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Montana Library Focus

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Honore Bray

Greetings and Happy Holidays!

The snowfall this week certainly put cuddling up with a good book and a warm blanket at the top of my list for leisure-time activities. There are so many good books waiting to be read and vacations for the holidays are just around the corner. Hope you get time to tackle your list.

The association business seems to never slow down because Librarians are always thinking of new ways to serve their users. The MLA Board has talked at length about MLA securing a credit card to use for Association Business. If you are traveling for the Association at this time, it is not uncommon for one to need to

pay for expenses and then apply for reimbursement on returning. I feel very strongly that this practice makes it impossible for some members to participate on the board because they don't have the cash up front to make this commitment. Well, we did bite the bullet and secure a credit card for Association business. I do hope this makes a difference for current board members and members who are interested in becoming active on the MLA Board. Thank you, Debbi, for going the extra mile to get this completed. For more information on the use of the card please contact Debbi Kramer or myself.

I cannot talk about spending money without mentioning the fact that the fall brings about a cash flow problem for the Association. A few years ago dues were collected at the beginning of the fiscal year and provided cash for Association work through the fall and into February when money started to come in for the conference. The current structure for dues does not allow this influx of cash in July and August, but we still have the same financial commitments for spend-

ing. I would like members to think about returning to the old structure of paying dues in July so this issue can be solved.

Most of you probably know that it is possible to pay online for retreats, conference and any other MLA business like dues. Visa, Master Card and Discovery are the three types of cards that MLA will accept. Debbi has had other vendors call her but they charge too large of service fees per transaction. Many members are using this service and it seems to go off without a glitch.

The Conference Planning Committee is hard at work to make the 2008 Conference the best ever. Kathy Mora and Shelia Bonnard are full of energy and excitement about the conference offerings and the volunteers that have stepped forward to help pull all of the workshops together.

Pre-conference workshops will take place on April 9, 2008. A few of the highlights are: a great workshop for Board Members and anyone wishing to learn about serving on a board and Bill Moen from UNT will enlighten all MARC enthusiasts in looking at the future of MARC. On Thursday everyone will have the opportunity to hear Stephen Abrams speak on strategies for library success. Stephen is full of library information and will be entertaining as well as informative.

For the first time ever, the Montana Book Award will be presented at the MLA Conference. This event

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will take place at the Great Falls Public Library with a reception sponsored by Friends of the Library from Great Falls and Missoula. This is a real grassroots award given by the Montana Library World so mark your calendars to attend. Many Montana Libraries have participated in the "Big Read"; if you are interested in finding out how to participate in this program, join the "Big Read" panel discussion and find out how this project has developed in Montana and why it is such a huge success.

It looks like there is plenty planned for all type libraries. Many presenters are doing hands-on activities because last year's evaluations requested some hands-on help in different areas of librarianship. Get fired up for the Author luncheon by adding some of Todd Strasser titles to your winter reading list. Remember the Connecticut Gag Order Librarians will present the keynote and share first hand experience on coming face-to-face with the FBI. Finally,

save your money and be prepared for the Shelia Cates raffle and fundraiser. It is always fun to see what those crazy Cates Committee Members come up with each year.

The next issue of **Focus** will lead you to the entire conference schedule and events that will take place in Great Falls on April 9-12, 2008.

Toss around the idea of volunteering for a leadership position in MLA. Interest Groups, Divisions and the Executive Committee are always looking for new members. It is a great way to learn about the association and lend a helping hand to your colleagues. You can volunteer by contacting any of the Chairs or by contacting Lyn McKinney.

Happy Holidays. Stay warm and safe! See you in Great Falls in 2008; I had to write that because I can't believe we are at the end of another year.

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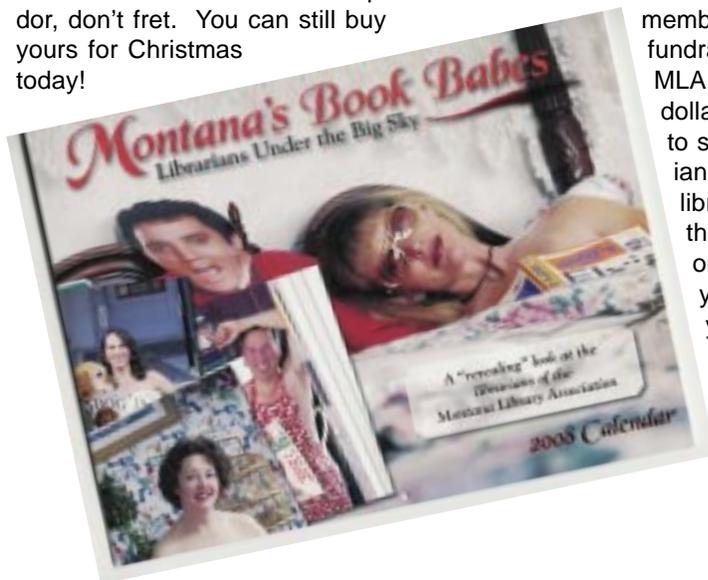
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Last Minute Christmas Shopping? Montana Book Babes 2008 Calendars Are Still on Sale

If you missed the unveiling ceremony, or didn't get a chance to see the calendars in all their splendor, don't fret. You can still buy yours for Christmas today!



They are available online at www.mtlib.org/calendar/index.html. Remember, it's a fundraiser for MLA, so every dollar made goes to support librarians and their libraries across the state. Buy one for you, your sister, your mother, your friends, your dog, your ...

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

This morning National Public Radio (footnote 1) discussed the circa 460-370 BCE Greek philosopher Democritus (fn 2) who, besides being the co-originator of the idea of atoms decided there were four atomic shapes or tastes revealed when you chew food and reduce it to little bits: Round large atoms made sweet tastes; Isosceles triangle shaped atoms are salty; Bitter tastes are made of spherical, smooth, scalene and small atoms; Large, rough and angular atoms make sour tastes. For years it was thought that these four tastes were 'it', end of taste-story. (fn 3).

Wind the clock forward almost two millennia to late nineteenth century France, and to Chef Auguste Escoffier (fn 4) who concocted a recipe for veal stock that, while supremely delicious, wasn't sweet, salty, bitter, or sour. It was, literally, a new taste treat sensation!

Meanwhile in Asia this was old news. Asian cooks had long known about the taste we'd call savory or meaty. In 1908 a Japanese scientist identified this taste by discovering that foods with a concentration of glutamates were experienced as a fifth taste, called "umami" or "delicious flavor" (fn 5). In 1996 two University of Miami researchers found umami receptors on human tongues, which they memorably named 'mGluR4'. You've experienced umami in "... savory products such as meat, [anchovies], cheese, and mushrooms." (fn 3)

Last week I listened to a weekly podcast from the BBC called "In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg" (fn6) Each program is a lecture on a different subject and I often end up digging deeper into Bragg's topics. For instance in his program on Taste, Bragg's guests brought up the philosophers Locke and Hume. I spent some time reading about how Hume's notion of taste has informed Western thinking on aesthetics and values. (fn 7) While I sat at the dining room table, with a delicious cup of coffee in my hand, I read Hume's blessedly short essay, *Of the standard of taste, and other essays*, which was available online from Minnesota State University/Moorhead (fn 8) complete with handy hypertext links to aid study of this essay written in 1757.

Such is the privilege of the retired and indolent. Instead of dashing off to work or doing the dishes, I can while away hours digging into the mechanics of taste, or taste's social role in shaping my world. Life is sweet.

Helping users find life's sweetness is in part what libraries do. Ten years ago I'd have gone to a larger Montana public or to an academic library to engage in this kind of quasi-scholarly exploration. This morning I simply sat down at home with my laptop and a cup of coffee - and 'my library' came to me (even had I been in Two Dot). This is how students work nowadays, (fn 9) 'real' scholars begin in Google (fn 10). We use many libraries, the majority of which we only experience online.

Librarians reassure ourselves that we are irreplaceable and that our library is necessary to our communities. We've thought of libraries as physical entities, supplying 'our' users with the fruits of civilization and learning. Anymore it just ain't so. 'My library' this morning had no Helena roots. And while I am extraordinarily fond of my local libraries, my behavior demonstrates *I don't 'belong' to any single library, rather, many libraries belong to me.*

Footnotes

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- (1) <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=15819485>
- (2) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democritus>
- (3) <http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/senses/umami.html>
- (4) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auguste_Escoffier
- (5) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Umami>
- (6) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/history/inourtime/>
- (7) <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hume-aesthetics/>
- (8) <http://www.mnstate.edu/gracyk/courses/phil%20of%20art/hume%20on%20taste.htm>
- (9) **A Vision of Students Today.** Michael Wesch and the students of a class called "Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Class of Spring 2007, at Kansas State University <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGCJ46vyR9o&eurl=http%3A%2F%2Fchronicle>
- (10) **Future Reading: Digitization and its discontents.** Anthony Grafton. *The New Yorker*, November 12, 2007. http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2007/11/05/071105fa_fact_grafton

State Library News Teleconference Series



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

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Todd Strasser Visits

Yes, the rumors are true! Todd Strasser, who has written loads of books for young people, will be visiting Montana in April 2008. Not only will he be a featured speaker at the MLA Conference in Great Falls, but he'll also be making a series of appearances at selected school and public libraries in the Great Falls area the week before the conference. Todd's programs are scheduled for Fort Benton, Chester, Shelby, Valier, Conrad, Dutton, Choteau, Fairfield, Cascade, Belt, Stanford and Denton. The week will end with a program at Great Falls Public Library on April 12. Todd's Montana visit is being funded by MLA and Montana State Library. For more information about Todd, visit his website: toddstrasser.com

New Look For MSL Web Page

When you get a chance, take a look at the newly revamped Montana State Library web page: msl.state.mt.us There's a ton of information on the site and we're working to make it easier to find just what you need. The new arrangement is still being tested and we'd appreciate your input. Please send comments and suggestions to Tracy Cook, Statewide Technology Librarian in Great Falls tcCook@mtlib.org or 866-843-6524.

Montana State Library and BCR have partnered again this year to purchase a statewide license for Montana libraries and librarians to have access to two College of DuPage teleconference series. The license includes three programs in the 2008 Soaring to Excellence series and two programs in the 2008 Library Challenges and Opportunities series. The programs can be viewed by satellite downlink or by webcast. There is no charge to Montana libraries, but registration is required. To register, visit the BCR site at www.bcr.org/training/teleconferences/index.html For details about the COD programs, go to: www.dupagepress.com/COD/index.php?id=183 Program topics this season include anticipating patron needs, spotting important library trends, current and future space needs, and libraries moving into the future. The next teleconference is scheduled for Feb 8, 2008.

LSTA 5-Year Plan for 2008-2012

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has recently approved Montana's 5-year plan for utilizing Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds in the state. The plan covers the period 2008-2012 and outlines goals and objectives that will be undertaken to address the LSTA-mandated priorities for improving library services to the public. The plan utilizes data collected during the formal LSTA evaluation process (report completed in March 2007), including survey statistics from nearly 400 librarians and trustees. To see these important LSTA documents go to: LSTA Evaluation: msl.mt.gov/lsta2002-2006.pdf and LSTA 5-Year Plan: msl.state.mt.us/For_Librarians/grants_administered_by_msl/FINAL%20Montana%205-Year%20LSTA%20Plan.pdf

Outreach to Montana's Spanish Speakers

During January through April 2008, a series of workshops entitled **Connecting to Spanish Speakers @ Your Library: Empowering Montana Library Staff to Reach Out to Spanish Speakers and Increase Their Access to a World of Information** will be offered. These full-day workshops are scheduled in Helena, Belgrade, Billings, Kalispell, Missoula, and Great Falls (as part of the MLA annual conference). Presenters for the workshops are Catherine McMullen (Bozeman Public Library), Molly Kliss (Missoula Public Library), and Kathy Robins (Parmly Billings Library). Each workshop will also feature a panel of community leaders discussing the needs of the Spanish-speaking population in their local community. Though this population may be small in Montana -1.5% or nearly 13,000 people according to the 2000 census - data indicates that it will grow as it is across the country. If you want to have your library in a position to assist these residents in new and exciting ways, plan to attend one of these workshops.

The Spanish Language Outreach initiative is funded by the Gates Foundation and coordinated by OCLC. For a complete list of dates/locations, please see the Hola! flyer included in this issue of **Focus**. To register for a workshop go to www.msl.mt.gov/for_librarians/registration/2007_spoutreach.asp There is no registration fee and lunch is provided for all workshop participants. Continuing education credits and OPI renewal units are also available for attendees.

See Program Ad on following page...

More State Library Stories continued on page 6...

Aloha!

Connecting to Spanish Speakers @ Your Library

Workshops Full day sessions

Saturday, January 12

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

Saturday, January 19

Belgrade Community Library, 106 N. Broadway, Belgrade

Friday, January 25 (2 locations)

Parmly Billings Library, 510 N. Broadway, Billings
OR

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

Saturday, February 16

Parmly Billings Library, 510 N. Broadway, Billings

Thursday, February 21

Before the MLA OFFLINE Conference

Missoula Public Library, 301 E. Main, Missoula

Saturday, March 15

Parmly Billings Library, 510 N. Broadway, Billings

Wednesday, April 9 -- MLA Preconference

Best Western Heritage Inn, Great Falls

Presenters

Molly Kliss - Missoula Public Library

Catherine McMullen - Bozeman Public Library

Kathy Robins - Parmly Billings Library
Community Leader Panel

Registration

Online at www.msl.mt.gov/for_librarians/registration/
or contact Sue Jackson at
sujackson@mt.gov or (406) 444-5350

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

Workshop Description

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

Who Should Attend

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

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

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



State Library... Continued from page 4...

Montana Library Event Calendar

calendar.mtlib.org Check online for upcoming library training/activities AND add your upcoming event to the calendar.

Professional Development Collection

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

Learn About Library 2.0 Before It Becomes Library 3.0

By
Tracy Cook
Montana State Library
tcook@mtlib.org

It will soon be that time of year when you sit down and develop New Year's resolutions. So why not add learning about library 2.0 tools to your list? Lauren McMullen, Tracy Cook, and Suzanne Reymer of the Montana State Library (with the generous help of Helene Blowers from the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County) have developed a class that walks you through blogs, wikis, Flickr, and more. We designed it so that you could take 15-20 minutes a week to play with each of these tools. Finally you will understand what a teenager means when he or she talks about delicious and technorati.

We're starting the class after the New Year - just in time for any resolutions you might want to make. Please join us. We'll post the URL to wired-mt once we go live.

Montana Shared Catalog Ready For More Growth

By
Ken Adams
Montana Shared Catalog Director
Montana State Library
kadams@mt.gov

After a year's hiatus to catch its breath, the MSC has been begun accepting applications from non-member libraries. Let me take this opportunity to encourage libraries to consider joining the MSC. Why? For starters, the MSC now includes 82 multi-type libraries from across the state, serving public patrons, elementary and high school students, college students and faculty, medical professionals and state agency staff. MSC members include your colleagues and library friends statewide. These people work together in areas of collection development, resource sharing, best cataloging practices and the delivery of electronic and digital materials. The strength of sharing a system allows the consortium to consider group purchases. Joining forces, this group is well prepared to meet and greet the technological challenges and changes ahead for all of us.

The MSC application deadline is January 15, 2008. This will be the only application period for 2008. There are 3 potential implementation schedules, dependent on migration choices and library type. There are LSTA funds available to cover the vendor costs associated with startup costs, under these three programs:

Program 1-Larger libraries: What is a "larger library"? It is a library having both 100,000 or more bibliographic records, and 25,000 or more service area population (or over 15,000 full-time-equivalent students, staff, and faculty). Counts for library systems or consortia are figured as the sum of their individual counts.

Program 2-Middle-size libraries: What is a "middle-sized library"? It is a library having 35,000 to 100,000 bibliographic records, and

10,000 to 24,999 service area population (or 5,000 to 14,999 full-time-equivalent students, staff, and faculty). Counts for library systems or consortia are figured as the sum of their individual counts.

Program 3-Smaller libraries: What is a "smaller library"? It is simply, a library that is not a "Larger Library" or "Middle-size Library".

More information about MSC and downloadable applications are available at: msl.state.mt.us/For_Librarians/Montana_Shared_Catalog/default.asp

To obtain a cost estimate and find out more, contact me at the email address listed above.

Humanities Montana Seeks One Book Montana Nominations

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

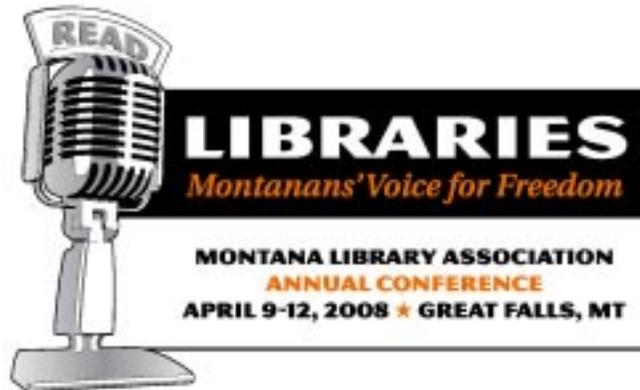
Read a good book lately? Good enough for all Montanans to read? For the sixth year, Humanities Montana will sponsor its **One Book Montana** program—inviting all Montanans to read and discuss the same book—and we are looking now for suggestions for the 2008 title. There are no criteria for the choice, except for being worth reading and worth discussing by Montanans.

One of the core beliefs underlying Humanities Montana is that literature—stories, words, poetry, history—can bring us closer together, especially when shared, and can give us deeper understanding of each other and of our place. We believe the One Book Montana program can be a valuable part of that process.

Send your suggestions to info@humanitiesmontana.org or contact Humanities Montana at 800-624-6001. The 2008 One Book Montana selection will be announced at the MLA conference April 11 in Great Falls.

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

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



The Conference Planning Committee and Local Committees have been busy over the last few months and plans for the 2008 MLA Annual Conference are progressing nicely. Conference will be in Great Falls

April 9 – 12 at the Best Western Heritage Inn. Session and registration information will be available on the MLA webpage by early January.

In the meantime, here's some of what you have to look forward to:

George Christian and Peter Chase will give the keynote address:

Doe v. Gonzales: In which Doe, the humble librarians, won and Gonzales, the Attorney General of the United States, lost. George and Peter are two of the four Connecticut librarians who were served with National Security Letters in 2005. The four successfully challenged the gag order that accompanied the NSL. According to George, they "are the only people who can legally speak of their encounter with a National Security Letter, having won the right to do so in Federal Court. The recipients of the 300,000 other NSL's issued since 9/11 must take the secret of their encounter with them to their graves." They will also be presenting a regular workshop on protecting patron privacy at two different times during the conference.

A full day pre-conference with June Garcia, co-author of the PLA publication ***Creating Policies for Results: From Chaos to Clarity***. June will take you through the process of creating library policies that work and revision of existing policies to make them reflect what you need them to.

Dr. William Moen, University of North Texas, will be presenting a half-day pre-conference on the ***Future of MARC***. If you've never attended one of Dr. Moen's workshops, you've missed an interesting and engaging speaker who is always looking to the future of libraries.

We have a full slate of information-packed regular sessions, including sessions on the Montana Library Media Content Standards, Getting Along with City Councils & Commissioners, Open Source Software, and Legal Issues for Digitization Projects, just to name a few. In addition, the Montana Shared Catalog is sponsoring Stephen Abrams, SirsiDynix Vice-President of Innovation, to present ***The Top 10 Strategies for Library Success***.

Todd Strasser, award winning author of the ***Help! I'm Trapped...*** series, as well as several other series including more than 100 books, will be conducting a regular session in addition to being the guest speaker at Saturday's Author Luncheon.

Haven't gotten around to joining MLA yet? Now's your chance to join and save yourself a little money on conference registration. Join MLA *before* registering for conference – non-members will pay \$45.00 more for full conference registration than members. You can join online or

print out a membership application on the MLA web site at

www.mtlib.org/join.html.

Another reminder: Poster Session proposals will be accepted until February 1st. This is an opportunity to showcase a project you've

been working on, and is a great method of communicating ideas, research, and programs to colleagues. Proposal forms are available at www.mtlib.org/conf/mla2008/PosterSessionForm.pdf

If you are interested in helping out at conference by spending some time at the registration or hospitality tables, taking meal tickets or any number of other tasks, please contact Jude Smith at Great Falls Public Library, 453-0349 or via email at jusmith@greatfallslibrary.org

We look forward to seeing you in Great Falls in April!

Call For Hospitable Volunteers

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

Things are coming together for MLA Annual Conference. But we are in need of volunteers for the Hospitality and Registration Committees. The need involves volunteering to man these tables during the conference for two hour shifts. If you are interesting in lending a hand and having fun while doing so, please contact me I'll connect you with your committee of choice and more information.

Awards and Honors Committee Seeking Nominations

By

*Cindy Patterson, Chair,
MLA Awards & Honors
Parmly Billings Library
cindy@billings.lib.mt.us*

It's already time to think about our colleagues who deserve MLA awards and honors! Following is the vital information:

1.) Three letters are required for every nomination: 1 (one) letter of nomination and 2 (two) letters in support of the nomination. Hard copies and/or email attachments are fine. For the Media Award a copy of the nominated project must also be submitted.

2.) All nomination materials are sent to:

Cindy Patterson, Chair,
MLA Awards & Honors
Parmly Billings Library
510 N. Broadway
Billings, MT 59101
cindy@billings.lib.mt.us
406-657-8293 (fax)

3.) The deadline for nominations is Monday, January 28, 2008.

Honorary MLA Life-Time Membership

May be conferred upon an individual who has either made an outstanding contribution to librarianship or has rendered outstanding service to library interests. To be eligible, an individual shall have made a contribution of lasting importance to the field of librarianship. The contribution must be outstanding enough that there can be no question of her/his suitability. Only living persons may be considered.

Library of the Year

Conferred upon any type of Montana library, library system or network for distinguished achievement in service. The staff, library board or administering body, and the community or people served shall be involved in the work for which recognition is sought.

Award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- User services
- Development of innovative partnerships through networks, systems, cooperative planning and programming
- Sound collection development policies
- Offering opportunities for professional growth and job satisfaction for all employees
- Improvement of physical facilities resulting in better services

Sheila Cates Award for Librarian of the Year

Conferred upon a librarian in recognition of outstanding leadership and accomplishment in library service. The librarian must be currently employed in any field of librarianship in Montana and must be a current member of the Montana Library Association. Award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Provision of high-quality, community-centered library services
- Contribution to any area of service benefiting users
- Distinguished service to the profession, including outstanding participation in activities of professional library associations and/or notable publications
- Leadership in education and in-service training for librarians
- Leadership in cooperative activities
- Outstanding development of library techniques, management, and/or facilities

Trustee of the Year

Conferred upon a Montana public library trustee in recognition of outstanding achievement and leadership. Nominations may be made by any library board, individual library, librarian, trustee, MLA member or Montana State Library

Commission. Equal consideration shall be given to trustees of small and large libraries. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities and accomplishments such as the following:

- Service to the local library and participation in state and national activities
- Constructive accomplishments in promoting library service shall be considered rather than the length of service as a trustee
- Interest in and contribution to the development of library services beyond those of the local community
- Achievements of nominees are judged according to criteria found in the Montana Public Library Trustee Manual.

School Administrator of the Year Award

Conferred upon a Montana school administrator in recognition of outstanding achievement and leadership in the development and promotion of school libraries. Nominations for this award should come from the librarian currently employed by the school district of the nominee.

The awards shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Constructive accomplishment towards the advancement of library service to the students and teachers of the school
- Development of sound school library practices
- Creative and effective work in interpreting the library to the school board, school administration, teaching staff, students, and community
- Fostering cooperative relations with other libraries in the area
- Implementation of programs to address special needs or problems

**Awards and Honors,
Continued on next page...**

Awards and Honors, Continued

- Defense of intellectual freedom
- Promoting and supporting the employment of professional librarians in school.

Special Friend to Libraries Award

Purpose of the award is to recognize individuals or groups who have rendered outstanding service in support of library interests within Montana. The award is conferred simply as a reward for a job well done. Nominations are accepted from members of the Montana Library Association only. Award need not be based solely on service rendered during the previous year, but may be based on cumulative years of service.

Pat Williams Intellectual Freedom Award

Conferred upon an individual or group who has made significant contributions during the past year to the enhancement of First Amendment rights. The recipient should have demonstrated a clear understanding of the principles, nature, responsibilities and implications of the First Amendment. The recipient should be a Montanan or a non-Montanian whose contribution has a demonstrable effect on Montana. The recipient should have applied that understanding of the principles in one or more the following ways:

- In defense of the principles in the face of a serious challenge to it which defense is not necessarily limited to libraries
- In support of the principles through an active role in Formulating programs which develop people's ability to deal with a full range of opinion/controversy and with the issues associated with such controversy, or
 - Developing or materially assisting in the development, of a legal base for the continued enjoyment of freedom of mind, its strengthening, and its defense, or
 - Expanding the philosophical foundation of the principle or contributing to better understanding of it.

Interest Group Excellence Award

Conferred upon an individual member of an MLA interest group or upon an interest group as a whole, for meritorious service on behalf of Montana libraries and/or librarians. Award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Comprehensive projects which benefit the larger library community
- Exemplary programs or outstanding services which are not available through other channels
- Extraordinary assistance to other libraries and/or librarians in Montana

Media Award

Conferred to honor a production for broadcast or work for publication which best underscores the value of libraries to community and society. This includes works prepared for television, radio, cable, film, and/or print media. News articles/ programs and documentaries also qualify. The broadcast or publication of the nominated work should be within the two years preceding the annual conference at which the award is to be made. A copy of the nominated work must be submitted to the Awards and Honors Committee for review.

PNLA News

**August 6-9, 2008
Libraries Go Wild!
Beyond the expected!**

2008 PNLA Conference Proposals are Due

By
Mary Lou Mires,
PNLA Representative
mary_mires@skc.edu

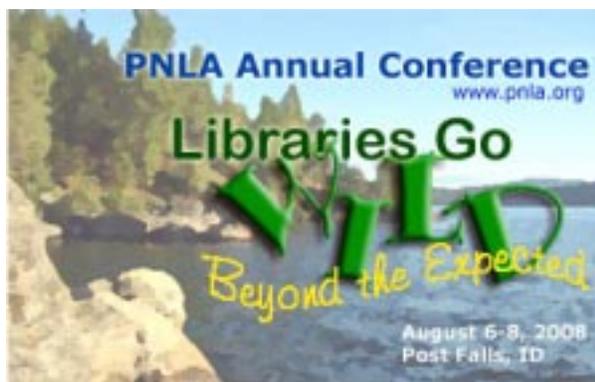
The program subcommittee of the 2008 planning committee is seeking formal program proposals from interested members and presenters. Deadline for submissions is Friday, December 21st 2007.

Program tracks include:

- Technology - Sharp Sticks
 - Outreach and Special Audiences (including Young Adult) - Smoke Signals
 - Management/Special Issues - Mountain Climbers
 - Instruction/Learning - Trail Blazers
 - General Interest - Bear Stew
- Join your colleagues from the Pacific Northwest and adventure into library lands you only dared dreamed of!

Contact Information: Elaine Watson,
ewatson@boisestate.edu, Tel. 208-426-1737 or Rick Stoddart,
rickstoddart@boisestate.edu, Tel. 208-426-1626

Online proposal forms:
library.boisestate.edu/reference/PNLAConference2008/PNLAProposal.htm



Public Library News

Petroleum County Community Library Assistant Librarian Retires

By

Nancy Freburg

Petroleum County Library

pcclibrary@mail.midrivers.com

Mrs. Betty Mosby, long-time assistant/night librarian, has decided to retire. Betty has faithfully served our patrons for 35 years, keeping the library open for the public on three nights each week – through winter, spring, summer, and fall.



Betty Mosby

She began as assistant librarian to then Public Librarian Ruth Freburg in 1972, when the Winnett Public Library was in a little building now owned and used by the Town of Winnett. When Winnett School built a new addition for the elementary school in 1973, Petroleum County Community Library (the first county-school combined library in Montana) had a new home in the center of this elementary addition. Betty helped with the move and continued serving her night patrons until this fall. Her work has evolved from the manual labor of typing cards for the card catalog, processing books, and checking out books to patrons with book cards – to entering data into electronic MARC records, helping patrons search for and check out materials using a catalog/circulation computer, and assisting patrons in the use of Internet. The public patrons also really appreciate Betty's keeping

the pop machine full of refreshments for them to purchase. Profits from pop sales are generally used to purchase books or other media for patrons to enjoy. Public librarians through the years and evening patrons appreciate all of Betty's service.

Patrons came to thank Betty and to help her celebrate her retirement at a party for her at Petroleum County Community Library on the evening of November 15, 2007.

Annual Book-a-thon at Great Falls Public Library

By

Jude Smith

Public Relations Coordinator

Great Falls Public Library

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The Great Falls Public Library Foundation's Eighteenth Annual Book-a-Thon kicked off on November 1. Contributions are split between direct purchase of children's books and the corpus of the foundation so that funds will be available to benefit future generations of readers. Over the years, the Great Falls community has generously contributed nearly \$400,000 to ensure that children of the community have a great selection of reading materials at the library.

Madison Valley Public Library Breaks Ground For New Building

Madison Valley Public Library in Ennis had its official ground breaking ceremony on November 13, 2007! A crowd of 150 people, including students from the Ennis Community Children's School and the Ennis Elementary School, gathered to take turns with the shovels, enjoy snacks, and cheer the coming of the new library!

Madison Valley Public Library is also pleased to announce the addition of a new employee. Pamela Lessner has accepted the position of Library Clerk. She is joining Director Kathy Knack and Assistant Director Michelle Goggins, as well as Dona Lindsey, our extraordinary volunteer.

Artist and Author Receptions on Same Evening at Belgrade Community Library

By

Mary Gerlach MTCC VISTA

Belgrade Community Library

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On Thursday, January 24, at 5:30, the Belgrade Community Library will host a reception for the artist, Mary Keefer, whose paintings will be displayed during the months of January and February. Besides being a painter, Mary is a Reference Librarian at the MSU Library. Everyone is invited to meet the author, view her paintings, and enjoy cookies and cider.

On the same evening at 6:30, there will be a reception for Michael Punke, the author of three books, including *Fire and Brimstone: The North Butte Mining Disaster of 1917*.

His program will focus on the worst hard-rock mining disaster in U.S. history, the Butte fire that trapped four hundred miners underground in 1917. More information on the writer and his books is available at www.michaelpunke.com/books.html. The program is funded in part by the Montana Committee for the Humanities and the Speaker's Bureau.



Honoring Peg Hileman

By

Alice Meister, Director
Bozeman Public Library
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On November 5, 2007 Bozeman Public Library lost a very special friend and colleague—Margaret “Peg” Hileman, who was the Bozeman Public Library Director from 1950-1983. She continued to be an active Library volunteer for more than twenty years after her retirement and endeared herself to all of us at BPL. We loved her sense of humor and her passion for animals, libraries, hiking, mysteries, and Calvin and Hobbes.

Inherently gentle and genteel, she could be quite animated and feisty such as when she dealt with a recalcitrant city manager during the time of building the former Library completed in 1981. She cared deeply about both people and animals, recalling the days when she would allow dogs in the Carnegie Library and would close the building in order to allow her staff to go home for dinner.

Peg left an imprint on all who knew her—laughing about her problems bending over to read shelves or the mischief her cat played on her. We are especially pleased that the Information Desk, which is the first to be seen when entering the main Library, bears her name as it was given by a grateful donor who respected and admired Peg. She was a treasure, whose worth is told not only in the legacy she left but in the hearts of all of us who cared about her.

The Library plans a commemoration for Peg on Tuesday, December 11 at noon in the Library’s Community Meeting Room to which the public is invited. If anyone has pictures of Peg and would be willing to share them, please contact me.



Peg Hileman

officially declaring October 13-November 14, 2007 The Big Read Under The Big Sky. As part of the celebration, the Lewis & Clark Library hosted screenings of the film, book discussion groups, and speakers all around Lewis & Clark County. In addition, the three local High Schools actively participated in the event through class participation in discussions and curriculum focused on the novel, organizing a trial of the novel, and participation at each of the three author visits.

“One of the many highlights of the event was the three author visits,” explained Hart. “We were fortunate enough to bring in nationally renowned Mockingbird scholar Claudia Durst Johnson; young



To Kill a Mockingbird artwork

Big Read Under the Big Sky a Success!

By

Patricia Spencer, Information Officer,
Lewis & Clark Library
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Art inspired by Big Read book, “Mockingbird”

The Lewis & Clark Library’s The Big Read Under The Big Sky celebrating Harper Lee’s classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird* was an enormous success, announced Library Director Judy Hart. “Community response to the event was over-whelming,” explained Hart. “From the kick-off event at the Kid’s Fall Fest to Philip Aaberg’s closing performance, participants in The Big Read Under The Big Sky shared experiences, connections, and enthusiasm for the book and all related events celebrating this outstanding American novel.”

A crowd of nearly 5,000 came out to launch the event at the Downtown Helena, Inc.’s third annual Kid’s Fall Fest. Governor Brian

Schweitzer, along with Lewis & Clark County Commissioner Ed Tinsley and City of Helena Mayor Jim Smith, read the proclamation

adult author and activist Brent Hartinger; and scholar and author James Loewen. Each author addressed important aspects of racism, tolerance, and the concept of justice as it existed in the novel as well as in relation to our world today.”

Other events included a reading by poet M.L. Smoker; viewings of the PBS documentary *Two Towns of Jasper*; ‘Own Your Own Stuff,’ a children’s workshop on Mockingbirds; a re-enactment of the trial scene produced and performed by the First Judicial District Bar Association; the Atticus Finch Ol’ One-Shot Sharpshooter contest; a student mock trial of the novel; a fun and festive Boo Radley House of Fun on Halloween; Raise the Roof, a celebration of the novel in

Big Read continued on page 12

Big Read Continued ...

word in song that featured three local choirs; and the Scout Finch Story night, a powerful evening of art, poetry, and stories inspired by the novel.

Composer and renowned pianist Philip Aaberg, who composed the music for the Montana theatrical production of **To Kill a Mockingbird**, concluded the month-long celebration with a performance of pieces from the production interspersed with readings by Greg Johnson. Hart declared, "Aaberg's music transcends time and space taking you right into Scout Finch's thoughts."

"We couldn't be more pleased with the turnout and support for The Big Read Under The Big Sky,"

commented Hart. "From beginning to end, we offered programs and events that connected a new audience to the classic novel while re-connecting others to a cherished novel from their past. People were receptive to the concept and the programs, so much so that we hope to do this again," concluded Hart.

The Big Read in Lewis & Clark County was presented in partnership with The Montana National Guard, Helena School District #1, Downtown Helena, INC., The Montana Community Foundation Fund for Tolerance, Lewis & Clark County Community Foundation, Birds & Beasleys, and The Great Northern Ice Cream Company.

Awards Recognize High Plains Writers

By

Dee Ann Redman

Parmly Billings Library

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North Dakota native Larry Watson received the Emeritus Award for a body of work at the recent inaugural High Plains Book Award Banquet in Billings, Montana. Watson, who teaches writing at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is the author of **Montana 1948**, **White Crosses**, and **Justice**, all set in the fictional eastern Montana community of Bentrock, among many other titles. The film rights to all three of the Bentrock books have been sold or optioned.

Michael L. Tate, Professor of History at the University of Nebraska at Omaha won the prize for Best Book published in 2006 for **Indians and Emigrants: Encounters on the Overland Trails**, published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

Winner of the prize for Best First Book was **Jay Cooke's Gamble: The Northern Pacific Railroad, The Sioux, And the Panic of 1873**, by M. John Lubetkin, also published by the University of Oklahoma Press. Lubetkin, who lives in Virginia, is a board member of the Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association.

The Awards are sponsored by the Board of Trustees of Parmly Billings Library and 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 awards banquet was one of the highlights of the Fifth Annual High Plains Book Fest, sponsored by the YMCA Writer's Voice of the Billings Family YMCA and the Billings Cultural Partners.

For more information on the Awards program, go to www.billings.lib.mt.us/hpba/hpba.htm.

Trustees Corner

Who's That Person Across the Table

By

Carol Grover, Chair

Trustees Interest Group

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It's the holiday season, and everyone is hurrying around doing a variety of seasonal things. Families and friends are planning and/or attending parties. Workplaces have gatherings to celebrate the season. In this spirit of conviviality, I thought of an important group of which I am a member and what we trustees do together. Sadly, it's not much. Basically we attend monthly meetings and chat a bit beforehand and perhaps afterwards. Since we are a county board, perhaps two members know each other. Once in a rare while, we work together on an extra project, like an open house or a surprise anniversary party for our director or staff members. Not living in the same community means our paths seldom cross.

If you're a member of a city or county board, this "library connection" may be the only one you have with these other folks.

It's possible that your board is different from what I have described. You may actually socialize in other situations. Knowing those with whom you serve is important. I'd like to hear from you!

What specific events or opportunities have you experienced that serve to bring the members of your board of trustees closer? Send me an email by January 15, 2008, and I'll share your successful event with the **Focus** world. Meanwhile, have a great holiday season.



Emeritus Award winner Larry Watson (left) with Lloyd Mickelson, Chair of the Parmly Billings Library Board of Trustees, sponsors of the High Plains Book Awards

Three Montana Librarians attended Leadership Institute in New Mexico

*By Bridgett Johns
MPLA Representative
Lewistown Public Library
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Bridgett Johnson, Director of the Lewistown Public Library, Heidi Sue Adams, Medical Librarian, Kalispell Regional Medical Center and Jennie Burroughs, Government Documents Librarian at the University of Montana, recently attended the 6th Leadership Institute @ Ghost Ranch, New Mexico. The Institute is sponsored by the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA). Attendees were selected based upon their leadership potential, their previous experiences as a leader, and the personal qualities that they address in an application essay. Twenty-nine emerging leaders from MPLA's twelve state library association came together as



*Jennie Burroughs, Mary Bushing, Heidi Sue Adams,
and Bridgett Johnson at Ghost Ranch*

participants in the 2007 Leadership Institute session. Dr. Mary Bushing, Library Consultant and Institute Coordinator from Bozeman, Montana and Maureen Sullivan, a nationally known library consultant and executive trainer, were the primary Institute Facilitators. Among the concepts developed during the Institute were interpersonal communication, group problem solving, and project and change management.

Johnson commented on her experience, "The Institute was an opportunity to define myself as a leader within the community. The facilitators had researched and put together information on all aspects of leadership. They then allowed each of us to put the information together in terms of our own learning styles. Then encouraged us to create our own vision and mission statements in order to develop our own personal strategic plan with goals and strategies to accomplish those goals with lots of homework. The Institute was one of the best trainings that I have ever attended. I can't thank the MPLA and MLA and the Library Board enough for the privilege of attending the Institute."

Typically, the number of viable applicants is two to three times greater than the number of positions available for the institute. Competition can be keen. The criteria to go is still a Master's Degree but due to recent changes both MLS and master's in an equivalent field (such as Educational Media) is recognized. The goal of the Leadership Institute is to help emerging leaders in the library profession develop their full career potential. MPLA's funding partner, EBSCO Information Services, has provided one-third of the necessary funding for five of the past six years.

Ghost Ranch, north of Abiquiu, New Mexico, is located in a beautiful and unique natural landscape. It served the process of learning, sharing and assimilation very well. Ghost Ranch is associated with artist Georgia O'Keeffe as her home and the inspiration for much of her art. Originally part of a Spanish land grant in the 1700s, Ghost Ranch was a privately owned vacation retreat that operated as a dude ranch from the 1930's until it was donated to the Presbyterian Church in 1955. The working ranch at the edge of the Colorado Plateau in northern New Mexico has served as a conference center since that time.

Mountain Plains Library Association is a twelve-state regional library association that includes Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming in its membership. Its purpose is to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities. The Association meets annually in joint conferences with member states on a rotational basis. The 2008 conference will be held with the Utah Library Association in Salt Lake City. The Leadership Institute grew out of MPLA's strategic planning process and took three years of planning before the first institute was held in 2002.