
Montana Library Focus

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December 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving, whether the main dish was turkey, tofu, Tillamook cheese, or possum. I also wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and Happy New Year! May you all receive the happiness and peace we all seek.

On 4 November, your MLA Board met via conference call with representatives in Billings, Bozeman, Missoula, Columbus, Fort Peck, Helena, Pablo, and Anaconda. We first went through the usual Board protocol and etiquette, agenda changes and additions, approval of minutes from the last meeting, and the financial report with approval of the cost to vendors for the 2005 Conference in Billings.

As a co-chair of the Membership Committee, Anita Scheetz (Fort Peck) reported on the project being handled by Magi Malone (Glacier National Park; also co-chair) to encourage more Montana school librarians to join MLA. This project is the major focus of this year's membership drive. Anita wrote the survey for school librarians to research where these potential new members are hiding and why they have not yet joined. The survey should be out to librarians by the first of the year. If you know any school librarians who are likely candidates for membership in MLA please encourage them to join and become involved. Also, remind them that MLA membership can be used on their tax returns as professional membership.

Carlene Barnett (Salish-Kootenai) reported that thirty-six people registered for the ASLD/PLD retreat in October at Fairmont Hot Springs. A good time was had by all with the always successful dose of "educational stuff." Some concern was expressed that the MLA web page be kept current, but few specifics were offered, other than some email address corrections.

For the Conference Planning Committee, Eileen Wright and Cindy Patterson (Billings) urged some slackers (especially yours truly) to get responses from our assigned workshop presenters for the 2005 Conference in Billings. Thank you to Cindy and Eileen for their hard work thus far. We could not hope to be so successful in our endeavors without such dedicated people. Please take time to thank them personally or via email.

The Executive Board recommended that MLA continue funding the Library Public Relations Cam-

paign in the amount of \$5000. We heard some information about how many radio stations aired the PSA for the last campaign and how much it would have cost if we paid full price to the stations. According to the figures, we saved considerably. Milla Cummins (Livingston) felt that we should ask for more anecdotal evidence about the campaign's effectiveness with respect to people hearing the PSAs, increases in library usage, etc. The Montana State Library had sent a kit of materials to libraries, but we still don't know how this information is being used.

Karen Gonzales (Missoula) expressed our need to know the focus of the new campaign. Initially, it had been thought to aim at early literacy. Darlene Staffeldt (Helena) mentioned that the State Library sought some anecdotal information and that the former PR person collected some but has since left the position. The new campaign had been aimed at early literacy but with a new person in the PR position, the focus might change. The Board voted to fund the new campaign with the stipulation that more feedback be generated so we can better judge whether to continue funding in upcoming years.

It appeared as though the meals at the Holiday Inn

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An Evening @ Montana Libraries

On January 31, 2005, legislators, librarians, and library supporters from throughout Montana are invited to attend "An Evening @ Montana Libraries," or Library Day. The evening promises good food, music, and conversation, plus the opportunity to speak with attending senators and representatives about library-related issues.

"An Evening @ Montana Libraries" will be held at the Montana State Library (1515 East Sixth Avenue in Helena) on Monday, January 31, 2005 from 5:00 – 8:30 p.m. A full dinner buffet will be served, and the Parlor Pickers, a Helena-area bluegrass group, will offer entertainment. Traditionally, over 200 people attend the event, including many senators and representatives from throughout Montana who are concerned about Montana's libraries.

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Deadline for February issue is January 25

Please send address changes to:
 Karen Hatcher
 MLA Administrative Assistant
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 Missoula, MT 59802

Continued from Page 1...An Evening@

“An Evening @ Montana Libraries’ is sometimes the only opportunity that librarians have during the legislative session to sit and talk with legislators about library issues, such as funding,” said Diane Gunderson, co-chair of the event and volunteer coordinator at the Montana State Library. “I hope that librarians and library supporters from around the state will make a point to attend this important evening, and voice their concerns to legislators.”

“An Evening @ Montana Libraries” is sponsored by the Montana Library Association and the Natural Heritage Program.

Discussion List: WIRED-MT Information

Wired-Mt, our listserv, is open to members and non-members. Not all MLA members subscribe to Wired, and not every member of Wired is a member of MLA. MLA members would do well to remember that it is open to anyone with any interest (not necessarily sympathetic to our issues) in libraries. This is a place where people can get quick feedback to ideas and questions. It is a public forum centered on topics of interest to those interested in libraries. Its guidelines are available on our website www.mtlib.org.

There are two ways to subscribe:

1. a. send an e-mail message to majordomo@bcr.org
 - b. leave the subject line blank
 - c. in the body of the message type: **subscribe wired-mt**
 - d. include nothing else; do not attach a signature file

OR
2. a. go to the web site: www.bcr.org/cgi-bin/MailServ/majordomo
 - b. follow the instructions on the page

For additional information, or if you have problems subscribing, contact Margaret Webster, List Manager (on behalf of MLA) at mwebster@crowleylaw.com or 406-255-7201

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in Billings will be pricier than they have been at other conference venues. Discussion revolved around increasing the fee for the upcoming conference to seventy or seventy-five dollars with meals being charged an amount similar to this past year. The late fee would be \$85. It was approved that next year's fee be, hopefully temporarily, raised to \$70 and late fee be \$85.

Seeking the advice and consent of the full Board concerning the lobbyist contract with Smith & McGowan, I read the contract aloud to the members. A question of any possible conflicts of interest was raised by Beth Boyson (Bozeman). Bette Ammon (Missoula) and Darlene Staffeldt assured us that Smith had said there were no conflicts.

Beth Boyson expressed the opinion that we must reexamine when the terms of committee members expire so that the Nomination Committee can better do their job. She also suggested that we look into staggering the terms of the three outside representatives.

Our next Board meeting will be in Helena on 1 February 2005 from 9 am to 1 pm. A majority of members will attend Legislative Day and the next day for the Board meeting. Some Board members may have to participate via conference call in case of inclement weather.

If you have any questions or concerns about your MLA, please contact me at 406-994-1873 or richw@montana.edu.

Richard Wojtowicz
 MLA President

Central Asia Institute Task Force Update

Suzanne Reymer has worked hard for us getting an informational page posted on the Montana Library Association web site. You can view this page by going to www.mtlib.org/pennies. Be sure to listen to Greg Mortenson talk about his work in Afghanistan at the *Billings Gazette* website. It makes our efforts collecting money for a school/library all the more worthwhile. We hope some libraries will run campaigns during the holiday season, but after the New Year or anytime is good time to promote this worthwhile project. The Central Asia Institute Task Force was formed after a resolution was passed at the MLA annual conference in Bozeman which committed our organization to collect money to help build a school for children in Afghanistan or Pakistan. Jim Heckel's article in the October 2004 Focus gives more information about the project.



Norma Glock
 Columbus Middle School
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National Parks Library News



There are several National Park Service sites in and near Montana, and all of them have library collections for Park Service staff. But did you know that many of the materials in these libraries are cataloged in a database that is publicly available? That's right, the National Park Service's union catalog is available for you to

use, so put library.nps.gov in your reference and research toolbox.

Several Park Service libraries, including Glacier National Park, are also adding holdings and original records to OCLC. And did you know that Glacier National Park's library is open to the public eleven months out of the year? (It is closed mid-December through mid-January, so that the librarian can get some cross-country skiing!) So the next time you are in the area, put the George C. Ruhle Library on your itinerary, and you don't have to pay the entrance fee to visit the library!

Contact me by email or phone at 406-888-7932 for more information.

Magi Malone

*Director, George C. Ruhle Library
Glacier National Park
magi_malone@nps.gov*

Madison Valley Public Library News

The Ennis "One Book Montana" program was held Sunday, November 7th. Thirty eight people gathered to discuss the book *Fools Crow* by James Welch. The lively and interesting discussion was lead by Sue Hart, Professor of English from Montana State University-Billings. Special guest was Professor Hart's husband, Montana author Richard S. Wheeler. The event was sponsored by the Madison Valley Book Club and Friends of the Library. The "One Book Montana" program invites all Montanans to read *Fools Crow* during the year 2004, and is organized by the Montana Center for the Book. For more information about the One Book Montana Program, the website is: www.montanabook.org/onebook.htm



James Welch

*Kathy Knack & Michelle Goggins,
Madison Valley Public Library
ennislib@3rivers.net*

GFPL Now a Wireless Hotspot

Great Falls Public Library began offering free wireless Internet access to the public in mid-November. The service enables anyone with a wireless enabled computer to get full Internet access from almost anywhere within the library. Staff anticipates that the new service will see use from downtown business people as well as from ever-increasing numbers of tourists that visit or pass through Great Falls. GFPL staff has had growing numbers of requests for the service and with the upcoming Bicentennial next year, the number of visitors looking for wireless Internet access is expected to increase even more.

The new service is made possible through library funds, in addition to service and equipment donations from Softworx, Inc., the library's Internet service provider.

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

Corps of Discovery Anniversary Fast Approaching

The holidays are fast approaching and your Lewis & Clark Task Force can help you out (a little!) Do you know students who may be studying Lewis & Clark, either in Montana or out of state? We are still selling copies of the Lewis & Clark Activity Book. Books are \$2 each, plus postage. To order, please email: jherdina@manhattan.k12.mt.us.

Also, this February marks the 200th birthday of Pomp (Jean Baptiste Charbonneau). If your school or library would like to host a birthday party, please email me and I'll pass on the information.

*Julia Herdina
Manhattan Community Library
jherdina@manhattan.k12.mt.us*

School Library Media Division News

Thanks to all who helped make MEA/MFT a success! I hope Patricia Reilly Giff's presentation was an enjoyable for you as it was for me.

I encourage you to attend the SLMD Winter Retreat January 15, 2005 in Lewistown. Registration form and information will be available in December. Until then have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

*Yvette Majerus, Chair
ymajerus@moore.k12.mt.us*

Montana Tech Library Celebrates 100 Years

The Montana Tech Library celebrated 100 years of service to students, faculty and off-campus users during a Birthday Party at the Library on December 1, 2004. The Friends of Montana Tech Library supported the festivities. A large birthday cake, holiday appetizers and punch along with Irish music was enjoyed by the guests. The Friends gave guided tours of the Library, which included sketches of the Library Renovation Project, a display for mending a book, a holiday book drawing for "Montana 24-7", a Powerpoint display of the "History of the Library", a Book Signing, by a Montana Bureau and Mines author and researcher, Robin McCulloch, and a special exhibit of Georgius Agricola's "De re metallica", tr. from the 1st Latin ed. of 1556, with biographical introduction, annotations and appendices upon the development of mining methods.

The School of Mines Library was organized in 1903-1904. Room Number Five in the basement of Main Hall was designated to accommodate a library for the Montana State School of Mines. Previously, the collection was scattered throughout the various departments in book cases. A card catalog which could hold 37,800 cards, a desk, a cabinet of drawers for geologic atlases and some sectional book cases were purchased for the Library.

At the time that the library was organized Butte operated 67 mines whose product in copper alone was nearly one-fourth of the copper product of the world. There were no dormitories connected with the school. Students could obtain good board at \$25.00 per month and a good room for two persons including light and heat from \$15 to \$25 per month.

The book collection was acquired through gifts from Friends of the institution, volumes bound from scientific periodical subscriptions and by publications of the United States Government. Through the efforts of Senator W. A. Clark, the School of Mines was made a depository for publications of the government in 1901. Five newspapers were "kindly furnished" by their publishers free of charge: "The Tribune Review, Butte, Montana; Blue Mountain American, Baker City, Oregon; The Ravalli Democrat, Hamilton, Montana; Great Falls Tribune, Great Falls, Montana; and The Missoulian, Missoula, Montana.

Presently, Montana Tech Library is a primary information resource. Tech's collection in geology and the minerals industry brings in researchers worldwide. It provides global electronic access to thousands of information resources which support the academic needs of Tech's students and faculty. Library resources included the new web-based catalog, 50 electronic databases and indexes, 250,000 print titles, 530 print journals, and extensive reference collections. As a participant in Federal and State library programs, Tech Library receives publications from the U.S. Government, the State of Montana, and other

State and foreign governments which include thousands of topographic and geologic maps. The library is the only U.S. Patent Trademark Library in Montana and provides patent information and access to over 6 million patents. The Tech Library is open to the Public.

Professional librarians holding Masters degrees provide individual and group instruction and research help to students and faculty on how to access the library's continually upgraded resources. Through its expert interlibrary loan system, the library obtains resources from other libraries. Group study rooms and comfortable, quiet spaces are provided to patrons.

College of Technology Library houses the Learning Center and a limited collection of technical books and journals related to the programs taught at the South Campus.

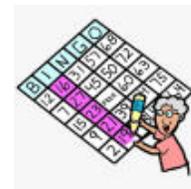
Jean Bishop
Montana Tech Library
jbishop@mtech.edu

Alter Ego Bingo

Get in touch with your alter ego while raising money for the Sheila Cates Memorial Scholarship on Sunday, April 24th at 7:30pm. This year's fundraiser features 10 fun rounds of bingo, but of course there's a twist..... Come dressed up as your favorite author, movie character or in costume! After each round of bingo, we'll award a prize to the best in category. Categories are listed below. Tickets are \$15 and include the entrance fee and 5 free bingo cards. Additional bingo cards will be 50 cents a card. Please join us for a fun and "fashionable" evening of bingo!

Categories for the Event

- Group: Two or more people dressed the same or in similar costumes
- Dressed to the 9s: formal wear
- Outrageous
- Saturday morning
- Fantasy: costumes, medieval, science fiction
- Sixties
- Eighties
- Literary personality: dress up as a favorite author and/or character
- Film personality: dress up as a favorite actor/actress or film character
- And of course...the Stereotypical Librarian



Tracy Cook
Montana State Library
tcook@state.mt.us

Fun Conference Program Announced!

Do you have a special talent? Or just a talent--special or not? If so, we need you!

"Stereotypes Banished: The Unbounded Talents of Montana's Librarians" will be premiering at the MLA Conference in Billings in April and participants are needed. Do you juggle? Sing? Weave? Do karate? Whatever your talent, we can fit you in. Win the accolades of your peers—and have a great time doing it! Let's showcase what a diverse and talented group we librarians are!

This program promises to be a ton of fun—for participant and watcher alike. Contact me by email or at 444-2957, to share your special talent for this unique and delightful program. I look forward to hearing from you!

Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson
MLA PR & Marketing Chair
Ljackson@state.mt.us

Postmark deadline for letters of nomination and support: Friday, January 21, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or concerns, PLEASE don't hesitate to contact Jan. If you do not have easy Web access, Jan will be glad to send you a hard copy of the awards criteria—just let her know.

Your Honors and Awards committee members (Jan Dawson, Liz Babbitt, and Jan Allen) look forward to an absolute deluge of nominations. Please help recognize all the good library work going on around us by nominating or supporting award candidates (and this, oh, self-effacing library folk, means you can nominate yourself!)

Thanks for your attention today. All best wishes to everyone for the holidays.

Jan Dawson, Honors and Awards Chair
jdawson@ycsi.net

Call For Nominations: 2005 MLA Awards and Honors

Nominations are now open for this this year's round of MLA awards. Here's the process for honoring our state's library luminaries:

Here are the awards:

1. Honorary Life Membership (more than one can be awarded each year)
2. Library of the Year
3. Sheila Cates Award for Librarian of the Year
4. Trustee of the Year
5. School Administrator of the Year
6. Special Friend to Libraries Award
7. Media Award
8. Interest Group Excellence Award
9. Intellectual Freedom Award



The nomination process for each award requires one letter of nomination and two letters of support for each nominee. Three is the maximum number of support letters that can be accepted for each nominee. The Media Award letter of nomination must also include a copy of the nominated work.

For drafting letters of nomination and/or support, you'll first want to check the criteria for nominations for each award. For the criteria, nip over to the MLA website www.mtlib.org scroll down to and click on Handbook. Then click on Awards and Honors Committee Guidelines and Procedures.

Please send your letters of nomination and letters of support to Jan Dawson, Chair, 2005 MLA Awards and Honors Committee. E-mail nominations are fine. Snail mail: Jan Dawson, Livingston Park County Public Library, 228 W. Callender, Livingston MT 59047.

Call for Papers for Significant Tidings

Do you have an innovative or successful program, project, new development, or research that you would like to share with colleagues? If so, please send in a proposal for the Significant Tidings Forum! The Montana Library Association and the Academic and Special Libraries Division (ASLD) will sponsor the Forum at the 2005 MLA Conference in Billings, Sunday, April 24. The forum is schedule for Sunday, April 24th from 3:00-4:30. Fifteen minutes are allowed for each presentation.

Although the forum is sponsored by ASLD, we encourage anyone from a school, public, academic or special libraries to participate. Some examples of past programs are: promoting creative writing, using images to communicate information literacy, upgrading a circulation system, collaboration between two libraries to provide seamless service, and taking a new look at libraries during the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial. As you can see, Significant Tidings provides a forum for a wide variety of interests and ideas.

If you are interested, please submit the following information to Cynthia Harrison at the address below:

- Name
- Title
- Institution
- Mailing Address
- Daytime phone
- Title of presentation
- Abstract (150 words or less)
- Equipment needed

Cynthia Harrison
Academic and Special Libraries Division
charrison@msun.edu

Video Review

The Story of the Bitterroot- a Cross Cultural Odyssey of Discovery, by Steve Slocumb. Published by Looking Glass Films, 2004. DVD format, 69 minutes. \$23.95.

While there are books available on the bitterroot, this is the only film that captures the botany, ethnology, history, mythology and even cookery of the Montana state flower. Each of the eight parts concentrates on a different aspect of the plant, which allows for relevant viewing by different audiences.

The movie intertwines beautiful shots of the flowers in their native habitat, Montana landscapes, and fascinating interviews with Salish elders and educators. The long history of the plant and its significance for the Native Americans are thoroughly examined. The viewer is even invited to participate vicariously in a modern bitterroot gathering and feast.

No shrinking violet, the root has been known to germinate even after being boiled, displaying a toughness common to many Montanans. This film is truly a treasure for libraries in the Treasure State.

*Carole Ann Clark
Great Falls Public Library
caclark@mtlib.org*

PNLA News - December 2004

A second Pacific Northwest Library Association Leadership Institute is planned for 2006. This was decided at the Board meeting held early in November following favorable reports about the 2004 Institute held at Dumas Bay. Other business of the Board was the discussion of the Sitka, Alaska conference for next August 3-6, 2005. The planners are planning a good time for everyone with lots of authors, educational workshops, and whale watching excursions. Also mark your calendars for August 12-15, 2009 for the 100th Anniversary of the Pacific Northwest Library Association in our own Missoula, Montana. Plans for a fun-filled time are already underway for this conference.



*Norma Glock
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