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# Montana Library Focus

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Honore Bray*

Happy New Year to you all! I can't believe how fast the years pass. My mother told me the older you get the faster it goes and I hate to say I believe it but I am starting to. Hope your lives have slowed down a bit since the holidays and that everyone is gearing up for the Conference in Great Falls, April 9-12. The committee has worked very hard on this year's conference and the schedule is packed with very exciting events.

This year the conference will be offered for OPI Renewal Units as well as MSL Certification hours. In addition you will have the option of one semester undergraduate credit from the College of Great Falls.

Details will be available in the near future. This option is due to members who filled out the conference evaluation form and requested college credit so the conference could be used to move on their salary schedule. The MLA Board does read those evaluations and tries to make the improvements the membership requests. Thanks to Sheila Bonnard for arranging this credit for us.

Many of you have already pre-registered for Offline 2008 at Missoula Public Library. Jim Semmelroth, Claire Morton and the committee have worked very hard on this conference. Again, using the evaluations from the past Offline and the Helena Conference 2008. Offline was planned using member input to what is needed to improve electronic access for patrons in Montana Libraries.

The January Board meeting was a conference call sponsored by the University of Montana and Samantha Hines. The MLA handbook is in the process of being updated and as I have time to make the changes that were sent to me by the Committee Chairs and Board members. Steve McCann will post it on the MLA site so everyone has access.

Thanks to all who have helped in this process.

See you all very soon at Offline or MLA Conference. Thanks to all members who have worked so hard on retreats, committees, conferences and any other work for MLA. I know it is hard to find the time in your day but it is such a rewarding experience to be part of such a wonderful group of people.

*Honore Bray, President,  
Montana Library Association  
Missoula Public Library, Director  
hbray@missoula.lib.mt.us*

## Focus Survey Results

*By  
John Finn, Focus Editor  
jfinn@mtlib.org*

This is Issue 1 of the 26th Volume of the Montana Library Association Newsletter **Focus**. This editor has been doing this job for almost five years. It's been a joy. It's been a good release of creative energy every two months. I always assumed that members were reading **Focus**, but I guess I really never thought about it. One day, I was asked by a frequent contributor if their article was being read. I told them that I had no idea. But I would try to find out.

I thought about a State Library workshop that I attended that discussed Survey Monkey. Then I remembered filling out a Survey Monkey poll. I remembered being impressed. I looked into it further. I found out Survey Monkey is as easy as pie. And Cheap! In fact, if you keep your survey to 10 ques-

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tions or fewer, it's free.

I came up with ten questions that I thought would answer some questions about readership. After just two days online, 86 responses had been gathered. I was amazed. The day after that I started getting emails telling me that the survey was not working. I found out that Survey Monkey only allows 100 responses per survey, but they do let you copy it and repost it. So that's what I did. In the end, there were 143 responses.

I thank you all for taking the time to answer the questions. I have a complete rundown of all responses. If you wish to see all answers and responses, please email me. I'll be happy to share that with you.

### The Highlights

97% of us are regular readers of **Focus**.

93% of those who responded said they read it online, or printed it from the MLA website and read it

that way.

77% said that they would not need a copy sent to their home or office via US Mail, if that were an option.

80% said that **Focus** was either an important or very important component to their MLA membership.

Of the recurring features, 90% said that **State Library News**, and 86% said **President's Message** were read most regularly. Readers suggested that even the lowest percentage recurring feature, **Trustee's Corner**, was regularly read by 41% of us.

88% said that **State Library News** was either important or very important to them.

79% said the same about the **President's Message**, and 76% said the same about **Membership News**.

The qualitative responses were very helpful as well. I will be able to use those responses to make **Focus** better, and easier to read.

**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. It has a print readership of 210 and an online readership of over 500. If you are interested in placing an ad, or sponsoring the MLA Focus Newsletter, please send your request to the editor.

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### New Fax Number for MLA

By

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The Montana Library Association is charging into the 21st century by leaps and bounds. We now have a fax number. Expense sheets, conference registrations, purchase orders, and other important information can now be faxed to MLA at 406-388-0208. If you encounter problems or all the information is not transmitted, you will be contacted so that you can refax your information. Also feel free to contact Debbi Kramer at 670-8446 or [debkmla@hotmail.com](mailto:debkmla@hotmail.com) if you have questions or concerns. Together we can continue to make the Montana Library Association stronger.

### Credit Card Use on the MLA Website

It has been brought to my attention that some of you are experiencing problems when trying to use the credit card links on the MLA website. When your library needs to register more than one, a couple of easy steps need to be taken. After the first person is registered, click on the link "Back to Shopping, or "Add to Cart" and you will be taken back to the registration form needed to continue your registration progress. When you have everyone registered, click the "Pay" link and everything will be listed and added for you. This is also your chance to do any last minute editing. If you experience problems, please let myself or one of the web masters know (our e-mail addresses are on the MLA website) and we will gladly assist you.

### MLA Discussion List: WIRED-MT

**WIRED-MT-L** is a listserv sponsored by the Montana Library Association and hosted by **OCLC-Western**. The list is open to everyone interested in Montana libraries and library issues, including MLA members and non-members. Additional information and guidelines for use may be found at [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org).

To subscribe to **WIRED-MT-L**,

1. Send a message to:

[listserv@OCLC.ORG](mailto:listserv@OCLC.ORG);

2. Leave the subject line blank;

3. In the body of the message type: SUBSCRIBE WIRED-MT-L <your name>

4. Do not attach a signature.

If you have problems subscribing or have additional questions, contact Stef Johnson, List Manager (on behalf of MLA) at:

[stjohnson@co.flathead.mt.us](mailto:stjohnson@co.flathead.mt.us)

or call Stef at 406-758-5814.

## Bruce's Corner

### New OPI Library Content Standards-My Christmas Wish List

By

Bruce Newell

MLN Director, (retired)

bnewell@mt.net

Last month Colet Bartow **CBartow@mt.gov**, Montana Office of Public Instruction's dashing new Library Media Curriculum Specialist, kindly invited me to add (as part of a focus group) my two-cents regarding the revision of Montana's Library Media and Technology Content Standards for K-12 students. These Standards are currently under revision as part of a regular cycle for all K-12 content standards. Colet has seen and provided useful comments regarding a draft of this column (however, the opinions expressed are mine).

As I prepared for this meeting I realized that I didn't really have a clear idea about what makes school libraries important. I know, for instance, that not all states place equal value on school libraries' contribution to learning and teaching. Mandatory library literacy and content standards are by no means universal. So I asked myself, "Assuming standards are important, why are they important?"

The answer is (of course) that standards enumerate preferred results. In schools, 'results' are most meaningful when they describe expected students' proficiency regarding certain tasks, understandings, ability to communicate, and so forth. So thinking about new school library standards translates, for me, into "What do I want school libraries to help my kids to be able to do?" I ended up making a Christmas wish list. I want my kids to:

1. Know the difference between data, information, knowledge, and wisdom.

**Data** is something given, a proposition (from the Greek)

**Information** is a difference that makes a difference (systems thinker Gregory Bateson)

**Knowledge** is "justified true belief" (so Plato said)

**Wisdom** (this is trickier) is understood to be making the best use of available knowledge (Wikipedia), or perhaps the opposite of folly (Wikipedia), or finally, "the knowledge of causes" (Aristotle)

2. Understand the cost and value of data, information, knowledge, and wisdom.

3. Value truth, and recognize that 'truth' is a genuinely slippery concept.

4. Discover, appreciate, navigate, and investigate complex information systems and environments.

5. Use tools skillfully, fearlessly and effectively (reading is a skill, books are a tool; online searching is a skill, databases are tools, etc.); understanding that skills evolve and that tools change.

6. Efficiently seek, discover, locate, request, and get data-, information-, or knowledge-objects.

7. Detect baloney before they find themselves mired in it.

8. Acquire the ability to place a bit of information into personal context.

9. Find pleasure in effective inquiry, and remain actively curious throughout their lives.

10. Think clearly about themselves, and the world.

11. Stay on the intellectual hunt until their quarry is firmly in hand.

12. Make sound decisions based upon all of the above.

13. Communicate (by various means) with compelling clarity to others, listen to others, and gain wisdom.

14. By their actions demonstrate all of the above, to the best of their ability, in their current context.

15. Understand that knowledge,

## Montana Library Focus

and the pursuit of knowledge, is at its heart collaborative. Through time knowledge has built on knowledge, and finding ones' own clear path through the world's knowledge requires many players-through time, between countries and institutions, and between people.

To the degree a school library helps my child accomplish the above, then it has been successful.

## Trustees Corner

### Winter to Spring

By

Carol Grover, Chair

Trustees Interest Group

cchetto@yaho.com

It's time for the winter blahs, fellow trustees. However, we have a great spring to look forward to, and I want you all to know that our MLA conference in Great Falls is going to be great. Be sure you check out the registration materials. This year, please register for the Public Librarians breakfast so that we trustees can have an early opportunity to get together. Our interest group meeting will be on Friday afternoon (check schedule for sure) and we have important business to discuss and act upon. Be thinking about who will be the chair and cochair for our group for the next year. I've had so much fun doing it that I can't wait to hand the job over to one of you capable people. Not only that, but my term on the county board is over in July and due to changes in my personal life, I do not plan to take on another five-year term. (No, I'm not sick!!) Hope to see all of you in Great Falls in early April.

# State Library News

## Outreach to Montana's Spanish Speakers



All of the following articles relating to programs and services of the Montana State Library are by:

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

### We're Making a Change

Because of the great input received from folks who attended last year's Summer Institute for Library Leadership, MSL has decided to make some changes this year. Instead of the institute, we're going to do put energy and funding into a **Trustee Blitz** that will offer basic board training in as many places as we can schedule. We know how hard it is for trustees to get away, so we're going to bring the training closer to them. Special workshops featuring trainers from the Trustee College in Colorado will be available to visit local boards -tentatively in May and September - to share their expertise on how trustees can make a difference for their library and community. If you are interested in hosting a free local workshop, please contact Sue Jackson at MSL.

### Never Been To MLA Conference?

If you are a new public library director or trustee and have not had an opportunity to attend an MLA conference, this could be your lucky year! Montana State Library will be offering small grants to help new library leaders attend the April conference in Great Falls. Be watching for details on Wired-MT in February.

There are still three opportunities to attend a Connecting to Spanish Speakers @ Your Library workshop: February 21 at Missoula Public Library (before the OFFLINE conference), March 15 at Parmly Billings Library, and April 9 in Great Falls (a preconference at the MLA annual conference). These full-day workshops are presented by Molly Kliss, Catherine McMullen and Kathy Robins, and feature a panel of community leaders discussing the needs of the Spanish-speaking population in their local community. This workshop is a terrific place to start planning services for this special population which is projected to increase across our state in the next few years. There is no registration fee for the workshop and lunch is provided at each location. Continuing education credits and OPI renewal units are available for attendees. To register for the Missoula or Billings workshops, go to [www.msl.mt.gov/For\\_Librarians/training/registration/2007\\_spoutreach.asp](http://www.msl.mt.gov/For_Librarians/training/registration/2007_spoutreach.asp). To register for the MLA preconference, go to [www.mtlib.org/conf/mla2008/index.htm](http://www.mtlib.org/conf/mla2008/index.htm).

Also at MLA, on Wednesday evening April 9, there will be a reception for all Connecting to Spanish Speakers @ Your Library workshop participants to come together and share what their libraries are doing to serve this special population. We'll have wine and cheese and exciting conversation. Please plan to join the trainers and fellow workshop participants for this celebration.

The Spanish Language Outreach initiative is funded by the Gates Foundation and coordinated by OCLC.



See Page 7 for more Conference Information

### More For Trustees

There will be several offerings at MLA this year especially for trustees. One preconference - "Ten Stupid Things That Board Members Do to Mess Up Their Organizations!" - will be presented by Illene Roggensack, Third Sectors Innovation, Grand Junction, Colorado. Some of you will remember the terrific workshops Illene did on fundraising essentials at the 2006 Trustee Workshops. We are very excited to bring her back for a full-day preconference on Wednesday, April 9 at the Best Western Hotel in Great Falls. The cost for this workshop is being paid by MSL, so there is no preconference fee and there's free lunch for everyone who attends. Two other MLA sessions for trustees are "Getting Along with City Councils and County Commissioners" scheduled for Thursday, April 10 at 8:00-10:00 am and "Taking Your Board to the Next Level" scheduled for Friday, April 11 at 8:30-10:00 am. MLA registration is required for these conference sessions.

### Hire a Librarian in 2009

As part of the PEEL II grant project, Montana State Library is offering four \$35,000 awards for public, public school, and tribal libraries to add a full-time professional librarian position to the staff for two years. Though the application process will not officially begin until March 2008, now is the time to consider what an additional position could make possible for your library to offer to your users and community. Talk to your boards and school administrators and plan to apply. The awards require an equal match and a commitment to try to maintain the position beyond the two years of PEEL funding. Application details will be announced soon. Funding for the new positions will be awarded in 2009.

**State Library cont. on next page**

# Aola!

## Connecting to Spanish Speakers @ Your Library

### Workshops Full day sessions

Saturday, January 12

Lewis & Clark Library, 120 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena

Saturday, January 19

Belgrade Community Library, 106 N. Broadway, Belgrade

Friday, January 25 (2 locations)

Parmly Billings Library, 510 N. Broadway, Billings  
OR

Flathead County Library, 247 1st Avenue E., Kalispell

Saturday, February 16

Parmly Billings Library, 510 N. Broadway, Billings

Thursday, February 21

Before the MLA OFFLINE Conference

Missoula Public Library, 301 E. Main, Missoula

Saturday, March 15

Parmly Billings Library, 510 N. Broadway, Billings

Wednesday, April 9 -- MLA Preconference

Best Western Heritage Inn, Great Falls

### Presenters

Molly Kliss - Missoula Public Library

Catherine McMullen - Bozeman Public Library

Kathy Robins - Parmly Billings Library  
Community Leader Panel

### Registration

Online at [www.msl.mt.gov/for\\_librarians/registration/](http://www.msl.mt.gov/for_librarians/registration/)  
or contact Sue Jackson at  
[sujackson@mt.gov](mailto:sujackson@mt.gov) or (406) 444-5350

*Empowering Montana Library Staff to Reach Out to Spanish Speakers and Increase Their Access to a World of Information*

### Workshop Description

This workshop equips library staff with knowledge and resources to reach out to Spanish speakers in their communities and increase their access to technology. Learn about cultural differences and how to build strong community partnerships with your Spanish-speaking community. Gain techniques for reaching out and marketing the public library and public computers to Spanish speakers. Learn about best practices and resources for providing technology training for Spanish speakers.

### Who Should Attend

All library staff and administrators interested in reaching out to Spanish speakers and increasing their access to public computers in libraries. Library board members, friends of the library, and community partners with an interest in collaborating on outreach plans are also encouraged to attend.

*The Spanish Language Outreach Program is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and is a partnership between WebJunction and state libraries.*

**No registration fee!**  
**Lunch and all training materials will be provided!!!**



## State Library... Continued

### New Materials at MSL

The State Library has been purchasing new titles for the professional development collection. Notices of new materials are posted on Wired-MT or, if you subscribe to RSS feeds, you can receive weekly updates about recent additions. For more information or to subscribe visit: [msl.mt.gov/PubRSS/RSSNewPubs.asp](http://msl.mt.gov/PubRSS/RSSNewPubs.asp)

### Teleconference Series Available in Montana

Montana State Library and BCR have partnered again this year to purchase a statewide license for Montana libraries and librarians to have access to two College of DuPage teleconference series. The license includes three programs in the 2008 Soaring to Excellence series and two programs in the 2008 Library Challenges and Opportunities series. The programs



can be viewed by satellite downlink or by webcast. There is no charge to Montana libraries, but registration is required. To register, visit the BCR site at [www.bcr.org/training/teleconferences/index.html](http://www.bcr.org/training/teleconferences/index.html) For details about the COD programs, go to: [www.dupagepress.com/COD/index.php?id=183](http://www.dupagepress.com/COD/index.php?id=183) Program topics this season include anticipating patron needs, spotting important library trends, current and future space needs, and libraries moving into the future.



### Thanks for Your Participation in 2008 Letters About Literature

By  
Kim Anderson  
Associate Director, Programs  
HumanitiesMONTANA  
[kim.anderson@humanitiesmontana.org](mailto:kim.anderson@humanitiesmontana.org)

Humanities Montana would like to thank all public and school librarians for encouraging their patrons to participate in the 2008 Letters About Literature reading and writing promotion program. Nearly 550 elementary, middle, and high school students took part in the program this year. State winners will be announced in March, and national winners will be announced in April.

Letters About Literature invites children and young adults to write a letter to an author explaining how the author's book changed the reader's view of the world or self. The contest is divided into three competition levels: Level I for readers in grades 4-6; Level II for readers in grades 7 and 8; and Level III for readers in grades 9-12. Humanities Montana will award cash prizes to the state's top three letters in each division and each state division winner will receive a \$50 Target GiftCard.

In addition, the winning state letters will be entered into the national contest, where two winners and four honorable mention awardees will be selected at each competition level. The national winners will each receive a \$500 Target Gift Card, plus each will win a \$10,000 LAL Reading Promotion Grant for their community or school Library. Additionally, the National Honorable Mention Winners will each receive a \$100 Target GiftCard and a \$1,000 LAL Reading Promotion Grant for the community or school library of their choice.

Montana judges this year are: Kim Anderson, associate director, programs, Humanities Montana; Sharon Beehler, English professor, MSU-Bozeman; Penny Hughes-Briant, instructor, MSU-Great Falls; and Dorothy Patent, author.

### Job Opening in Beautiful Lincoln County

By  
Sami Pierson, Director  
Lincoln County Library  
[samantha@libby.org](mailto:samantha@libby.org)

Lincoln County Libraries seeks an innovative Collection Management Librarian to develop and maintain the collection for three county libraries. This person will work closely with staff to select various materials for all age groups. We are looking for a versatile, customer focused individual who can work independently. Must have a sense of humor. 30-40 hours a week at the Libby Library location. Applications received by February 6, 2008 given preference. BENEFITS: \$12.58/hour. Medical, retirement, sick and vacation. Training opportunities.

For full job description and to apply please contact:  
Kootenai Job Service  
417 Mineral Ave. Suite 4  
Libby, MT 59923  
406-293-6282



# Association and Membership News

## Find Out What's Happening With the Association

By  
Peggy Smith, Secretary/Treasurer  
Skyview High School Library  
smithp@billings.k12.mt.us

At the last MLA Board meeting there was a lot of discussion about how to let the membership know what is happening. I suggested posting the minutes and reports to Wired – we decided that was a great way to crash email accounts – NOT good. In the end, we thought that a link off the MLA Web Page would be the simplest solution. Anyone who would like to see what goes on at the Board meetings and read the reports from our dedicated Chair people will be able to do so. I will post a notice to Wired when the new information is available with a link to the site. It is a great way to become familiar with the inner workings of MLA and maybe make the decision to become involved yourself. Please consider serving on one of the Standing Committees; it's a good place to start and MLA needs you.

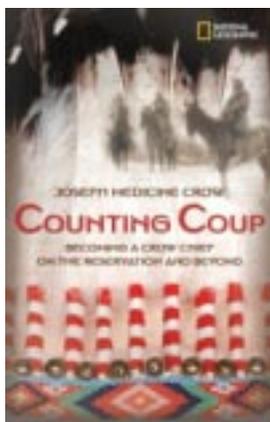
## MPLA News

By  
Eileen Wright,  
MPLA Representative  
MSU Billings Library  
ewright@msubillings.edu



**Where Paths Meet: Connecting Libraries and Communities** will be the celebration of MPLA 60th anniversary. Carolyn Hart considered “American Agatha Christie” and David Lee King whose focus is technology-library related topics are featured speakers at MPLA joint conference with Utah Library Association this April April 29th - May 2nd at Salt Lake City, Hilton hotel. Jim Rettig, President –Elect of ALA, is the keynote speaker.

Deadline for Award Nominations is February 8th. MPLA has a new award called the “Unsung Hero.” It is for any individual(s) or group(s) in the MPLA region who have worked on a special project that has some significance to a community but which has not been eligible for a library award or which has for other reasons specified by the nominator not been recognized, to the degree that it merits, by any library organization. To discover the other awards, go to [www.mpla.us/documents/procedures/appendix6-B.pdf](http://www.mpla.us/documents/procedures/appendix6-B.pdf)



## Montana's Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow wins National Award

By  
Carlene Engstrom, Director  
D'Arcy McNickle Library  
carlene\_engstrom@skc.edu

Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow, of Lodge Grass MT, and his book, *Counting Coup: Becoming a Crow Chief on the Reservation and Beyond*, won the 2008 American Indian Youth Literature Award for best Middle Reader book that illustrated the very best writing and illustrations by and about American Indians.

The American Indian Library Association (AILA) an affiliate of the American Library Association announced the recipients of its American Indian Youth Literature Award during the ALA Midwinter Conference, January 13, in Philadelphia. Books selected to receive the award present American Indians in the fullness of their humanity in the present and past contexts.

The award is presented in each of three categories-picture book, middle reader, and young adult, with winners receiving \$500 and a custom-made beaded medallion of the award seal. The other award categories and their awardees are: For Picture Book, *Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship and Freedom* by Tim Tingle, illustrated by Jeanne Rorex Bridge; For Young Adult, the *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Serman Alexie.

Check the AILA web site at [aila.library.sd.gov](http://aila.library.sd.gov) for a downloadable brochure and more information about the award itself.

MLA

# License Plate Contest

## License Plate Contest

**To reflect the love of reading and literacy throughout Montana, on behalf of the Montana Library Association, we are holding a Design A License Plate Contest! We're looking for a design which will best exemplify the spirit of libraries, books, and literacy in Montana.**



MLA is a statewide organization of over 600 librarians, retired librarians, trustees, friends of libraries, and library students who join together because they love libraries and want to help in promoting outstanding librarianship and library services which meet needs in every part of our state. MLA offers solid programs, continuing education, promotions, and services for the benefit of all types of libraries. In addition, our organization offers members a forum for exchanging information, solving problems, and access to learning about the changing world of libraries.

**THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE A \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO AMAZON!**

General Rules:

- ◆ The competition is open to any MLA member or library patron in Montana.
- ◆ Each contestant may submit up to three entries.
- ◆ The entries must be new original works not previously used in public.
- ◆ Entries will be evaluated on the representation of the association, its mission, and general appeal to library lovers. The library association's name should be incorporated into the design.
- ◆ The winning license plate may be featured on Montana Library Association promotional materials including websites, press releases, letterhead, booklets, brochures, and other official publications.
- ◆ Both hand-drawn and computer-generated entries are acceptable. Entries may be submitted in hard copy on letter size paper or electronically in digital format. (See [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org) for specific license plate design instructions).
- ◆ Each entry should be accompanied by a completed entry form, below. By signing the form, the entrant gives up all rights to the submitted license plate design. (See \* below).
- ◆ Mail or e-mail your entry to MLA License Plate Contest, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, State Capitol, Rm. 122, P.O. Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620-1706, [Ljackson@mt.gov](mailto:Ljackson@mt.gov).
- ◆ The MLA PR & Marketing Committee will select the top three entries. The committee may have the entry professionally re-designed if necessary.\* The members of MLA will vote for their favorite license plate design at the annual MLA Conference in Great Falls in April. The entry receiving the most votes will be deemed the winner.
- ◆ All entries must be received by **Friday, March 3, 2008, 5 p.m.**

**Questions? Call Lisa at 444-4024 or e-mail [Ljackson@mt.gov](mailto:Ljackson@mt.gov)**

**MLA License Plate Contest Entry Form**

Attach this form to your submission

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Entries must be received by Friday, March 3, 2008, 5 p.m.**

Mail your entry to MLA License Plate Contest, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, State Capitol, Rm. 122, P.O. Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620-1706

## Mark Your Calendars for the 2008 MLA Conference. Libraries: Montanans' Voice for Freedom

By

Kathy Mora, Co-Chair  
Conference Planning Committee  
Great Falls Public Library  
kmora@greatfallslibrary.org

The 2008 Montana Library Association Conference will be held in Great Falls at the Best Western Heritage Inn, April 9 – 12. Join us for a conference packed with great pre-conferences and regular sessions. Highlights include dual Keynote Speakers, George Christian and Peter Chase, two of the Connecticut librarians who were served with National Security Letters and a gag order in 2005. They will also be presenting a regular session during the conference.

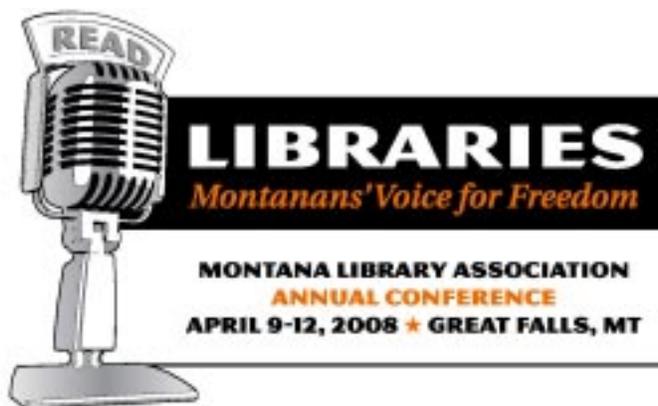
Registration material and details about all the great sessions are available on the web at [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org). If you still have questions after checking out this site, you can contact conference co-chairs Kathy Mora at [kmora@greatfallslibrary.org](mailto:kmora@greatfallslibrary.org) or Sheila Bonnard at [sbonnard@msugf.edu](mailto:sbonnard@msugf.edu) for general information on the conference. For questions regarding registration contact Registration Committee Chair Susie McIntrye at [smcintrye@greatfallslibrary.org](mailto:smcintrye@greatfallslibrary.org). When registering be sure to fill out both the registration and interest indicator forms.

Room reservations can be made by calling the Western Heritage Inn at 761-1900 or 800-548-8256. The hotel is holding a block of 135 standard rooms at the rate of \$81.00 per day plus tax (single or double occupancy). There are also five suites available at the rate of \$139.99 plus tax per day for a one-room suite and \$169.99 plus tax per day for a two-room suite. Please mention that you are with the Montana Library Association in order to receive conference room rates. After the cut-off date of March 26, the hotel may continue to accept reservations at the prevailing rate, subject to availability. You can guarantee room reservations with a credit card or the room can be held until 6:00 p.m. on your arrival date without a credit card.

The hotel offers free wireless Internet access throughout, a business center with computers and Internet access, pool, hot tub, sauna and fitness room. Free shuttle service to and from the Great Falls airport is also available.

Along with the stellar sessions and pre-conference offerings, if you attend this conference, you can look forward to fun, extra curricular activities. For example, you can participate in the "Dine Around Great Falls" on Thursday, April 10. This is an opportunity to meet, interact and network while dining at one of the many wonderful eateries Great Falls has to offer. No pre-registration is necessary. Sign-up sheets will be posted near the registration table in the lobby of the Heritage Inn. You'll get back in plenty of time for the Cates Fundraiser Event, which is always a big hit. Or stick around after the Membership Dinner on Friday, April 11 and dance to the sounds of Great Falls' own Sliptones, a fun-loving, rock and roll, classics band, an all-time perennial favorite.

If you're looking for something a bit more unique, you can cap the night off with the "Sip N Dip Mermaid Tour". The legendary Sip-N-Dip Tiki Lounge selected by GQ Magazine (April 2003) as the #1 bar on earth features a glass wall between the bar and the swimming pool. Sip your beverage, take in the piano music and watch the mermaids swim.



Shuttle service will be available, but space is limited, so register early. Or arrange for your own transportation to this one-of-a-kind spot.

This year's conference offers loads of opportunities for networking, meeting new colleagues, enjoying great meals, sharpening professional skills, and having fun. Don't hesitate, sign up today.

### Professional Development Grants Available for Conference Attendance

By

Marje Doyle, Chair  
Professional Develop. Committee  
Missoula Public Library  
mdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us

Is the MLA conference in Great Falls on your calendar of "things to do" in April? If it is and you have not received an MLA travel grant in the recent past please consider applying for a grant from MLA. There is money in the budget and we'd be thrilled to see your application.

Please look at the MLA website [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org) and click on the GRANTS link to see the application for either travel grants to the MLA conference or professional development grants for other events. Click on the RESTRICTIONS AND CRITERIA link of the grants page to see if you meet the

**Cont. on next page...**

### Prof. Develop... Continued

qualifications for grants. The deadline is March 1st. Applications may be sent via email, fax or USPS. We look forward to hearing from you.

Also, if you have a professional development opportunity coming up, consider applying for our spring round of grants. You'll find the relevant information at [www.mtlib.org/grantslink.doc](http://www.mtlib.org/grantslink.doc).

### Saved by a Library Card

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

A Great Falls family was visiting a shopping mall in Lethbridge late last year when they discovered that their car keys were missing.



They retraced their steps but to no avail. But, they had a secret weapon—a Great Falls Public Library card.

They had the keychain variety of the card, a good choice, it turns out. They returned to their car and found their keys draped on the outside mirror of the car. Apparently, someone found the keys, noticed the Montana library card, and then spotted the only car in the lot with Montana plates.

"It's a good reason to have a library card," said Gwen Carter, head of circulation at the GFPL.

### 2008 Cates Event

By  
Lauren McMullen  
Cates Committee  
Montana State Library  
[lmcmullen@mtlib.org](mailto:lmcmullen@mtlib.org)

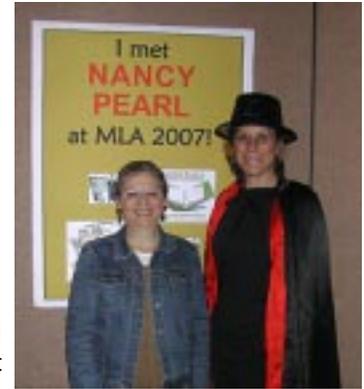
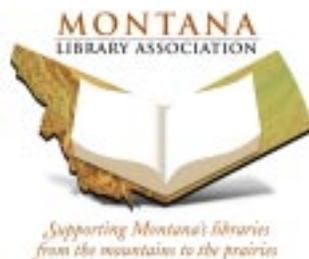
The MLA 2008 Conference planning is underway and the Sheila Cates Scholarship Committee wants to remind you about opportunities you'll have to let off some steam, win prizes and donate to the Cates Scholarship Fund while you are at conference.

This year, it will be Montana Library Jeopardy! at the Cates Fundraising Event scheduled for Thursday evening, April 10, from 8:00 – 10:00pm. Stay tuned to wired and FOCUS for more information about the event such as prizes, refreshments, costume requirements, behavioral expectations, etc.

Items will also be needed for the Cates Scholarship Raffle, one of the highlights of the shopping experience at conference. If you are going to put together a basket, bag or box of goodies for the raffle this year, please email an item description to Mari Jane Orner: [ornerm@billings.k12.mt.us](mailto:ornerm@billings.k12.mt.us) or Lauren McMullen:

[lmcmullen@mtlib.org](mailto:lmcmullen@mtlib.org)

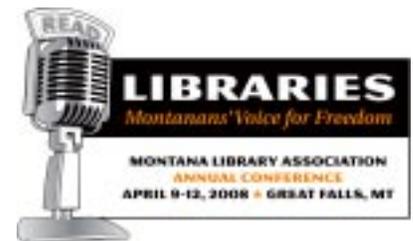
What's the SCS all about? The Montana Library Association established the Sheila Cates Scholarship in 1994 to honor the memory of Sheila Cates, who served as Library Development Coordinator at the Montana State Library from 1985 until her death from cancer in 1993. Sheila was an inspirational librarian who cared about the development of every library and librarian in Montana. The Scholarship provides financial support to MLA members who are seeking graduate degrees in library or information science and who show potential for emulating Sheila's contributions to Montana libraries. More information on the Sheila Cates Scholarship is available on the MLA website.



Cates 2007 special guest Nancy Pearl, and Mary Anne Hansen, Cates Committee Chair. Pearl posed for pictures during the event to help raise money for the Cates scholarship effort.



Deep in thought on their Montana trivia question during the very entertaining 2007 Cates event are Suzanne Reymer, Suzanne Goodman, and Beth Boyson.



# Public Library News

## Bozeman Public Library Reaches Out to Spanish Speakers

By  
Cindi Christin  
Bozeman Public Library  
cchristin@bozeman.net

The Bozeman Public Library now has an Outreach to Latinos Committee, as an extension of the training that the entire staff received last fall called "Connecting to Spanish Speakers @ Your Library" workshop. The first project is a collaborative effort between Library staff and MSU Spanish students to offer a monthly bilingual storytime in the Children's Room the first Sunday of the month. The whole family is invited to enjoy books, songs, and stories in both Spanish and English. The storytime is sponsored by the Bozeman Public Library Foundation, the Montana State Library, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. ¡Los esperamos! Invitación abierta al público. No se necesita tarjeta de la Biblioteca.

The Library is also collaborating with local teachers of Music Lingua in presenting a monthly preschool storytime in either Spanish, French or German. Music Lingua is a foreign language program for the very young, which teaches languages to kids through music, movement, drama, art, and storytelling.

For more information, contact Catherine McMullen at [cmcmullen@bozeman.net](mailto:cmcmullen@bozeman.net)

# Hola!

## Parmly Billings Celebrates Black History Month

By  
Jim Peters  
Assistant Director  
Parmly Billings Public Library  
PetersJ@ci.billings.mt.us

Parmly Billings Library, in conjunction with the Black Heritage Foundation in Yellowstone County, will once again be sponsoring a series of programs and films that recognize Black History Month in February. This year the following programs are planned:

Thursday, February 7th *Music, Blues & Gospel.*

Thursday, February 14th, *Buffalo Soldiers*

Thursday, February, 21st, *The Harlem Renaissance*

Thursday, February, 28th, *Montana's Black Pioneers*

Each of these programs will begin at 7 p.m. We will also be showing the following films on Saturdays:

Saturday, February 9th, *Mississippi Burning*

Saturday, February 16th, *Catch a Fire*

Saturday, February 23rd, *Glory Road*

Each of these movies will begin at 11 a.m.

In addition, the Library will sponsor a book discussion group on February 19th focusing on *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, one of the most important writers of the Harlem Renaissance.



## Sharing the Gift in Havre

By  
Bonnie Williamson, Director  
Havre-Hill County Library  
hhcl@ttc-cmc.net

"Share the Gift of Reading" was the theme for a story time fund raiser at the Havre-Hill County Library early in December. Mary VanBuskirk, a library supporter purchased everyone in her family a t-shirt with this theme. This picture was taken Christmas Day with three generations of readers.



# Public Library News... cont

## Library Observes Amnesty for CANstruction

By  
Jude Smith  
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Great Falls Public Library  
jusmith@mtlib.org

The Great Falls Public Library is participating in the third annual CANstruction competition and is depending on the community's help to supply cans for construction. On February 22, members of the library's Young Adult Advisory Council will be building the library's entry. Head of Information Services Susie McIntyre spearheaded and organized the library's participation in this worthwhile community event.

To encourage public donations of canned food, GFPL has declared an amnesty period from February 10 – 16. Although patrons need not have fines to donate cans, those with fines can earn \$5 amnesty for every can donated up to a \$50 limit. The amnesty will not apply to charges for lost or damaged items or accounts that have been processed for collection. All canned food will be donated to the Food Bank following the competition. In the past two years, CANstruction has raised more than 26,000 pounds of food for the local food bank. This is a way you can support the library and the Food Bank.

CANstruction is a national competition committed to ending hunger. Teams build structures out of canned goods and compete for awards on a local level. Qualifying entries are submitted for a national competition. All structures will be viewable by the public on Saturday, February 23rd at the Holiday Village Mall.

**Montana**  
**Library**  
**Focus**

## Can We Talk

Does it seem that more people are talking at each other rather than to reach other?

On Thursday, March 6, *Can We Talk? A Conference on Civil Discourse* will be held at the Great Falls Public Library and MSU-GF to explore better ways of working together to solve contentious issues.

The conference held at MSU-GF features historical and philosophical background and introduces the concept of **Gracious Space** as a tool for learning to listen, respect opinions, and "invite the stranger" to arrive at solutions for common problems.

On the evening of March 6, the Great Falls Public Library will host a public discussion of an issue selected through a poll in the Great Falls Tribune, again using the techniques provided in the **Gracious Space** concept.

Co-sponsors for this conference include the Great Falls Public Library, MSU-GF, Humanities Montana, The City of Great Falls, the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce, and the Great Falls Tribune.

Information about the conference and registration is available at [www.greatfallslibrary.org](http://www.greatfallslibrary.org). You may also contact Jim Heckel, library director at [jheckel@greatfallslibrary.org](mailto:jheckel@greatfallslibrary.org) or call 453-0349 for more information.

## Lewis & Clark Library Trials Online Music Program

Patricia C. Spencer  
Public Information Officer &  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Lewis and Clark Library  
pspencer@mtlib.org

Lewis & Clark library now offers a free online music database to the public. A library card and an e-mail address is all that is needed to gain unlimited access to over 100,000 songs. Save your favorite songs in play lists that you create and browse for music by category, genre, time period, or artist.

This new music database includes five different genres including African American Song, Classical Music, American song, Contemporary World music, and Smithsonian Global Sound. Access to this offbeat music collection can not only provide the perfect afternoon entertainment for any history buff, but also help to a student who is searching for the perfect background music for a presentation.

Lewis & Clark library was provided this service by Alexander Street Press, who strives to bring large scale collections of digital music to everyone. Alexander Street Press publishes more than 25 collections of music today in libraries across the country. The Lewis & Clark library has the music trial until June 30, 2008.

## Great Falls Festivals of the Book

The Great Falls Public Library presents the eighth annual *Great Falls Festival of the Book* on March 28 and 29. Included in this year's celebration of the written word are two Pushcart Prize nominees (Aaron Parrett and Mark Gibbons) and four time PNBA winner Pete Fromm. Poets, novelists, and short story writers join students previewing works, a screening of a short film based on Fromm's story *Dry Rain*, Helena author Anne Bauer and Frederick Bridger presenting a talk on writing communities, and more.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information call 453-0349 or check [www.greatfallslibrary.org](http://www.greatfallslibrary.org) for complete schedules.

# Public Library News... cont

## Missoula Public Library Opens Frenchtown Branch

By  
Joyce Doyle  
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Missoula Public Library opened its new Frenchtown branch with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and public reception on Jan. 22. Library and school representatives, the Frenchtown Cub Scouts, and Frenchtown high school choir all participated in the grand opening ceremony, including a special reading from Montana Poet Laureate Greg Pape. Missoula Public Library Trustee Neal Leathers and Frenchtown School Board member Dianne Burke cut the ribbon and the more than 80 area residents and guests present entered the branch that was officially opened for patronage.

The new branch, located at Frenchtown High School, offers a rotating collection of materials for all ages including best sellers, magazines, children's books, CDs, and videos. Area residents can also enjoy all the services available at Missoula Public Library's main building, including story programs for young children on a weekly basis and a summer family reading program. It is open 20 hours a week.

Library Director Honore Bray credited Frenchtown High School Librarian Steve White for his work toward making the branch possible. "We have been actively working on this merger for the past two years and it is a very exciting opportunity for MPL to better serve the citizens from that area of the county," she said. "The Library Board and staff are very pleased that the Frenchtown School Board and Administration are willing to enter into this partnership and provide a public space for library services to happen."



*More than 80 area residents and guests browsed the new branch, located in the Frenchtown High School library, at the grand opening celebration. Many local businesses donated door prizes and refreshments were provided by the Friends of Missoula Public Library.*

The Frenchtown branch is Missoula Public Library's third satellite location, joining the Seeley Lake and Swan Valley branches. More information on Missoula Public Library and its branches can be found at [www.missoulapubliclibrary.org](http://www.missoulapubliclibrary.org).

## Dogs Help Kids Unleash the Joy of Reading

By  
Patricia Spencer, Information Officer,  
Lewis & Clark Library  
pspencer@mtlib.org

Dogs are great listeners. That is why the Lewis & Clark Library is offering the PAWS for Reading program. Children are encouraged to come join us in a fun relaxed atmosphere to read aloud to registered therapy dogs on Sunday afternoons February 3- March 9 from 1:30- 3 P.M. in the Large Meeting Room. Dogs are nonjudgmental listeners that can help kids practice their reading skills in a fun way. All dogs are registered and have current health certificates from a veterinarian. This program is supported by a grant from the Helena Montana Kennel Club.

## The Battle is on... The Battle of the Books that is

It is time once again for the Lewis & Clark Library to host the Battle of the Books. Two fourth grade and two fifth grade students from 16 local schools, including Four Georgians, Lincoln, Central, Jim Darcy, Montana City, St. Andrews, Hawthorne, Smith, Radley, Warren, Bryant, Kessler, Broadwater, and Clancy, will compete in the ultimate battle of book knowledge on February 25 – 27 with Semi-final matches on March 3.

The students will read and answer questions on 10 books that are selected from the Young Reader's Choice Award Nominees or nominated and chosen by the school librarians. Some of the titles include *A Dog's Life* by Ann Martin and *Shakespeare's Secret* by Elise Broach. For more information contact Candice at (406) 447-1690 ext 115 or at [cmorris@mtlib.org](mailto:cmorris@mtlib.org)

## Alexander Hamilton exhibit at Missoula Public Library

By

Joyce Doyle

Missoula Public Library

[jdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us](mailto:jdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us)

Residents in and around Missoula learned a lot about Alexander Hamilton and Colonial America as a result of Missoula Public Library's latest ALA traveling exhibit. The library displayed "Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America" Dec. 20-Feb. 15, and hosted a series of events about Hamilton and the U.S. during his time.

"We are delighted to have been selected as a site for this exhibition," said project coordinator Don Spritzer. "Alexander Hamilton was a fascinating figure in the early history of the United States, but we know too little about his contributions."

Missoula Public Library prepared to host the exhibit for more than two years. The exhibit features reproductions of artwork from Hamilton's time as well as reproduced articles, letters, pamphlets and reports from the New York Historical Society's and Gilder Lehrman Institute's collections. It is a part of the American Library Association's traveling exhibit program and will visit 40 libraries across the country before its trip is complete.

Organizers were pleased with the interest the exhibit sparked in the local community. The Dec. 20 opening reception – including early American food and decorations, a string quartet, and a minuet performed by dancers from the Rocky Mountain Ballet – drew almost 150 people. Movies, lectures, and dramatic presentations from professional historians rounded out the series calendar.

"Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America" was organized by the New-York Historical Society, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and the American Library Association, and has been made possible in part through a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This is Missoula Public Library's sixth traveling exhibit sponsored by the American Library Association, including exhibits on Paris in the Jazz Age, The Frontier in American Culture, Listening to the Prairie, Frankenstein and most recently Abraham Lincoln.



*Hamilton minuet: Dancers from the Rocky Mountain Ballet perform a minuet at the opening reception.*

## Perspectives on the Middle East

By

Jude Smith

Public Relations Coordinator

Great Falls Public Library

[jusmith@mtlib.org](mailto:jusmith@mtlib.org)

The conflict and culture of the Middle East affect all of our lives though we've limited understanding of both. To deepen our understanding of these issues, the Great Falls Public Library is presenting a five-part series, *Perspectives on the Middle East*. This free series is free and open to the public. The schedule follows:

February 28 **OUT FRONT – A Commanding Officer's Experience in Afghanistan and Iraq**

Retired USAF Colonel Gary Shick offers the unique view of a

commanding officer instrumental in several campaigns including Operation Iraq.

March 13 **The Historical Roots of Conflict**

Former U.S. Diplomat Dave Grimland, who spent most of his 28-year career in countries with either Muslim majorities of significant Muslim minorities, examines the early and recent history of Islam and the West to better illustrate the historical causes and possible responses to the Middle East conflict. (Co-sponsored by Humanities Montana)

March 20 **The Arab and Islamic World**

Former foreign war correspondent and free-lance journalist Clay Scott examines the Arab and Islamic world. This talk provides and

introduction to the peoples who make up the diverse societies of that world, touching on their histories, ethnicities, religions, and traditions. Scott explores the phenomenon of "radical Islam" and the evolving – and – uneasy relationships between the Arab and Islamic world and the West. (Co-sponsored by Humanities Montana)

March 27

Assessing the Future of Egypt's Failing Dictatorship

Great Falls attorney Anders Blewitt draws upon personal experience in Egypt teaching law to examine various subjects including the rule of law in Egypt, the rise of Islamism, and the prospect of Islamic Revolution.

April **TBA**