

## President's Letter

Anyone who has ever spent more than five minutes with me knows that it doesn't even take that long for me to start talking about my two beautiful little boys. So bear with me... To set the stage, I have to tell you that my boys were in the height of superhero awe during all of this. A couple years ago when my oldest started pre-school, the teacher invited one of the parents, a doctor, in to talk about what he does. (Who knew pre-schools had career days, not me.) My son came home prattling on about how cool Harper's dad was because he had a white coat, stethoscope, and on and on.

A day or so later he asked me what kind of job I had. This question actually surprised me a little since he spends more time in the library than some of the staff members. But then I realized, like many, he only saw a few of the things that really happened everyday. So I started by telling him I was a librarian and helped people find books, movies, or any other information they might need. I also tried to explain to him how people came in and we answered their questions, helped them learn things and made people smarter. He was quiet for awhile and then simply stated "Wow, you are kind of like a superhero." That is probably the greatest compliment I will ever receive from him. And, of course, who am I to argue with such a smart young man. And he is right, we are like superheroes. Not only do we act

as the portal to endless amounts of information but I'm guessing most of you are also part chamber of commerce, counselor's office, babysitter, and just about everything else. I'm happy to have this role as superhero and I hope everyone else is too. But enough about my very cool kids. See me at conference if you want thousands of more stories about them; some are even library related. All in all, this is a really long winded way of reminding everyone to make sure you are explaining what you do and help people realize there is so much more to libraries than just the small portion they use. We have to be our best advocates.

Now for other things:

Don't forget that you too could be the proud owner of an MLA license plate.

Conference is coming. Johanna and Kim are working hard to put together a great time. They most likely will be making a call for volunteers soon, so please step up to the plate when asked. Volunteer for a shift at the hospitality table, be willing to facilitate a session, or just help spread the word so we have a great attendance at what will prove to be an incredible conference. Send your name and how you'd like to help to [freivaldsj@lockwoodschoool.org](mailto:freivaldsj@lockwoodschoool.org)



Samantha Pierson, MLA President

# Harlem Public Library Says Good-Bye to Director Siemen

By: Colleen Brommer  
Harlem Public Library Director

Ethel Siemen retired as director of the Harlem Public Library this year. She was director since 1981 and worked seven years as assistant librarian prior to becoming director. The trustees hosted a retirement party for the community.

## Belt Public Library Golfs, Wins!

By: Gladys Rayhill, Library Director  
Belt Public Library

Belt Public Library had its first ever team play in the golf tournament in Anaconda this year. I'm very proud to say that the team won the Readers' Cup and it is living in a display case in the Belt Library until next year.

Our team consisted of my husband, Brent Wing (unwilling library volunteer), Belt residents Tracy Cook (Montana State Library employee and willing library volunteer), Jeff Savage (Retired librarian from Great Falls Public Library and Belt Library volunteer) and Rick Savage of Helena. Aren't all librarian's families volunteers in some way?



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Suzanne Schwichtenberg  
Lewis & Clark Library  
120 S Last Chance Gulch  
Helena, MT 59601  
Phone: 406-447-1690 ext 130  
Fax: 406-447-1687  
Email: [sschwich@mtlib.org](mailto:sschwich@mtlib.org)

Please send address changes to:

Debbi Kramer,  
Executive Assistant  
Montana Library Association  
PO Box 1352  
Three Forks, MT 59752  
Phone: 406-285-3090  
Fax: 406-285-3091  
Cell: 406-579-3121  
E-mail: [debkmla@hotmail.com](mailto:debkmla@hotmail.com)

# New MLA Awards!

The MLA Awards and Honors Committee is excited to announce two new additions for the spring of 2011.

## **Paraprofessional of the Year**

This award is conferred upon a Montana library paraprofessional in recognition of outstanding service to the library profession and excellence in job performance. The paraprofessional must be currently employed in a Montana library and must be a current member of the Montana Library Association. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Provision of high quality library services
- Contribution to any area of service benefitting library users
- Commitment to promoting library service and free access to information for all
- Leadership in strengthening the image of library staff
- Leadership in fostering communication between library workers
- Active service in library activities at the local, state, regional, or national level

## **School Library Program of the Year Award**

This award is conferred upon a distinguished Montana Teacher-Librarian and the school library program in which they serve. This award recognizes the outstanding achievement of the teacher-librarian in fully integrating the school library program with curricular goals. A cash award of \$500.00 will be provided by Follett Library Resources to be used for library development. The award shall be based on, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Emphasis of the school library program's role in the instructional process through professionalism, collaboration, and design of library resources that are in support of curricular goals
- Leadership in information literacy instruction through a variety of models for students, staff, and other community members
- Administration of information management systems that support student learning and school and district programs
- Establishment of a powerful, relevant, and ubiquitous culture of reading in the school community

## **Additional MLA Awards and Honors:**

- Honorary MLA Life-Time Membership
- Library of the Year
- Sheila Cates Award for Librarian of the Year
- Trustee of the Year
- School Administrator of the Year Award
- Special Friend to Libraries Award
- Pat Williams Intellectual Freedom Award
- Interest Group Excellence Award
- Media Award

It is never too early to start thinking ahead! Note the outstanding achievements of your colleagues and give them the recognition they deserve. Find information about all of these awards in the MLA handbook section of the MLA website. Full descriptions will also be included in the December Focus.

Three letters are required for every nomination: 1 (one) letter from the nominator and 2 (two) letters in support of the nomination. Hard copies and/or email attachments are fine. No more than three letters will be considered. For the Media Award, a copy of the nominated project must also be submitted.

All nomination materials should be sent to:

Molly Ledermann, Chair  
MLA Awards & Honors Committee  
Missoula Public Library  
301 E Main ST  
Missoula, MT 59802  
mkliss@missoula.lib.mt.us (preferred)  
(406)728-5900 (fax)

The deadline for nominations is Monday, January 24, 2011.

# Third Annual Children's Festival of the Book Welcomes Award-winning Author Lois Lowry at the Bozeman Public Library, November 6, 2010



On Saturday, November 6, 2010, the Bozeman Public Library Foundation presents its third annual Children's Festival of the Book from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Library in downtown Bozeman. Inspired by the Montana Festival of the Book, the goal of the Bozeman Children's Festival of the Book is to celebrate children's literature, inspire children of all ages, and instill a life-long love of reading.

This one-day event will feature author readings, panel discussions, and children's activities. We are thrilled to announce that this year's key-note presentations will be given by two-time Newbery Award-winning author Lois Lowry! Lowry has published dozens of books, including -the highly acclaimed *Number of the Stars*, *The Giver*, and *The Willoughbys*, as well as many other beloved children's books. The talent and grace that Lowry has shared with readers over the decades makes this year's keynote address particularly exciting.

The dynamite line-up of participants continues with award-winning picture book author Karma Wilson from northwestern Montana— favorites include *The Bear Snores On*, *The Cow Loves Cookies*, and *A Frog in the Bog*. Wilson will conduct a storytime that kids will not want to miss! Three gifted local authors will also be reading from their works, including Jeanette Ingold's *Paper Daughter*; Elaine

Marie Alphin's *The Perfect Shot*, and Michele Corriel's recently published book *Fairview Felines*. The readings are suitable for the whole family. In addition to the presentations by Lowry and Wilson and author readings, there will be three panel discussions with the authors, librarians, and teachers. These will address the unique challenges of tackling tough issues in teen books, writing for children, and an exploration of visual literacy in sharing books with children.

The Festival allows ample time for book signings and personal contact with the authors and experts. During the day-long event, the Children's Room will feature readings and hands-on activities for the young ones. New this year is a catered brown bag "Lunch with the Authors" on site (both adult and child meals will be available for purchase), creating a true book festival geared specifically for young kids, teens, and all lovers of children's literature.

All activities are free and open to the public. Participants are eligible for MT OPI Renewal Units. The Bozeman Public Library Children's Festival of the Book is made possible through the generous support of the Bozeman Public Library Foundation, the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, and is funded in part by a grant from Humanities Montana, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For a complete schedule, please see the library website at [www.bozemanlibrary.org](http://www.bozemanlibrary.org) or contact Jeanne Gracey-Etgen in the Foundation office at 582-2425 or [programs@bozemanlibraryfoundation.org](mailto:programs@bozemanlibraryfoundation.org).

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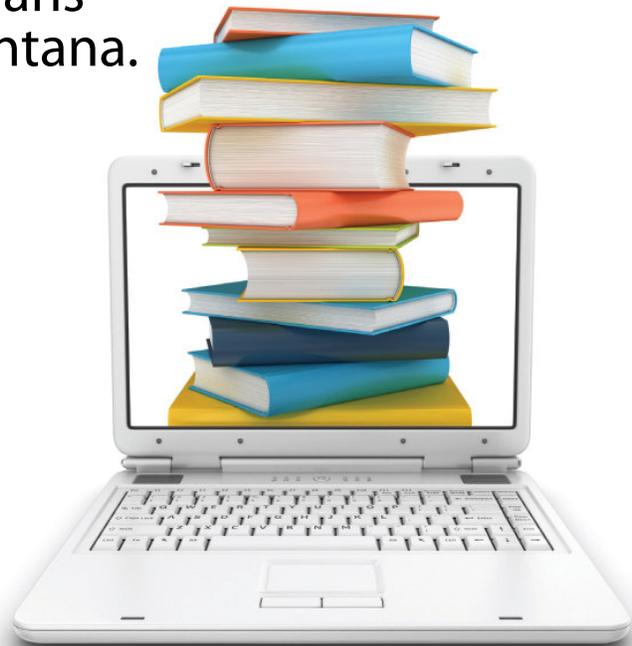
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## From Your Directors-at-Large

Your Directors-at-Large welcome all to a new year in the library world with a reminder that if you haven't gotten your dues in yet this would be a great time to do so. Dues deadline was the end of September to maintain your current membership status and maintaining your membership is important to you and the association. Your dues are vital to the maintenance of your professional organization and your professional organization is vital to you. Benefits of belonging to and supporting your professional organization include availability of grant opportunities through the Professional Development Committee and continuing educational opportunities through retreats, workshops and the annual conference. Additionally the networking opportunities through WIRED, FOCUS and professional gatherings as well as the support for libraries facing challenges to materials or other issues is critical. Benefits of your membership to the association is the depth of experience and breadth of commitment from our members that make the association work. If you are not a member or have not renewed your membership

yet please take a moment to consider that even at the highest membership rate (see <http://www.mtlib.org/Store/Membership/default.html> for the membership application) it will cost you only \$5/month to renew your membership. If you are a member encourage others in your library or area to join, after all new members receive a \$10 discount for joining. Compared to many other professional association's dues this is a great deal. If you have questions about membership please contact your Director-at-Large...

Director at Large - West  
Marjorie Doyle  
Missoula Public Library  
301 East Main  
Missoula, MT 59802  
Phone: (406) 721-2665  
Fax: (406) 728-5900  
[mdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us](mailto:mdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us)  
[doyle1665@gmail.com](mailto:doyle1665@gmail.com)

Director at Large - East  
Bridgett Johnson  
Montana State Library  
PO Box 201800  
Helena, MT 59620  
Phone: (406) 444-3115  
Fax: (406) 444-0266  
[BJohnson3@mt.gov](mailto:BJohnson3@mt.gov)

## Central Asia Institute Interest Group

Many people expressed an interest last spring in promoting support for the Batangi Boys and Girls School in Azid Kashmir, Pakistan. Enough money was raised last year to pay support for the school. October 1st marks the beginning of a new year for fundraising. Our goal is to raise another \$5000 to support Job #12, our "Montana" school account, for the 2010-2011 school year.

Many ideas have been used in the past to raise donations for our project: pizza sales one day a week in the library, school dances, theater productions, collections at various MLA events, plus many other projects. At least one librarian makes a monthly donation to Job #12 to help us reach our goal. CAI has added a new page to their website this summer. <https://www.ikat.org/how-to-help/fundraising/> There are ideas in the guide at this link for fundraising as well. Thank you to everyone who has helped in the past and with your continued support, we can continue to promote this worthwhile endeavor.

The recent flooding in Pakistan has not destroyed any of the CAI schools but travel to Batangi is difficult because the village is so isolated. Deaths have been reported in the area and the devastation has been great. To hear more about the activities of the Central Asia Institute, check out the [ikat.org](http://www.ikat.org) web site to view several recent TV/radio shows with Greg as a guest speaker.

# New Froid Library built by the “little town” that could

By: Pattie Thompson  
Froid Branch Library

Despite an economic downturn that is threatening libraries throughout the country, in less than a year, the small town of Froid, Montana, moved from



talking about the need for a new library to cutting the ribbon on a brand new 2,880 square foot facility this past July. The

dream became a reality because this rural town of 200 in northeastern Montana wasn't about to let their library become a thing of the past.

Last year the town of Froid was faced with a problem: the storefront building where the library had been

housed for 25 years had tilting floors and mold inside the walls. In August of 2009 with patrons' health



and the collection at stake, the town council took the bold step of voting to build a new library. By September a committee of shakers and movers was formed to get the ball rolling.

Roosevelt County Library Director Andrea Hayes, who oversees the Froid Branch Library and attended an early meeting said, “I was so impressed with how the Froid community latched onto the idea of building a new library. After attending just one meeting last September, I had no doubt they would get the job done!”

The first decision was whether to build a new facility or renovate an existing structure. Conventional wis-

dom indicated the new library should remain on Main Street where the main businesses are located. But a less expensive alternative was suggested: build an addition

onto the west end of the Froid Community Center which was com-



pleted in 2008. By creating an addition instead of a free-standing structure, the library would benefit from the Center's handicapped accessible bathrooms, fully equipped kitchen, ample parking, and geothermal heating and cooling system. The only disadvantage was the location-- three blocks off Main Street. But there was another factor to consider.

In retrospect, the “library raising” was, at every step of the way, a community effort. The first funding came

from the Froid Community Center Fund, which gave \$60,000 in funds left over



from the 2008 building project. Next Froid Community Corporation shareholders donated another \$19,000. A building drawing submitted by a local engineer and an ingenious window design for the west wall from a local builder became the committee's blueprints. Gravel came from local ranchers and farmers, and the day the frame went up, local farmers showed up with heavy equipment to get the job done. With nearly \$80,000 seed money in hand,

# New Froid Library built by the “little town” that could, continued

the project secured grants totaling \$25,000-- one from the Williston Economic Development Corporation in North Dakota, and another from PPL Montana energy company.



The Town of Froid gave the project another \$11,000 in Federal stimulus funds, while the remaining money for the

\$126,000 project came from a variety of sources including the U.S. Council on Aging, Roosevelt County, Froid Friends of the Library, First Community Bank of Froid, several memorials, and individual donations. In the months that followed volunteers unselfishly gave their time and labor to help erect and finish the structure, further reducing costs.

Then came the move. On a sunny Saturday in June 25 volunteers ranging from five to 70 years old, formed a human chain to load 6,000 shrink-wrapped books onto a flatbed truck, and later unload them



at the new library. They did the job in just 90 minutes. The Library was dedicated at the Froid Centennial on July 2nd, the opening event of the three day celebration. While 60 were expected, 400 well wishers showed up for the ribbon-cutting. Before the Centennial was over some 2,300 celebrants had been able to see the new library, which was the site of the Big Muddy Art Show and the Library's Centennial oral history project, Voices of Memory & Hope in which a dozen senior citizens told their life stories.

Friends Library Board President Sheri Crain said it best: “Started 65 years ago by the Women’s Club whose books started the collection, staffed for many years by volunteers, this new library is the culmination of the hard work and sacrifices of the people of Froid. It is the perfect legacy of this Centennial to give to our town and our children.”



New Froid Branch Library Exterior

# Help promote the coolest thing in Montana: Libraries!

Have some fun! Join the MLA Marketing and Public Relations Committee! Seeking committee members who have an interest in promoting Montana libraries and all the fabulous services they offer to their respective committees. This committee does the PR Hints of the Month, works on projects designed to highlight libraries, has a large presence at conference and just has a great time in general. Some of the more notable projects we've engaged in: selecting the MLA logo, designing and promoting the Montana Book Babes calendar, putting together the MLA Literary Feast cookbook and more! Anyone having enthusiasm and the desire to showcase the marvelous services of Montana libraries, please contact PR & Marketing Committee Chair Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson at [lisamj@missoula.lib.mt.us](mailto:lisamj@missoula.lib.mt.us) or 258-3851.

## Ice cream, falcons, and live radio drama highlight Missoula's Big Read

By Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson

Public Relations Librarian, Missoula Public Library

From Oct. 5-Nov. 13, the Missoula community will celebrate "The Maltese Falcon" with a full calendar of events including book chats hosted all over the county, staged readings, movie screenings, children's events, mystery games, a Find the Falcon scavenger hunt via Facebook, Festival of the Book mystery writers workshops, and lots more. The Big Read kicks off with "Spade and the City: A Tour of Noir," on Oct. 5, offering a virtual trip through Hammett's San Francisco featuring music, food and Bay Area Hammett expert Don Herron.

Plus, the library will be giving out more than 2,200 copies of "The Maltese Falcon" at the library and locations throughout the county. Younger readers won't be left out – they can get a copy of "The Falcon's Malteser" or "The Malted Falcon," the library's Little Read selections.

There are some really innovative clever ideas in store for those who participate in The Big Read in Missoula. On October 10 at 2 p.m., there is going to be a Noir Walking Tour of downtown Missoula. On October 16 at 7 p.m., The Maltese Falcon radio drama, performed by the UM Theatre Dept., will be taking place at The Top Hat Lounge complete with a drink called "The Sam Spade." On October 20 at 5:30 p.m., there will be a screening of the 1941 Maltese Falcon film at the Missoula Art Museum. And on November 7 at 2 p.m., the Raptors of the Rockies will be doing a program at the library tying in with the falcon angle. Also, Dashiell Hammett's granddaughter, Julie Rivett, will be presenting a program at the library on her grandfather's con-

tribution to pop culture, as well as hosting programs at several area high schools. Also throughout the month, The Big Dipper ice cream store will be featuring the flavor The Malted Falcon and Missoula's own community television station (MCAT) is hosting a make-your-own murder mystery short film workshop with a screening of the films to be held October 16 at the library.

Missoula is one of 75 communities nationwide participating in The Big Read this year through a \$17,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Special thanks to major local Big Read Missoula sponsors Missoula Art Museum, Missoula County Public Schools, Allegra Print & Imaging & Signs Now, and Humanities Montana. The Little Read is majorly sponsored by the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation.

"It's exciting how many Missoula groups and organizations have volunteered their time and services to take part in this community-wide program," said Big Read Missoula committee chair Molly Ledermann. "This is an amazing opportunity for everyone to share a reading and cultural experience."

A full calendar of events will be posted through the library's website at [www.missoulapubliclibrary.org](http://www.missoulapubliclibrary.org) and will be available in print at the library and other participating locations. For more information on this event, please contact the library at 721-BOOK (2665).

# Montana State Library News

By Sue Jackson,  
Montana State Library

## **Have You Tried the Online CE Tracking System?**

Don't forget you can now track your continuing education credits online using a password protected tracking form. It's easy to register and set up an account. Then, with the click of a button you can add ce events from the Master Certification Continuing Education List (for training from Montana State Library, Montana Shared Catalog, Montana Library Association, or Montana's six library federations). For events sponsored by other organizations, you can input the information directly into your CE Tracking Form. The system (developed by Mike Price) will keep a tally of your credits in each ce category, total up all of the ce credits you've earned, and can be printed when you apply for certification. Start your ce account at [http://msl.mt.gov/For\\_Librarians/Training/certification/CE\\_Tracker/default1.asp](http://msl.mt.gov/For_Librarians/Training/certification/CE_Tracker/default1.asp)

NOTE: Don't worry about having all of your ce credits on the new online form; just start using it now. When you apply for your next certificate you'll submit three different kinds of documentation and that's fine: for ce you attended prior to January 1, 2010, you will submit the old ce forms (the ones with signatures verifying your attendance); for ce you attended after the new certification program began in January, you will have the PC tracking form we started with and the new online form (you just print both and send them with you certification application).

And, congratulations to all the librarians and trustees who have earned certification in the new Montana Certification Program for Library Directors, Staff, and Trustees.

## **Making the Hard Decisions – A Public Library Trustee Clinic**

Two trustee clinics are scheduled for library directors and board members. Please plan to join us on: Saturday, October 9th – Billings (Hilton Garden Inn) or Saturday, November 6th -- Missoula (Hilton Garden Inn)

Pat Wagner, Pattern Research (Denver), will be the presenter. She'll share her expertise on the duties of the trustee and the board and what boards and libraries can do in troubled times. Pat has vast experience with library administration and will have time at the clinics to help directors and trustees with any special issues the library is facing. Registration can be done online at: <http://www.msl.mt.gov/trusteeclinic/>. There is no registration fee and lunch will be provided at the hotel. A small stipend is available to each library that is represented at one of the clinics.

## **Fall Workshop 2010 – Great Falls**

There were 138 librarians and trustees registered for this year's Fall Workshop. Thanks to all the presenters for sharing their expertise and thanksto everyone who came.

## **Preservation Survey Is Available**

The MT Connecting to Collections (CTC) online survey has been launched. The survey will collect data about historical materials held by Montana's cultural institutions—including libraries—to be used to develop statewide preservation strategies. The CTC project is being coordinated by Montana State Library and the Montana Historical Society and funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The project also features five free preservation workshops for staff and volunteers of MT's libraries, museums, historical societies, county records offices, and tribal governments.

- October 5 – Havre-Hill County Public Library
- October 6 – Kalispell, Museum at Central School
- October 7 – Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives
- October 19 – Miles City Public Library
- October 20 – Bozeman (location to be announced)

You can register for a workshop online at: <http://msl.mt.gov/collections/>. A small stipend will be available for institutions that have staff or volunteers attend a CTC workshop.

# Lewis & Clark Library Kicks Off Fourth Big Read & Celebrates Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon*

The opening festivities for Lewis & Clark Library's 2010 Big Read kicked off Thursday, October 7 with a reception and San Francisco slide show by "Hammett Walk" expert Don Herron. Denise Juneau, Superintendent of Schools, shared her thoughts on the importance of reading. "It's the first gift a teacher gives a student," Juneau said. The lineup of activities has spawned a lineup photo op with our very own (cardboard) Humphrey Bogart. The "Maltese Your Own Bird" Contest already has entries, including Lady Cynthia Malcon. "I felt like I was channeling Liberace," said her creator.

High school students are beginning to bring in their versions of a new cover for *The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett. These will hang in the lobby through November.



Gutman

The collective artists are our Art Walk artists for November 12. The judging of the "Maltese Your Own Bird" contest will take place at the Art Walk, with local celebrity judges. One prize is a replica of the proposed in the 1941 film of *The Maltese Falcon*.

The Helena Police Department lent a pair of their own cuffs for display with strict orders that they stayed locked in the display case. Even so, we've had a few patrons offer to show us how to get out of the cuffs with a mere paperclip. Hammett would be proud, I think.



Lady Cynthia Malcon

For more information on Lewis & Clark county's Big Read events, go to [www.bigread.info](http://www.bigread.info). The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.



Suliman the Turk(ey)

**NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS**



**THE BIG  
READ**





**Montana Library Association**  
PO Box 1352  
Three Forks, MT 59752

