
Montana Library Focus

A Publication of the Montana Library Association

Volume 24 Issue 5

www.mtlib.org

October 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Lyn McKinney

This fall has been a busy one for the Montana Library Association! Your Association's Board and Council met at the Camp on the Boulder in August for two and a half days of discussions and meetings. This is a chance for new board members to get familiar with the organizational structure of MLA, get to know each other better, and discuss important issues and concerns regarding the Association. I'll be posting to Wired asking for you to get more involved in MLA by volunteering for a committee. Please call me at 247-2217 or e-mail me at lynmckinney@bresnan.net to let me know if you have a special area of interest. The roles and responsibilities of MLA Committees can be found online at www.mtlib.org/manual. Please check them out and see where you can make a contribution.

One of the big issues at the leadership retreat in August was the fact that we were faced with looking for a new Executive Director for the Association. Ilene Casey, who has done an outstanding job, decided she was ready to move on to other things. I hope you will join me in thanking her for all the hard work she contributed to MLA during the past year. She graciously agreed to stay on until we hired a new person.

This required the Board and Executive Committee to update the job description for the Executive Director, advertise for the position, interview for the position, and hire someone as quickly as possible. That has been done - and our new Executive Director is Debi Kramer. Debi comes to us with a great combination of accounting/business and library work in her background. She has most recently been the director at the Judith Basin County Free Library in Stanford and is transitioning to the Bozeman area. Please join me in welcoming her. You can reach Debi the following ways: Debi's phone number is (406) 670-8446 E-mail is: cdmkramer@hotmail.com

For now we are keeping the same snail mail address for the Association:

P.O. Box 1085
Manhattan, MT 59741

October 6 the MLA Conference Planning Committee, chaired by the Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson and the Judy Hart, will be meeting at the Conference location, the Red Lion Colonial Inn, in Helena Montana. We are thrilled to have Nancy Pearl joining us as the Keynote speaker and Neil Gaiman as our featured author at the 2007 Conference. I know the rest of the program will be equally great.

The conference will be held April 25-28, 2007 with the theme "**The Tipping Point - moving Montana Libraries from Good to Great.**" I agonized (yes, ask my husband, friends and co-workers who at this point are just thrilled I picked "something") over my choice for a theme. I tried to come up with something that described our next 100 years of MLA and what I hoped people would take from the conference. My inspiration came from the book, *The Tipping Point - How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference* by Malcom Gladwell.

I'd like to make it clear to you that I don't believe Montana libraries are just "good." I am constantly amazed at the outstanding service people throughout the world get from Montana libraries who are dealing with varied amounts of limited resources. I chose the delineation of "good to great" because I liked the alliteration and I wanted to make the point that no matter how outstanding an organization is - it can, and should, be striving to continue to improve.

Having said that, I hope you will join me on a new venture meant to improve your experience at the MLA Conference. In the spirit of Nancy Pearl, who as Director of the Washington Center for the Book at Seattle Public Library, began the landmark reading program "If all of Seattle Read the Same Book" (which Montana and many other states have adapted into "One Book" programs) and is a big fan of book discussion groups, I'd like us to start some virtual and face-to-face book discussion groups in the next couple of months. I'd love for these groups to form around books that relate to the conference, like *The Tipping Point*, *Book Lust* or *More Book Lust* by Nancy Pearl, or anything by Neil Gaiman (who has written everything from picture books to comics to adult novels - check it out at www.neilgaiman.com/works). I'm looking for people who would be willing to lead these book discussions - either virtually or face-to-face. If we start in the next month or so maybe April won't creep up on

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
Hearst Free Library
401 Main Street
Anaconda, MT 59711
PHONE: 406-563-6932
EMAIL: jfinn@mtlib.org

Please send address changes to:

Ilene Casey
MLA Administrative Assistant
Montana Library Association
P.O. Box 1085
Manhattan, MT 59714-1085

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

To subscribe:

1. a. send an e-mail message to 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

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

Added to Speaker's Bureau



"Tea with Dolley Madison" performed by Cheryl Heser of Rosebud County Library is now part of the Speakers Bureau of the Montana Committee for the Humanities. For just \$50, you can secure a grant from MCH and have this performance at your library (which is Dolley's

favorite place to perform). Want a preview? She'll be part of the grand opening of the new Bozeman Public Library in November.

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

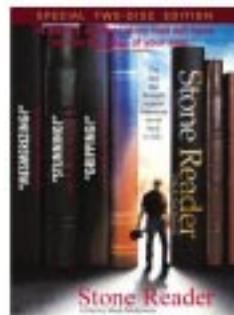
Continued from Page 1...President's Message

us so quickly and we will have some background knowledge and context to relate to the information we are presented at the conference. Please e-mail me if you are interested in being a discussion leader and I will be posting to Wired with more details.

I will be traveling much of October with the MLA Conference Planning Committee meeting in Helena on October 6, the ASLD/PLD retreat at Chico October 15& 16, the next MLA Board meeting at 1 p.m. at the Livingston Public Library on October 16, and to Dublin, Ohio for OCLC October 28-31. I will be seeing many of you at these meetings and events - please visit with me and let me know what you think about the book discussion groups, issues you think MLA should be working on, committees you want to volunteer for, or anything you have on your mind. I look forward to seeing all of you!

Lyn McKinney, President
Montana Library Association
Billings Senior High School Library
lynmckinney@bresnan.net

Headwaters Library Association Fall Meeting and Showing of Stone Reader



Please join us at the Livingston-Park County Library at 1:00 pm, Sunday October 29, 2006, for the Headwaters Library Association's Fall Meeting. A brief business meeting will be followed by a showing of the 2 hour book-loving documentary, *Stone Reader* by Mark Moskowitz. Popcorn and

soda will be provided to complete the fun. The Livingston-Park County Public Library is located at 228 W Callender Street.

Please RSVP by Thursday October 26, 2006 to Jan Dawson at 222-0862 or Catherine McMullen at 582-2400.

The Headwaters Library Association is an informal and cordial multi-type organization of library staffers and friends from the libraries of Gallatin, Park, and Madison counties. Headwaters meets three times a year (we strive to meet once a year in each county). Meetings include programs, volunteer projects, and time for socializing and networking. Dues are an unbelievable value at only \$5.00 per year. New members are always welcome.

Catherine McMullen
Bozeman Public Library
cmcmullen@mtlib.org

MSU Libraries' Tribal College Librarians Institute Goes to D.C.

Natalie Malaterre, D'Arcy McNickle Library at Salish Kootenai College, took her first trip to Washington, D.C., when she joined 36 other tribal college library staff members for the 12th Annual Tribal College Librarians Institute (TCLI), June 14-17. Sponsored by the Montana State University Libraries and coordinated by MSU Reference Librarians, Mary Anne Hansen and James Thull, TCLI is a week-long professional development opportunity for library personnel at tribal colleges throughout the U.S. and Canada to come together, typically on the MSU campus, to acquire new knowledge and skills in librarianship and related areas, as well as to participate in valuable networking with each other and TCLI Coordinators and program presenters.

This year, TCLI met in our nation's capitol thanks to the generous support of the National Museum of the American Indian. Marty De Montano, NMAI's Cultural Resources Center Director, hosted the institute as a means of fostering museum-library collaborative relationships among the tribal college libraries and NMAI. Twenty-two tribal colleges were represented by personnel from their libraries. Other Montanans in attendance included Joan Hantz and Adrienne Violet from Chief Dull Knife Memorial College; Tim Bernardis, Suvi Scott and Edwin Springfield from Little Big Horn College; Eva English from Fort Belknap College; Anita Scheetz from Fort Peck Community College; Jim Thull, Mary Anne Hansen, Kathy Kaya, and Mary Fulton from the MSU Libraries. During TCLI 2006, Kathy Kaya was recognized during an Honor Ceremony for her 15 or so years of outreach to tribal college libraries. Eva English, Library Director at Fort Belknap Tribal College, presented Kathy with a star quilt, a gift from all of the participants and handmade by Eva.

Each year, TCLI Coordinators provide educational and cultural programming relevant to indigenous peoples, tribal colleges and tribal college libraries. TCLI operates on a shoestring budget, relying on any grant support they can find each year. The bulk of any grant is distributed to participants to either defray or entirely cover their travel costs to the institute, while some funding is used to fund outside presenters. The tribal college librarian's listserv, hosted by MSU and sponsored by TCLI, has become a communication

support with discussion happening among participants year round. This institute has become THE professional development event for many of the participants because of the intimate teaching and learning environment provided, which is geared specifically toward their needs as information specialists in indigenous environments. Participants come together not just to learn library issues and skills, but more important, to share their stories and to support and educate each other on a wide variety of issues and topics. Many of the participants are native, while many are not, yet they all share common issues in serving their indigenous communities. In addition to serving as academic libraries, many also serve as the public library for their tribal community, adding complexity to the services and resources they must provide to their



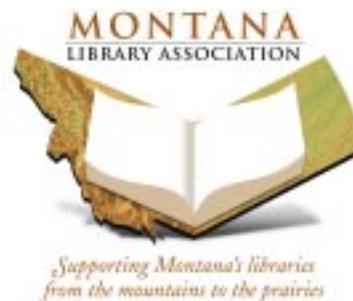
Participants outside of the National Museum of the American Indian

respective tribes. Valuable group problem solving happens during the institute each year in addition to the new knowledge and skills gained. This year, the TCLI agenda included programs by NMAI staff on the Cultural Resources

Center and its holdings and services, as well as publications produced by NMAI; ethnobotany; grant opportunities and processes for tribal college libraries; new educational technologies; etc.

For more information about the Tribal College Librarians Institute, please visit the TCLI website: www.lib.montana.edu/tcli/TCLLib.html

*Mary Anne Hansen
Montana State University Libraries
mhansen@montana.edu*



earn your MLIS from near or far

dMLIS

distance Master of Library and Information Science

The Information School (iSchool) of the University of Washington offers the distance version (dMLIS) of the Master of Library and Information Science degree to enable students to earn their degree while continuing to live in their current location.

dMLIS courses are conducted over the internet using course websites as the "classroom". Courses are instructor-led, follow the UW quarterly schedule, and students start and complete the course as a group. The dMLIS program includes brief residencies on the UW campus in Seattle for approximately 3 days each quarter.

PARTICIPATE IN A LIVE WEBCHAT INFORMATION SESSION

October 18, 2006

5:30 - 6:30 PM Pacific

RSVP AT OUR WEBSITE

www.MLIS.washington.edu

dmlis@ischool.washington.edu

Trustee's Corner

The Job of the Library Board of Trustees

Members of the library board of trustees are charged with four major tasks: hiring and evaluating the director, setting and keeping track of the budget, setting policy, and planning for the future. Each one of these is important, and this month I want to comment on the first, hiring and evaluating the director. Hiring a good director can be a challenge, especially in small community libraries where it is not possible to remunerate the best qualified individuals properly considering their expertise. Sometimes people just "fall" into the job. (That's how I got to be a school librarian in 1970!) However, I have seen in many cases where people grow into their jobs and become extremely effective. A good job description, clear goals, objectives and policies, and supportive staff and trustees are invaluable assets to making a great director.

Evaluation isn't limited to the director, for the trustees must evaluate the total program, including themselves as a board. In order to evaluate well, the board must provide goals and objectives against which it can measure performance. Among these are state and association standards, job descriptions, and good record keeping. When a board looks at itself, the director, the staff, and the overall performance of the library, the primary thought must be to how all of these are serving the local community. Try to evaluate the library's total program through the eyes of the community that is using the library.

PS. Does your library need ways to obtain more money for its programs? This fall's trustee workshops are dealing with fundraising. Workshops will be held in Billings on Oct. 28th and in Missoula on November 11. Contact Maggie Meredith mmeredith@mt.gov for more information.

*Carol Grover, Trustee
Sheridan County Library
Chair, MLA Trustee's Interest Group
grover2@nemontel.net*

Teen Territory Opens at Rosebud County Library

Teen Territory, a great new space for teens, opened in September at Rosebud County Library in Forsyth, beginning with a well-attended Open House with pizza provided by the library.

Teen Territory is the brain child of a pair of FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) members from Forsyth High School who saw a need and an opportunity to launch an award-winning community service project for FCCLA.

Chelsea Brauer and Rachel Gambill have worked close with Director Cheryl Hesel and staff member Norma Beebe on their two-year project, which began

with a planning/communication project during their sophomore year.

The girls received gold awards both at the state and national levels of FCCLA for the first year project, which began with student surveys, both written and verbal; communication of their proposals to the student body, the library staff, and the entire community; and pilot groups including both boys and girls from grades 7-12 meeting to discuss needs and wants in the areas of books, magazines, listening materials, programs, and displays.

Chelsea and Rachel also helped with weeding the Junior Section during their first year and with selection of young adult hardbacks and paperbacks, as well as several new magazines to appeal to teens and pre-teens.



Rachel Gambill & Chelsea Brauer (center and right) celebrate their opening of Teen Territory and present a door prize book to their friend Merridy Preble.

This spring the girls sat down with catalogs and picked comfortable furniture, a slat-wall room divider for space definition and displays, and some decorations, all of which were paid for by a combination of a grant which they helped to write, State Aid funds, and capitol funds from the library budget.

Now they are in to the second year, which involves several months of creating "Teen Territory", with a painted wall, lettering made by shop student volunteers, posters, displays, and book displays, as well as two computers with homework help software and a CD listening corner.

They will offer a special "night" each month with teen programming and are considering such projects as a teen book club and teen homework helpers. They also have periodic evaluation as part of the second year project.

After an excellent campaign promoting their Open House as part of Homecoming Week activities, the two girls hosted the event and provided plenty of fun and games as well as promoting conversations about what students would like to see happen in their territory.

What is the library's role in all this? We've provided the space, including removing one long stack to open up additional room, we've provided advice and encouragement when needed, we've provided funding and help with grant writing, and mostly we've cheered at every win-win-win aspect of this wonderful project.

*Cheryl J. Hesel, Director
Rosebud County Library
rclib@rangeweb.net*

State Library News



Montana Library Event Calendar

Remember to check online for upcoming library training/activities AND add your upcoming event to let everyone know it's coming: calendar.mtlib.org

Workshops on Fundraising Essentials

Continuing with the trustee training curriculum, Montana State Library has two workshops scheduled for public library directors and trustees on Fundraising Essentials. The workshops will be in Billings on October 28th (at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana) and in Missoula on November 11th (at Ruby's Inn). The presenter will be Illene Roggensack of Third Sector Innovations in Colorado. She has served as president for the Colorado Nonprofit Association and has been involved with fundraising for nonprofit organizations for more than twenty years. There is no registration fee and lunch will be provided. Participants will be reimbursed for mileage to travel to Billings or Missoula. Carpooling is encouraged. The workshops are funded by an LSTA grant received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Montana State Library Commission. Registration materials are available at msl.mt.gov/fundraising.pdf Please register by October 23rd.

For further information on either of the preceding articles from the Montana State Library, please contact Sue Jackson.

Sue Jackson
Montana State Library
1-800-338-5087
sujackson@mt.gov

Library Director Attends National Book Festival

Library director Jim Heckel has been selected to represent Montana at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. September 30. The book festival, sponsored by the Library of Congress, attracts over 100,000 people. Scores of well-know authors are featured and all fifty states will have booths.

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

Golf Scramble Huge Success

Friends of the Hearst Free Library

“Reading the Greens”

Golf Scramble

As reported earlier on Wired-MT, the first annual Reading the Greens golf tournament was a huge success for the Friends of the Hearst Free Library. The first event netted the happy friends group \$1,500, an amazing feat for a fledgling golf tournament. Along with raising funds, the Friends successfully raised awareness among a fun and seldom seen patron base. Sixty golfers turned out for a full-day of fun activities.

The Friends will use the money to fund a campaign for the Library's Mill Levy Election on November 7. It will be used to buy newspaper and radio ads, as well as for signs to be placed throughout the community.

Four teams represented libraries for the Reader's Cup trophy competition. The four libraries were Great Falls Public Library, Lewis and Clark Library, Montana State Library, and



Reader's Cup Winners

Hearst Free Library. The winning team with the lowest net score was the Montana State Library, made up of NRIS employees Dave Ratz, Gerry Daumiller and Cybil Goban, as well as State IT Department staffer, Steve Noland.

John Finn
Hearst Free Library
jfinn@mtlib.org

Mystery Librarian Demonstrates Latest ILL Delivery Protocols

Can you identify this Swift Boat Captain? Does this system look more efficient than a bread or beer truck? Send your answers to John Finn at jfinn@mtlib.org

The captain promises a very special gift for the first correct answer.



Membership News

Thanks to all 688 of you who are current members of MLA. You are helping to keep our organization strong and effective.

We want to extend an enthusiastic welcome to our new members. Many on the list below are trustees, and it is great to see them make this additional commitment to libraries in Montana.

Deborah Aden, Parmly Billings Library, Billings
 Jennifer Lynn Ander, Renne Library, MSU; Bozeman
 Francine A. Bradly, Havre Hill County Library, Havre
 Dan Carter, Trustee, Parmly Billings Library, Billings
 Tim Carse, Trustee, Harlem Public Library, Harlem
 Jennifer R. Desch, Flathead County Library, Kalispell
 Kari Eliason, Shields Valley School Library Media, Clyde Park
 Michelle L. Fenger, Polson City Library, Ronan
 Mary J. Frieze, Livingston Park-Co Library, Livingston
 Melissa Hart, Student UW, Missoula
 Nancy Hatfield, Bozeman Public Library, Bozeman
 Tony Hines, Trustee, Billings Parmly Library, Billings
 Nancy S. Kessler, Trustee, Livingston Park-Co. Library, Livingston
 William D. Lamdin, III Trustee, Parmly Billings Library, Billings
 Paulette Laszlo, Trustee, Parmly Billings Library, Billings
 Bette Jeanne MacGilvra, Retired, Conrad
 Michelle McCowan, Livingston Park Co Library, Livingston
 Warren Neyenhuis, Trustee Bitterroot Public Library, Hamilton
 Mary Norton, Bound To Stay Bound Books, Jacksonville, IL
 Desiree Michelle Olson, Student UW, Missoula
 Dennis Parman, Trustee, Havre Hill County Library, Havre

Lee Phillips, Student UW, Belt
 Sarah Phankot, Polson City Library, Polson
 Beverly E. Prim, Trustee, Havre Hill County Library, Havre
 Mary K. Rambo, Trustee, Havre Hill County Library, Gilford
 Edward Jay Spinler, Trustee, Havre Hill County Library, Havre
 Christopher Stockwell, Montana State Library, Helena
 Steve Tucker, Trustee, Parmly Billings Library, Billings

Please remember to renew your membership if yours has lapsed. You can find out your membership status by going to www.mtlib.org/directory/directory.html and checking your name on the membership list.

If you have any questions or concerns about MLA, please contact your Director at Large.

Gail Wilkerson
 Director-at-Large East
 VA MT Healthcare System Medical Library
gail.wilkerson@med.va.gov

Carlene Engstrom
 Director-at-Large West
 D'Arcy McNickle Library
 Salish Kootenai College
carlene_engstrom@skc.edu

Professional Development Grants

If you would like to attend a professional meeting, workshop, institute or other related event and would like a little (or a lot) of financial help to do so consider applying for an MLA Professional Development Grant. See www.mtlib.org/grantinfo.html for grant application forms as well as restrictions and criteria for receiving a grant. You must have been a member of MLA for at least 3 years and not have received a grant from this program for at least 5 years previous to this application.

Marjorie Doyle
 Missoula Public Library
mdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us

Are you Ready for Computers, Camaraderie and Chocolate in Bozeman?

Offline 2007 is coming! Make plans to be in Bozeman February 23 and 24 for great programs, socializing with friends, and, of course, chocolate! Details will be posted on Wired-MT and in the December **Focus**. Questions? Contact Pam Henley phenley@bozeman.net or Liz Babbitt lbabbitt@mtlib.org

Pam Henley, Technology Assistant
 Bozeman Public Library
phenley@bozeman.net

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target presents

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

Letters About Literature is a national reading and writing promotion program.

Sponsored by the The Montana Center for the Book,
a Program of the Montana Committee for the Humanities

participation guidelines

READ. BE INSPIRED. WRITE BACK.

Author Roald Dahl once said that writing a book was like taking a journey. You knew where you wanted to go but you didn't always know who you might meet or what you might experience along the way. Reading a book is also a journey. Where has a book taken **you**?

Have you wandered with J. D. Salinger through lonely streets in New York City? Did you travel back in time with Stephen Crane to crouch on a Civil War battlefield and understand, perhaps for the first time, fear? Maybe you stopped in the woods on a snowy evening with Robert Frost. Maybe your favorite voyage was to a fantastic place that exists only between the pages of a book – Hogwarts, Middle Earth or a future society where books are burned at 451 degrees Fahrenheit!

LAL welcomes entries from **all** readers – reluctant as well as enthusiastic book travelers! How can you enter? Select a book that took you on a surprising or inspiring journey. It might be a recent journey or one you remember from your childhood. Then write a personal letter to the author, explaining how his or her work somehow changed your view of the world or yourself.

Do not summarize the book's plot. After all, the author wrote the book and already knows what happened. What the author doesn't know is how the book affected **you**. Write honestly and in your own voice, as if you were having a conversation with the author. Those are the best letters to read and the most fun to write! The how-to-enter tips on the next page will help you write and prepare your letter for submission.

COMPETITION LEVELS

Level I – Grades 4-6

Level II – Grades 7 and 8

Level III – Grades 9-12

STATE AWARDS

Judges for each participating state center for the book will select the top letters on each competition level to receive recognition. First-place winners will receive a cash award and a \$50 Target GiftCard. The first-place winners in each state will then advance for national judging. Second and third place winners on each level will also receive cash awards.

NATIONAL AWARDS

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select two letters on each competition level as national winners. Target will send these six national winners and their (2) parents/guardians to Washington, DC, to attend the National Book Festival in fall 2007 where they will read their letters during the Letters About Literature national awards presentation. Each national winner will also receive a \$500 Target GiftCard.

DEADLINE

Submit your letters by **December 8, 2006**. Each State Center for the Book will notify state winners in mid-March 2007 and national winners in mid-May 2007.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about the state competition, call: Kim Anderson at 1.800.624.6001.
Or visit us online at www.montanabook.org.

LAL supports national standards for teaching language arts & reading as recommended by the National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association.

HOW-TO-ENTER GUIDELINES

Step 1: Prewriting Discussion

First, REFLECT! Select a fiction or nonfiction book, a short story, poem, essay or speech (sorry, no song lyrics) you have read and about which you have strong feelings. Explore those feelings and why you reacted the way you did during or after reading the author's work.

Second, CONNECT! Consider one or more of these questions when writing your letter: Did the characters, conflict or setting mirror your life in some way? What strengths or flaws do you share with a character or characters in the book? What did the book show you about your world that you never noticed before? What surprised you about yourself while you were reading this book? Why was this work meaningful to **you**?

Third, EXPRESS YOURSELF! A letter is less formal than an essay or research paper. Write honestly, using your natural voice. Two good tips: (1) Do not summarize the plot or analyze the work's literary merits. Letters are conversational, friendly. (2) Correspond, don't compliment! Your entry should not be a fan letter meant to flatter the author.

Step 2: Writing the Letter

Recommended length

Level I: 100-400 words
Level II: 300-600 words
Level III: 500-800 words

Step 3: Preparing Your Letter for Submission

Return Address Print your name and complete address (either home or school) in the upper-right corner of the first page of your letter. Letters without a return address **will be disqualified**.

Letter Format Type or print your letter. Please use ink and write neatly. If the judges cannot read your handwriting, they will disqualify your entry.

Entry Coupon Each letter **must** be accompanied by an entry coupon. (See coupon below.) Staple the coupon to the last page of your letter. Do not use paper clips as they become separated during handling. If you should win a state or a national prize, you will be contacted by your State Center for the Book using the information on your entry coupon. Please be sure this information is both complete and legible!

Mailing Envelope Judges prefer entries in a flat 9x11" envelope. **Important! Indicate the competition level—either I, II, or III—on your envelope.** Use correct postage or your letter will be returned unopened!

Note: All letters become the property of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Please make a copy of your letter for your files as no letters will be returned.

Submission Deadline

Mail all entries **postmarked** by December 8, 2006, to:

LAL 2007
Competition Level (Indicate I, II, or III)
Post Office Box 609
Dallas, PA 18612

TEACHERS/LIBRARIANS: Please note!

- Please do not assign the same book to an entire class as this misses the spirit of the program—identifying a personal relationship with an author and/or book. Likewise, rather than assigning the same opening paragraph or topic sentences, encourage students to express themselves individually.
- Mail class sets in one flat envelope rather than individual envelopes. Use one envelope for each level.
- We regret that we cannot contact every participant who enters. However, an accurate E-MAIL ADDRESS will help us keep in contact with you. Please refer to the loc.gov/letters website or your State Center for the Book web page (see page 1) for program updates throughout the year!
- Although we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters, we LOVE your cover letters. This will ensure that you are put on the LAL mailing list for next year.

Letters About Literature 2007 Entry Coupon

- **PLEASE PRINT.** Often our failure to contact you is due to incomplete or illegible information on the entry coupon!
- **STAPLE COUPON TO THE BACK OF EACH LETTER.** Use one coupon per reader, rather than one coupon for the entire class.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Home Phone (Optional): (____) _____

Grade (Circle one grade only): **Level I:** 4 5 6 **Level II:** 7 8 **Level III:** 9 10 11 12

Book/Story Title: _____ Author: _____

Home Address: Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Parental Signature (If submitting as an individual entry): _____

IMPORTANT! If submitting through a school or library, please complete the additional information below:

School/Library: _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

School/Library Telephone: (____) _____ School/Library E-mail: _____

Teacher/Librarian Contact: _____ E-mail: _____

SLMD News

Greetings, School Library Media Division members! Hoping your school year is getting off to a good start! It is here in Helena, where Suzi Watne, coordinator of the Helena School District libraries and IMC, and myself, librarian at CRA Middle School, have been busy settling into gear for the year. We are this year's co-chairs for the School Library Media Division. I have included both of our emails at the bottom, in case you wish to contact either one of us. Don't hesitate!

There are some opportunities this fall for SLMSs. During the traditional "teachers' convention days," October 18 and 19, both MEA/MFT and MSRC (Montana State Reading Conference) have some great workshops and speakers. Kate DiCamillo and Jean Marzollo are author luncheon speakers at MSRC in Great Falls. For more information, visit MSRC's website: www.montanareads.org. MEA/MFT, which is in Billings this year, always offers amazing diversity of workshops and sessions. MLA and MATELA are jointly sponsoring Elizabeth Thoman as a keynote speaker on "**Literacy for the 21st Century**." There are several workshops sponsored by MLA, a hospitality room and lunch gathering both days. Along with connecting with other librarians, MEA/MFT provides a good opportunity to connect with content area teachers and to renew our own knowledge of subject area issues and trends. We are always better prepared to collaborate when we know what is going on in the classrooms! You can register online at: www.mea-mft.net/.

A winter retreat is on the planning table for January for SLMD. As this takes shape, you will hear more. Also, please begin to plan to attend MLA in Helena this spring, April 25 – 28. As school librarians we have much to offer librarians from other venues, and there is much we can learn from them! MLA provides the one opportunity in Montana each year for those of us in libraries to reclaim and renew our commonalities. Helena promises to be a wonderful hosting community and the local librarians are really looking forward to welcoming all of you!

In the meantime, give some thought to how, as school library media specialists, we can better connect with each other and foster ongoing networking among ourselves. Thanks!

Margy Kernan, Librarian
CRA Middle School
Helena, Montana
mkernan@helena.k12.mt.us

PNLA News

Another successful PNLA conference was held at Eugene, Oregon in August. The speakers were informative and Mason Williams, head writer for **The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour**, provided exceptional entertainment. Next year's conference will be held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on August 8-11, 2007.

Nominations are being solicited for the 2008 Young Reader's Choice Award. If you have a favorite book that would appeal to students in grades 4-12, nominate the book for inclusion in one of the three categories for this award. See the website www.pnla.org for more information on this oldest children's choice award in the U.S. and Canada.

Central Asia Institute - Pennies For Peace Campaign



Fall will be a good time for all libraries to again promote "Pennies for Peace" activities to help fulfill Montana Library Association's resolution to build a Montana school/library in Pakistan or Afghanistan. Approximately \$12,000 has been raised so far through individual donations and group efforts by libraries and schools. Along with collecting money in "Pennies for

Peace" jars, some ideas that have been tried by different communities include selling nachos/pretzels in the library on a certain day; selling wristbands from a Peace organization; having a competition within classrooms with a pizza party for the one that raises the most money; prizes for different groups that raise money; sponsoring a dance with the proceeds going to CAI; collecting a "mile of pennies" (a great big thank you to the Junior Honor Society from Roberts, Montana for collecting over \$800 this way); and promoting a marketing campaign highlighting the need for schools overseas. More information about the Central Asia Institute can be found at www.ikat.org.

**The two preceding articles were submitted by
Norma Glock.**

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

Fallon County Library News

There is lots of news coming from Baker this Focus issue.

First of all, the Summer Reading Program ended the last of July. It was coordinated and handled in-house. A first for this staff. We averaged 25 participants per session. Naturally, some of our ideas worked beautifully and some of them crashed and burned like the first rocket. After only one session, we were making notes to refine next year's program.

The Library is happy to announce our New Web Page. We just finished updating it and it went live on August 7. This is our first attempt; please take a minute to look at it and let us know what you think. Its address is www.midrivers.com/~bakerlib or you may access it through the Fallon County site www.falloncounty.net/library/index.html

The Fallon County Library Board of Trustees has a new member as we bid farewell to Trustee Steve Zachmann. We regretfully accepted his resignation at the end of his first term. His other commitments were vast; and, he felt that he had to cut back. However, we welcomed new trustee Janet Townsend to our Board. Jan and her husband operate an accounting business here in Baker. She graciously agreed to serve our library community. Welcome, Jan!

Library staff strives for full State Library certification. Two staff members, library aides, Carol Dyke and Beth Meggers, are already certified. And, Marilyn Wenz is working on hers. Our goal is to have 100% of the Fallon County Library staff hold Montana State Library certification.

The library was represented at our local fair on August 17-20. We sponsored a booth, listing our services (Interlibrary Loan, reader programs, fax and copy services, to name a few), and offering pencils, books and bookmarks for fair goers.

The library is sponsoring a book discussion group. "Coffee and Books" meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Baker Senior Center. This year's theme, Classics II, includes the titles *Vanity Fair*, *Innocents Abroad*, *The Razor's Edge* and *Catcher in the Rye*. Our group will again be led by Rose Marie Aus of Glendive.

And for the younger readers, we have new group as well. After much discussion, we decided to take the mountain to Mohammed. Young Readers Group will meet monthly over lunch hour at Baker High School. The group will be led by Ve Abrams and Carole Bettenhausen of the BHS English Department.

And finally, FCL's Story Time begins on September 7. The staff decided to coordinate this in-house, as well. Each staff member will participate in some aspect of the program. Ve will lead the main portion each week with assistance from Beth and Carol. Marilyn, Beth and Carol will coordinate the major craft days. As they say, "What doesn't kill us makes us stronger." Well, I guess we will see about that.

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

First American Indian Youth Literature Award Winners Announced, Honored at JCLC

The American Indian Library Association (AILA), an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA), is pleased to announce the first recipients of its American Indian Youth Literature Award. This new literary award was created as a way to identify and honor the very best writing and illustrations by and about American Indians. Books selected to receive the award present Native Americans in the fullness of their humanity in the present and past contexts.

The award is presented in each of three categories-picture book, middle school, and young adult-and each winner receives \$500 and a commemorative plaque, which will be presented during the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color's (JCLC) Children's Luncheon program in Dallas on October 13 at noon.

"We are thrilled to have this opportunity to honor authors and illustrators who best portray Native American culture for young readers," said Victor Schill, co-chair, AILA American Indian Youth Literature Award committee. "The rich literary heritage of this nation includes the oral and printed stories of its indigenous

peoples. American Indian literature always has been and continues to be an integral part of our literary tapestry."

"Beaver Steals Fire: A Salish Coyote Story," by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, illustrated by Sam Sandoval, and published by the University of Nebraska Press is the winner for the picture book category. Accompanied by rich watercolor illustrations, the text relates a culturally vital tale from the Salish people of Montana about the significance of the gift of fire and how it should be respected.

Louise Erdrich is the winner of the middle-school award for "The Birchbark House," published by Hyperion Books for Children. Setting her book in the middle 19th century, Erdrich paints a detailed portrait of Ojibwa life through the experiences of 7-year-old Omakayas who lives on the Island of the Golden Breasted Woodpecker on Lake Superior. "The Birchbark House" was Erdrich's first novel for young

Continued on next page...

...Literature Awards Continued

readers, and the first book she has illustrated. She is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwa and lives with her two daughters in Minnesota.

The young adult award is "Hidden Roots," written by Joseph Bruchac and published by Scholastic Press. The book is set within the historical framework of the Vermont Eugencis Program, a Native American sterilization program in the 1930s, and tells the story of the haunting effects of this shameful and tragic deed on one of the Abenaki families victimized by it. Author of more than 70 books for adults and children, Bruchac is of Abenaki ancestry and is a nationally recognized professional storyteller living in Greenfield Center, New York.

Members of the American Indian Youth Literature Award are: Naomi Caldwell, co-chair, GSLIS, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I.; Victor L. Schill, co-chair, Harris County Public Library, Houston; Carlene Engstrom, D'Arcy McNickle Library, Salish Kootenai College, Pablo, Mont.; and Gabriella Kaye, Mashantucket, Pequot Museum & Research Center, Mashantucket, Conn.

Carlene Engstrom
Director-at-Large West
D'Arcy McNickle Library
Salish Kootenai College
carlene_engstrom@skc.edu

Burger Seeks Emerging Leaders

Did your boss or your colleague just hand you this article? "This sounds like you," she said. "You are young and new to the profession and are eager to get involved."

Is it true you could be an emerging leader? Then ALA President-Elect 2006 Leslie Burger has an opportunity for you.

Emerging Leaders 2007 will welcome and train 100 new librarians to get a jump-start in leadership. EL'07 kicks off with a day-long session during the 2007 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle. Afterward, it will grow and develop online for six months, culminating at the 2007 Annual Conference in Washington, D. C. Applicants will commit to participating in all three elements of the program!

We will expect the new leaders to put their leadership skills to use by accepting a term of service on an ALA or chapter committee, task force, working group, or project team.

The goal is to have 100 new librarians ready to participate in leadership in the Association, one of its divisions or state chapters.

Ready to apply? Get a sponsor (an ALA sponsor

isn't required, but it gets you preference) and find out if your favorite division, chapter, or caucus will offer a stipend to attend. All you need is an ALA membership and a letter of support from your employer. We will be contacting local, state, and ALA leaders to say: "Here is an opportunity to invest in the future of your organization."

For more information, contact Connie Paul, Executive Director, Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperative. Connie and Maureen Sullivan, organizational consultant, Annapolis, Maryland, who are spearheading the project.

When and Where:

January 19, 2007—Seattle Public Library from 9:00-5:00pm, reception 4:00-5:00pm

June 22, 2007—Washington, DC

In a virtual work group from January to June

Why:

To enable 100 young librarians to get on the fast track to ALA and professional leadership

Who:

- 1) ALA member, and
- 2) Young (under 35 years) or new librarians of any age with fewer than 5 years post-MLS experience, and
- 3) Recent MLS degree from an ALA or NCATE accredited program or in an MLS program currently, and

4) Able to attend both ALA conferences and work virtually in between, and

5) Ready to commit to serve on an ALA, Division, Chapter, or Round Table committee, taskforce or workgroup upon completion of program

How:

Support from an ALA Division, Roundtable, or Chapter gets you preference but isn't a requirement to apply;

If you are employed, a letter of commitment from your employer;

Fill out the application (PDF) and send with supporting materials to Leslie Burger or submit via email to emergingleaders@princetonlibrary.org.

See: lb.princetonlibrary.org/documents/EmergingLeadersApplication_000.pdf

What:

Two days of training with Maureen Sullivan and Connie Paul, participation in a problem solving workgroup, networking with 100 of your peers, getting an inside look into ALA structure, an opportunity to serve your profession

How much:

Workshop participation is free. ALA Divisions, Roundtables, and Chapters are invited to sponsor applicants with a suggested \$500 stipend toward expenses for each conference. Your employer may also wish to contribute toward transportation and lodging.

Continued on next page...



...Emerging Leaders Continued

By when:

September 30: Deadline for application.

All division, Chapter and round table nominee names must be received.

All participant application forms are due.

October 16-20: Selection committee selects 100 finalists and alternates.

November 1: Notification of nominees.

For more information email:

emergingleaders@princetonlibrary.org

Beth Boyson, MLS

ALA Representative

Bozeman Public Library

bboyson@bozeman.net

Montana Tribal College Libraries Rock with IMLS Awards

Tuesday, September 12, 2006 the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) announced this year's grants for Native American Communities for Library Enhancements. IMLS, a primary source for federal funds, announced an award of \$1,781,300 going to 15 Native American tribal communities and Alaska Native villages to improve library services to their communities. Of the 15 recipients of these very competitive grants, Montana received more awards than another state.

IMLS Director Dr. Anne-Imelda M. Radice states, "These communities are raising the level of library service by automating access, increasing staff and hours of operation, preserving special collections, and developing programming that addresses the needs of Native Americans and Native Alaskans."

Native American Library Services Enhancement Grants support projects that enhance existing library services or implement new ones. Preference is given to projects that expand services for learning in a variety of formats; provide users with access to information and resources through electronic networks and linkages; develop partnerships with other agencies and community-based organizations; or target services to users of diverse backgrounds and to underserved populations.

Feel free to congratulate the following Montana Tribal libraries for their successful awards.

Blackfeet Tribe - Browning, MT Award Amount: \$116,657

The Blackfeet Tribe, together with the Medicine Spring Library at the Blackfeet Community College, will increase hours on evenings and weekends with new library staff, add public access computers, replace furnishings and a security system, become ADA compliant, and increase general and specialized Blackfeet materials in their collection. These steps will greatly improve services to community members and

students. The Medicine Spring Library serves as the public and college library on this northwestern Montana reservation.

Crow Tribe of Montana - Crow Agency, MT

Award Amount: \$149,572

On behalf of the Crow Tribe of Montana, the Little Big Horn College Library, serving as the only public library on the Crow Indian reservation, will furnish and equip a new facility to be opened in September 2007. The library will encourage more community patronage by increasing culturally-based children's and adult programming. A children's program coordinator will conduct summer children's hours based on Crow culture and language. A monthly speaker series will provide a forum for community dialogue, lectures, and readings. A multigenerational photo exhibit will be mounted based on historical photos from the library's archives. Descendants of the individuals in the historical photos will also submit their own photos of their families. Photos will rotate and, at the end of the project, a book of all the photographs and a narrative about the ancestors and their families will be published.

Fort Belknap Indian Community - Harlem, MT

Award Amount: \$149,525

On behalf of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, the Fort Belknap College Library in Harlem, Montana, will increase outreach to the local tribal community by implementing Tribal Community Circles at the college library, featuring speakers talking about and demonstrating topics of local interest, including storytelling, natural medicine, tanning, and quillwork. Computer literacy workshops will be held at Hayes, in the southern part of the reservation, so that residents can learn to access the College Library's resources by Internet. The library will provide more full-text online databases that can be accessed remotely and will increase its collection of Native American materials to support local cultural education efforts.

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes - Pablo, MT Award Amount: \$110,036

On behalf of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, the D'Arcy McNickle Library of Salish Kootenai College will digitize documents from its tribal special collection, including the tribal newspaper, CharKoosta News, from 1956 through 1988. In partnership with the Mansfield Library of the University of Montana, the project will create Web-searchable metadata and post the digitized documents on the library's home page. The library will provide cultural and genealogy programs to promote use of the library's tribal special collection and the Salish and Kootenai Tribal History Film Project by the reservation community.

Carlene Engstrom

Director-at-Large West

D'Arcy McNickle Library

Salish Kootenai College

carlene_engstrom@skc.edu