Message from the President

The MLA choo-choo train is chugging happily along its tracks. October is a time for many events for members, please partake, participate and don’t procrastinate.

Program proposals for MLA 2014 in Billings are due on October 11th. [http://mtlib.org/Conference/default.asp](http://mtlib.org/Conference/default.asp)

Bring your ideas, focus groups, how-to’s, how not to’s, book talks, device training, experiences good and bad to your fellow members. Stand up and teach! The conference is exactly as strong as the programs offered. We want to hear from you and your team.

The annual ASLD/PLD retreat will be held at Chico Hot Springs on October 27 & 28. The brilliant cookie theme [http://mtlib.org/Conferences/2013asldpldretreatschedule.pdf](http://mtlib.org/Conferences/2013asldpldretreatschedule.pdf) offers timely programs on a range of topics for the Academic and Special Library division as well as the Public Library division members. I’m looking forward to ‘Gaming,’ the hot tub book discussion selection.

School librarians from across the state will be gathering at MEA in October. [http://www.meatft.org/educators_conference.aspx](http://www.meatft.org/educators_conference.aspx) The MEA-MFT Educators’ Conference is dedicated to bringing top-quality professional development to Montana teacher-librarians. Educators from all over Montana will come to the Belgrade conference for inspiration, information, and renewal units.

Your MLA Executive Board will be meeting, too, on October 28 in Livingston. We will be reviewing our strategic plan, budget, discussing hiring a conference planner, choosing future conference sites, and generally working on the Association’s progress, upkeep and maintenance. If you have ideas, suggestions, or complaints, email me at bboyson@bozeman.net.

Beth Boyson, President
Friends of MSU Library Host 20th Annual Fall Benefit Dinner
By Angela Tate,
Friends of MSU Library Liaison
Montana State University Library
Picture by Jimmy Chin

The Friends of MSU Library will host their 20th annual Benefit Dinner and Auction, presented by Toyota of Bozeman, on Thursday, October 17 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bozeman. The Friends are thrilled to announce that the keynote speaker will be nationally recognized mountaineer, rock climber, and author Conrad Anker. The title of Anker’s talk is “Exploration in the 21st Century.”

In honor of the 20th anniversary of this event, the Friends of MSU Library are proud to celebrate the local community. At this year’s dinner, the Friends will offer a Montana-made menu and welcome a local speaker with national recognition.

In addition, the Friends are proud to support the launch of the MSU Library’s Acoustic Atlas, the first comprehensive online archive of the animal and environmental sounds of Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. This exciting new collection provides a unique reference source for researchers and educators in the biological sciences, media arts, human health, education, engineering, philosophy, and the social sciences and connects people the world over to the landscapes and life of Montana and the Rocky Mountain West.

The Friends of MSU Library have an exciting variety of auction items lined up for this year’s event, including a half-day climb with Conrad Anker, two badges to the Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta GA, a Whistler Ski Getaway, a Napa Valley Epicurean Adventure, and two tickets to the Nov. 16 Montana State v. Southern Utah football game.

This is the primary fundraiser for the Friends of MSU Library. Proceeds of this fundraiser enhance the collections and services of the MSU Library through collection and facilities endowments. We’d love for you to join us for this wonderful event. Tickets can be purchased for $75 each or $520 for a table of eight. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 994-3119 or email angela.tate@montana.edu. To learn more about the Friends of MSU Library and see a complete list of auction items, visit www.friendsofmsulibrary.com.

MPLA Updates
By Norma Glock,
MPLA Representative

The Tri-Conference including North Dakota, South Dakota and MPLA members held in Sioux Falls was well attended. Maureen Sullivan, ALA past president was a keynote speaker and inspired us all to keep advocating for libraries. Many interesting sessions were held on new trends in librarianship. Next year’s conference will be in Phoenix so start planning early for the first part of November 2014.

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)
It is not too late to apply for the Leadership Institute that will be held the first part of May in Estes, Colorado. No one from Montana had applied for this institute as of conference time. Maureen Sullivan will again be the leader and responses from past attendees have been very positive. This is an excellent opportunity to receive top notch training at little or no cost to recipients. No longer do you have to have a Masters in the library field to attend so all librarians are encouraged to apply. The Mountain Plains Library Association web site, mpla.us has more information on the Leadership Institute.

PNLA Updates
By Della Dubbe,
PNLA Representative

The Pacific Northwest Library Association (PNLA) Annual Conference was held in Boise, ID August 14, 15 & 16. As always, the sessions were diverse and informative. PNLA does such a wonderful job of having sessions that appeal to all types of librarians. When I was a public librarian, there were offerings pertinent to my job, and now that I am an academic librarian, there are still just as many pertinent offerings. This is hard to achieve and one of the hallmarks of the PNLA and the conference. Plus, I get to participate in “Read the Region” highlighting book awards across the region. Informative fun is the best!

Our conference next year, August 13, 14 & 15, 2014, will be in historic downtown Helena at the Premier Great Northern Hotel. All will be within walking distance – conference sessions, evening events, tours, restaurants, and shopping. Along with the notorious “Corks & Cans”, we plan to highlight other tours, evening events, and receptions to make your conference attendance memorable. Watch for a call for proposals on WIRED-MT in October. We encourage librarians from Montana to share their expertise and ideas with those in Alberta, Washington, Idaho and Alaska.

Our simplification of PNLA membership fees will allow more folks to attend. Membership is now $50 for personal memberships and $150 for institutional memberships. Unlimited attendees can attend on an institutional membership.

2013 PNLA Leads will take place at Fort Worden State Park from October 13-18 with 32 participants. A stellar cast of attendees and mentors will make for future library leaders.

YRCA is under new leadership with Jocie Wilson. She and the representatives from states and provinces will be making necessary changes to make YRCA a vibrant children’s book award once again.

As PNLA representative, I will be attending the MLA Board meeting following the ASLD/PLD Retreat on Monday, October 28, 2014, and the PNLA Board meeting online in November.

Want free money? You can apply for a MLA Professional Development Grant to pay for your next professional development endeavor! The next deadline is January 1, 2014. Please visit http://mtlib.org/Handbook/grant_guidelines.asp or email samantha.hines@umontana.edu for more information.

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The 14th annual Humanities Montana Festival of the Book celebrates the literature of the West with over 80 authors, October 10-12, in downtown Missoula. Two days and three nights of readings, panels, exhibits, demonstrations, signings, workshops, entertainments, receptions, and other special events are free and open to the public. Venues include the Holiday Inn Downtown at the Park, the Missoula Art Museum, the Wilma Theatre, the Top Hat Lounge, and the Missoula Public Library.

The Festival of the Book is one of the biggest cultural events in the Northwest. This year scheduled events include an evening with Sherman Alexie at the Wilma, a special edition of the popular storytelling event Tell Us Something; the fifth annual Festival Poetry Slam with a special appearance by international poetry slam winner Buddy Wakefield; the annual Readers & Writers Reception; a Saturday luncheon with James Lee Burke at the Top Hat, and our annual Saturday night Gala Reading. Confirmed authors include Richard Manning, Jamie Ford, Clair Vaye Watkins, Karen Joy Fowler, Robert Wrigley, J. Robert Lennon, Andrew Sean Greer, and many more.

The festival schedule is available at [http://www.humanitiesmontana.org/programs/fob/2013](http://www.humanitiesmontana.org/programs/fob/2013)

Major 2013 festival sponsors include the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, the Montana Arts Council, the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation, the Missoula Art Museum, the Missoula Public Library Foundation, Montana Public Radio, the Montana Radio Company, and The Missoulian.

Humanities Montana is the state’s independent nonprofit state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Since 1972, Humanities Montana has provided services and grants to hundreds of Montana organizations in support of public programs in history, literature, values, and public issues. Among its many programs are its grants, Montana Conversations: Speakers Bureau and Speakers in the Schools, the Humanities Montana Festival of the Book, Letters About Literature, and the Governor’s Humanities Awards.

For more information, please contact Kim Anderson at kim.anderson@humanitiesmontana.org or (406) 243-6022.
Little Free Libraries Boost Reading and Neighborliness
By Alison Pomerantz,
Secretary, Whitefish Community Library Board
Whitefish Community Library

Have you read anything good lately? No longer should a library card, the Dewey decimal system or due dates be impediment to having a book in hand. Thanks to the Friends of the Whitefish Community Library, “Little Free Libraries” are now open 24/7 to encourage literacy and discussion around town.

“Our real intent of the Little Free Libraries is to promote reading,” Kositzky says. “We want to reach those visitors in the area that don’t meet the requirement for a WCL library card because they are traveling through the area. Motel guests and campers often have down time and would enjoy a good book to read or take with them.”

“Little Free Libraries,” also referred to as community book exchanges, book trading posts, pop-up libraries, or Noox (Neighborhood bOOK eXchange) among other terms, are an offering of free books housed in small containers to members of a local community. According to Library Director Joey Kositzky, the Whitefish Community Library drew inspiration to adopt the concept after reading an article in American Profile (March 2013) about a man named Todd Bol who mounted a wooden container designed to look like a school house on a post on his lawn as a tribute to his mother, who was a book lover and school teacher. Bol shared his idea with his partner Rick Brooks who found many efficient ways to spread the word, and the idea took off. What started as a small idea to encourage reading among neighbors ignited into something bigger than either Boll or Brooks probably imagined. As of February, there were 5000 Little Free Libraries registered in all 50 states and 40 countries worldwide and around 1000 more that were unregistered.

Under the direction of the Friends of the WCL, the Little Free Library boxes were constructed by Whitefish Middle School’s 7th graders, thanks to the guidance of shop instructors Matt Beckwith and Aaron Phillip. They are 22” x 11” and will have free books for anyone who wants them. The idea is to promote reading by getting books into the hands of adults and children.

“This is an experiment that I am hoping will really take off,” Kositzky says of Whitefish’s version of the Little Free Libraries. “For now, people are encouraged to enjoy a free book courtesy of the library, but as we reduce our inventory of donated books, we will ask that people exchange a title of their own for each copy they borrow. The libraries operate on the honor system.”

Last week, the Friends set up Little Free Libraries in Montana Coffee Traders downtown location, the Pine Lodge, Swiftcreek restaurant, the Kiddie Park, the Soroptimist Park and City Beach. Kositzky explained that they selected locations with a traditionally high volume of visitors and intend to add more Little Free Libraries to other potential sites as interest increases. While the books in the free libraries are certainly open for residents and visitors alike, Kositzky encourages locals to stop at the WTC and apply for a library card or purchase titles from the WTC book sales. Friends of the Whitefish Community Library will be checking the locations each Monday to see if they need to be replenished and to get feedback on how the system is working. In other towns, readers have started leaving notes inside—possibly a review or a friendly message. In some cases where the Little Free Libraries have been well established, readers get to know their neighbors’ tastes and try to restock the library with favorite genres.

For more information on the Little Free Libraries, visit www.whitefishlibrary.org or to become a Friend of the Whitefish Community Library, visit www.friendswcl.org.
2013 High Plains BookFest and Book Awards
By Megan Thomas,
Reference Librarian
MSU Billings Library

Authors will gather in Billings, Montana on October 25th and 26th for the High Plains BookFest and High Plains Book Awards.

“Women Writing the West” is the theme for the 11th annual High Plains BookFest presented by the YMCA Writer’s Voice. The BookFest, which takes place at various venues in downtown Billings, will include readings by invited women writers and High Plains Book Awards finalists, panel discussions, a cooking demonstration by a culinary writer and a free healthy breakfast at the YMCA.

Pam Houston, Emily Danforth and Alyson Hagy will open the BookFest on Friday evening, October 25th with a reading at the Babcock Theatre at 7:30pm.

Richard Ford, author of Canada and finalist for the Best Fiction High Plains Book Award presents his only Montana reading on Wednesday, October 30, 7:30pm at the Yellowstone Art Museum.

A complete schedule of events can be found at www.highplainsbookawards.org.

Most events are free. Tickets are required for the BookFest event at the Babcock Theatre on October 25th and Richard Ford’s reading on October 30th and are available at http://www.billingsymca.org/writer_voice.html.

The Parmly Billings Library established the High Plains Book Awards in 2006 to recognize regional authors and/or literary works which examine and reflect life on the High Plains including the states of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas, and the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. The Book Awards have grown steadily since 2006. Initially, there were two awards. This year, there are nine awards, including two new categories: Best Culinary and Best Young Adult.

The High Plains Book Award banquet will be at the Yellowstone Art Museum on Saturday, October 26th. Montana Poet Laureate Tami Haaland will be the keynote speaker, finalist writers will be recognized and winners announced. Tickets for this event can be purchased by calling Connie Dillon at (406)256-0625 or on the website, www.highplainsbookawards.org.

A $500 cash award to winners in each of nine categories is made possible by Parmly Billings Library Board of Trustees, Friends of the Parmly Billings Library, MSU-Billings, Parmly Billings Library Foundation, Sharon Ille, Stella Fong and Joseph Dillard, Ucross Foundation, Writer’s Voice of the Billings Family YMCA, Yellowstone Art Museum, and Zonta Club of Billings.

A complete list of this year’s finalists and past winners can be found at www.highplainsbookawards.org.

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The Montana Library Association Program Committee and President Beth Boyson invite you to submit a proposal for a presentation at the 2014 MLA conference, to be held in Billings, April 9-12, 2014.

Please visit the conference website for the proposal form and submission instructions: http://mtlib.org/Conference/default.asp. Proposals are due by October 11.

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Friends of Missoula Public Library Revive Popular Appraisal Fair
By Mary Drew Powers,
Public Relations/Reference Librarian
Missoula Public Library

The Appraisal Fair is back! Friends of Missoula Public Library are gearing up to provide Montanans a chance to bring artifacts, objets d’art, relics (and what you might suspect is plain old junk) to the Third Not-Quite-Annual Appraisal Fair on November 3rd, in the library’s large meeting room. At least six appraisers, from Missoula, Butte, and the Flathead, will donate their expertise to this most fun of fundraisers. Collectors can pay $10 for a private appraisal between the hours of 11 and 12, or pay just $5 per item -to-be-appraised at the public Appraisal Fair from 1 until 4 pm.

Having an appraisal is more than getting a figure of what an item might be worth. An expert on a subject can relate history, estimate age or origin, or just share whimsy culled from their familiarity with the topic. Plan to come and share your price-able treasure—or priceless keepsake—at the Friends of Missoula Public Library Appraisal Fair.

The Friends of MPL are responsible for the Montana Book Award, and contribute to Book Chat Bags, the annual Book ’n It for the Library Race, and enhancements at Missoula Public Library too numerous to mention. 

*November 3, 2013: 11am-12pm private appraisal $10 per item; 1-4pm: $5 per item, limit of 3.*