communities with lots of opportunities for connecting to our colleagues. The Museum Association of Arizona members are invited to join their library partners at this conference. An opening reception will be at Pueblo Grande, the only National Historic Landmark site in Phoenix. Robert Martin, Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services will be participating as will Keith Fiels, Executive Director, American Library Association.

All conference information is available at www.azla.org.

We Came. We Planned. We Reorganized

Forty-five AzLA members attended the May planning forum, raring and ready to embrace change! After a presentation and wonderful continental breakfast by Hispanic Books, we discussed the new AzLA organization set to begin in 2003, and especially its impact on AzLA members. The most challenging will be the transition from 11 roundtables to 8 special interest groups (SIGS). The SIGS are designed to be flexible to the changing needs of our field, and new groups will be created whenever 50 or more people need to work together for a common cause or interest. In addition, AzLA members will be able to participate in more than one special interest group without paying additional fees.

Horner Fellowship and Exchange Program

AZLA learned this summer that the Horner family has given at least an additional \$140,000 to support the Horner Fellowship and Exchange Program. This truly awesome and wonderful gift will allow much more activity in this Japanese library exchange program.

Special Programs Available

Arizona Humanities Council has created a "Parched Arizona" program package, which includes an exhibit and three public programs. "Arizona September 11th Community Conversations", A Resource for Libraries and Schools is also available from the Arizona Humanities Council. Both have details at www.azhumanities.org.

Tucson

One Book/One Community is a project of the Tucson-Pima Library Foundation with the Tucson-Pima Public Library. The book to read: Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya. The goal of One Book/One Community is to encourage all people in the greater Tucson area to read and discuss the selected book, creating a countywide book discussion group.

Jane Kolbe
Arizona Representative to MPLA
September 24, 2002