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# Montana Library Focus

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to All,

Some might suggest that we enjoy the mild winter weather, but I am one of those people who worry about what this unprecedented warming might mean for so many species on our shared planet, including ourselves. Be that as it may, we do have some good news on the Montana library front.

Legislative Day at the State Library witnessed the commingling some 63 legislators and about 100 librarians, the best turnout that we have had for a while for this gathering. Most, if not all, of the interactions were positive with many legislators and librarians fueled by catered beans, wine, and beer, and conversation accompanied by a pickin' and grinin' local bluegrass band. As we face improved budgetary prospects, the legislature does not appear to have libraries in its sights for cuts. In fact, most previous cuts to the State Library budget have been headed for restoration.

Our MLA Executive Director has tendered her resignation to us effective 30 June 2005. Karen Hatcher has decided that enough of her life has been dedicated to Montana libraries and we thank her for her five years of hard work as our Director. She plans to move to Raleigh, NC, to be closer to her grandchildren and spend more quality time with them. We all wish Karen the best as she seeks to round out her long career with one of the more important aspects of life—her family.

On that note, I have designated Milla Cummins, our president-elect, to form a search committee for Karen's replacement. After some discussion during the Board meeting of 1 February, the general thought was that we may combine the position of Executive Director with conference planning for the annual conferences. This would entail more work and therefore a higher salary. We will try to find a replacement as soon as practicable so that the new person can take advantage of Karen's expertise before she leaves.

As referred to above, we held our quarterly MLA Board meeting on 1 February at the State Library. Darlene Staffeldt, the State Librarian, graciously allowed us the use the Library's conference room. I will touch just on some of the high points of the meeting.

Karen's announcement of her resignation was

mentioned above. John Finn of the Nominations Committee announced the candidates for positions in the upcoming MLA elections. I will defer to John to make the official announcement. All I will say at this point is that the candidates are excellent choices to lead our organization. Finding willing candidates for MLA offices is always a major undertaking. We should all give John a heartfelt found of applause for his hard work in rounding up these fine people. Also, always remember that your organization needs your input and service on committees and in MLA offices to keep us moving forward in serving Montana libraries, librarians, and the public.

MLA received a gracious thank you letter from Jan Zauha, President of the Pacific Northwest Library Association, for MLA's support of the PNLA's first Leadership Institute held October 24-29, 2004. Montana librarians who took part in the Institute included Heidi Sue Adams (participant), John Finn (mentor), Norma Glock (planning committee), Tori Koch (participant), Shelma Seidel (participant), Susan Watne (participant) and Jan Zauha (mentor).

The Board decided that it would permit the presentation of the Montana Heritage Librarian of the Year Award at the MLA



*Continued on page 2...*

## Free and Clear in Darby

The final payment to the contractor has been made on the new \$900,000 debt free Darby Community Public Library and it is up and running strong. The successful completion of the project is a tribute to a community working together.

The Library is in its fourth month of operation and is a classic example of "If You Build It, They Will Come." Customer usage has increased dramatically over the three months from October 1 to December 31, 2004 as compared with the same period in 2003, with no increase in hours. The number of customers increased by 2,094, an average of 696 per month, the number of computer users increased by 510, an average of 170 per month and circulated items increased by 763, or 254 per month.

*Veryl Kosteczko  
Darby Community Public Library  
[verylk@yahoo.com](mailto:verylk@yahoo.com)*

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Deadline for April issue is March 25

Please send address changes to:

Karen Hatcher  
 MLA Administrative Assistant  
 Montana Library Association  
 510 Arbor  
 Missoula, MT 59802

### Discussion List: WIRED-MT Information

Wired-Mt, our listserv, is open to members and non-members. Not all MLA members subscribe to Wired, and not every member of Wired is a member of MLA. MLA members would do well to remember that it is open to anyone with any interest (not necessarily sympathetic to our issues) in libraries. This is a place where people can get quick feedback to ideas and questions. It is a public forum centered on topics of interest to those interested in libraries. Its guidelines are available on our website [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org).

There are two ways to subscribe:

1. a. send an e-mail message to [majordomo@bcr.org](mailto:majordomo@bcr.org)
  - b. leave the subject line blank
  - c. in the body of the message type: **subscribe wired-mt**
  - d. include nothing else; do not attach a signature file

**OR**
2. a. go to the web site: [www.bcr.org/cgi-bin/MailServ/majordomo](http://www.bcr.org/cgi-bin/MailServ/majordomo)
  - b. follow the instructions on the page

For additional information, or if you have problems subscribing, contact Margaret Webster, List Manager (on behalf of MLA) at: [mwebster@crowleylaw.com](mailto:mwebster@crowleylaw.com) or 406-255-7201

### Continued from Page 1...President's Message

2005 Billings Conference. The Montana Heritage Project is funded by the Claiborne-Ortenberg Foundation and administratively attached to the Montana State Historical Society. We decided that this would be an appropriate award since it focuses on the contributions of a Montana librarian. Whatever positive exposure we can get for librarians in general and Montana librarians in particular seemed to warrant approval of this award presentation.

Our Central Asia Task Force, so ably headed by

Norma Glock, reported that it still needs your help in making our support of libraries in Afghanistan a success. Big Horn Public Library has collected more than \$140 for the program. The Junior Honor Society in Columbus is running a campaign until 17 February, offering Krispy Kreme doughnuts to any homeroom that reaches \$25.00. Please review the Central Asia Task Force information from the MLA homepage and get involved.

In their report, the MLA Marketing and PR Committee, chaired by Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, described this year's Statewide Marketing Campaign. The proposed concept of "Your library: How do you use it?" is to feature everyday Montanans in ads, showcasing the many ways that Montanans use their libraries. Lisa also points out that the Committee is sponsoring a program at MLA—"Stereotypes Banished: The Unbounded Talents of Montana's Librarians," scheduled on Sunday of the Conference from 8:30 to 10. Please contact Lisa or other committee members if you would like to contribute some of your talents. If enough people participate, I promise to leave my accordion at home.

In conclusion, the Board voted to create a task force on the MLA website. Magi Malone and Carlene Engstrom of Salish-Kootenai College have stepped forward to work on this project. Please consider joining them and applying your own technical/artistic expertise.

*Richard Wojtowicz*  
 MLA President  
[richw@montana.edu](mailto:richw@montana.edu)

### Pomp's Birthday

How many libraries are holding a birthday party for Pomp? Our State Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is hoping to have 200 birthday parties held for Pomp this month. The parties can be as simple or as elaborate as you would like. Some have just been eating cake and talking about Pomp. Others have included re-enactors, readers' theater and games. In Manhattan, we will be serving buffalo roast, playing authentic Native American games, doing crafts and, of course, eating cake! If you are interested in hosting a party contact Jim Sargent at [jfs@bigsky.net](mailto:jfs@bigsky.net) or me at [jherdina@manhattan.k12.mt.us](mailto:jherdina@manhattan.k12.mt.us). We'll make sure you get lots of info and ideas.

Remember, this is the year that Lewis & Clark were actually in our state. We still have Lewis & Clark activity books. Consider selling them as fund raisers at your libraries this summer.

*Julia Herdina*  
 Manhattan Community Library  
[jherdina@manhattan.k12.mt.us](mailto:jherdina@manhattan.k12.mt.us)

## The Conference is Coming! The Conference is Coming!

### Dare to Dream

We hope you are making plans to attend "Dare to Dream" the 2005 MLA Conference, coming to you April 23 – 26 in beautiful Billings! Events to look forward to include a Living History presentation featuring a visit with Dolley Madison, a tour of the historic Moss Mansion and a visit to haunted places with tour guide Karen Stevens, Parmly Billings Library Librarian and



Ghost Hunter  
extraordinaire.

Start your  
conference off on  
Saturday, April  
23rd with great  
pre-conferences

that include: Hidden in Plain Sight: Discovering MARC's Bibliographic Secrets; Transformations with Limited Funds and the Future of Library Design; and Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library. Saturday will also include an open house for Parmly Billings Library and the MSU-Billings Library.

The remainder of the conference promises something for everyone! Workshops will include What's New in K-12 Literature; Deweying It; The Tribal College Library Story;

What are Tweens Reading?; Librarians in Literature; Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds; Understanding License Agreements; New Directions for Library Services to Young Adults; Have You Ever Read to a Dog?; RFID in Action: the Montana Library Experience; Video Collection Development and many, many more!

Other conference opportunities include: a great night of Alter Ego Bingo for the Cates Scholarship; the Membership Banquet with entertainment provided by Venture Theatre (thank you Parmly Billings Library Foundation); great exhibitors and pilates to help ward off the effects of the Krispy Kreme donut break!

Please support MLA by staying at the conference hotel, The Holiday Inn Grand Montana. Information for booking your room is already on the MLA website. Be sure to use the code: lib when booking your room for the conference rate.

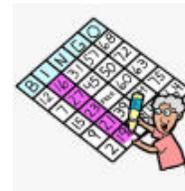
The pre-registration form and entire conference schedule will be available on the MLA website [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org) in early February.

*Cindy Patterson & Eileen Wright*  
MLA 2005 Conference Co-Chairs  
[cindy@billings.lib.mt.us](mailto:cindy@billings.lib.mt.us)



### Alter Ego Bingo

Get in touch with your alter ego while raising money for the Sheila Cates Memorial Scholarship on Sunday, April 24th at 7:30pm. This year's fundraiser features 10 fun rounds of bingo, but of course there's a twist..... Come dressed up as your favorite author, movie character or in costume! After each round of bingo, we'll award a prize to the best in category. Categories are listed below. Tickets are \$15 and include the entrance fee and 5 free bingo cards. Additional bingo cards will be 50 cents a card. Please join us for a fun and "fashionable" evening of bingo!



#### Categories for the Event

- Group: Two or more people dressed the same or in similar costumes
- Dressed to the 9s: formal wear
- Outrageous
- Saturday morning
- Fantasy: costumes, medieval, science fiction
- Sixties
- Eighties
- Literary personality: dress up as a favorite author and/or character
- Film personality: dress up as a favorite actor/actress or film character
- And of course...the Stereotypical Librarian

### A Tisket, A Tasket, A Sheila Cates Basket

Ever wanted to bid on more than one basket at the Cates silent auction? Frustrated when you saw you had been outbid? Cried to see someone carry away your treasure? Your worries are over. 2005 balances the scales. The rules have been changed. Each donated basket will have its own ticket box. Tickets will be sold for \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. Simply write your name on the back of the ticket and deposit that ticket in the box representing your basket choice. Drop a ticket in every box or stuff all of your tickets into one box. Your call. Either way, you will have an even chance to walk away with the item of your choice. Tickets may be purchased in Billings at MLA in the auction area or at the MLA bookstore.

Remember . . . there is a \$75.00 limit on the contents of each basket. If you are interested in donating a single item or creating a co-op basket for the raffle, please e-mail Diane VanGorden at [vangordend@baker.k12.mt.us](mailto:vangordend@baker.k12.mt.us) with a brief description of the item/basket.

## State Library News

### PEEL Scholarships Available

In 2004, Montana State Library awarded scholarships to five Montanans to attend graduate library school as part of the Professional Education and Employment for Librarians (PEEL) grant received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Because scholarship funds are still available in the PEEL grant, two additional awards for \$18,000 each will be made in 2005. Details and application materials are available at: <http://msl.state.mt.us/greatcareer/education.html#Anchor-2005Schol-23239>.

All Montana residents are eligible to apply. Scholarship recipients may pursue the Master of Library Science degree at any ALA-accredited school through either a resident or distance-learning program. The graduate program must begin in summer or fall 2005 and be completed by fall 2007. After completing the degree, scholarship recipients are required to work for two years in a professional level library position at a public, school (K-12), or tribal library. Application deadline is May 7, 2005.

### PEEL Stipends for Library Positions

The Professional Education and Employment for Librarians (PEEL) grant funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will help fund full time professional level positions for two years at two Montana libraries. Details and application materials for the PEEL library stipends are available at <http://msl.state.mt.us/greatcareer/stipendapp05.pdf>. All public, school (K-12), and tribal libraries are eligible to apply for the stipends, which are for \$30,000 each. Libraries receiving the stipend are required to provide a cash match for the same amount.

### Frankenstein is Coming to Missoula Public Library!

Mark you calendars for April 27, 2005, when the newest traveling exhibition opens at Missoula Public Library!

Following our earlier successful exhibits, "The Frontier in American Culture," "The Jazz Age in Paris," and last year's "Listening to the Prairie," we will soon be hosting the latest exhibit, "Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature."

"Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature" was developed by the National Library of Medicine in collaboration with the American Library Association. It has been made possible by major grants from The National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, D.C., and the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD. The traveling exhibition is based upon a major exhibition produced by the National Library of Medicine in 1997-1998.

### Summer Institute 2005 for Public Library Directors and Trustees

Sandra Nelson, author of *The New Planning for Results*, will return to Montana in June to present two, three-day Summer Institutes on strategic planning for public libraries. Many directors and trustees were unable to attend Sandra's incredible weeklong institute last year in Bozeman, so we've asked her to come back. The Institutes are tentatively scheduled in early June in Billings and Butte. Details and registration materials will be available in March.

### Update for Libraries Receiving Gates Staying Connected Program Grants

This is a reminder to Montana public libraries that received 2004 Gates Staying Connected Program grants to upgrade public access computers and connectivity. If the project at your library is completed and all grant funds have been expended, a final project report is required.

Please send your project report to Sue Jackson at Montana State Library (PO Box 201800, Helena MT 59620-1800).

For more information on any of the the above State Library articles, please contact:

*Sue Jackson*  
Montana State Library  
[sujackson@mt.gov](mailto:sujackson@mt.gov)



Our opening reception will be attended by Sara Karloff who will speak about her father and the timelessness of the Frankenstein story.

We are planning several exciting programs for all ages. Some of the programs we are presenting will include one on Mary Shelley's novel, a panel discussion on bioethics, a lecture on modern gothic literature, a lecture on medicine in the frontier west, a make-your-own monster program for kids, and, of course, a film series

Watch for more information in upcoming issues of Focus.

*Vaun Stevens*  
Missoula Public Library  
[vstevens@missoula.lib.mt.us](mailto:vstevens@missoula.lib.mt.us)

## Don't Get Twisted Up in Technology

Attend the 2005 MLA Offline Retreat, February 18 and 19, in beautiful Lewistown, Montana. The yearly retreat is for librarians interested in the technological side of libraries but it is not only for techies. It's for anyone wanting to know a bit more about the knotty side of libraries and computing.

The Retreat starts Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> with registration at 11 with a deli lunch at 11:30. Learn about top technology gadgets presented via telecommunications from LISTA and MLA's own Karen Schneider. Doctors (whoops, sorry, Kathy and Jim) will show you how to cure viruses and spam, and you will learn how to Ask A Montana Librarian any thing at all. Evening entertainment provided.

Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> starts with breakfast at 8:00. James Bond (whoops, sorry, Matt and Ron) will be giving us the latest on Spyware and Adware and then the (HOT ) Wireless Hot Spotters will be on the spot.

Lunch will be an Offline Original. Of course, there will be Pizza, but there will also be poster sessions on

topics such as FRBR's, Blogs, RSS feeds and MLNCAT. Poster sessions allow participants to find out a little about a lot of things in a little amount of time. If you have never heard of some of these things now is the time to find out while you are munching your pizza.

Come and join us for the 2005 MLA Offline Retreat in Lewistown Feb 18 and 19. For registration and full agenda go to [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org) and scroll down to Offline.

*Bridgett Johnson*  
Lewistown Public Library  
[bridgett@lewistownlibrary.org](mailto:bridgett@lewistownlibrary.org)



## BridgerNet Update

The BridgerNet libraries, consisting of Bozeman Public Library, Belgrade Community Library, West Yellowstone Public Library, and Three Forks Community Library have joined the consortium of over 50 libraries called the Montana Shared Catalog this past fall. The Shared Catalog is a project of the Montana Library Network within the State Library, and is partially funded by federal funds. The BridgerNet libraries are a cooperative endeavor to share resources and training. The library directors meet regularly to share ideas and plan for the future.

Staff and patrons have been learning some of the new features available on the Sirsi catalog. Users are able to see table of contents, browse cover art, read book reviews, scan bestseller lists and even read chapter excerpts. We continue to challenge our brains as we learn new ways to search. We are looking forward to working with the other libraries in the Montana Shared Catalog.

*Cindy Christin*  
Children's Librarian  
Bozeman Public Library  
[christin@mtlib.org](mailto:christin@mtlib.org)

## Generous Donor in Hamilton

A bibliographer from the Library of Congress and Hamilton native, recently left a sizable amount of money to the Bitterroot Public Library.

Robert Howe died in October 2003 and bequeathed nearly \$339,000 to the library. Howe placed no restrictions on the money.

Robert Howe graduated from Hamilton High School in 1964 and from Duke University in 1968 with a degree in history. He then joined the Army and was sent to the Foreign Service Institute in Washington D.C. After the Army, he traveled to South America, before coming back to the University of Texas to get a master's degree in both Latin America studies and library science.

The Bitterroot Public Library is in the middle of its long-range planning, which could include an expansion. The library is currently working with interest groups to decide what its long-range plan should be. Until that's figured out, the money will sit in the bank.

*Nansu Roddy*  
Public Services Librarian  
[nansuhay@montana.com](mailto:nansuhay@montana.com)

## Dufresne Foundation Grant

The Great Falls Public Library recently received \$25,000 from the Dufresne Foundation. The money will be placed in the GFPL Foundation and the earnings used to sponsor innovative adult programming.

*Jim Heckel, Great Falls Public Library*  
[jheckel@mtlib.org](mailto:jheckel@mtlib.org)

## MLA Travel Grants

MLA members wishing to apply for MLA travel grants remember to go to the MLA website and fill out an application to be sent by April 1, 2005.

Members must have maintained a minimum of three consecutive years of membership and have not received a travel grant from MLA within the last two years. Applicants must reside more than 50 miles from the conference site. Make sure to check the qualifications listed on the website and send the proper number of forms to:

Honore D. Bray  
Hearst Free Library Director  
401 Main Street  
Anaconda MT 59711  
406-563-6932

## Published Librarian

MLA's very own Michael Ober, Director of Flathead Valley Community College Library has been published in the Winter Issue of *Montana: the Magazine of Western History*. Michael wrote an article on discovery of the first known glacier in the lower 48 states back in 1873 and again in 1883. Congratulations Michael. It's a great article. Everyone should check it out.

John Finn  
Focus Editor  
jfinn@mtlib.org

## Montana Book Award Finalist

The book "Girl From the Gulches: The Story of Mary Ronan," edited by Historian Ellen Baumler and published by the Montana Historical Society Press in 2003, was a Finalist in the 2004 WILLA Literary Awards in the Memoir/Essay category. Awarded annually for outstanding literature featuring women's stories set in the West, the WILLA Literary Awards are chosen by a distinguished panel of twenty-one professional librarians. Awards were presented at the 10th Annual Women Writing the West conference, which were held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on October 22th through the 24th, 2004.

More information could be extracted from this web page if you'd like to tell folks more about the book: <http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/pub/press/default.asp>

Tammy Ryan  
Montana Historical Society  
tryan@mt.gov

## Fallon County Library News

Our newly formed young readers' group is going strong and receiving new members each month.

In June 2004, Fallon County Library was selected as a resource center for The Foundation Center. This foundation-search and grant-seeking database is available to anyone free of charge. We are extremely proud to have been selected to provide this service to the far eastern part of Montana. One training session has been held to acquaint the public with the new database.

FCL has expanded its services, yet again! We now provide MCC distance learning students a place to take tests. They must travel to Miles City for their classroom and lab work; but, the tests may now be taken here at the Library, via the Internet.

"Selling on the Internet," the computer class presented by Miles City Community College and sponsored by AEM, was a resounding success. Every available spot was full. We plan to offer more classes this year.

Our local book discussion group, Coffee & Books, is mid-way through this season's selections. Proactively, we created our own theme for 2005-2006 and are presently working with Kim Anderson at the Montana Center for the Book to acquire the titles for our theme: **Classics**. Encore Operating L.P., a local oil company, and the Friends group donated funds to purchase copies of the titles. When the 2005-2006 season is completed, the books will remain in the permanent collection of the Montana Committee for the Humanities.

Vera M. Abrams, Director  
Fallon County Library  
vabrams@mtlib.org

## Team Up For Libraries, Literacy, And Heart Health!

Doesn't it "do your heart good" when people love libraries and use them to really enhance their lives?

February is an ideal time to feature in our libraries some of the programs and ideas being advocated by First Lady Laura Bush, in particular libraries, literacy, and heart health.

One idea is to team up with your Public Health and Literacy Volunteers of America people in your communities or county and sponsor together an event which draws public notice to their causes as well as the excellent resources in your library.

In Forsyth, a special "Red Day" on February 4 invites the public to the library, wearing any amount of red or picking up their red button at the door. Public

**Continued on Page 7...**

**Continued from Page 6...Heart Health**

Health Nurse Ginger Roll is providing a number of gifts as well as handouts alerting people to ways to take care of their hearts as well as warning signs for heart trouble in both women and men. The Literacy Volunteers of America Director Jean Dahlman is providing literacy information.

Library handouts relate to resources, both print and electronic, related to heart health and to wellness in general. Library staff-led demonstrations of use of health websites and databases including those on InfoTrac are available to people throughout the day.

Finally, this is a chance to have a little display with a catchy title like "Keep Your Library Healthy" with legislative info and contacts for public support.

*Cheryl Heser, Director  
Rosebud County Library, Forsyth  
rclib@rangeweb.net*

### **Central Asia Institute "Pennies for Peace" Campaign**

A few libraries have begun "Pennies for Peace" projects supporting our efforts to build a school/library in Afghanistan through the Central Asia Institute. Suzanne Reymer has posted information on [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org) about the program with links to informational sites including a press release which can be adapted to individual community use. A link to Greg Mortenson's Billings visit to receive the Jeannette Rankin Peace award from Rocky Mountain College gives anecdotes about Greg's work overseas.

The Big Horn Public Library has collected over \$140 for the program. The Junior Honor Society in Columbus is running a campaign until February 17<sup>th</sup>, offering Krispy Kremes to any homeroom that reaches \$25.00. A pizza party is planned for the homeroom class that collects the most money.

The project has been overshadowed by food/money collections for Food Banks, Project Hope and other projects before Christmas. The after Christmas tsunami also has been on people's minds rather than building schools in the Central Asia. The present promotion runs until the April conference so there is still plenty of time for libraries to get involved in this worthwhile program.

*Norma Glock  
Central Asia Institute Task Force  
nglock@cablemt.net*

### **Now! In Our Town: Embracing Our Diversity**

Around 150 Billings residents met for two days at Garfield school to share our experiences of race and racism, the effects on us, and most importantly, to look at what we can do to change it. The workshop was based on the study circle model where people meet in small groups with facilitators over several sessions. It provides an opportunity for people to meet and work with other members of the community with whom they would not ordinarily interact.

Billings participants intend to keep the process going by forming new study circles and working on enacting plans proposed by various working groups. I think this could also be a worthwhile program for other communities in Montana to consider. And Montana's libraries could provide a neutral and welcoming setting for planning and hosting such gatherings in your communities. Study circles would fit particularly well for libraries with a Commons service response. Jim Peters and I are both on the Future Study Circles and Follow-Up Committee. I would be happy to work with you on ways you might implement and promote study circles in your communities.

For more information on the Billings workshop, please take a look at the articles in the Billings Gazette online – **Gathering focuses on ending racism** - January 28, 2005 <http://tinyurl.com/4gclx> and **Racism addressed at Billings meeting**- January 29, 2005 <http://tinyurl.com/3u7o1>

More information on study circles and topics can be found at the Study Circles Resource Center <http://www.studycircles.org/>.

*Suzanne Reymer  
Montana State Library – Billings Office  
sreymer@mtlib.org*

### **ASLD Fun!**

These ASLD librarians (L-R, Debbi Kramer, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Gail Wilkerson, Sheila Bonnard, Magi Malone, and Carlene Engstrom)



showed off their acting and hat-wearing talents for a panel presentation at the ASLD/PLD Retreat at Fairmont in October. Want a forum to showcase YOUR talents? Contact Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, [ljackson@mt.gov](mailto:ljackson@mt.gov), who is hosting a talent show at the MLA Conference in Billings. She needs performers—here's your chance to show your fellow librarians what ya got!"

## School Library Media Division

Unfortunately, the SLMD Winter Retreat was cancelled due to freezing temperatures and blizzard conditions. Thanks go out to all the presenters who offered to share their skills and knowledge with Montana school library/media specialists. Springtime will offer us another opportunity to gather at the Montana Library Association Conference in Billings and attend workshops and renew friendships.

The membership committee of MLA has mailed a survey to all school librarians. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and mail it in. If you have not received a copy of the survey please contact Anita Scheetz or Magi Malone (e-mail addresses are found on [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org)).

Yvette Majerus  
School Library Media Division  
[ymajerus@tein.net](mailto:ymajerus@tein.net)

## PNLA News

Sitka, Sitka, Sitka... hopefully everyone is planning to attend the annual conference next August to participate in the many programs planned, plus do some whale watching, fishing, or other recreational activities in the Far North.



The recent issue of the PNLA Quarterly was devoted to the Leadership Institute held in October 2004. Jan Zauha is one of the six featured authors that talk about the institute.

The Seventh grade reading class in Columbus has been reading books with 2003 copyrights in order to nominate books for the 2006 YRCA awards. Other students, parents, and librarians are encouraged to nominate books for the 2007 awards next spring. Voting for this year's awards is in March of this year.

Norma Glock  
PNLA Representative  
[nglock@cablemt.net](mailto:nglock@cablemt.net)

## Montana Committee for the Humanities/ Montana Center for the Book News

The 2005 MCH Media Collection Catalog is now available. The MCH Media Collection contains more than 600 humanities-related audios, videos, and DVDs, many oriented to Montana and the West, and many titles unique to the Collection. Any Montana individual or organization can borrow from the Collec-

tion, directly, free of charge except for return postage. The Collection catalog can be searched at <http://www.humanities-mt.org/media.htm>. The Catalog itself is at <http://www.humanities-mt.org/CATALOG2005.pdf>, from which site it can be printed. A limited number of bound print copies of the 2005 Media Collection catalog are available from The University of Montana Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, which administers the Collection. Contact Pam Marek via email at [pamela.marek@umontana.edu](mailto:pamela.marek@umontana.edu) or via telephone at (406) 243-5976.

A Montana Center for the Book advisory committee will be formed this spring. If you are interested in serving or wish to nominate someone, contact Kim Anderson at MCH/Montana Center for the Book, [kim.anderson@umontana.edu](mailto:kim.anderson@umontana.edu), 406-243-6022. Information about the Montana Center for the Book, an MCH program affiliated with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, is at [www.montanabook.org](http://www.montanabook.org).

Got ideas for the 2005 One Book Montana? Scores of Montana book groups and thousands of Montanans read and discussed *Winter Wheat* in 2003 and *Fools Crow* in 2004. We are hoping for similar results in 2005. There are no fixed criteria for the selection—just something that would be good for Montanans to read and talk about together. Send suggestions to [humanities.mt@umontana.org](mailto:humanities.mt@umontana.org).

Our thanks to school and public librarians who helped spread the word about **Letters About Literature** last year. The 2004 Montana LAL competition, which MCH and the Montana Center for the Book sponsor, garnered some 660 student entries, another remarkable increase over the previous year. Montana high school students have won the national LAL contest two of the past three years. Information about the Library of Congress's Letters About Literature program is at <http://www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/letters.html>. National and state LAL winners will be announced in April.

Lastly: get humanities grant and program news, deadlines, announcements, calendar of events, and other good things, including Montana Center for the Book news, by subscribing to the **MCH monthly e-newsletter**. Contact Mark Sherouse at [mark.sherouse@umontana.edu](mailto:mark.sherouse@umontana.edu) or at 406-243-6022. Full information about the Montana Committee for the Humanities, its many programs and services of interest to libraries, is at [www.humanities-mt.org](http://www.humanities-mt.org)

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