Message from the President

Montana Library Community:

The annual conference is almost here – time to see old friends and meet new friends.

For me, it is always the most exciting library event of the year and this time – hold the phone – it is the 100th MLA conference. I know you remember celebrating MLA’s centennial year back in 2006, but they didn’t have a conference every year, so get ready to celebrate again! It is going to be a conference bursting at the seams with inspiring Montanans, most notably all of you who have agreed to participate in the conference, sharing your stories and experiences.

Whether or not you are able to attend the conference, I want to share that I’ve spent the last year poking around in Montana libraries and dabbling in a variety of library projects and I found inspiration lying in wait everywhere I went. The Montana library community has a lot to be proud of.

In legislative news, we are in the home stretch. HB 203, MLA’s bill that would increase direct state aid to public libraries, has found a great deal of support, but we aren’t there yet. There are also still viable bills that are wrong for libraries and MLA continues to actively oppose them.

Please continue to monitor Wired for “Calls to Action” on all of the important bills on which MLA is taking a stance. All of your efforts at contacting your legislators are making a difference and are much appreciated – you are being heard!

Anne Kish
President
MSU Billings Awarded NEH/ALA Grant to Fund Culture Series
By Eileen Wright, Reference Librarian and Archivist
Montana State University - Billings

The MSU Billings Library was recently awarded a grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA) titled Bridging Cultures: Muslim Journeys.

The grant was created to promote an understanding of, and mutual respect for, people with diverse histories, cultures, and perspectives within the United States and abroad. To achieve the goals of the grant, the Library offered a four-part lecture series which ran through February and March.

The lecture series provided an interactive cultural experience that was enjoyed by many and included the following topics: “We are all Muslim: An Overview of Islam” presented by MSU Billings Arts and Sciences Dean Dr. Tasneem Khaleel; “Women and Islam” presented by Dr. Ana Diaz; “Beyond the Tour Bus: Living in the Culture of the Middle East” presented by Yellowstone Baptist College President Bruce Cannon and “Art: Discussion on Islamic Art” presented by Dr. Leanne Gilbertson.

The entire lecture series began with the MSU Billings Saudi Club hosting “A Night of Middle Eastern Culture,” which took place February in the library. The event was attended by 120 people, and the Saudi Club Vice-President Saud Alhrbi stated, “This is a great opportunity to showcase our culture, and I enjoy going to school in Montana and I hope many people come to the event and explore Middle Eastern culture.” The evening was filled with causal, open discussions by the Saudi Club members with their guests. Guests got to taste wonderful Saudi cuisine and ethnic coffee. They were also able to get their name written in Arabic (pictured above) while watching and listening to videos and music about Middle Eastern culture.

Friends of MSU Library host Distinctive Dialogues
By Angela Tate
Friends of MSU

The Friends of MSU Library look forward to hosting their annual Distinctive Dialogues event, presented by Toyota of Bozeman, on Thursday, April 11 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Best Western GranTree Inn in Bozeman. This event is a “friend-raiser” for the Friends of MSU Library with proceeds going to enhance the library’s collections and facilities endowments.

This year’s event features 19 local experts hosting table conversations on their areas of expertise, ranging anywhere from wine to gardening, from dinosaurs to comedy. Guests join a table of 5 – 7 others and have the chance to discuss anything and everything related to the table host’s topic. Notable hosts this year include Everest explorer David Lageson, Olympic skier Hank Kashiwa, former Deputy Assistant to President Obama Brooke D. Anderson, and the Montana library community’s very own Banned Books expert Sheila Bonnand.

We'd love for you to join us for this evening of light fare and lively conversation! For more information or to make a reservation, please call 994-3119 or email angela.tate@montana.edu. To learn more about the Friends of MSU Library, visit the website.
**Librarian Feud at the MLA Conference**  
By Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson, Chair  
Marketing and Public Relations Committee

Do you have a crazy Uncle Arthur that always sports a plaid bow tie? Or Grandma Mabel with her lace hanky and support hose? If so, here’s your chance to pay tribute to these loved, albeit somewhat “unique” family members by dressing just like them to attend Librarian Feud at the upcoming MLA Conference! (Prizes for best dressed family unit!). Librarian Feud is this year’s Sheila Cates event at conference designed to raise money for scholarships for future librarians. Librarian Feud will be taking place Thursday, April 18 from 8:30 – 10:00 p.m. at the conference hotel. Join host Richard Awesome as he leads contestants through a series of tricky questions, all to find the smartest librarians in the state (and raise money for the Sheila Cates Scholarship Fund!). In between rounds, we’ll be playing a little Let’s Make a Deal led by our handsome host Monty Doll. Sign up for the Cates event when you register for the conference or pay a little extra at the door. You don’t want to miss what is sure to be a super fun night of competition while helping to raise money for scholarships for librarians.

And don’t forget…it’s not too late to support Sheila Cates scholarships by contributing an item to the Sheila Cates Silent Auction to be held at the MLA Conference. Every contribution is greatly appreciated. Please contact Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Cates Chair, at lisameckjack@gmail.com to donate. Thank you!

**2013 Montana Memory Project Grant Awards**  
By Sue Jackson  
Montana State Library

It is exciting to announce the 2013 grant awards for the Montana Memory Project, our statewide digital library and archives. A total of seventeen applications were received requesting more than $23,000. The selection of just six projects was a difficult task. Congratulations to these organizations:

Beaverhead County Museum in Dillon -- $1,000 for the Armstead, Montana photograph collection. The town was founded in 1880 as a railroad town and then was flooded/washed away by the Clark Canyon Dam in 1962. Grant funds will be used for staff and student intern to digitize, describe and upload photos to the MMP.

Butte Silver Bow Public Archives -- $1,500 for the Charles Hauswirth papers and photographs (1932-1940). The Hauswirths were a pioneer family and Charles was a business owner and mayor of Butte from 1935 until his death in 1941. The collection documents the politics and economy in Butte, including the depression. Grant funds will be used for staff to digitize, describe and upload the collection to the MMP.

Carroll College Library in Helena -- $1,250 for The Hilltopper, the college’s yearbook, from 1930-1997. Grant funds will be used for a student worker to do the scanning and uploading to the MMP.

Rocky Mountain College in Billings -- $1,250 for college yearbooks including annuals from the Intermountain Union College in Helena and the Billings Polytechnic college (Rocky’s predecessor). Grant funds will be used to hire a vendor to do scanning/digitization of the yearbooks.

Phillips County Library/Phillips County Museum in Malta -- $1,000 for local newspapers published before 1923 including the Little Rockies Miner 1907-1909 and the Saco Independent 1912-1922. Grant funds will be used for a vendor to produce digital images from microfilm and for staff time to do the description and uploading.

Sidney-Richland County Library -- $1,500 for locally published histories, newspapers, and high school yearbooks. Grant funds will be used for a vendor to do scanning and create the digital images.

All grant funds will be expended and all projects will be completed and added to the MMP by September 30th. Funds are from a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Montana State Library Commission.
The PNLA Board met at the Dumas Bay Retreat in Washington February 8 – 9, 2013.

Jocie Wilson, our new Young Readers Choice Awards (YRCA) chair met with the board via Skype. Jocie will modify YRCA information on the website as she and the state and provincial representatives go through the process of revitalizing YRCA. Lou Anne Krantz is our Montana Representative – watch for her posts on wiredmt regarding updates and voting information. Jocie Wilson will also serve as Alberta Representative on the PNLA board.

Kelsey Keyes, Vice President, gave a report on the PNLA 2013 conference. “Cultivating Libraries: Rooted in the Community” will be held August 14 – 16 at the Riverside Inn in Boise, ID. Registration opens April 1, 2013 - check out the PNLA website, www.pnla.org, for information on speakers, etc. PNLA’s new fee structure - $50.00 flat rate for individual membership and $150.00 flat rate for institutional membership – will be presented for a vote at the conference membership meeting.

The board selected the Great Northern Hotel in the Great Northern Town Center in Helena for the August 13-15, 2014 PNLA Conference. Overflow rooms will be available at the Holiday Inn Downtown as well. The location will enable attendees to take advantage of all downtown Helena has to offer in the summer – Alive@Five, Mount Helena trails, and a wonderful assortment of restaurants and shopping within walking distance.

PNLA Leads 2013 will be held October 13 – 18 at Fort Worden State Park Conference Center in beautiful Port Townsend, Washington, approximately 50 miles from the Sea-Tac Airport. More information about the institute as well as applications for attendees and mentors are available at the website. Costs are anticipated to be less than $600 and attendance can be made even more affordable with the MLA grants available to attendees. See Mary Drew’s grant article in this issue of Focus for details on the MLA grants for LEADS. For questions about PNLA Leads or the application process, please contact Leads Co-Coordinator Samantha Hines: Samantha.hines@umontana.edu.

The board passed a motion to waive PNLA Conference registration fees, including meals, for Jocie Wilson and the state and provincial YRCA representatives as well as the co-chairs for PNLA Leads.

New Mural Commissioned for Valier Library
By Cathy Branvold, Director
Valier Public Library

The Friends of the Library in Valier have commissioned Athena Mosxona (pictured at right) to paint the mural in the Children’s Area of the library. With help from our Friends Group we are also updating and adding educationally fun toys.
PNLA Leads + MLA Leadership Institute Grant = Stellar Opportunity
By Mary Drew Powers, Chair
Professional Development Committee

Exciting news for those interested in leadership: the application process is open to attend PNLA Leads! This opportunity hasn't been available in recent years, but due to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, it's back, with a low expected cost of only $600 (not including travel). The PNLA Leads leadership institute is well known for the quality of its program, and the long-standing impact it has on participants.

Past participants from Montana are:
Heidi Sue Adams of Kalispell Medical Center Library, Shelma Seidel of Havre-Hill County Library, Susan Watne, EdD of Helena Public Schools, and Victoria Koch from Billings Clinic Library (2004);
Tim Bernardis of Little Big Horn College Library, Mary Guthmiller of Renne Library, Darlene Hert of MSU Billings and Mary Lou Mires of D’Arcy McNickle Library (2008);
Teresa Keenan of Mansfield Library, and Mary Anne George of Lewis and Clark Library (2010).

MLA has funds specifically for members who are accepted into PNLA Leads; up to $1000. For more information about PNLA Leads, visit the PNLA website; for information about MLA grants for PNLA Leads attendees, visit the MLA website and click on “MLA grant information.”

Fourth Annual Loud at the Library a Lively Success
By April Szuch, Public Services Librarian
Flathead County Library System

On March 21, the Flathead County Library Foundation held the fourth annual Loud at the Library fundraiser in Kalispell. The event has a history of attracting a wide array of enthusiastic library supporters, and this year was no exception.

The approximately 300 attendees enjoyed live music, food and drinks, a chance to win seventeen unique raffle baskets and a door prize, as well as a live auction featuring items decorated by local artists, including six oak chairs, a bench and a side table. The most coveted raffle basket included an iPad Mini donated by Glacier Bank.
Video Game Design Workshop at Parmly Billings Library

By Leslie Modrow, Development Director
Parmly Billings Library Foundation

Parmly Billings Library will host a free hands-on workshop for middle and high school youth about creating video games. The event is March 20, 2013 from 4:00 – 7:00pm. Food will be provided. Registration is required and limited to 35 participants, so call the Library today at 657-8258 to reserve a spot.

Attendees will learn to create their own video games with mentoring support from E-Line Media, an educational gaming company in Seattle, WA. The Library will provide computers but participants are welcome to bring their own wireless-enabled laptops with “Flash” capabilities.

Following the workshop, participants will be encouraged to submit their original game designs to the National STEM Video Game Challenge for the opportunity to earn recognition and prizes for themselves, as well as monetary prizes for their schools. The National STEM Video Game Challenge is a multi-year competition that aims to motivate interest in STEM learning among America’s youth by tapping into students’ natural passion for playing and making video games. For more information about the National STEM Video Game Challenge visit the website.

“This today far too many young Americans face an opportunity divide: a gap between those who have the education, skills or opportunities to achieve their dreams and those who do not. At the same time, our nation faces an increasing shortage of individuals with the skills necessary to fill the high-tech jobs of today and tomorrow,” said Fred Humphries, Vice President of U.S. Government Affairs at Microsoft. “The National STEM Video Game Challenge is one way we can help expose youth to the interesting opportunities available in our industry. These exciting projects show that developing technology skills can lead long-term to fun, innovative careers.”

This event is sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and hosted by Parmly Billings Library. Call the Library at 657-8258 to register.

Mayhem at the Library

By Cathy Branvold, Director
Valier Public Library

The Great Falls Public Library is hosting a Murder Mystery Contest, Mayhem @ the Library, on April 12 – 13. It is working with the Downtown Great Falls Association for this event.

The contest kicks off on Friday, April 12th, with a crime scene reveal. Crime solvers can pick up case file packets anytime after the reveal up to 3:00 pm on Saturday, April 13. Included in the case file is information pertinent to solving the crime. This includes a list of clue sites. These clue sites are comprised of various merchant members of the Great Falls Downtown Association.

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)
After picking up packets, the crime solvers go to the various clue sites to pick up clues. After selecting their crime solution, they return their case files to the library. The murderer will be unmasked at a crime solving party at the library on Saturday, April 13th, between 5:00 – 6:00 pm.

Prize winners will be selected from the correct crime solutions. First prize is over $700 worth of gift certificates from various Downtown Great Falls Association merchants. Second prize is a Nook e-reader provided by the Friends of GFPL, and third prize is tickets to a Great Falls Symphony event.

**MakerSpace at the Great Falls Public Library**

By Jude Smith, Public Relations
Great Falls Public Library

The Great Falls Public Library will be a MakerSpace host site for ten weeks this summer. MakerSpaces are part of a growing movement of hands-on, mentor-led learning environments. They foster experimentation, invention, creation, exploration, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning. Makerspaces come in all shapes and sizes. They all serve as a gathering point for tools, projects, mentors and expertise. A Makerspace is a staffed workshop, but it is much more than a collection of tools and equipment. A MakerSpace enables a community of Makers.

A Maker is a person that makes or produces something. A Maker is someone who plays with technology to learn about it. A Maker is someone who uses new technologies and basic tools, to do real and personally meaningful work.

The MakerSpace program is overseen and organized by a national group, Maker Corp. GFPL is one of approximately 25 other MakerSpace sites around the country. To be a part of this program, library staff wrote a grant and applied for the program. They advertised and hired required interns, and are organizing the nuts and bolts of the operation, both buying and soliciting donations of materials, tools, and equipment.

The Great Falls Public Library MakerSpace will provide:

- Leadership and mentoring: trained staff and dedicated volunteers
- Project library: online tutorials, detailed directions and basic ideas and inspiration
- Quality tools and equipment: soldering irons, laptops, glue guns, screw drivers, ratchets, sewing machines, wire cutters, paint brushes and much, much more
- Cutting edge materials: Lego Mindstorm Kits, Arduino materials, LED materials, fabric, batteries, glue, duct tape, resisters, buzzers, motors and much, much more

The Great Falls Public Library MakerSpace will be open 30 hours/week for 10 weeks this summer. Participants will be between the ages of 7 – 17. Community members can volunteer as mentors.

This will be a staffed space for youth to explore and create. The library and interns will provide support, guidance and training.
Whitefish Community Library Establishes an Endowment for its Future

By Alison Pomerantz
Whitefish Community Library Board

Flathead County summer resident Harriett Glanville remembered the Whitefish Community Library as a place where she and her mother felt at home when they were in Montana. Upon her death last January, Glanville repaid that kindness with a generous bequest to help the library continue opening its doors for residents and visitors alike for many years to come.

The Whitefish Community Library Board of Trustees recently voted to establish an endowment account starting at $100,000 with the Whitefish Community Foundation as Glanville would have wished. On her behalf and for the good of the library, the Trustees believed that the mission of the Whitefish Community Foundation, “… to enrich the quality of life in the Whitefish area by fostering philanthropy, building endowments, and helping donors and nonprofits benefit our community,” was a perfect fit.

“I am so impressed by how many organizations designed to assist our neighbors benefit from the generosity of the Foundation,” said WCL Director Joey Kositzky.

Anne Shaw Moran, Vice Chair of the WCL Board of Trustees added, “I am glad that the Whitefish Community Library will be able to honor Harriet’s memory by employing the very generous resources she has provided to help support and enhance the outstanding library that our community enjoys, and we thank her.”

Since 2000, Whitefish Community Foundation funding has supported the hungry, assisted the underserved, built affordable housing, cared for the sick and enriched the lives of area residents through the arts. The Foundation’s funding does not come from a single source, but rather, through donors like Glanville and other individuals with one thing in common—they all care about Whitefish.

Additionally, the Foundation is guardian to many local Agency Endowment Funds, charged with helping organizations, like the Whitefish Community Library, grow and benefit their organizations. Interest earned on the principal will help with funding needs both today and tomorrow. The Community Foundation provides critical assistance to local nonprofits. The Foundation administers an annual community grant program where nonprofits can turn to find funding for special projects and programs, as well as an emergency grant program to answer the need of unexpected disasters. At this year’s awards ceremony, the WCL benefitted from a $6,000 grant to purchase electronic books and other materials and an additional $500 from the John Kramer Family Fund.

“So in a sense, giving to the library not only has the immediate benefit of supplying books, programs and other materials for its patrons, but can have a much wider impact on the larger community through the interest an endowment account can accrue,” said WCL Board of Trustees Chair Michael Collins. “We [the Board of Trustees] felt investing in the Whitefish Community Foundation was a terrific win-win for all of Whitefish and hope other people will remember the library with their charitable giving.”

The Whitefish Community Library would like to encourage people to remember the WCL, or your own local library, in your will or trust. Donors with questions on the estate planning process may utilize the Community Foundation’s experienced staff to gain insight on community needs and facilitate your giving with prudent due diligence and simplified administration through donor directed grants and donor-advised funds.

For more information on charitable giving, please consult a tax or financial professional or inquire at the library website (or your own local library) about how your donations may benefit your community while offering personal tax benefits to you.
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