PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Honore Bray

It is with great sadness that I am writing my last Focus message as MLA President. It is a good feeling to be a month away from handing the phone calls over to Della but I will miss those phone calls, emails and visits by members who are checking in.

Darlene Staffeldt, State Librarian, Nora Smith, State Library Commissioner and I just returned from Washington DC. We felt our visits to our Representatives were well received. Senators Baucus and Tester have already signed onto the LSTA letter to support LSTA funds. Everyone made it very clear that the business of Washington should be drawing to a close in October but due to the election year we will not see appropriation bills finalized until March or April of 2009. This means the appropriations for FY09 will remain at FY08 funding levels until after April.

ALA is lobbying several bills that will affect Montana Libraries of all kinds. Remember when you see the emails from Lois Fitzpatrick asking for individuals to contact their Representatives that you should join in and storm the Capitol with Montana calls or emails.

A presentation by the League of Women Voters brought forth some reasons why the League is important to Libraries. The League can keep the voters up to date on the issues, candidates and processes. Many Montana cities do not have a League in their communities but we can all make their very valuable website available to our citizens. vote411.org is a site that voters can find answers to many election questions. Bookmark it at your library to answer reference questions concerning the coming primary and general election and/or place the link on your homepage so it is easy to find.

Here are some ALA sites that can help you stay informed about library issues:

- www.ala.org/washoff (ALA Washington Office)
- www.ala.org/districtdispatch (District Dispatch WA office Blog and Podcast)
- www.capwiz.com/ala (Legislative Action Center)
- www.ala.org/ogr (ALA office of Government Relations)
- www.ala.org/oitp (ALA office for Information Technology Policy)
- www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washnews/news.cfm (ALA News)

A huge thanks to all who worked on the Great Falls Conference. Comments from attendees were positive. Kathy Mora and Shelia Bonnard did a great job. Thanks to both of them and the committees from Great Falls.

Remember to pay your dues by July 1, 2008. Thank you for a great year and enjoy the summer.

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

Book Babes Calendar Clear-Out!!

We still have a few left, and from now until the end of the year, the Montana Librarians: Book Babes Under the Big Sky calendar is a mere $10! Over half the calendar year is still left. Amaze your friends, family, cohorts in another state. Let’s clear out the supply that’s left. Every calendar sold = pure profit for the association. Help support the association and win new admirers at the same time.

Buy Here! Buy Here!

www.mtlib.org/calendar/index.html
Updated MLA Website is Under Development

By
Pam Henley, MLA Co-Webmaster
Bozeman Public Library
PHenley@BOZEMAN.NET

Coming soon: a brand new MLA website! For several months the MLA webmasters and other dedicated people have been working on a whole new website designed to allow individual committees to manage their own content. Currently individuals are being recruited to act as contact people for the various pages or categories. Once this process has been completed, the new contact folks will be able to review the old web pages, make updates, and get the revised content out on the new site. Thanks to Matt Beckstrom and Lewis & Clark Library for continuing to host the MLA website.

Missoula Public Library Celebrates New Graduate

By
Claire Morton
Assistant Director
claire1@missoula.lib.mt.us

Missoula Public Library congratulates staff member, Brianna Huffman, for completing her MLIS degree at Florida State University. Brianna has accepted the school librarian position at Bonner Elementary School (just a few miles down the road, thankfully!) and will be leaving us in August. Way to go Brianna!

Central Asia Institute Interest Group is Thriving

By
Norma Glock
Columbus High School Library
nglock@cablemt.net

Central Asia Institute Interest group was re-approved by the Board at the annual conference. Thank you to all the people who signed up for the Interest group. The new chair is Nancy Venable from Havre. Now that our “Montana” school is built, we are hoping that we can help provide funds to keep it operating, as it costs roughly $5,000 a year to support a Central Asia Institute school. The Montana Library Association’s account #12 is still open to accept donations to the Batangi school in the Neelum Valley in Pakistan.

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.

Send articles, ads, reviews and letters to:
John Finn, Editor
Montana Library Focus
Hearst Free Library
401 Main Street
Anaconda, MT 59711
EMAIL: jfinn@mtlib.org

Please send address changes to:
Debra Kramer
MLA Executive Director
Montana Library Association
169 W. River Rock Road
Belgrade, MT 59714
debkmla@hotmail.com
Phone: 406-670-8446
Fax: 406-388-0208

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.

To subscribe to WIRED-MT-L,
1. Send a message to:
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
or call Stef at 406-758-5814.
Association and Membership News

ASLD News

By
Marjorie Smith, Secretary, ASLD
Montana State Library
marjories@mt.gov

The Academic and Special Library division of the Montana Library Association met for breakfast on April 11th, 2008 in Great Falls, Montana. In the course of the meeting, the proposed by-laws relating to the office of secretary duties were discussed. These changes would increase the responsibility of the secretary to include maintaining digital files of all agenda and meeting minutes, provide MLA web master with information on officers, committee members, and division minutes, keep membership informed of website updates and as a [de facto] member of the Publicity Committee making sure articles of interest appear in each FOCUS issue. This change to the by-laws was voted on and approved. An election of officers was held with Suzanne Reymer becoming the vice-chair/chair elect and Anne Kish is the secretary. Anita Scheetz, the new chair, will be mailing out listings of the various committees within the Division for members to sign on. The annual ASLD/PLA retreat will be held at Chico Hot Springs on October 12th and 13th, 2008. Thank you from this past year’s secretary, Marjorie Smith at the Montana State Library.

MPLA Conference Fun

By
Eileen Wright, MLA Rep to MPLA
MPLA Vice-President
MSU-Billings Library
ewright@msubillings.edu

Fun times were had for all those that attended the ULA/MPLA joint conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. MPLA celebrated their 60th anniversary, and there was laughter, recognition of Past Presidents, the unveiling of the new MPLA history, and some danced the night away. Another celebration also took place at the new Salt Lake City Public library, the celebration of six years of the MPLA Leadership Institute.

MLA Leaders are Special

By
Della Dubbe, President Elect
Glacier County Library
glibrary@northerntel.net

In each Focus issue in the coming year, we will highlight one or more of our leaders in the Montana Library Association. These volunteer leaders will tell us about themselves and the office or position they hold. Our goals in this endeavor are to help us get to know our leaders and give visibility to the important work they do for MLA, as well as introduce you, as members, to positions you might like to run for, or volunteer for, in future years.

Our first two volunteers are Carlene Engstrom and Gail Nagle, Directors-at-large West and East. Thank you, Carlene and Gail.

Your MLA Director’s At Large

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

Gail Nagle,
Director at Large-East
Glendive Public Library
gnagle@midrivers.com

This article is the first in a series. Focus will be printing about your Montana Library Association’s Board of Directors.

We are Gail Nagle and Carlene Engstrom, and we’d like to share with you a bit of what it is like to be on the Montana Library Association’s Board of Directors.

First off, Gail is your Director at Large for the East. East of what? That is a very BIG question, because East of Montana can be very big in itself. Gail promotes MLA participation and membership to everyone who considers themselves in the eastern half of Montana. Carlene, as Director at Large for the West, acts as a liaison for the western folks. And sometimes you will hear from both of us no matter where you live and work. We use our knowledge of the Association and the Montana Library community to serve as resource persons for the membership, providing information and answering questions.

Continued on Page 5...
Greetings!

Idaho State Librarian, Ann Joslin, is fighting the wild Haystack Rapid on the Salmon River in the picture below. Ann (on the left) and a friend, epitomize the adventurous librarians of the Pacific Northwest!

Barbra Meisenheimer and her fearless Young Reader’s Choice Award Committee have announced this year’s winners! Haven’t seen the announcement? Go to “http://www.pnla.org” YRCA, where it’s at!

Kathy Watson
1st Vice President / President Elect, PNLA
Marshall Public Library
113 South Garfield
Pocatello, Idaho 83204
208.232.1263 ext. 30
kwatson@marshallpl.org
We remind members to renew their memberships in MLA. We promote the association and its benefits to library staff and trustees, recruiting new library personnel as well as bringing back into the fold those who forgot what a great association MLA is.

During the annual MLA Conference, we organize and host the New Member’s Breakfast. This is a popular event, and you don’t have to be new to attend. In addition, your Directors at Large ensure that MLA Interest groups get the materials and information needed to re-certify themselves during the spring conference. We make sure the paperwork is completed; then, forward it to the MLA Executive Director prior to the start of the new fiscal year.

Being a Director at Large is a great opportunity to learn how MLA works and meet some of the fine dedicated library workers from across the state. The Directors at Large serve a two-year, rotating term. This year at the end of June, Carlene rotates off and a new Director at Large for the West takes over. Gail in turn becomes the experienced hand during her second year.

As members of the MLA Board of Directors, the Director at Large must commit to attending the Summer Retreat, and fall, winter, and spring Board meetings. This is when the real work and decisions affecting the Association take place. Are you interested in serving? Let your name be submitted as a candidate for Director at Large next spring when the position for the East is up for election.

Twin Bridges Holds Open House to Celebrate Expansion

By
Betty Humbert
Twin Bridges Public Library
twin@3rivers.net

On May 16 Twin Bridges Public Library held an open house to celebrate completion of a 1000 square foot library expansion. Bill White who did the carpentry was thanked for his beautiful work. The expansion includes space for adult computers, wireless laptop users, an archival room, tables, Montana books, audio books, oversize books and non-fiction books. An emergency exit door to the side of the building was also added.

Librarians are welcome to stop by any time.

Fore! Hearst Free Library Announces Date of Golf Scramble

By
John Finn, Director
Hearst Free Library
jfinn@mtlib.org

The date for the Third Annual “Reading the Greens” Golf Scramble has been set for September 13. The tournament will be held at the beautiful Anaconda Country Club. This tournament will feature all of the fun and thrills of previous year’s tournaments. And again, the Reader’s Cup will be awarded to a team with the lowest score, that features at least one librarian. (That is, if the tournament organizers can pry the coveted trophy from the hands of last year’s winners: Jeff Savage of Great Falls Public Library and Tracy Cook of the Montana State Library). Please tell all of the golfing librarians that you know to email John Finn for further details.
Connecting and Creating

By
Bruce Newell
MLN Director, (retired)
bnewell@mt.net

Libraries live on a two-way street, with two roles:

1) Connecting our primary (local) and secondary (regional and global) clients to content and services, and

2) Creating content and services to be used by local users, as well as by our secondary clientele.

The rules of the library-game have changed since the advent of the Web, partially because the tools we used have changed, but mostly because our users’ expectations have expanded to include the expectation of connecting to global resources.

Connecting
Your library has long collected books, magazines, and other content which it then organized on shelves for your primary clientele’s reading (or listening and watching) pleasure. By doing this you connected your library’s local users to this locally available content. With the advent of the Web you purchased (or rented) access to online resources, such as online magazine content, and provided your users an opportunity to connect to these non-local resources in addition to the physical resources on your library’s shelves.

In addition your library provides access to resources in other libraries through interlibrary loan. In the late 1980’s your library probably used the microfiche MONCAT for this purpose. Then online OCLC, WLN, and the fondly-remembered LaserCat disc set came along, revealing regional and national library resources. Now you use MLNCAT or WorldCat.org to reveal the world’s libraries’ collections of content to your users. Of course what’s good for the goose is good for the gander: Most likely you expose your libraries content via WorldCat.org to the world’s libraries, reciprocally offering other libraries’ users access to your libraries content, just as your users connect to theirs.

Creating
Most libraries create content as well, or at least in some way add value to the content they organize or to which they connect. Creating catalog records describing unique local materials is one example of this. Libraries also pull-together information from their communities: databases of local civic clubs and organizations, natural history information, historical photograph collections, local government information, or items from local artists and craftspersons. Twenty-years ago these items would be shared locally, as exhibits, special collections, or vertical files. Now-a-days, like as not, these collections are organized and shared as online resources. Google the ‘Montana Memory Project’ to see a good example of local content from Montana libraries. These online collections are good for local users – for instance, Billings residents can read through letters written by Elizabeth Bacon Custer, from their local library via the Web.

Sharing
And of course it is this local content that is, in the long run, the most interesting to both a library’s primary local clientele as well as to their secondary regional and global users. Most public libraries, for instance, have on their shelves several copies of the last Harry Potter novel. It’s great that these holdings are revealed in WorldCat.org, but how many libraries own copies of letters written by Elizabeth Custer? Clearly these Custer letters are more unique, and hence, more valuable – extremely worthy objects (for both local, regional, and global users) of Parmly’s attentions.

Libraries can be catalysts for collecting, describing, and making local content discoverable for local, regional, and global library users. Parmly Billings Library went to the effort of digitizing their Custer letters – to the delight of their primary and secondary clientele. I suspect your library has something unique in its collection – be it a list of local organizations, a guide to local hikes, or maybe even collections of historical letters, brochures, or photographs. Make your local users happy, heck, make everyone happy by making these treasures available on the Web. Contact the Montana Memory Project for more information.

• About: msl.mt.gov/For_Librarians/For_All_Librarians/mmp.asp
• Blog: librarydigitalprojects.com/
• State Library contacts: Sarah McHugh samchugh@mt.gov or Jennie Stapp jstapp2@mt.gov
State Library News

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

Fall Workshop 2008

Plan to join your fellow librarians and trustees at this year’s Fall Workshop scheduled September 19-20 at Livingston’s Best Western Yellowstone Inn. Tentative topics include E-books, E-rate, Big 6 curriculum, Internet safety, fundraising/promotion, medical resources for patrons, InfoTrac databases, parliamentary procedure, reading and babies, personnel issues in the library, and more. There will also be a special session for new library directors. Registration will begin in late summer.

Trustee Blitz

Jim Connor, from the Trustee College Consulting Team, spent two weeks in May traveling to fifteen Montana public libraries to present training for trustees. Jim and MSL staff traveled many miles: from Havre to Red Lodge and from Darby to Libby, stopping at many spots along the way. Thanks to the libraries that hosted the workshops and welcomed trustees from neighboring libraries. There are tentative plans to invite Jim back in September to do more workshops in the eastern part of the state. Details will be available soon. The Blitz is funded by a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant.

Connecting ToSpanish Speakers - Next Steps

The Spanish Language Outreach (SLO) initiative is funded by the Gates Foundation and coordinated by OCLC. In Montana, the project hosted seven workshops that helped nearly 80 librarians learn more about providing services to our Spanish-speaking population. Thanks to the SLO trainers, Molly Kliss, Catherine McMullen and Kathy Robins, for all of their work on the project. To keep the workshop momentum going, there is now a “Spanish Language Outreach in Montana Libraries” blog where librarians can share their ideas and coordinate future SLO activities. So, if you have programming or special events planned for Spanish-speakers in your community, post it on the blog so others can learn about it. If you are interested in how your library can begin to serve this special population, check out the blog to get started. There will be also be updates and special features posted on by Molly, Catherine and Kathy.

mtslo.blogspot.com

There is a small amount of SLO grant funds available that will be shared with public libraries currently planning or implementing outreach activities in their communities. In order for your library to be considered for a SLO mini-grant ($200-$400), post a description of upcoming activities or programming on the blog by June 25th. The mini-grants are for outreach activities that will be completed by October 1, 2008 - perfect for Hispanic Heritage Month. Libraries whose staff attended one of the “Connecting to Spanish Speakers @ Your Library” workshops will be given first consideration for the SLO mini-grants.

Library Education Survey

State library agencies from four neighboring states - Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming - are partnering to prepare an IMLS grant proposal for library education scholarships. If funded, the project will assist residents of these four states who are interested in pursuing an MLIS degree or a school library media endorsement. For the grant proposal, library education data is needed from librarians in each state. To gather this data, we’re asking Montana librarians to complete a short survey (just 9 questions). The survey has been posted through June 14th at: www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=aNwRpHEQZE9gSnezcfL_2bsQ_3d_3d
The data collected is very important for the success of this regional library education project.

Add a Librarian?

Yes, it’s possible with a PEEL Library Stipend. Montana public, public school (K-12), and tribal libraries can apply for a $35,000 grant to bring a new professional librarian on staff for two years. Four PEEL stipends are available. This project is meant to demonstrate to users and funders how much more can be offered to the community with increased staff at the library. Recipients of the stipend must match the stipend with their own funds and make every effort to continue the position following the grant period. For application details, go to: msl.mt.gov/greatcareer/stipend.htm . Deadline for applying is December 31, 2008. Stipend awards will be made by March 2009. The PEEL project is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

New Materials at MSL

The State Library has been purchasing new titles for the professional development collection. Notices of new materials are posted on WiredMT 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

More State Library News on Next Page...
Montana Librarians Meet the 2.0 Challenge

By
Lauren McMullen Training specialist
Montana State Library
lmcmullen@mtlib.org

The Library Development staff at Montana State Library is thrilled to salute the Montana public, school & special librarians and staff who successfully completed the first ever Montana Library 2.0 Challenge. This amazing group includes: (drum roll, please…)

Cindy Glavin – Big Timber Grade School Library
Pam Henley – Bozeman Public Library
Anne Theilen, Cathy Friel, Christine Call, Dessie Martin, Diane Giop, Irene Scheidecker, Nancy deBarathy, Sharon Makins, and Vicki Peck – Butte Public Library
Jacque Scott – Carnegie Public Library (Big Timber)
Anne Germant - Crowley, Haughy, Hanson, Toole & Dietrich
Diane Bagby – Evergreen School District (Kalispell)
Anne Brooks, Barbara Nordtome, Chrystal Ruby, Deena Stacy, Jane Wilkinson, Janice Kalvig, Jennifer Desch, Kim Crowley, Lynn Kelly, Marilyn Campbell, Mary Drew Powers, Nancy Callan, and Stephanie Peace – Flathead County Library
Nancy Bostrom and Nancy Sackett – Lewistown Public Library
Pam Arroues – Montana DEQ
Carrie Hearn – North Valley Public Library
LouAnne Krantz – Polson Middle School Library
Heather Cotter, Laura Anderson, and Renee Goss – Richland County Library
Dale Alger – Roundup School Community Library
Alyson Green – Stillwater County Library
Jean Nielsen – Three Forks Community Library

In January, these folks made a New Year’s resolution to get up to speed with web 2.0 technologies such as blogs, wikis, RSS, photo & video sharing, podcasting, tagging, social bookmarking, and more. They signed up for the Montana Library 2.0 Challenge, a web-based, self-directed learning program that started with the New Year and ran until the end of March. Each week participants had the opportunity to explore new web 2.0 technologies through discovery resources and exercises – with a decided emphasis on learning through PLAY. They also generated a lot of excitement sharing ideas on how to use the new web tools to provide, promote and enhance services at their libraries.

When you see your “Challenger” colleagues around, be sure to congratulate them on their achievements. And while you’re at it, maybe they can answer some of your questions about web 2.0!

Round Two of the Challenge

If you didn’t get a chance to participate, or didn’t get to complete the program on the first go-around, MSL is offering a second round of the Montana Library 2.0 Challenge. Round two is scheduled to begin on Monday, June 15 - with 10 weeks of lessons and 3 extra weeks allowed for catching up and completing optional additional lessons – ending on Monday, September 15. CE credit is available for completing the program. For more information about the Challenge, or to register, check out the program website at: mslonline.pbwiki.com or contact MSL Library Development staff members: Maggie mmeredith@mt.gov, Suzanne sreymer@mtlib.org, Tracy tcook@mtlib.org, or Lauren lmcmullen@mtlib.org

Statewide Downloadable E-Content Service Pilot to Begin

By
Sarah McHugh
Statewide Projects Librarian
Montana State Library
samchugh@mt.gov

On May 8, a statewide selection committee chose the Digital Library Reserve’s Overdrive product through a formal state Request for Proposal process, to launch a statewide downloadable E-content pilot. DLR offers more than 13,000 audio book titles, 5,000 music titles and a growing selection of over 4,000 movie titles. Titles are available for download on MP3 players. Participating libraries plan on a variety of options for their patrons. Some will provide in-library downloading and offer patrons players for checkout. Others are planning on patrons downloading the titles at home or work, onto their own MP3 players. This summer, DLR will add iPod and Mac compatibility to the Overdrive features.

An initial collection budget of $45,000 kicks off the pilot. LSTA in the amount of $40,000 will go toward this opening collection. Phase One participants share the initial platform and hosting costs. Implementation is scheduled to begin in June. A Phase Two is expected next fall.

The following libraries are part of Phase One:
Missoula Public Library
Parmly Billings Library
Polson City Library
Miles Community College Library
Hearst Free Library Library
Lewistown Public Library
Big Horn County Library
Flathead County Library
William K. Kohrs Memorial Library
Roosevelt County Library
Glendive Public Library
Sidney-Richland County Library
Choteau Teton Public Library
Dillon City Library

More State Library News on Next Page...
Congratulations to the following libraries. They will be joining the Montana Shared Catalog later this year and early 2009:

- Billings Catholic School Libraries
- Lincoln County Libraries
- Phillipsburg Public Library
- Power Public School Library
- Roundup Community Library
- West Yellowstone School Library
- Whitehall School Libraries

This will bring the total number to 88 Montana libraries collaborating to provide state-of-the-art library service to patrons and students across the state.

Gail MacMillian a Library Aide II at the Bozeman Public Library will be graduating in August with a B.A. in Psychology from Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa.

Catherine McMullen a Library Assistant at the Bozeman Public Library and PEEL scholar will be graduating in June with a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Lee Phillips the Butte-Silver Bow Public Library Director and a PEEL scholar will be graduating in June with a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Doraly Rossman the Assistant Director for Systems and Professional Development Coordinator at Montana State University - Bozeman, The Libraries graduated in May with a Masters in Public Administration from Montana State University - Bozeman.

Are you a recent graduate or do you know a co-worker that is? Please send the name, current position and library, and degree information to cmcmullen@bozeman.net for the next Focus.”

Once again, Loriene Roy will join us at MSU for our fourteenth annual Tribal College Librarians Institute from June 9-13. We’re expecting 47 librarians and guests this year, a record number. This year’s TCLI theme is Indigenous Languages, in keeping with the United Nations declaration and recognition of the important value of Indigenous Languages worldwide. Loriene has presented at TCLI in previous years, but we’re especially excited to have her join us this year during her ALA Presidency. Programs this year include a session on disaster recovery by two librarians who have seen the aftermath of library floods and have been instrumental in overseeing their cleanup, Joan Hantz from Chief Dull Knife Memorial College and Victoria Heiduschke from MSU; an overview of the Indigenous Studies Portal, by Deborah Lee from the University of Saskatchewan; Indigenous Languages by MSU President Geoffrey Gamble, who studied a California area Native language with the last surviving speakers; the Fort Belknap White Clay Immersion School, with Director Lynette Chandler; to name a few. Midweek we’ll take a day trip to Little Big Horn College to take part in their celebration of LBHC’s brand new library. TCLI is an annual week-long professional development/continuing education venue for library personnel from tribal colleges from all over the U.S. and Canada. Many TCLI participants return year after year, not only for the cultural, knowledge and skills programming, but also for the invaluable networking and group problem solving with their peers of issues unique to tribal college libraries. For more information on TCLI, visit our webpage at www.lib.montana.edu/tcli

Loriene Roy to Join MSU’s Tribal College Librarians Institute in Bozeman in June

By
Mary Anne Hansen, TCLI Director,
Montana State University,
mhansen@montana.edu
2008 Conference Report

By
Jude Smith, Chair
Conference PR Committee
Great Falls Public Library
jusmith@greatfallslibrary.org

The dust has settled and the vote is in: the 2008 Montana Library Association Conference, held April 9 – 12, in Great Falls, was a success. With 35 vendors and 75 presenters, the 300 registered attendees had days filled with workshops and networking. Nights were filled with social endeavors such as the Montana Book Award Reception at the Great Falls Public Library. The reception honored winner Deirdre McNamer and Kim Todd, Kristi Hager, and Kathe LeSage for honor book awards.

The Awards Luncheon recognized the 2008 MLA award winners including: Sue Jackson (Librarian of the Year); Andrine Hass (Honorary Life Membership Award); Ted Almgren and Mark Sherouse (Special Friends to Libraries); Lloyd Mickelson (Public Library Trustee of the Year); and Diane Thompson (Pat Williams Intellectual Freedom Award).

Cates Jeopardy Superstars

This is the team that showed up to conquer the other BIG BRAINS at the Annual Cates Fundraiser. They were the winning team for the Cates Montana Library Jeopardy event. This team vanquished all to win the coveted Golden Brain award. Congratulations egg-heads!

L-R, back, Renee Goss, Tracy Cook, Jeff Savage, Jim Kammerer, Suzanne Reymer, Front, Liz Babbitt, Deborah J. Richard, Susan Lewis.

Congratulations to Professional Development Grant Recipients

By
Marjorie Doyle, Chair
MLA Continuing Education Committee
Missoula Public Library
mdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us

Congratulations to Pam Henley (Bozeman Public Library) and Roberta Gebhardt (Montana Historical Society) for receiving Professional Development grants from MLA this year to attend the Computers in Libraries and OLAC (Online Audiovisual Catalogers) conferences, respectively. We look forward to them sharing the skills that they will be learning with us during the coming years. Congratulations also to the recipients of MLA travel grants for the 2008 conference in Great Falls. MLA offers grants for a variety of learning experiences. Consider applying for an MLA grant as part of planning your next professional development opportunity.
Five individuals and one organization that have made significant contributions to Montana libraries in 2007-2008 were honored at the Montana Library Association annual conference in Great Falls. Each was nominated by a librarian. Each nomination was supported by two letters of recommendation. A committee of nine librarians reviewed the nominations and made awards to the people named below. While all librarians, their employees and friends of the libraries contribute significantly to the education of Montana’s populace, these individuals have made contributions well above the norm.

Sheila Cates Award for Librarian of the Year is conferred upon a librarian in recognition of outstanding leadership and accomplishment in library service. Sue Jackson of the Montana State Library is recognized for her outstanding work with librarians across the state of Montana. She encourages library personnel to continue learning new ways to improve library service in Montana and the library profession as a whole. She is dedicated to bringing resources to Montana librarians.

Pat Williams Intellectual Freedom Award recognizes significant contributions during the past year to the enhancement of First Amendment rights. Diane Thompson of Jefferson High School in Boulder, MT helped her community learn and grow in their understanding of the complex issues associated with intellectual freedom when she faced a book challenge at her library.

Honorary Life Membership Award is given to a librarian who has made an outstanding contribution to librarianship or who has rendered outstanding service to library interests. Andrine Haas is honored for her lifetime of library service. She served as Director of Jane Carey Memorial Library at Dawson Community College for more than 30 years. Throughout her career Andrine was dedicated to libraries and education. She overcame many obstacles to ensure her library was progressive and ready to start the 21st century.

Trustee of the Year Award is conferred upon a Montana public library trustee in recognition of outstanding achievement and leadership. Lloyd Mickelson, Chair of the Parmly Billings Library Board of Trustees is a strong voice in the library community. Along with his work on the interlocal agreement for library services between the City of Billings and the Yellowstone County Commission Lloyd conceived the idea of library sponsorship of a regional book award program. The first annual High Plains Book Award ceremony was held in October 2007.

Awards Continued on Next Page...
Special Friend to Libraries Award recognizes volunteers who have rendered outstanding service in support of library interests within Montana. Ted Almgren of Darby is honored for his tireless contributions and support of the Darby Community Public Library. He served as co-chair of the library building committee which resulted in a new library. Ted continues his involvement in the library and recently completed an update of the Technology Plan for the library.

Also receiving the Special Friend to Libraries Award was Humanities Montana. Humanities Montana was honored for their library service to Montana. Humanities Montana serves all libraries including both school and public. They have funded hundreds of Speakers Bureau and OpenBook (aka READ/ON!) programs to libraries of all sizes. In these book groups individuals of all backgrounds and perspectives come together to engage in discourse, discovery, conversation, and community. Humanities Montana is a resource for all Montana library communities.

Gnome Entry Celebration at Missoula Public Library

By Joyce Doyle
Missoula Public Library
jdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us

Missoula Public Library’s famous Gnome House has come alive with a life-size entryway into the children’s department, reflecting the imaginative world that has been a fixture at MPL for nearly 20 years. Approximately 65 patrons helped the library celebrate the completion of our new children’s entrance with an Open House Saturday, May 17. The designers, builders and artists were on hand to explain their creative process and our librarians shared special gnome stories with the kids.

The Gnome House was a creation of Missoula resident Mona Frangos. While Frangos could not attend the Open House, she expressed her excitement that the Gnome House has become a permanent fixture at the library. Her daughter Marilyn did attend the event and regaled listeners with tales of growing up making gnome houses.

“Children of all ages coming into the library stop to look into the Gnome House to enjoy its hidden treasures,” said Children’s Librarian Karen Gonzales. “The new entry welcomes them to a place of imagination and delight.”

The entryway was a team project including a combination of drawing, design and building by Casey O’Harren, Kim Zupan, and Steve Gonzales, with artwork by Gonzales.

The gnome entryway is part of the library’s ongoing redesign project. The project includes renovations in the young adult department, an Entertainment Central area for all videos and audios, new self-checkout and self-serve holds pickup, end-of-range catalog stations for ease in searching, a redesigned returns and accounts desk, living room seating areas, a new “roving librarians” work concept, and more. Visit our blog for constant updates at www.missoulapubliclibrary.org.

Public Library News
If you didn’t know better, you’d think the Great Falls Public Library was inaccessible. The street in front of the library, 2nd Ave. North, has been torn up and under construction since early April. Many of you who attended MLA and the Montana Book Award Reception at the Great Falls Public Library will recall the hassles of finding your way then. It has not improved, and as construction along the avenue, which is part of a Montana Department of Transportation Project, continues, it has, in fact, gotten worse for drivers. All this confusion, closed side streets, mud, dust, and heavy equipment have not deterred the public, however. The library has not seen any drop in patron usage or program attendance. Considering that construction is anticipated to go on until September that’s good news.

Adding to construction chaos the library is projecting the start of the plaza renovation in front of the library in late June. The existing water fountain will be replaced by a spectacular water sculpture/arch created by Zak Zakovi, from Bozeman. The plaza itself will be made level with the front entrance of the library. It is currently several feet below street level. When work is complete in the mid-to-late fall, we will christen the plaza with a proper celebration.

Something’s buzzing at the Great Falls Public Library this summer; it’s the sound of pages turning and books being read. It’s the sound of our excitement for the first time offering of an Adult Summer Reading Program, Book Buzz. Every year about this time, we gear up for our summer reading programs for children and young adults. We love and look forward to them, but we started to wonder why kids should have all the fun and wanted to give adults a chance to get in on the action. Book Buzz, which is available to any Great Falls Public Library patron (you must be a card holder) 19 years or older, will run from June 9 – August 15.

Participation is simple. Patrons may read as many books as they wish or are able to per week. A reader may submit one entry form per book read. Entry forms will be available at the library. Prize winners will be drawn weekly and on August 15 we will have a grand prize drawing from all of the entries from throughout the summer. We will be doing five of these drawings live on the radio, rotating between Q106, SAM @ 107.3 and KIK-FM, 104.9.

The library is also sponsoring a streamlined Book Buzz for staff. At the end of the program, in August, we will have one drawing from staff entries. The winner will be awarded four hours of comp. time.

Through Book Buzz we hope to turn more people on to the idea that reading is fun, and increase reading for pleasure in our community. The dog days of summer are perfect to take a little time out to enjoy the imagination and the pleasure reading can bring.

Prizes will include books, book bags and t-shirts. Grand prizes will be free library parking for one year and an ipod provided by the Friends of the Library.

Music In The Park

Summer’s just around the corner and so is the Great Falls Public Library’s Summer Music Series. This year marks the eighth annual year of music in the Library Park, behind the library. Sounds of neighborhood kids playing intermingle with the music of local artists surrounded by the sweet scent of the Park’s linden trees. This year’s line-up runs from July 10 – August 28. As always, it features an eclectic mix of music from the folk-rock sounds of Sweet Potato Pie, jazz classics of Impromptu, country-western flavor of Stillhouse, to the standards of the Johnny Mack Dance Band, and more. This is one of the library’s most popular programs. It’s a perfect way to pass a lazy summer evening.
Catch Carl

Carl Hiaasen, Author of:
Hoot, Flush, Lucky You,
The Downhill Lie, and more!

Thursday, August 7

3 P.M. Kids Program
for ages 9 and up in Pioneer
Park behind the Library *
* at HMS if the weather is bad

7 P.M. “An Evening With Carl Hiaasen” at the Helena Middle School Auditorium
Book Signing to Follow

Both programs are free and open to the public. For more information log onto
www.lewisandclarklibrary.org

There’s Always Something Going on @Your Lewis & Clark Library!
Students Win Letters About Literature Contest

By
Mark Sherouse, Executive Director
MT Committee for the Humanities
mark.sherouse@umontana.edu

Students from Great Falls, Choteau and Roundup captured top honors in this year's Montana Letters About Literature writing contest. Judges selected the winning entries from more than 650 submissions in three separate age categories.

Letters About Literature is a reading and writing promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Presented in partnership with Target Stores, the program is sponsored at the state level by Humanities Montana and the Montana Center for the Book.

“Wow! We are overwhelmed by the wonderful response of Montana students to our contest,” said Humanities Montana Executive Director Mark Sherouse. “We are excited to announce the winners and look forward to encouraging Montana students to participate in the 2009 contest.”

To enter, young readers wrote personal letters to authors explaining how their work changed their views of the world or themselves. Readers selected authors from any genre—fiction or nonfiction to contemporary or classic. The program has three competition levels: upper elementary, middle school and secondary. The contest theme encourages young readers to explore their responses to a book and then express those responses in a creative, original way.

Leah Bryan, who won first in the state’s high school division, wrote a letter to author Louisa May Alcott that said, in part: “An Old Fashioned Girl’ made me realize something very important about the world. Growing up is something that everyone has to experience even though it has its ups and downs - its times that are memorable for the glee that they brought and those memories that are too painful to even mention. However, through these trying years, I can remember something taught by your book - I’m not alone.”

The state winners in the three age categories are:

Level I, grades 4-6
First Place, Meranie Vercio, Five Falls Christian School, Great Falls.
Second Place, Jack Streibich, Whitefish Middle School, Whitefish.
Third Place, Claire Watts, Whitefish Middle School, Whitefish.

Level II, grades 7-8
First Place, Mariah Wearley, Choteau School, Choteau.
Second Place, Ashley Schumacher, Fair-Mont-Egan School, Kalispell.
Third Place, Henry Jorden, Choteau School, Choteau.

Level III, grades 9-12
First Place, Leah Bryan, individual entry, Roundup.
Second Place, Geneva Kelly, individual entry, Bozeman.
Third Place (tie), Sarah Yerger, Billings West High School, Billings.
Third Place (tie), Katie Mehrens, Helena High School, Helena.

Montana finalists each receive a cash prize, and state first-place winners all receive a $50 gift card to Target Stores. First-place winners also were entered in the national contest.

This year’s LAL state judges were Sharon Beehler, English professor at Montana State University-Bozeman; Penny Hughes-Briant, English professor at The University of Great Falls; Missoula author Dorothy Hinshaw Patent; and Kim Anderson, Humanities Montana associate director of programs. Guidelines for the 2009 Letters About Literature program will be posted in August on the Humanities Montana Web site.

Kirby Larson’s Hattie Big Sky Chosen as 2008 One Book Montana

Hattie Big Sky Continued on Next Page...
Hattie Continued...

nities for reader comments and other tools on its website, www.humanities-mt.org/onebook.htm. Through the generosity of the publisher, Delacorte/Random House, a limited number of copies will be available from Humanities Montana for short-term loans to book groups. Check the web site for additional programming, including events with the author at the 2008 Montana Festival of the Book, October 23-25, in Missoula.


Kirby Larson was inspired to write Hattie Big Sky by her great-grandmother, Hattie Inez Brooks Wright, who homesteaded by herself in eastern Montana as a young woman. Larson’s other books for young readers include the award-winning picture book, The Magic Kerchief. A non-fiction picture book, Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship and Survival (co-authored with Mary Nethery and illustrated by Jean Cassels), is due out in August 2008. She is recently retired from the faculty of the Whidbey Writers Workshop MFA program and is a frequent presenter at writing conferences.

“I am honored that Humanities Montana selected Hattie Big Sky for this year’s One Book Montana Award,” Larson said. “It is especially rewarding to me that a book for younger readers has received this illustrious recognition. Inspired by my great-grandmother who homesteaded by herself in Montana as a young woman, Hattie Big Sky is my love letter to all those in prior generations who came west in search of a better life. I am pleased that this story will be shared by families across Montana and I very much hope that, as they read it together, they will discover for themselves the strength that comes from finding, and making, a home.”

“We are delighted with this year’s One Book Montana selection,” said Humanities Montana executive director Mark Sherouse. “Hattie Big Sky is a work of historical fiction that will engage both younger and older readers, and its selection this year presents a fine opportunity for inter-generational reading and discussion. We hope to see it read and discussed not only in libraries and book groups, but also in schools and among students, teachers, and parents.”

This is the sixth year Humanities Montana has offered the state-wide One Book program. In previous years One Book Montana has featured The Last Crossing by Guy Vanderhaeghe, This House of Sky by Ivan Doig, Letters From Yellowstone by Diane Smith, Fools Crow by James Welch, and the inaugural selection, Winter Wheat by Mildred Walker. Humanities Montana is indebted to its Montana Center for the Book advisory committee for assistance in choosing this year’s One Book Montana selection. Advisory committee members include William Bickle III, John Clayton, Bill Cochran, Walter Fleming, Penny Hughes-Briant, William Marcus, Rick Newby, Kathy Springmeyer, Barbara Theroux, and Niki Whearty.

Please join us in reading Hattie Big Sky in the coming months, and take advantage of some of the programming and suggestions we will be offering. One of the core beliefs underlying the Montana Center for the Book is that literature-stories, words, poetry, history-can bring us closer together, can give us deeper understanding of each other. We believe the One Book Montana program can be a valuable part of that process.