

President's Letter

Ah, December that special time of the year. So many of us are rushing around like crazy people trying to get all of our personal shopping done while usually dealing with staff and volunteer shortages - hopefully due to vacations and not the flu. In addition to the holidays that are on the horizon, I'm going to ask everyone to add another special day to your calendars, Legislative Day.

I strongly urge you to consider making the wintery trek to Helena on January 18th for all the fun that is Legislative Day. Call, write, email, and text your state representatives and urge them to come too. This is a chance to show off library services, library people, and library goods. It is a giant show and tell evening. And what a better place to do all this showing off then at the Montana State Library. This special evening offers the chance to showcase the great things being done in local libraries but also it should be used to demonstrate what a unique treasure our state library is. Montana is so lucky to have a state library where the staff actually know our names and at times know more about our libraries then we

might. I love it that I can call and by the time I am halfway through hello they know it is me. Hmm wait a minute, maybe that isn't such a good thing. No, I'm going with the fact they know me and are happy to hear from me and willing to help if needed. When I speak with librarians from other states they are amazed that not only have I seen our state librarian but we know each other on a personal level. So many people are amazed by that. But getting back to the topic at hand... Legislative Day is our chance to educate and remind our representatives that libraries are important and need the opportunities to continue to shine.

If you can't attend, consider having a mini-version on the same day. Throw an open house to show off your own services. Serve cookies. You can never go wrong with cookies.

As you all know libraries are the great equalizers and everyone can use a reminder about that every now and then. Besides they are just cool places to hang out in. In fact right now our library is so cool it is only 54 degrees in here because our circa 1962 furnace decided to take Thanksgiving off and just not come back. Happy Holidays.



Samantha Pierson, MLA President

Awards and Honors Committee Seeking Nominations

By Molly Ledermann,
MLA Awards & Honors Committee
& Reference Librarian
Missoula Public Library

It's time to think about the outstanding achievements of our colleagues and give them the recognition they deserve with MLA Awards and Honors. This year we have two new awards, School Library Program of the Year and Support Staff of the Year, details are listed below. You can also find detailed information and descriptions of the awards in the MLA handbook section of the MLA website and on the MLA Conference website.

1.) 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.

2.) 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
(406)728-5900 (fax)

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

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 his/her 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 of 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

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If you are interested in placing an ad, or sponsoring the MLA Focus Newsletter, please send inquires, articles, ads, and reviews to the editor:

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E-mail: debkmla@hotmail.com

Awards and Honors Committee Seeking Nominations, continued

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. An additional application must be filled out for this award. It is available on the Montana Library Association website. 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

Support Staff of the Year Award

This award is conferred upon a Montana library support staff employee in recognition of outstanding service to the library profession and excellence in job performance. The support staff worker must be currently employed in a Montana library. 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

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
- 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.

Awards and Honors Committee, continued

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 Leads winners

By Mary Drew Powers, Chair,
Professional Development Committee
& Information Services
Parmly Billings Library

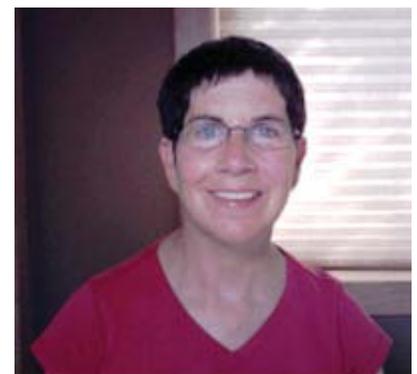
Mary Ann George was awarded a \$1000 Leadership Institute Grant from MLA to attend PNLA Leads - a week-long immersion Leadership Institute sponsored by the

Pacific Northwest Library Association. The program is "designed to provide opportunities for emerging library leaders in the Pacific Northwest to cultivate their leadership skills and potential" according to the PNLA website.

Mary Ann works at the UM-Helena College of Technology Library and is currently pursuing her Library Media Specialist credential through UM-Western and the University of Montana.

Along with Mary Ann, congratulations are in order for Librarian Teresa Keenan of the Mansfield Library in Missoula as well. She was also accepted into the PNLA Leads program. Both Librarians attended the Institute at Schweitzer Mountain Resort in the third week of October.

Information about grants from MLA for professional development and travel awards can be found on the MLA website in the Handbook under "**Grants, Guidelines.**"



Mary Ann George, MLA Leadership Institute Grant recipient

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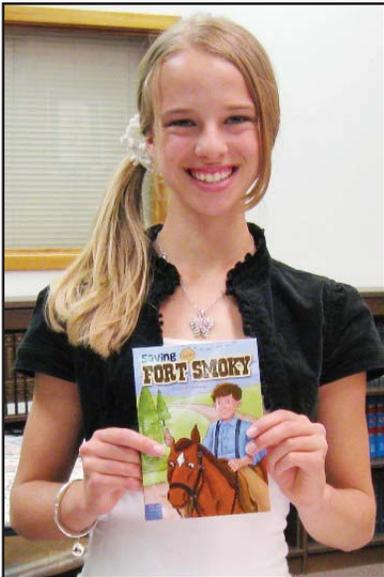
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Dawson County High School Student Published

By Eileen Melby,
Dawson County High School
Librarian

When are Dawson County High School students allowed to eat cake in the library? Whenever a DCHS student succeeds in having a book pub-



Jenna Gustafson, a freshman at DCHS & published author

lished! Jenna Gustafson, a freshman at DCHS was honored with a book signing event on October 15th. Many of the 300 students who visited the library that day might have come for the cake, but they were soon listening intently as this young lady explained the process she went through to become a published author. The first draft of *Saving Fort Smoky* started as a short story assignment in Jenna's 7th grade English class for teacher Melissa Knudson. Jenna spent the next year expanding and editing her story into its present form aided by

Washington Middle School librarian, Sheryl Stansbury, and teachers Norma McNiven and Annie Beggar. She also began investigating publishing possibilities, and as a result, eventually her story was accepted by Tate Publishing. Jenna explained that Tate Publishing has a Christian focus and could be described as a hybrid publishing option which combines aspects of traditional publishing with some features of self-publishing. Unlike many businesses which cater to self-published authors, Tate is very selective and only publishes a small percentage of the manuscripts which are submitted. Jenna's book *Saving Fort Smoky* is appropriate for ages 9-12 and is available at Amazon for \$8.99.

Highwood School and Community Library Opens

By Jill Munson, Chouteau County
Library Director

It's a reality!

After many years of wishin' and hopin', the Highwood School and Community Library – a branch of the Chouteau County Library System has opened the doors! On October 25th, an Open House was held at the library with Highwood School Superintendent Becky Aaring, Chouteau County Library Foundation Member Dusty Kuehner, Chouteau County Board Trustee Debra Clark and former Library Director Mary Meissner and current Library Director Jill Munson sampled goodies and met Amy Goode-

moot, Branch Librarian. Donna Buckley is the school librarian. The Highwood School and Community Library is a member of the Montana Shared Catalog and is open 9AM-4PM M-F and Monday and Tuesday nights from 4:30-7PM.

MPLA Report

By Pam Henley, MPLA Rep;
Technology Assistant,
Bozeman Public Library

The MPLA Executive Board met in October via conference call, which is a very convenient and economical way to meet for such a geographically-widespread group. The board decided to offer institutional members the option of placing one free half-page ad in the MPLA newsletter, along with offering one free personal membership for a staff member. This could encourage institutions to join and advertise in the newsletter, and allow them to also encourage staff to become involved.

The MPLA newsletter has been online-only for the past several issues, and will continue that way permanently. This actually gives the newsletter greater visibility, offers greater flexibility with content, and saves a substantial amount in printing and postage. There have no complaints about this new delivery method.

Plans are already underway for the next Leadership Institute in 2012, since this year's institute was so successful. Keep watching for news and application information in the future!

MLA Sponsors Connie Behe as ALA “Emerging Leader”

By Mary Drew Powers, Chair
Professional Development Committee
& Information Services
Parmly Billings Library

Connie Behe of Flathead County Library System has been accepted into ALA’s Emerging Leaders 2011 Program and has been awarded MLA’s \$1000 Emerging Leader Grant by the Professional Development Committee. Behe will attend the January kick-off of Emerging Leaders at the 2011 ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego, CA. Once there, she’ll join with other participants to form teams and work on a project.

Each year, ALA’s Emerging Leaders Program accepts applications for their year-long leadership institute. And each year, participants work on a project to benefit libraries in myriad ways. For instance, last year’s Emerging Leader from Montana, Sarah Daviau of Lincoln County Libraries, worked with her group on a task suggested by ALA’s Office for Human Resource Development & Recruitment. Needing to promote the many resources developed both within and without ALA for library recruitment, HRDR asked Daviau’s “Team S” to make a “Career Fair Toolkit” by gathering and connecting resources and making them more easily accessible to library recruiters.

All of 2010’s Team Projects are available online at the **Emerging Leaders Wiki**. While MLA’s

Emerging Leaders Grant happens only once a year, MLA still has funds available for other professional development opportunities at regional or national conferences. The next deadline for applying is April 2011. See grant guidelines at http://www.mtlib.org/Handbook/grant_guidelines.html or contact Mary Drew Powers at powersmd@ci.billings.mt.us

Come play with our new Word Wall!

By Dee Ann Redman,
Assistant Director,
Parmly Billings Library

Parmly Billings Library staff are excited about our new interactive Word Wall located in the Library’s Children’s Services area. The Word Wall is the result of a gift from the estate of former Children’s Librarian Edith Gronhovd, and is the first interactive media wall of its type ever to be installed in a library setting. The Word Wall is an immersive media experience that allows children – and adults – to interact with words, phrases and images using their shadow to manipulate those words and images.

Children can also work cooperatively with each other to move the words along the ten foot long screen. The background of the Word Wall shows an image of Billings’ landmark Sacrifice Cliff, based on a photograph provided courtesy of local photographer Phil Bell. Fun blue and purple birds fly through the screen, dropping phrases and images for those waiting below to play with. These words and images are completely customizable by the Library staff, who will change them to coincide



with story time themes or seasonal celebrations. One young boy who enjoyed the Word Wall on its opening day exclaimed, “It’s just like Harry Potter! It’s magic!” The Word Wall was developed with customized programming for the Library through Snibbe Interactive, which has placed similar interactive experiences in museums and commercial spaces.



Gingerbread from the Heart: A children's picturebook

By Janice K. Mineer

A tiny, sweet-smelling gingerbread house frosted in white, bejeweled with bright cinnamon candy and sparkling gumdrops. Something miraculous happens in the hearts of people when a cookie house is constructed.

When I ask adults if they ever made a gingerbread house, most of them reply without hesitation that they have. Almost all of them describe in great detail how old they were at the time, who they were with and the very features of the house they created even though it could have been lying in their memory banks for as long as fifty years. What is it about a gingerbread house that makes such lasting, pleasant memories? Is it the smell of cloves and cinnamon? The sweet taste of peppermint that ends up in our mouths instead of on a frosted roof top? Or is it the warmth of the undivided attention of a mother, sibling or grandmother? Whatever it is, the experience “sticks”

with us. And tiny miracles occur.

For several years I watched children and adults bring their colorful, sweet smelling creations to the gingerbread house contest at Southgate Mall as a fundraiser for the Ronald McDonald House in Missoula. One little girl, starting at the age of five, entered every year with an exceptionally detailed, carefully crafted entry and won prizes in her category. I always appreciated her dedication to helping children and their families at the Ronald McDonald House by entering the contest and donating her cute little houses for the display. It was several years before I learned that this bright, curly haired girl had type 1 diabetes. What a great deal of sacrifice for this girl to work with that much candy and cookies when she had to refrain from eating it!

Thus began my appreciation of the ability of children to do great good for others, reaching their short little arms out, often in ways exceeding the reach of many adults, to make the world around them a better place. It also struck me as I observed how service to others brought young people balance as individuals and a greater personal strength and happiness.

My children's book *Gingerbread from the Heart* arose from my experiences with the Ronald McDonald House Fundraiser and the delightful families who have participated. The book was illustrated by a fine Missoula

artist, Misty Danyo, a graduate of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. Misty, a busy mother of four young children, also has a passion for the fun of gingerbread house making. She has won top awards in gingerbread house contests with her imaginative displays.

In the book, three children make gingerbread houses for their grandmother who is down with a bad knee. From the perspective of their individual personalities and childlike imagination, they create three very different gingerbread houses. They vary from a nearly perfect, fairy tale cottage to a crazy beach hut, to a crumbling graham cracker house. While the oldest child secretly hopes Grandma likes her house the very best, what she learns is that each of them brings happiness to Grandma in their own unique fashion.

The book includes recipes for gingerbread house making and tips and pictures are available on the website: www.gingerbreadfromtheheart.com. A coloring page can be accessed at the site, and upon request, librarians can receive a downloadable 3D paper gingerbread house for children to color and create at story time at their library. Also, available is a video of an interactive gingerbread story that I have shared with libraries and classrooms.

I am a deep believer in the kind of goodness that comes from the faithful service of dedicated librarians. When my daughter was a preschooler, our little family spent months at a time at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota while my husband received medical care for a genetic illness that eventu-



Janice Mineer & the 8' Gingerbread House created for Ronald McDonald House Missoula

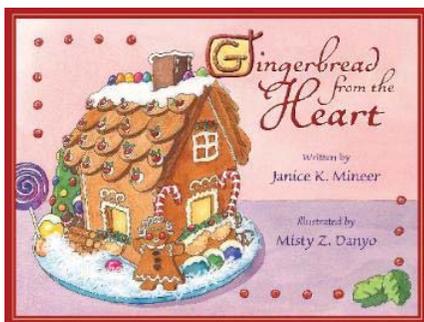
ally took his life. We were far from home, friends and family during his treatment. As a break from the hospital, I would take Andrea to the beautiful Rochester Library, a virtual fairyland for her. We would sit together and open up the pages of those lovely children's books. We became absorbed for hours in the beautifully illustrated pages, laughing together and traveling to other worlds filled with story book friends, dragons, and talking animals. I have often been grateful for those who contributed their funds, their time and their talents to create a place of happiness and peace for our family in a difficult time. A librarian will never know whose life they touch by their daily service to others.

The holiday season is a time for us to look to the needs and happiness of others and a perfect time to help children look beyond themselves.

During this holiday season, we will do well to remember that out of a small kind deed, lasting miracles can occur.

"A kind deed is a sweet gift from the heart."

Janice K. Mineer
406-880-6653
jkmineerauthor@gmail.com



Montana State Library News

By Sue Jackson,
Montana State Library

New Feature in the Online CE Tracking System

If you are tracking your continuing education credits online, you'll notice a new feature

(requested by MT librarians and developed by Mike Price). Mike has added a place for you to note when your current certificate was issued. This will help you track when the certification expires and the four-year time period you have to earn credits for the next certificate. Next time you login to your account, from the Main Menu go to "Update My User Profile (including Date Certified)" and fill in the "Date Certified" field. Then, the "Date Certified" will appear at the top of your CE Tracking Form.

When you receive your certificate, we suggest that you download your CE Tracking Form to your PC if you want to keep it, and then delete all of the credits on your online form. That way you'll start tracking credits that you are earning toward your next certificate.

If you haven't used the online system, it's easy to register and set up an account **here**.

The system will keep a tally of your credits in each CE category, & total up all of the CE credits you've earned. These forms can be printed when you apply for certification. NOTE: Don't worry about having all of your CE credits on one form. When you apply for your

next certificate you might have three different kinds of documentation to send with your application and that's just 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).

Don't Forget the Preservation Survey!

The MT Connecting to Collections (CTC) online survey launched in October. If your library hasn't had a chance to complete the survey, we hope you'll do it now. It is available at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22B7V7X64XX> and takes about 20 minutes to complete.

The data collected about historical materials held by Montana's cultural institutions – including libraries – will be used to develop statewide preservation strategies. The CTC project is a partnership between Montana State Library and the Montana Historical Society, and is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Teleconference Series Available for MT Librarians

Through a statewide subscription purchased by the State Library, all Montana librarians and trustees have free access to the 2011 College of DuPage Teleconference Series.

The upcoming programs are: February 4th -- Free Content for Library Collections

April 8th – Cataloging: New Perspectives

To have access to the programs, just **register online**. You'll receive an email before each program with details on connecting. Enjoy the programs!

2010 Collection Management Honor Roll

Each year the Montana State Library Commission recognizes libraries that are dedicated to sharing resources through the Collection Management Honor Roll. All types of libraries are eligible to be included in this recognition. The requirements are:

-the library must have a current (updated within the last every 3 years) and board approved collection management policy on file with Montana State Library;

-the library must have at least 50% of its holdings in the WorldCat database; and

-the library must be actively adding and deleting holdings information to WorldCat.

If your library's policy is being updated this year, it needs to be sent to the State Library by December 31, 2010 in order to be eligible for this year's Collection Management Honor Roll.

Intellectual Freedom Committee Members Have a Busy Season

By Lauren McMullen,
Consulting Librarian
Montana State Library

Fall was a busy season for MLA Intellectual Freedom Committee members, starting with Banned Books Week September 25 – October 2.

IFC member BJ McCracken was invited to speak at the Great Falls Public Library Banned Book Week forum on what qualifies a work as having literary merit. They used *Fool's Crow* as a spring board into the discussion. BJ was joined on the panel by GFPL Director Kathy Mora and a home school parent and student.

BJ also participated on a panel at University of Great Falls on school selection policies. Other members of the panel included an elementary school librarian and former IFC member-for-life Jim Heckel. Both of the events were attended by the public.

Lisa Sukut, IFC member and Teen Services Librarian at Livingston Park County Public Library joined



At Park High School Library
Discussing real-life censorship
scenarios in Montana schools.

Suzanne Goodman at Park High School to give a presentation to students about Banned Books Week. Twenty six students attended.

Lockwood Middle School Librarian and IFC member Johanna Freivalds told us about activities in her school: "I visited with the scheduled classes in the library during the week preceding and week of BBW. At the middle school level we talk about reading as our right but also as our responsibility.

"It's the library's job to provide all different kinds of materials to use, but each person needs to follow their own family's rules for use. I use the TV analogy...we all know families that have rules about what programs their family members are allowed to watch or not watch...it is the same with library materials (your parents can tell you what they want you to read--but can't make those choices for your friends). Different families, different rules.

"The main thing that we want the students to do is to read in their interest areas and sprinkle in some unfamiliar stuff as well from time to time. I was pleasantly surprised at how many students/staff noticed 'Lockwood School' featured on the 'Too Dangerous for the Big Sky' poster. These observations started some wonderful conversations."

Amy Cannata of ACLU Montana took the "Too Dangerous for the Big Sky?" poster session on the road during Banned Books Week, visiting MSU Billings Library, Rocky Mountain College Paul M. Adams Library (where she was joined by IFC chair Sheila

Bonnand) and Lewis & Clark Library.

The Dangerous poster is a cooperative project between the MLA Intellectual Freedom Committee and ACLU-MT. At the MLA Chico Retreat on October 20, IFC members Sheila Bonnand and Lauren McMullen presented an update on IFC membership, activities and resources.

On November 18 Sheila, Lisa, and Lauren presented "Intellectual Freedom 101" to Livingston School District librarians, faculty members, administrators and School Board members at Park High School Library. The program covered foundations of intellectual freedom & supporting documents, a history of censorship & censorship in Montana, and how to be prepared for censorship challenges. We wound up the session in small groups doing table talks with censorship scenarios and case studies. These are just some of the many ways the Intellectual Freedom Committee helps Montana libraries. If you'd like to learn more about the committee or its activities, check out our wiki: <http://mlaif.pbworks.com> and our blog: <http://mlaif.blogspot.com>.

MLA Membership Makes a Marvelous Gift

By Marjorie Doyle & Bridgett Johnson

Looking for a great Christmas gift? Treat yourself or someone you appreciate and support your library association by giving a membership to yourself or your favorite library staff member or trustee.

The benefits that you receive from the association include both educational and personal enhancement through conferences and retreats, divisions and interest groups. Eligibility for grants and financial support as well as discounts on conference and retreat registration are based on membership.

The Montana Library Association is your professional association and your way to connect to your community of peers. Montana librarians are change agents in their communities. Do more for your library and your career through membership in MLA.

If you have questions about your membership status feel free to contact your local Director-

at-Large or Executive Assistance, Debra Kramer (see <http://www.mtlib.org/contacts.html>).

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

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Missoula, MT 59802
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Fax: (406) 728-5900
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Too Dangerous for the Big Sky?

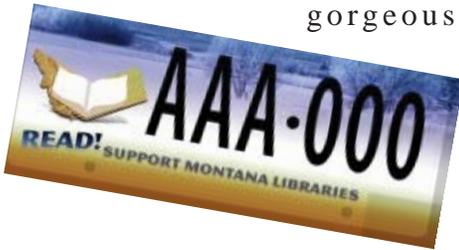
American Psycho, Toots Crow, The Giver, The Guy Book, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, The Story of Mary MacLane, Deutsche Lieder

Stand up for intellectual freedom in Montana.
Read a Banned or Challenged Book Today.
[read more](#)

Want the perfect Christmas gift?

By Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson,
Public Relations Librarian
Missoula Public Library

Then buy an MLA license plate!
They're beautiful, they highlight
our love of reading in the
gorgeous



state of
Montana, and your purchase benefits the Montana Library Association which in turn benefits you! Spread the love of reading as you're driving around our fine state. To purchase your unique plate modeled after the MLA logo, go to your county motor vehicle registration department, pay a one-time fee of \$45, and the plates are yours! If you have any questions, please contact MLA PR & Marketing Chair Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson at lisamj@missoula.lib.mt.us or Debbi Kramer at debkmla@hotmail.com.

Montana Shared Catalog News

By Ken Adams,
MSC Director

Bridger Public Library, Fort Belknap College and Stone Child College LIVE in MSC: These three libraries began using the MSC system "for real" in August and early September, 2010. Fort Belknap College (near Harlem) and Stone Child College (near Box Elder)

are the first Montana tribal college libraries to "go-live" in the MSC. Hi-Line Shared Catalog System LIVE in MSC: The 11 public and school libraries that make up the Hi Line Shared Catalog System began using the MSC system in production mode on Oct 13th. Blaine County Library in Chinook, Big Sandy Branch Library, Galata School Library, Harlem Public Library, Havre-Hill County Library, Havre High and Middle School Libraries, Highland Park Primary School Library in Havre, Liberty County Library in Chester, Lincoln-McKinney Primary School and Sunnyside Intermediate School Libraries in Havre all switched over to MSC after a six-week test period and 2 days of "boot-camp" style training.



Bonnie Williamson, Director, checks out a book to a Havre-Hill County Library patron using the MSC system.

Coming online soon: Petroleum County School-Community Library in Winnett and Sidney-Richland County Library will be going "live" in the MSC on Wednesday, Dec 9. Glacier County Library (Cut Bank and Browning) and Sheridan County Library (Plentywood) will begin their MSC test phase in late December with a planned "go-live" date in early February. Nancy Bergstrom from Lewistown Public Library, Dale Alger Round-

up Community Library and Dawn Kingstad from Glendive Public Library are chipping in to help MSC staff with training at Winnett and Sidney. Absarokee Schools, Ashland School, Darby Schools and Sun River Valley Schools (Ft. Shaw and Simms) have begun manually entering their records to the catalog and will "go-live" when they have 80% of their collection entered. Nancy Schmidt from Laurel, Ann Rutherford from Miles City College, Jess Tobin from MSL, Paulette Parpart from Missoula Public and Erin Casey from Darby all helped in training these currently un-automated libraries on how to enter their records into the MSC database.

MSC Hardware and Software Upgrade: A faster and more robust IBM server was purchased by the membership last spring and is now installed in the equipment rack at the state library and ready to take over as the new MSC production server. The latest versions of the operating system (AIX), webserver (Apache), database (Oracle) and Integrated Library System (SirsiDynix Symphony 3.3.1) will be operational on the new server in late December. The current production server will be upgraded to Symphony 3.3.1 on Dec 5, completing the final step before moving to the new server. This major upgrade has been made possible by the many extra hours of work over the last several months of preparing and installing hardware, upgrading operating systems in stages, reviewing manuals, loading and testing software, and hours on the phone with IBM and SirsiDynix by Mike Price, MSL/MSC super-tech guru. 12

Two New Branches and a Milestone: The Parmly Billings-West Branch at MSU-B College of Technology began service in October and the Missoula Public Library-Big Sky High School Branch started up in November. The Big Sky HS Branch will also participate in the MSC Partners sharing group. With the addition of these branches, there are now 133 libraries and branches in the MSC and the MSC collection now contains more than 3.2 million items!

New Partner Libraries: Manhattan Community School Library joins the BridgerNet sharing group and Whitehall School Libraries joins the 4-Rivers sharing group – both in December. Belgrade Public Library, a current member of BridgerNet, is making preparations to also join the Partners sharing group. There are 24 libraries & branches in the Partners group, 10 in the 4-Rivers group and 5 in the BridgerNet group. More information on the MSC Partners groups can be found [here](#).

Another Win for Team LCPL

By Samantha Pierson, MLA President & Director,
Lincoln County Public
Libraries

Once again the ridiculous, contest-loving staff of the Lincoln County Public Libraries have done it. Thanks to construction paper, tag board, string, and some really stinky markers, LCPL placed in the Frommer's Library Display Contest. This year the display had to answer the question of "How Do You Travel With Frommers?" LCPL answered the question with a Seuss-themed multi location display. For all the hard work and creativity, the library will be rewarded with 50 Frommer travel books. Now we can continue to dream about vacations with up-to-date information. For more information about the contest and to see the LCPL's incredible entry go to <http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-301897.html>.



Helen Windy Boy, Director, and Joy Bridwell, Library Assistant, using MSC at Stone Child College Library.

Butte Silver-Bow Library's Digital Image Project

Congratulations to Patricia Pierson and Butte Silver-Bow Library for their hard work on the digitization project! Patricia Pierson is the digital collections librarian and she digitizes and catalogs the project. She is a 2008 graduate of Indiana University SLIS. Her article was published in the November issue of "Computers In Libraries." To read the article, "Butte Digital Image Project: Shifting Focus From Collection to Community" go to <http://www.infotoday.com/cilmag/nov10/Pierson.shtml>



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