

MONTANA LIBRARY FOCUS

MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2012 VOL. 30 ISSUE 4

Message from the President

Montana Library Community:

A new year has begun – a new fiscal year that is! Please take a moment to visit the MLA homepage and renew your membership for the year. Please nudge your friends and colleagues to do the same. We're a large organization, but we'd love to grow bigger. While you're online, join MLA on Facebook. It's a fun way to keep up with the goings-on!

Your MLA Board and Committee Chairs met for a summer retreat at the Ursuline Center in Great Falls. Formerly a Catholic school, it is now a serene and affordable meeting and retreat facility. We set the budget, furthered the strategic plan, and increased continuity of MLA leadership by including both outgoing and incoming Officers and Committee Chairs in the meetings. We worked hard to make sure that MLA is set up for a successful year.



We established a new MLA committee – the vendor committee. Vendor participation has slipped over the years, which compromises both the quality of our annual conference and our revenue. The membership of the new committee includes our ALA, MPLA, and PNLA representatives. They now have the additional duty of scoping out their respective annual conferences for potential vendors and sponsors for the MLA conference. We are hopeful that we will see some exciting new vendors at the conference this year as well as the familiar loyal vendors, who we count on visiting each year.

Speaking of the MLA conference, it's time to submit program proposals. The conference proposal forms are online at the MLA homepage and they are due on September 22. The conference will be held April 17 – 20 in Missoula at the Hilton Garden Inn and the theme this year is "Homegrown Inspiration." The focus will be on showcasing Montana authors, organizations, patron services initiatives, etc. – anything by Montanans for Montanans! I can't wait to see your ideas roll in!

Anne Kish
President
Montana Library Association



Montana Library Association

Montana's Libraries from the Mountains to Plains

Montana Libraries Donate Tons of Books to Myanmar

By Bill Cochran, Chair
NLR Interest Group

During July, a dozen Montana libraries donated 17,000 pounds of books to Nargis Library Recovery (NLR), a nonprofit corporation dedicated to rebuilding and restocking libraries throughout Myanmar, especially those destroyed by Cyclone Nargis in 2008. The project was coordinated by the NLR Interest Group of the Montana Library Association.

NLR Executive Director John Badgley and NLR Board Chair David Leuthold traveled across the state in a rented truck for a week, picking up books along the way. The books were delivered to the Portland warehouse of Thrift Books, a corporate partner of NLR, for transshipment to Yangon, Myanmar.

Badgley is a Montana native and retired professor of Southeast Asian Studies now living in Edmonds WA, who began his lifelong fascination with the nation in 1957 when he went to Burma on the first of two Fulbright fellowships to study there. He believes that “no library should feel abandoned and alone following disaster. We all share a common cause to advance knowledge of the world.”

Montana State University – Billings Library made the most generous donation, 150 of the total 500 boxes collected. Craig Lowman, a recent graduate, who helped with boxing and loading, said he was glad to see a large cross-section of materials. “We were able to send them eight boxes of kids’ books,” Lowman said. “That was nice to see.”

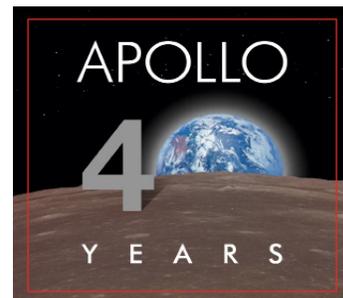
The next largest donation, 90 boxes, came from the Whitefish Community Library, serving 6,400 residents almost 500 miles northwest of Billings. Trustee Anne Shaw Moran said “It’s great that the Nargis Library Recovery Project has offered Whitefish the opportunity to assist our neighbors in Myanmar. This just goes to show that it doesn’t matter where you are in the world; ‘library’ always spells ‘community’ and we are thrilled to help them rebuild and restock.”

To find out more about Nargis Library Recovery, including how to support its work, visit its website <http://www.nargislibrary.org/> or follow it on Facebook.

Lectures and Display to Honor Moon Mission, Rocks and Space Satellite

By Susanne Caro, Government Documents Librarian
Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library

On December 19, 1972, Harrison Schmitt became the last man to walk on the moon. As part of the Apollo 17 team, he was also the only geologist to explore the lunar surface. Samples taken from that expedition are still being researched today and are revealing secrets of the moon’s past. One of the rocks taken from the moon’s Taurus-Littrow valley is now known as the Goodwill Rock. From that one rock nearly 500 samples were given to states, countries, and researchers, including a segment that is now encased in lucite on a plaque with the flag of Montana. This piece of history will be on display in the library November 2nd.



To honor the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 17 moon mission, the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library is planning a series of lectures on the past, present, and future uses of the space missions, the moon rocks, and space satellites, as well as book displays, from November 1 through December 14.

Science and research will be a focus, and we will highlight Mansfield Library’s NASA documents from our Federal Depository Collection. In addition, we will highlight the influence of the moon on culture, arts, literature, and film. These events and the display will be open to the university and Missoula communities and to the public.

Books and Babies Program Turns One

By Sherry Gold

Madison Valley Public Library

Madison Valley Public Library's Books and Babies program started one year ago on June 8th, 2011. We have had a fabulous year of introducing the young attendees to the library. Every Wednesday morning we have active, curious children and their caregivers here for a half-hour of books, games and toys.

The little ones have grown from age 6-7 months into sturdy, confident one-year olds. The age range is 0-3 years; even newborns respond to the movement, voices and energy of the toddlers and crawlers. The new moms make new friends and develop a support group.



The program is supported by the Montana State Library's "Ready 2 Read" statewide program. Check out their website: <http://ready2readmontana.org>. To celebrate this one-year milestone, we had a party on Wednesday, June 6. Twenty-three moms, babies and toddlers enjoyed books, games, refreshments, balloons and prizes!!

MSU Billings Summer Reading Camp

By Cheryl Hoover, Interlibrary Loan Supervisor

MSU Library - Billings

Academic librarians do more than think deep scholarly thoughts. Sometimes they find themselves up to their elbows in paint, frosting, and Jell-O. MSU Billings librarians Eileen Wright and Megan Thomas enjoyed such an experience when they collaborated with the Garfield Community Resource Center to provide two free summer reading camps for children from nearby Title I elementary schools. This was actually the third year of the program, which is funded by community donations. The two camps took place in June and lasted one week each. The first camp included a combined group of 1st and 2nd graders and the second camp consisted of 3rd graders. The respective themes were "Dogs, Dinos & Donuts" and "Travel through the Pages."

The energetic campers participated in many projects and activities organized by these fun-loving librarians and their assistants.

Campers made robots, glitter fish bowls, Jell-O oceans with gummy fish and octopi, camping bags, edible Twinkie monster cars and more. They also went on a toy dinosaur hunt, made dino grub, and read stories. Each participant received a "Kids on Campus" t-shirt, water bottle, free daily lunch, and five new books.



The camps were a howling success again this year and provide a great outreach opportunity for MSU Billings. The children benefit from having a scheduled week of activities to help break up a long summer and they all go home with free books. The librarians benefit from being ensured a good night's sleep after busy days with the children.

ALA Representative Annual Report

By Suzanne Goodman

ALA Representative

During this time period I attended the ALA Midwinter Meeting, ALA Annual Conference, all MLA Board meetings, MLA Board retreat and MLA annual conference and membership meeting. At ALA gatherings I attended all ALA and APA Council Meetings, some ALA Council Forums, and most meetings of ALA Chapter Relations Committee Meetings and Forums. The ALA Forums provided an opportunity for further understanding of proposed ALA resolutions and surrounding issues. The Chapter Relations Forums provided a less formal structure for getting to know other representatives from other state library organizations and to share ideas and concerns. By attending the 2012 MLA Board Retreat held shortly before the beginning the 2012 ALA Annual Conference I greatly enhanced my understanding of MLA issues and kept these issues fresh in my mind as I attended ALA events. I was able to more fully, accurately and confidently share MLA's concerns.

The business of ALA and APA Council is primarily that of creating ALA policy through the formation of resolutions. Resolutions state concerns and reactions of the ALA as regards societal issues impacting libraries and librarians. Two of the most important resolutions passed during this time period have been reported and recorded on both Wired and in Focus. One of those resolutions passed during the ALA Midwinter Meeting addressed intellectual freedom concerns in the closing of the Mexican American Studies program and removal of accompanying texts in Tucson, Arizona. An important resolution passed at ALA Annual addressed the need for certified school librarians and a strong library program in every public school. A relevant resolution from Midwinter addressed privacy issues (as expressed in SIPA and addressed legislatively during this past session). A resolution from Annual addresses voter suppression, calling for ALA to oppose voter ID laws and work to mitigate these restrictions in states (like Montana) that have passed laws asking for voter ID.

Of special significance to Montana this year were the memorial resolutions brought before ALA Council. At the suggestion of several MLA members who attended ALA's virtual membership meeting in early June 2012, I prepared a memorial resolution honoring Jane Howell to present to ALA Council at the January conference. This resolution was first presented to the MLA Board at the MLA Board Retreat. The Board agreed that the resolution should be presented at ALA on behalf of MLA. Jane Howell's memorial tribute sat in honored company as ALA members rose to honor Jane Howell, Abbe Charles-Michel L'Epee (inventor of sign language for the deaf) and Ray Bradbury among several others.

Other work by ALA which has significance to Montana's library community was reported to Montana librarians via postings on Wired and on Facebook. Articles in Focus and an update at the MLA Membership Meeting completed my communications with MLA members regarding ALA. Subjects of these reports included the work of the ALA Task Force on Digital Content (ebooks), information from the American Indian Library Association, and relevant authors/speakers encountered at ALA events.

Other ideas I brought back to MLA from ALA were garnered as a direct result of the MLA Board Retreat and Strategic Planning session in June. I actively sought information from other state organizations and from ALA on member recruitment/renewal processes, ways to involve vendors in supporting state library associations, ways to increase revenues and decrease expenses. I also used the expansive exhibitor space at ALA to search for possible new vendors for the MLA annual conference. I contacted numerous vendors and identified 10 who indicated a willingness to exhibit at MLA in Missoula this spring. I listened at chapter forums for ways other state organizations are attempting to improve attendance at their state conferences. I am in the process of investigating benefits of participating in the joint membership programs with ALA for students, trustees and non-salaried library employees. This proposal is being shared with current MLA board members.

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I explored contacts in ALA to analyze the feasibility of sharing membership lists between organizations serving overlapping populations in an effort to boost MLA membership recruitment. Results of these efforts are being shared with appropriate MLA Board members, specifically with the directors-at-large.

Future activities for this ALA Representative include publishing planned articles and postings in Focus and on Wired. Rather than pack all information into an annual report, I will be distributing information at appropriate times and to appropriate parties via our usual methods of communication.

Serving as ALA Representative to the Montana Library Association this year has again been a very rewarding experience and a wonderful honor. I look forward to my last year of service as ALA Rep in 2012/2013.

Library Hires New Bookmobile Librarian

By Patricia Spencer, Public Information Officer & Volunteer Coordinator
Lewis and Clark Library

While the Bookmobile hasn't arrived yet, the new Bookmobile Librarian arrived on July 2 to begin planning for the opening of the Lewis & Clark Library's newest branch.

Bretagne Byrd joined the staff of the Lewis & Clark Library in July as the Bookmobile Librarian. Bretagne comes to Helena from the Bloomfield-Eastern Green County Public Library in Bloomfield, Indiana where she served as the Outreach Librarian.

Bretagne earned her BA from Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia and went on to earn a MLS in 2011 from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.

Bretagne can be reached at 447.1690 ext 131 or via email at bbyrd@lclibrary.org. Bretagne is currently working on finalizing the Bookmobiles route and hours of service and plans to announce the final schedule in October. Once the Bookmobile arrives, she will host tours and events to introduce the county to the mobile branch of the Lewis & Clark Library.



Havre-Hill County Library Director, Bonnie Williamson, Retires

By Bonnie Williamson, Director
Havre-Hill County Library

After 37 years in the library world, 30 of those years as Director of the Havre-Hill County Library, I will retire on August 9, 2012. A reception will be held from 1 – 4pm at the library to share memories and refreshments. I want to thank the Montana Library Association, Montana State Library, Hi-Line Libraries, Montana Shared Catalog and the many friends I have gotten to know and enjoy over the years who are connected to libraries in some way. I certainly have appreciated being associated with you all.

As I ride off into the sunset (or is it the sunrise?) I want you all to welcome Betty Thompson as the new Library Director for the Havre-Hill County Library. Betty recently moved to Montana from Colfax, WA. Betty is a graduate of the University of Montana and almost a native of Montana. She has a BA in Home Economics Education with a Library-Media minor and has taught in public schools in Washington and Alaska. She was also an extension agent in Chinook for over four years and is excited about reconnecting with friends in the area.

Flathead County Library Board Sets Certification Record

By April Szuch, Public Services Librarian
Flathead County Library System

The Flathead County Library System Board of Trustees recently became the first library board in the state with every member certified through the Montana Certification Program for Library Directors, Staff and Trustees.

Two years ago, the Board of Trustees set the goal for each member to become certified. The newest member, Al Logan, achieved certification just nine months after his appointment. Logan said, "I don't know how I could have been an effective trustee without throwing myself into webinars and other trainings."

Kim Crowley, FCLS director, said, "We are fortunate to have board members who are dedicated to our library, and who want to be as knowledgeable as possible about their work and their role in the community."

To become certified, trustees must complete fifteen hours of continuing education within a four-year period. The Montana Certification Program encourages those in libraries to pursue continuing education and stay up-to-date in the ever-changing world of libraries, technology, information and public service. Certification is required for all Montana public library directors, while certification for trustees and staff is voluntary. Certification for directors and staff requires 60 hours of continuing education within a four-year period. Approximately 70 percent of FCLS staff are certified, and all staff are working toward certification.



The FCLS Board of Trustees (left to right): Elana Weaver, Columbia Falls; Michael Morton, Whitefish; Jane Lopp, member at large; Al Logan, Bigfork; Connie Leistiko, Kalispell.

The Flathead County Library System Board of Trustees is comprised of five members appointed to five-year terms by the County Commissioners to represent a range of geographic areas around the county. Trustee responsibilities include hiring and evaluating the library director, setting policies, approving the operating budget and overseeing its implementation, and advocating for the library in the community.

Update from PNLA Representative

By Della Dubbe, Director
Glacier County Library

Greetings from your new PNLA Representative!

I will be attending my first PNLA Conference, Into the Wild: Surviving and Thriving in Uncertain Times, as your MLA representative on August 1-3 in Anchorage Alaska. I promise to bring back lots of info and ideas to share with my MLA colleagues.

My personal/professional life is in transition. Today, July 27, is my last day as Library Director at the Glacier County Library in Cut Bank, MT. August 13 is my first day as Director of Library Services at Helena College. My interim email is eddubbe@gmail.com. If you have any ideas, questions or information you would like me to take to the PNLA Board, let me know.

Grab-n-Go Collection Already a Hit

By April Szuch, Public Services Librarian
Flathead County Library System

With the recent addition of a Grab-n-Go collection, Flathead County Library System customers are getting their hands on the latest bestsellers and popular novels faster than ever.

Several copies are available of the latest, most in-demand titles. Selection is first come, first served, with a wide variety so customers are sure to find something great to read. Grab-n-Go books check out for 14 days and cannot be renewed or placed on hold, increasing availability to customers who visit the library to browse. Library customers seeking specific titles are in luck, too; there are still plenty of copies available for holds.

Launched June 13, Grab-n-Go has quickly become popular with FCLS customers. With approximately 250 copies in the collection, 80 to 90 percent are usually checked out. New titles are added each month. After a one-year trial period at the Main Library in Kalispell, Grab-n-Go may be extended to the Bigfork and Columbia Falls Branch Libraries.



FCLS staff who helped prepare the Grab-n-Go collection include (left to right) April Szuch, Barbara Nordtome, Connie Behe, Julie Marotz, Jennifer Desch.

Update on MPLA Leadership Institute

By Norma Glock, Librarian
Columbus Middle/High School Library

Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) announces a call for papers for the MPLA Professional Forum, an event of the MPLA/NLA/NSLA Joint Conference in La Vista, Nebraska, October 17-19, 2012. The Professional Forum is designed to present new ideas, innovations, and case studies in librarianship that would benefit the profession. A cash prize of \$300 is given for the winning paper and free memberships are given to the other presentations.

Make plans early to apply for the May 4-9, 2014 MPLA Leadership Institute to be held at YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. Grants are available to help pay for the cost from the Montana Library Association.

Shakespeare and the Library

By Norma Glock, Librarian
Columbus Middle/High School Library

The Friends of the Stillwater County Library hosted the first ever Shakespeare in the Park presentation on July 26 in Columbus. *Twelfth Night* was enjoyed by a large audience with many people requesting that the Friends bring them back again next year.



Big Sky, Missoula, Billings, Bozeman...

By Kim Crowley, Director
Flathead County Library System

The April MLA conference seems a distant memory right now. How can three months have slipped by already?! I want to extend a big thanks to all of you who filled out the conference evaluation/survey. The information we received really helps in our planning of upcoming conferences. Many of you have either co-chaired a conference or been on the MLA Board during conference planning time. You know that pulling off an event of this size is a huge undertaking. And because we have such a vibrant and growing MLA community, you may also know that very few of our cities have facilities large enough to host the Montana Library Association Conference.

For some of us, the choice of Big Sky as a conference venue was wonderful; for others it was not so great. And I think that will always be the case, no matter where we choose. Some of us will love it and some will be okay with it, and some won't really like it at all. Though the response was overwhelmingly positive for Big Sky, the most complaints concerned the high price of food and the inaccessibility of the parking lot. I think in future we can do a better job of pointing out the less expensive places to eat and we can also encourage folks to bring their own food. Two FCLS staff members actually ordered up a second refrigerator (there was one refrigerator in each room) because they brought so many goodies from home! There probably isn't anything we can do about the placement of the parking lot, but we may be able to work with management to have more regular shuttles.

The MLA Board has decided to keep Big Sky in our "desired venues" list. Yes, it is more expensive for non-conference food. But the cost of actually holding the conference in Big Sky was much less than the cost of holding it in the two hotels in Bozeman. Also, the mechanics of the conference in Big Sky were nearly flawless. When the conference was last held in Bozeman, we had nothing but problems in turning rooms around and starting workshops on time. Our conference planners are in serious conversations with the Bozeman hotels to make sure that we don't run into those problems at the 2015 conference.

The next time we meet in Billings, in April of 2014, we will again be at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. Beth Boyson, MLA President-elect, and Janel and Mark Trowbridge visited there recently to check out their new network (remember how you could NEVER get on the Internet there?) and to sample their new menu (remember the Eggplant Parmesan that no one could eat at the membership dinner?). I was probably one of the first to say, "I hope I never set foot in that place again!" But the hotel has upgraded the Internet connections and revamped the menu, and they really want to work for success in 2014.

It would be so nice to once again have the conference in Kalispell, or Butte, or Helena, or Great Falls. Personally, I'd love to go to Miles City for a conference! But none of these cities can accommodate our growing membership. Hopefully, when the economy recovers, these other cities will be able to enhance their conference facilities to meet the needs of our awesome organization and we can once again travel to those towns we are now missing.

New Growth: Groundbreaking of the New Parmly Billings Library



Billings Mayor Tom Hanel exchanges a high-five with lead architect Will Bruder at the groundbreaking of the new Parmly Billings Library, held June 28, 2012. Attendees at the ceremony formed a human outline of the footprint for the new public library. It is currently anticipated to open in December 2013.

ASLD/PLD Fall Retreat

Save the dates: Sunday & Monday October 28 – 29

It will be Halloween time and you can attend sessions on how to deal with all kinds of scary things that show up at the library door: spooky patrons, bewildering new technologies, unexpected natural disasters...you name it.

This year's Chico Retreat will also feature the first-ever MLA "un-program," an exciting Sunday evening dinner speaker, the ever-popular hot tub book discussion and (another first!) knitting group.

Full program information and registration will be available September 1st.

******Plan to be there – or beware!******

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

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