PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope this finds all of you well and only in minor pain. I pray that we get more precipitation during the spring so we are not left as high and dry as it promises. I encourage you all, even at this early date, to investigate getting more involved in your Montana Library Association. We need the help of all of you to function well and move Montana libraries ever forward.

Sadly for Montana, but happily for Idaho and hopefully Bette, Bette Ammon is moving to Idaho to accept a position as director of the Coeur d’Alene Public Library (Isn’t that French?). She has been serving Montana as the director of the Missoula Public Library and the MLA as chair of the Government Affairs Committee. Let’s all thank Bette for her dedication to Montana’s citizens and the library profession. During this year’s legislative session she has kept us well informed about legislation affecting Montana libraries. Thank you, Bette! Bette also asks that we invite her to the 2006 MLA Missoula conference which is the 100th anniversary of our association. If I have even a inkling of power remaining, with the kind acquiescence of our next president, Milla Cummins, I will send or at least suggest the invitation. She has served Montanans so well that she should be there to help us celebrate!

According to Bette, “SJ19, resolution regarding U.S. Patriot Act, has been passed out of House Committee and will be heard on House floor probably next week.” If you haven’t sent a note or called your legislators yet on this issue, please do so. They need to hear from you. You can review this resolution at data opi.state.mt.us/bills/2005/Billhtml/SJ0019.htm. Thank you also to Bernadine Abbott Hoduski who has also kept us informed about Montana legislation through Wired Montana.

Remember that the MLA Annual Conference will be held in Billings this year from Saturday, April 23, through Tuesday, April 26. Thanks to the hard work of Cindy Patterson (Parmly Billings) and Eileen Wright (MSU Billings), the 2005 MLA Conference Planning Committee co-chairs, this conference promises to build on the successes of our past conferences. To learn more about the conference and to see the beautiful logo for this year, please go to www.mtlib.org/conf/conf2005.html.

Please note that we are still seeking applicants for the position of Executive Director of MLA. We will interview for the position at this year’s MLA conference in Billings. Please see the job description at www.mtlib.org/manual/jobs/execjob.html. If you have any further questions about the position, please contact Milla Cummins or myself. For those of you who are retired, this is an excellent opportunity to stay in contact with your library friends and acquaintances. I understand that the new director may have access to the MLA limousine. But, I may have misunderstood.

Respectfully, Richard Wojtowicz

Richard Wojtowicz
President,
Montana Library Association
richw@montana.edu

Executive Director Sought

As members who read their February Focus already know, MLA Executive Director Karen Hatcher has resigned her position effective June 30, 2005. Consequently, the MLA Board is currently seeking a new Executive Director. The Executive Director’s job description is located at http://www.mtlib.org/manual/jobs/execjob.html. The Executive Director’s salary is $5,000 annually.

Karen has advised the Board that the position requires between 300 and 400 hours of time annually. She says it is an ideal job for a recently retired librarian or a librarian who is working part-time.

The Board of Directors will plan to interview qualified candidates at the annual conference in Billings (April 23-26) and select a new executive director no later than May 1, 2005.

For qualification and application information see page 2.
Continued on page 2…
Montana Library Focus [ISSN 1076-352X] is the official publication of the Montana Library Association and is published as a service to its members. It is published six times a year: February, April, June, August, October and December.

Send articles, ads, reviews and letters to:
John Finn, Editor
Montana Library Focus
Great Falls Public Library
301 Second Avenue North
Great Falls, MT 59401
PHONE: 406-453-0349
EMAIL: jfinn@mtlib.org

Deadline for June issue is May 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.

There are two ways to subscribe:
1. a. send an e-mail message to majorjdomo@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
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 or 406-255-7201

Membership Renewal Reminder!

It is time to renew your MLA membership. Memberships run from July to June. Please renew now! The membership application/renewal form can be found at www.mtlib.org/join.html Until further notice, please mail your renewal to:
MLA
510 Arbor Street
Missoula, MT 59802-3126

Continued from Page 1...Director Sought

The position requires

1 Knowledge of professional associations and/or other nonprofit organizations
2 Organizational skills, including demonstrated attention to detail
3 Ability to understand and analyze financial data
4 Ability to take initiative and work independently
5 Ability to efficiently schedule time and activities
6 Ability to maintain effectiveness in varying environments with varying tasks, responsibilities and people
7 Excellent oral and written communications skills
8 Demonstrated computer skills
9 Flexibility to travel to meetings as required by Board of Directors
10 Bondable

In addition, the desirable candidate will have

1 Bookkeeping experience, including the use of Quicken or Quickbooks
2 Demonstrable knowledge of Microsoft Access
3 Knowledge of libraries

If interested, please mail, fax or email your resume accompanied by a cover letter to:

MLA Executive Director Search
c/o Milla Cummins
Livingston-Park County Public Library
228 W. Callender Street
Livingston, MT 59047
FAX: 406.222.6522
Email: mcummins@ycsi.net

Milla L. Cummins
Vice President
Montana Library Association

PLD Regular Election Deadline Approaching

Don’t forget to mail in your completed ballots for the Public Library Division election of officers! All ballots must be sent via regular mail and postmarked by April 13. Election results will be posted on wired-mt on or before April 20, 2005.

Ballots were distributed on March 21 by both email and postal mail. If you are a member of PLD and did not get a ballot, please contact Kathy Mora at 453-0349 or kmora@mtlib.org so you can receive a ballot and submit your vote before the deadline.

Thank you to the candidates for agreeing to run for office and for their interest in the division!

Kathy Mora
Chair-Elect, PLD
kmora@mtlib.org
Alter Ego Bingo

The Cates’ Committee needs you! Hunt through your attics, basements, or even storytime trunks. Find that perfect outfit for Alter Ego Bingo. We will play 10 rounds of bingo. After each round, we will award a prize for best in category. Categories appear below. Tickets are $15 and include entry fee and 5 bingo cards. Additional cards are 50 cents a piece. All proceeds benefit the Sheila Cates’ Memorial Scholarship fund. Scholarships are awarded every other year to those who are pursuing a Master’s in Library Science or Educational Media. 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

“Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.” Ordinarily, good advice. But at the Sheila Cates raffle, putting all your tickets in one basket increases your chance of winning that basket. Or spread them around and take a chance on every basket. Tickets cost $1.00 or 6 for $5.00. Each and every ticket becomes a chance to win.

The Sheila Cates fundraiser will be held during regular exhibit hours at the MLA conference in Billings on April 24 and 25. Baskets of goodies and individual items will be raffled to raise funds for Sheila Cates scholarships. All raffle items may be viewed in the exhibit area during regular exhibit hours. Drawings for all items will be just prior to the membership dinner on Monday evening.

To make your raffle experience more convenient, bring a supply of return address labels. Instead of writing your name on every ticket you purchase, just stick on one of those address labels.

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

Pennies for Peace Update

Pennies for Peace campaigns are starting to spring up around Montana this spring. We have a start on helping Greg Mortenson of the Central Asia Institute to build a Montana school/library in Afghanistan or Pakistan. Renee Goss figured it would cost four cents for each Montanan to get out project completed. Can we do it? Go to www.mtlib.org, at the bottom of “What’s New” click on Pennies for Peace under the Central Asia Institute to start your campaign today and help promote peace around the world.

Norma Glock,
Columbus High School
nglock@cablemt.net

DVD Giveaway

Great Falls Public Library has been given a sum of money that was left over from sponsorship of the presentation to the Montana State Legislature of the HBO documentary Crank: Made In America. This documentary is a powerful reminder of the devastation caused by Methamphetamine addiction.

The Library has been asked to purchase DVD copies of the documentary and distribute them to other libraries. We will be mailing them out to selected libraries as soon as we receive them. The funds only allow for 10 DVDs. The GFPL has two copies already. The libraries receiving the film would be expected to make the existence of the DVDs known locally and of course, make them available via Interlibrary Loan.

Great Falls Public Library would like to send them to the 6 federation headquarter libraries and then to the three next most populous, non-federation headquarter cities: Billings, Bozeman, Kalispell.

We will provide PR to the local newspapers and libraries involved, as well as Wired MT.

If you have any additional comments or suggestions, please let me know.

Jim Heckel, Director
Great Falls Public Library
jheckel@mtlib.org
State Library News

PEEL Scholarships Available

The deadline for applying for the 2005 PEEL (Professional Education and Employment for Librarians) scholarship to attend graduate library school is May 7, 2005. Two scholarships for $18,000 each are available for Montanans to 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.

Details and application materials are available at: msl.state.mt.us/greatcareer/education.html#Anchor-2005Schol-23239

All Montana residents are eligible to apply. The PEEL scholarship program is funded by a grant received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

More Librarians @ Your Library

Imagine what your library could offer with more professional staff. The list of possibilities of what one more trained, full-time body could do for your library is probably endless. Well, Montana State Library is in the happy position of having $60,000 available for Montana’s public, school (K-12), and tribal libraries to hire librarians.

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 Stipend Program are available at 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.

Summer Institute 2005 for Public Library Directors and Trustees

Montana State Library will host two Summer Institutes in June that will bring Sandra Nelson, author of The New Planning for Results, back to Montana. The institutes are scheduled on the Montana Tech Campus in Butte on June 13-15 and on the Rocky Mountain College Campus in Billings on June 16-18. The three-day institutes, entitled “Results are What Matters: Management Tools and Techniques to Improve Library Services and Programs,” are for public library directors, trustees, and branch managers. Sandra’s training is interactive, uses case studies, involves learners in group activities, and allows participants to apply what they learn to a problem or issue in their own library.

Montana librarians who attended Sandra’s institute last year were very impressed with the training they received. Participant comments included “the institute was one of the most useful professional development experiences of my career … the expertise, energy and enthusiasm of Sandra Nelson drove the entire experience” and “as a result of Sandra’s training about 25 Montana public libraries will now have the tools to identify the library needs of their respective communities, and can respond to those needs by reallocating staff and budget to improve services. Pretty amazing!”

Registration materials are available at msl.state.mt.us/ldd/Training/SummerInstitute/SIAppLetter.pdf

Gates Staying Connected Program Final Reports

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).

7th Annual Fall Workshop to be Held in Great Falls

Montana State Library’s 7th annual Fall Workshop is scheduled for September 30-October 1 in Great Falls at the Hampton Inn. All librarians and trustees are invited to attend the 2-day workshop. As always, there is no registration fee and lunch is provided both days. This year’s workshop topics will include (tentative): getting teachers and principals to understand the value of the school library and librarian; emotional intelligence in the workplace; providing great readers’ advisory services at your library; what it takes to build a strong team; how to survey library patrons; ideas for exciting adult programs; etc. Please put the dates on your calendar. Registration will begin in late August.

For more information on any of the above Montana State Library programs, please contact Sue Jackson.

Sue Jackson
Montana State Library
sujackson@mt.gov
Paul Zarzyski Extravaganza
@ the Library

Sharpen your pencils and your wits and come to the Great Falls Public Library on May 6th & 7th to partake in a two-day Paul Zarzyski Extravaganza. The Great Falls Public Library is hosting a Poetry Writing Symposium lead by esteemed, award-winning, local author Paul Zarzyski. The symposium is open to anyone interested in poetry and/or songwriting. Attendance fee is $50.

The affair kicks off on Friday, May 6th, at 7:00 p.m., in the Cordingley Room of the library with a Paul Zarzyski Poetry Reading. This reading is free and open to the public.

On Saturday, May 7th, the library will host an all day writing symposium. Zarzyski and the participants will explore the craft and art of writing poetry and songwriting. Participants will bring two pieces of writing, either poetry or song, not to be critiqued from a technical perspective, but rather to serve as a springboard for gaining insight into the craft and art of writing. Zarzyski will also deconstruct one of his own pieces to illustrate both the mechanics of the craft and how the craft inspires and becomes the art.

The symposium will conclude with an informal reading by participants.

This symposium is designed to open up understanding of this art form. To take this journey with a writer of Zarzyski’s caliber is a unique opportunity anyone serious about writing any style of poetry shouldn’t miss. Zarzyski has won numerous awards for his work including most recently the Governors’ Award for Literature (2005), the Western Writers of America 2004 Spur Award for Poetry and the Western Heritage 1997 Wrangler Award for Poetry. He has published ten books of poetry and chapbooks, including Wolf Tracks on the Welcome Mat, as well put out two CDs with top musical talent.

Jude Smith
Public Relations Coordinator
Great Falls Public Library
jusmith@mtlib.org

Bozeman’s New Library

We are all looking forward to finally breaking ground on our new Library this spring! The new Bozeman Public Library will be on 14.3 acres on the south side of East Main Street, adjacent to Lindley Park, just a few blocks east of the present location. The new building will be 53,000 square feet, which is more than double the present library’s size. (It is interesting to note the current library increased the size of the previous Carnegie library by 4 times!)

Remediation was completed on-site in October 2003, with approximately 25,000 tons of soil transported to the City landfill. The land was former railroad land and had an old depot on site that was dismantled. The bricks from the depot have been saved in the hopes that the depot can be rebuilt in the future.

A bond issue, passed by voters in June 2001, provided $4 million for the project, which paid for the 14.3 acre site and the remediation process. The present cost for the entire project is now projected to be $16.9 million, of which $10 million is construction costs. This translates to $189 per square foot (compared to a national average of $221 for 2005 library buildings). The Library was designed by Mark Headley of StudioFORMA Architects to be constucted by Martel Construction.

So where are we now? The subcontracting bid documents have been released, and once the bids are approved, construction will commence in April! To see pictures of the design and to find out more information, please visit the website at www.bozemanlibrary.org and click on “New Building Project.”

Cindy Christin
Children’s Librarian
Bozeman Public Library
christin@mtlib.org
Safe Schools / Safe Community After-school Program at the Library Answers Special Needs In Forsyth

After an incident which hit national news involving young students who brought a gun and knife to the playground in reaction to bullying by another student, a number of Forsyth area citizens joined to create the Safe Schools / Safe Community Task Force.

The task force, which includes the Sheriff, the Superintendent of Schools and both public school principals, teachers, students, representatives from Social Services, and the county library director, has explored a number of ways to advocate for no bullying and safety for all students.

One result is an After-School Program for grades 1-6 which is now taking place at Rosebud County Library every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from the time school is out until 5:30, when parents or their designated replacements pick up the children.

The schedule begins with participants coming on a bus to the high school, where volunteer high school students greet them and walk them to the library, approximately two blocks away.

Students then sign in, have nutritious treats, and join for a program in the library basement meeting room of about 20 minutes, varying from party games for such events as Pompey’s birthday and Dr. Seuss’s birthday to safety programs presented by local firefighters, law enforcement, EMT’s, Lions Club members who work with bicycle safety, etc.

The remaining hour and a half consists of sessions where the students are divided into grades 1-3 and grades 4-6, with one group participating in crafts or activities downstairs while the other group gets homework help or reading time upstairs.

Several local teachers have made a schedule to each contribute time one day a month to help with homework, and other local volunteers including retired teachers are also assisting.

Another local lady whose talent with crafts is well known is heading the crafts part of the program every Tuesday, while the local newspaper editor is in charge of activities and games every Thursday. They are assisted by volunteers including FCCLA members who are working on a community service project which includes their time helping with the program.

Funding for treats and supplies is partially through a school grant for safety efforts and partially through a small charge per student per semester, although a number of “scholarships” have been donated by local citizens to help families which might not otherwise be able to participate.

Background checks on all volunteers and safety precautions including sign-in and sign-out by responsible adults are part of the program which seeks to provide a good environment for kids from the time school is out until evening.

The principal advantage to the library, other than improvement in community well-being, is having students get used to the library as a good place to be.

Future programs being considered by the Safe Schools/Safe Community Task Force include adult parenting education and special programs for 7-8 grade students.

Cherie Heser
Rosebud County Library
rclib@rangeweb.net

Surveying School Librarians

The Montana Library Association School Library Media Division (SLMD) is sponsoring a survey to gather information on the status of school libraries in Montana. This survey will be conducted by a research team from the University of Montana in partnership with the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and the cooperation of the Montana State Library (MSL).

The focus of this survey will center on the current budget, staffing, and technology of your school’s library media enter for the 2004-2005 school year. It would be helpful to have financial figures and expenditures for the 2004-2005 school year in order to be able to answer specific budget questions.

The information gathered from this survey is vital to the assessment of school libraries in the state of Montana. Your input is valuable and necessary. You will not only provide SLMD, OPI and MSL with valuable information, but the results of this survey will be made assessable to school boards, administrators and our Montana legislators in hopes to increase the school library media center’s budget and staffing.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. Your responses and return of this survey will serve as informed acceptance of participation. You may refuse to answer any specific questions and may terminate your participation at any time. In addition, your responses will remain completely confidential. The results of the survey will be available at www2.umt.edu/dcs/Faculty/sillars/comm460/default.htm.

If you have received multiple copies of the survey, please complete a survey for each school in the district (elementary, middle and high school) unless the schools are at the same physical address. If multiple schools are at the same address, please complete the survey for the schools, and return all copies, including the blank ones, in the envelope provided. Please return by APRIL 22, 2005 to:

Steve White
432 Keith Avenue
Missoula, MT 59801
whites@frentownt.k12.mt.us
Digital Project Planning and Introduction to Scanning: Workshops for Cultural Heritage Institutions

The Montana State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) is pleased to present two new workshops at Montana State University in Bozeman. Attendees can receive Montana Library Certification Program continuing education credits and OPI renewal units for each workshop.

These two full-day workshops are designed specifically for volunteers and staff of Cultural Heritage Institutions - including museums, libraries and archives - interested in learning how to put their resources on the Web. The Collaborative Digitization Program, previously known as the Colorado Digitization Program (CDP), has a long history of providing these workshops throughout the Rocky Mountain Region. More information about the CDP is available at www.cdpheritage.org

The workshops will be held at Renne Library, Montana State University-Bozeman. They will be presented by Jill Koelling, CDP Executive Director on June 6 and 7, 2005. If you plan to attend just for one day there is a $20 fee, or $35 for both days. This significantly reduced registration fee is made possible through a generous grant from the Montana Committee for the Humanities. Registration forms are available online at http://www.lib.umt.edu/dept/arch/arch.htm

The two workshops will cover:

June 6: Digital Project Planning (9:30am - 4pm)
- Issues to consider before digitizing
- Preservation and access
- Legal issues and copyright
- Metadata and scanning

June 7: Introduction to Scanning (9:30am - 4pm)
- Image capture and sizing
- File formats and compression
- Selecting digital imaging hardware
- Managing color and calibration

The workshops are sponsored by The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, The University of Montana-Missoula; The Renne Library, Montana State University; and the Montana Historical Society. For additional information and registration information please contact:

Donna McCrea, Head of Archives
Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library
The University of Montana-Missoula
(406) 243-4403
donna.mccrea@umontana.edu

2005 MLA Dare to Dream Conference Events – It’s Not Too Late!

Did you forget to register for MLA 2005? It’s not too late! Have you changed your mind about attending a pre-conference or special event? It’s not too late! Many great workshops and events await you in Billings April 23-26th. Pre-conferences 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. Special events include an open house for Rocky Mountain College, Parmly Billings Library and the MSU-Billings Library.

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); Librarian R & R featuring music, a game show and great drink specials; a ghost tour of haunted Billings; a tour of the historic Moss Mansion; great exhibitors and pilates to help ward off the effects of the Krispy Kreme donut break!

The registration form and entire conference schedule is available on the MLA website www.mtlib.org

It’s NOT too late – hurry, hurry, hurry! I’ll see you in Billings!

Cindy Pattterson, Parmly Billings Library
MLA 2005 Conference Co-Chair
cindy@billings.lib.mt.us

Wildflowers of Montana Book Review

Oh, to be in Montana now that Spring is here—(a slight paraphrase). After a long winter, our thoughts turn to the revitalization of the earth. Seed catalogs arrive in the mail, robins sing on the lawn, crocus and daffodil leaves spear through the moist soil, and thoughts of hiking, birding, and wildflower spotting lure us to the trails.

Just in time, a new Montana wildflower guide has sprouted on the shelves. According to the publisher, “Wildflowers of Montana, the first comprehensive wildflower field guide devoted entirely to Montana, is

Continued on page 8…
Continued from Page 7...Wildflowers

brimming with beautiful color photographs of more than 350 plant species. Descriptive narratives provide identifying features and give the plant’s range in Montana. Schiemann notes the location and month of each photograph so interested readers can visit the author’s favorite sites at blooming time. A key of thumbnail photographs, arranged according to flower shape and color, helps readers locate wildflowers in the book.”

The author, Donald A. Schiemann, is a retired professor of microbiology and public health at MSU, and an expert photographer. He lives in Bozeman when not traveling throughout Montana on the track of more wildflowers.

Plant this colorful book on your shelf next to Beverly Magley’s brief guide for young persons, Montana Wildflowers.

ISBN: 0878425047
Format: Paperback, 330pp
Pub. Date: April 2005
Publisher: Mountain Press Publishing Co., Inc.

PNLA News

The winter Board meeting for PNLA was held the end of February where plans for SITKA were discussed. A great conference is planned with lots of authors, fun, food, and whale watching. Join us in Alaska, August 3-6, 2005 for “The Stories We Share Conference.”

A 2006 Leadership Institute is also being planned. Library leadership is a topic being discussed worldwide. Jan Zauha, PNLA president, is presenting a paper in Oslo, Norway about our last Leadership Conference so it is getting international attention.

Bette Ammon has announced the 2006 Young Reader’s Choice Award books. The 2005 YRCA award winner will be announced at the luncheon at the SITKA conference.