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# Montana Library Focus

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August 2005

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Montana Librarians!

As I revel in the bright mornings and pastel evenings of our long summer days, I resent, even more than usual, being catapulted into the future by marketing events such as back to school sales—which began on July 5, I think. Unfortunately, I find that I am also in the position of rushing our livin'-is-easy summer by focusing on events to come.

In 2006 the Montana Library Association will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Imagine the dedication and determination of the librarians who traveled to Missoula and Butte to plan and formulate the association in 1906. In 2005-2006, MLA members will cruise to workshops, seminars, division meetings, and our annual conference at more than a mile a minute in temperature-controlled vehicles or even on aircraft. What a difference from the time when travel across our vast state required days or weeks rather than hours.

As I envision our association founders traveling over dirt and gravel roads (or perhaps, the rails that no longer serve much of the state), I wish I could know their motives and their vision for library service in Montana.

A poster frequently hung in public library entryways says, "The quality of its library says a lot about a town." What did our library pioneers think their libraries said about their fledgling communities? Did they see their libraries as an essential link to the 'civilized' life they had left behind when they moved to the West? Were they dedicated to preserving and disseminating the classics of western civilization? Were they committed to building a community center for cultural events? What role did they see their libraries fulfilling?

Whatever the role or roles might have been, one thing they must all have seen was the need to work together to achieve their visions. Supporting one another through the sharing of ideas and the development of cooperative projects has been a staple of Montana Library Association members since those first organizational meetings one hundred years ago.

As we anticipate our association's 100<sup>th</sup> year, I would like to ask all MLA members to continue this tradition by sending their ideas for a great celebration to myself or to our indefatigable, intrepid, stalwart and valiant conference committee co-chairs, Jennie Burroughs ([jennie.burroughs@umontana.edu](mailto:jennie.burroughs@umontana.edu)) and Elaine Higgins [elaine.higgins@umontana.edu](mailto:elaine.higgins@umontana.edu).

Although Jennie and Elaine began gathering ideas and volunteers for our centennial conference at a picnic they hosted recently in Missoula's Greenough Park, I know more of both would be greatly appreciated.

Former Montana Librarian Sue (Nissan) Lerdal has already been thinking ahead and has suggested a past-president's reunion. Let's keep those suggestions coming.

After all, in our faster world, May 2006 will be here before we know it.

After word: I used to inspire library trustees to actually read the meeting minutes by incorporating an unusual, seldom-used word for them to find in the text. In the foregoing, I have included an allusion to the title of a [relatively recent] book on the subject of passing time. The first person to email me with the title and author will receive a new hardcover book of my choice.

*Milla L. Cummins, President  
Montana Library Association  
Livingston-Park County Public Library  
[mcummins@ycsi.net](mailto:mcummins@ycsi.net)*

## Headwaters Library Association's First Volunteer Work Session is a Success

What happens when school and public librarians come together? They get a lot of work done and still manage to have fun, as was the case when the Headwaters Library Association had its first volunteer work session at the Bridger Alternative High School Library on June 18, 2005. Fourteen librarians from as near as Bozeman to as far away as Whitehall came out to help the Bridger Alternative High School barcode and prepare books for Follett cataloging. A big thank you goes out to Sally Bell, Therese Michalson, and Connie McCormack for hosting this highly successful event.

Look for more opportunities to volunteer at the Bridger Library this fall as work is continued. Anyone interested in being a part of the next volunteer session can contact Catherine McMullen at [cmcmullen@mtlib.org](mailto:cmcmullen@mtlib.org). Sally Bell from Bridger is also looking for current science and reference materials to add to the collection. She can be contacted at [sbell@bozeman.k12.mt.us](mailto:sbell@bozeman.k12.mt.us).

*Catherine McMullen  
Headwaters Library Association  
[cmcmullen@mtlib.org](mailto:cmcmullen@mtlib.org)*

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Deadline for October issue is September 25

Please send address changes to:  
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### Discussion List: WIRED-MT Information

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

There are two ways to subscribe:

1. a. send an e-mail message to [majordomo@bcr.org](mailto:majordomo@bcr.org)
    - b. leave the subject line blank
    - c. in the body of the message type: **subscribe wired-mt**
    - d. include nothing else; do not attach a signature file
- OR**
2. a. go to the web site: [www.bcr.org/cgi-bin/MailServ/majordomo](http://www.bcr.org/cgi-bin/MailServ/majordomo)
    - b. follow the instructions on the page

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

### PNLA Report

This year's Pacific Northwest Library Association conference will be in Sitka, Alaska on August 3-6. If you didn't make it to Sitka, it is not too early to think about attending the 2006 conference next year in Oregon. The 2007 and 2008 conference are planned for Alberta and British Columbia. If you like to plan even further ahead, the 2009 conference, marking the 100-Year Anniversary of PNLA, will be held in Missoula. You won't want to miss any of these PNLA international conferences which unite libraries in two countries.

### Central Asia Institute Task Force Report

Thank you, thank you, thank you. From the April conference, a total of \$1385.10 was deposited in Job #12 for the Montana Library Association's project to raise money for a school/library in Afghanistan. This included checks from Plains, Broadwater, and Sidney Schools, plus money put in the Pennies for Peace containers at the conference. This brings our total to over \$7600 with money from Sidney, Fallon, and Big Horn county libraries. Other schools contributing money include Columbus Middle, Bozeman High, Miles Avenue (Billings), Polson Middle, Troy, Superior Elementary, Cherry Valley, Sacred Heart, Sourdough and Woodland Montessori Schools. Many individuals have also contributed to this account. Every penny counts as the campaign is continuing for the next year. Watch fall announcements as to how you can contribute to this worthwhile project.

Both the PNLA and CAI Pennies for Peace articles were submitted by Norma Glock. Thank you Norma.

*Norma Glock*  
*Columbus High School*  
*[nglock@cablemt.net](mailto:nglock@cablemt.net)*

### Something's Brewing With Statewide Marketing



This fall, the Montana State Library in partnership with the Montana Library Association will launch a new statewide marketing campaign. "What's Your Story? Find it at the Library!" will provide Montana's libraries with a wide range of marketing tools they can utilize to promote their own services and programming to their users. The campaign will be a multi-year effort, with each year targeted at different user populations, and will be tied together through the use of a consistent logo and consistent messaging.

A wide range of tools will be developed for libraries to utilize in their own promotion pieces. You can expect to see traditional marketing and public relations tools, such as op-eds, newsletter pieces, letters-to-

***What's Your Story, Continued on Next Page...***

***What's Your Story, Continued***

the-editor, brochures, posters, etc. However, our marketing campaign will also include such things as programming ideas directed toward our target audiences, PowerPoint presentations libraries can give to interested groups, and statewide partnerships as well as a guide on how to build local partnerships for the long-term benefit of your library. There will also be a statewide TV, radio, and print campaign. Everything will be available for your library to download from a Web site (that is now in development.)

We plan to launch the campaign with great fanfare in early October, and would like to coordinate a statewide launch with Montana libraries participating from east to west. Please contact me to find out how your library can participate.

The "What's Your Story?" campaign is an exciting development for Montana libraries, and will be a marketing effort in which I hope all Montana libraries participate and of which all Montana libraries are proud. Please plan to attend a marketing seminar at the Fall Workshop to find out how your library can best utilize the PR tools and materials that have been developed as part of this extensive campaign.

Librarians from around the state have contributed to the development of this campaign. Committee members include:

Bob Cooper - Montana State Library  
 Brent Roberts - MSU – Billings Library  
 Bruce Newell - Montana State Library  
 Cherie Hesper - Rosebud County Library  
 Cindy Christin - Bozeman Public Library  
 Colet Bartow - Manhattan Public Schools Library  
 Darlene Staffeldt - Montana State Library  
 Debbi Kramer - Judith Basin County Free Library  
 Heidi Sue Adams - Kalispell Regional Medical Center Library  
 James Kammerer - Montana State Library  
 Jamie Harmon - Formerly of the Montana State Library  
 Laurel Egan - St. James Healthcare Medical Library  
 Lisa Jackson Mecklenberg - Montana Legislative Reference Center  
 Nancy Brennan - Bicentennial Library of Colstrip  
 Renee Goss - Sidney Public Library  
 Sebastian Derry - Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library – UM



Sara Groves  
 Montana State Library  
 sgroves@mt.gov

**“Dolley Madison” Can Visit Your Montana Library!**

“Tea with Dolley Madison” is a living history presentation which is being performed all around the state of Montana by Cheryl Hesper, Director of Rosebud County Library in Forsyth.

Subtitled “A unique look at our country’s early history, its statesmen, and the Lewis & Clark era through the eyes of one of our most beloved First Ladies”, the presentation will enhance your library’s programs during this final year of the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial observances in Montana as well as delight any history “buffs”.

In addition to the performance, Cheryl is offering time with high school and junior high school history classes or adult groups concerning Dolley’s era of U.S. history as well as methods for research and performance of living history.



The only obligation on the part of the library is a contribution of \$25.00 to help with mileage and provision of an area allowing for a rocking chair and table and room to move around, surrounded by a semi-circle of chairs for those attending. The performance can be in the library or at any other facility such as a museum or senior center, as long as the area is small enough not to require a microphone.

Cheryl also asks that libraries help with publicity, using posters and a press release with a picture – all of which she provides — and radio publicity if available. The public should be admitted for free.

Recently performed at Roosevelt County Library in Wolf Point and at the Three Forks Public Library as part of the Three Forks Area Festival of Discovery, “Tea with Dolley Madison” delights audiences of all ages with Dolley’s sense of humor and personality, as well as her insight into historic figures and events.

Libraries in any part of the state far from Forsyth would facilitate travel ease if they planned together so that more than one performance could be given in one trip.

For further information or to schedule performances during any month other than October and December, please call Cheryl at 346-7561 (library) or 356-4372 (home).

Cheryl J. Hesper, Director  
 Rosebud County Library  
 rclib@rangeweb.net

## State Library News

### PEEL Scholarships Awarded

The Montana State Library Commission awarded the final scholarships from the Professional Education and Employment for Librarians (PEEL) grant received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in 2003. The awards - totaling more than \$42,000 - will help three Montanans attend graduate library school beginning this fall. The scholarship recipients are:



**Catherine McMullen** (at Left), Library Aide at Bozeman Public Library, will earn her degree through the University of Washington's distance library program.

**Kathy Mora** (below), Assistant Director at Great Falls Public Library,

will earn her degree through the University of North Texas distance library program.



**Samantha Pierson** (at Left), Director of Lincoln County Library in Libby, will earn her degree through the distance library program of the University of Southern Mississippi.

Congratulations to Catherine, Kathy and Sami!



### PEEL II Is Funded!

Montana State Library received notice in late June that its second PEEL grant was selected by IMLS for a \$460,444 "Recruiting and Educating Librarians for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" award. PEEL II will fund a statewide promotion/recruitment campaign designed to attract Montana residents to the library profession, with an emphasis on recruiting more Native American librarians. In addition, ten Montanans will receive \$25,000 scholarships to attend graduate library school at the University of Washington. Four stipends will also be awarded to help libraries bring these new graduates into their communities.

For details about the PEEL stipend program or PEEL II contact Sue Jackson at Montana State Library

## Library Stipends

The 2003 PEEL grant will also help fund full time professional level positions for two years at two Montana libraries. Details and application materials for the PEEL Library Stipend Program are available at [msl.state.mt.us/greatcareer/stipendapp05.pdf](http://msl.state.mt.us/greatcareer/stipendapp05.pdf). All public, school (K-12), and tribal libraries are eligible to apply for the stipends, which are for \$30,000 each. Libraries receiving the stipend are required to provide a cash match for the same amount. Application deadline is December 15, 2005.

### Fall Workshop Coming to Great Falls

Montana State Library's 7<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Workshop is scheduled for September 30-October 1 in Great Falls at the Hampton Inn. All librarians and trustees are invited to attend the 2-day workshop. There is no registration fee and lunch is provided both days.

Topics/tentative schedule for this year's event are:  
**On Friday morning:** readers' advisory services; new statewide marketing campaign; all about subject headings; and InfoTrac's PowerSearch (beginning level). **On Friday afternoon:** ideas for exciting adult programs; emotional intelligence in the workplace; books for babies programming; and what's a blog? **On Saturday morning:** demonstrating the value of school libraries and librarians; team building and communications skills; managing your library's collection; and what's a blog? **On Saturday afternoon:** how to survey your patrons; starting or rejuvenating a Friends group; understanding and embracing change at the library; and InfoTrac's PowerSearch (intermediate level).

Registration materials for the Fall Workshop will be available on the MSL web page in late August.

### New Materials at MSL

Montana State Library has added many new materials - books, CD-ROMS, DVDs — to its library development collection. The materials cover a wide variety of topics including the library profession, library management, assessment, collaboration, building collections, collection development, serving children and teens, marketing, programming, outreach, virtual reference, technology, creating web sites, information literacy, technical services, writing and speaking, trustees, friends, and volunteers. A list of the new materials, including a brief description and the MSL call number, is at [msl.mt.gov/lisd/Bib-Lib-Development.pdf](http://msl.mt.gov/lisd/Bib-Lib-Development.pdf). All items are available through interlibrary loan.

*State Library News, Continued on Page 6...*

## MONTANA MEDICAL LIBRARY NEWS

### Grant to St. James Healthcare Medical Library Will Assist Rural Health Information Needs

Laurel Egan, St. James Healthcare Medical Librarian, Butte, has won a \$10,000 grant from NNLM for a project to further understand the resource needs of rural health care facilities in Southwest Montana. Titled *The Effective Use and Integration of Regional Library Resources in a Rural Health Care Setting*, the project would cover a period of performance from July 2005 to March 2006.

The goal of the project is to further understand the resource needs of rural health care facilities in Southwest Montana through a training program designed to address these needs. The project will be collaboration between St James Healthcare and the Community Health Center, both located in Butte, and the Ruby Valley Hospital in Sheridan, Montana. Onsite assessments of 1) what is needed and 2) what is currently available will be performed and appropriate training materials will be developed. Knowledge and availability of resources, including an expanded use of internet assets, will enhance medical education and facilitate more effective information retrieval.

As part of the project Laurel will develop training materials and purchase two laptop computers, a printer, and a projector to be used in training. Training will be provided to the clinical and administrative staff with a focus on quality medical information via the internet using NLM resources as PubMed, My NCBI, Pubcrawler, and MedlinePlus.

### KRMC Medical Library Receives Express Outreach Award

Kalispell Regional Medical Center Medical Library was awarded the Express Outreach Award by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Northwest Region. *Need Health Info? Assessing Trustworthy Health Information Online in Northwest Montana* is the project title. Heidi Sue Adams, Librarian at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, will work with various local libraries and other community organizations to increase access to health information by health care consumers. The first step will be to obtain a portable training lab consisting of laptop computers. This will become the Traveling Training Lab. The lab will be used for training researchers to find reputable health information using online resources. The flexibility of the laptop lab will ensure that training can be held in a number of different locations. When the traveling training lab is not in use, the laptop computers will be used as a bank of dedicated "Medical

access to online health resources. This project will enable increased collaborations with other organizations that serve health care consumers. The Traveling Training Lab/Medical Information Stations will be rotated among their locations. Other stated goals of this project are to provide more frequent training sessions offered in more locations in order to reach more people and to continue expansion of current outreach efforts.

**Editor's Note:** *The articles above were submitted by Lisa Autio, Editor of the new newsletter Montana Medical Libraries. Thank you Lisa for the submission.*

Lisa Autio  
Missoula  
lautio2002@yahoo.com

### Calling All Hiking Librarians!

The 2nd Annual Librarians & Friends Hike is scheduled for Saturday August 20th. We are planning to hike in Glacier National Park, on the Highline Trail. It is a beautiful hike with spectacular vistas.

Last year, one public librarian, one law librarian, and one medical librarian along with friends went on a hike.



It was dubbed the "1st Annual Librarians & Friends Hike." We hiked in Glacier National Park on Siyeh Pass, which made for a very beautiful day. Because it was such a fun event, I decided to make this an annual event. It's a great way to get all types of librarians together along with their friends. (I learned a new idea

from a friend of a public librarian — my library implemented this idea and it was a resounding success!)

For this year's hike, the Highline is a relatively flat trail for 7.6 miles and then the last 3.5 miles is a downhill hike (a gradual grade of 2200'). Of course, we all take our time and go at our own pace. It's one of the most famous trails in the Park.

We are planning to start at Logan Pass Visitor's Center and then go to Granite Park Chalet. From the Chalet we would hike down to the road to get to a beautiful vision — our chairs & cars! If hiking downhill is not your cup of tea, another option is to hike part of the way and then turn back to return to Logan Pass.

If the Highline Trail is closed that day, an alternate trail will be chosen. If you're interested in going, let me know. As for no-cost lodging, camping with access to amenities is available at my place.

Heidi Sue Adams, MS, AHIP  
KRMC Medical Librarian  
hadams@krmc.org

**State Library News Continued...****Trustee Workshops Coming**

Montana State Library will continue its series of leadership workshops for public library trustees and directors. This year's workshops, "Evaluation at Your Library," will be presented by Dr. Debra Wilcox Johnson, a professor at the University of Illinois library school and a partner in Johnson & Johnson Consulting, a firm specializing in library management issues and training. Many of you have probably seen Debra's practical and humorous presentations for the College of DuPage "Soaring to Excellence" teleconference series. Debra will present the workshop in two Montana locations: Billings on Saturday, October 22 and Missoula on Saturday, November 5.

**Library Technology Class at HCT Next Fall**

This fall the University of Montana - Helena College of Technology will be offering a 2-credit class entitled Introduction to Library Technology. This will be an online course (students must have access to the Internet) with two Saturdays scheduled for in-class time in Helena. The course will be taught by Jennie Stapp, Technical Services Supervisor at Montana Historical Society, and will provide an overview of library technology as a career. Students will learn core values practiced by library professionals and paraprofessionals and will become familiar with reference resources, acquiring and processing library materials, circulation procedures, and using automated library systems. Cost for the class will be approximately \$320 (includes a \$50 online fee) plus a one-time \$30 fee for new students. For more information call HCT Admissions at 444-6826 or email Jennie at [jstapp@mt.gov](mailto:jstapp@mt.gov).



*Jennie Stapp*

For further information about the preceding State Library News articles, please contact Sue Jackson of the MSL.

*Sue Jackson*  
 Montana State Library  
[sujackson@mt.gov](mailto:sujackson@mt.gov)  
 1-800-338-5087

**MLA Centennial Conference,  
May 3-6, 2006, Missoula**

Save these dates! The next MLA conference is May 3-6, 2006, in Missoula, and we are already planning a fun and enriching conference. You can help make that happen by submitting a program proposal. The proposal form is available online: [www.mtlib.org/conf/confmain.html](http://www.mtlib.org/conf/confmain.html). Proposals are due by September 23, 2005.

Send program proposals by to:  
 Elaine Higgins  
 Mansfield Library, The University of Montana  
 32 Campus Drive  
 Missoula, MT 59812  
 Fax: (406) 243-4067  
 E-mail: [elaine.higgins@umontana.edu](mailto:elaine.higgins@umontana.edu)

Please note that we are trying something new this year: a poster session. Poster sessions are designed to highlight smaller projects, successful initiatives, and best practices. They usually include a "poster" (either a literal poster or a visual display) and a presenter who is available to answer questions about the project. It is usually helpful to provide handouts as well, so that poster session visitors can take those lessons learned back to their home library. Significant Tidings will continue to be a part of the MLA program, and the poster session will provide another way to highlight projects. We hope that librarians from many different library types will submit proposals. Do you have tips for a great summer reading program? Have you found a terrific way to get and implement patron feedback? Do you have a successful lecture or film series at your library? Present those ideas in a poster session!

Since 2006 is the MLA Centennial, we're interested in learning more about the history of MLA and Montana libraries. If you have information about MLA history, please send it to Coby Johnson at: [coburn.johnson@umontana.edu](mailto:coburn.johnson@umontana.edu). Also feel free to send your favorite Montana library history tidbits (facts, brief stories, humorous happenings, etc.) to the conference co-chairs. If you have any questions about program proposals or if you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to send them to us. Thanks!

*2006 Conference Planning Co-chairs*  
 Jennie Burroughs  
[jennie.burroughs@umontana.edu](mailto:jennie.burroughs@umontana.edu)  
 Elaine Higgins  
[elaine.higgins@umontana.edu](mailto:elaine.higgins@umontana.edu)

## Fun Photos From Across the State



As you all know, the Miss Montana Pageant was recently held in Glendive. Four of the contestants, plus the new Miss North Dakota, posed in our Teen Scene after completing a

few hours of community service at the library. The lady with short blonde hair in the back is our new Miss Montana 2005 Sophia Steinbeisser from Sidney. The theme for the Cinderella Tea, which involved the Little Sisters as well as the contestants was **Achieve Dreams Through Literacy**. I was asked to give a presentation which touched on libraries, literacy, and lifetime love of reading. Our long-time volunteer story time lady was an honored guest. She read the book CINDRELLA. We had a marvelous time and I felt that it was "purty darn nice" to have literacy as a theme for a scholarship pageant.

*Gail Nagle*  
Glendive Public Library  
[gnagle@midrivers.com](mailto:gnagle@midrivers.com)

## Photos and news from Bozeman Public Library



These two photos are both from Bozeman Public Library. The first is the library's Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds castle in the children's room. It was built by volunteer Chuck Knighton. The second phot is the library's latest construction site photo taken by Martel Construction.

*Cindy Christin*  
Bozeman Public Library  
[christin@mail.mtlib.org](mailto:christin@mail.mtlib.org)

## Have Your Picture Taken With The Corps of Discovery

This is the year to celebrate the Corps traveling through the Bitterroot Valley. Stop by the library or at the fair to take a photo for a memorable souvenir.



You can be Lewis, Clark, York, Sacagawea, Sacagawea's brother or Seaman the dog.

Bring your own camera or our staff will take a Polaroid photo for \$5.00.

Dogs on a leash *will be allowed in the library for photos only*.

Please come visit the Bitterroot Public Library's exhibit at the Ravalli County Fair at the north end of the fairgrounds August 31 through September 3. The Corps will be there!

The Hamilton High School woodworking shop class cut the boards and attached hinges. Michelle Mazade, a senior art student at Corvallis High School, painted the mural with the help of the fifth grade class. A fun community project.

*Gloria Langstaff*  
Bitterroot Public Library  
[glolang@montana.com](mailto:glolang@montana.com)

## Summer Reading is Fun in Fort Benton!



The photo shows happy readers applauding Kevin Jones' Magic Show. The show was held June 22 at the Choteau County Library. There were 130 kids, parents

and grandparents in attendance - it was fantastic! Plus it garnered the library another 25 kids for the Summer Reading Program. The week prior saw Clifford the Big Red Dog (Chris Seifert and niece Brittany) from MT PBS. 65 kids showed up in red and had their picture taken for free with Clifford. It was a great way to kick off Pre School Summer Story Time.

*Jill Wigger*  
Chouteau County Library  
[fblibrary@mtintouch.net](mailto:fblibrary@mtintouch.net)

## Celebration in Paradise ~ Our First One-Hundred Years

It's that time of the year again! Time to make plans to attend the Fall Retreat sponsored by the Academic & Special Libraries and Public Library Divisions of the Montana Library Association. This year's retreat is October 23-24 at the Chico Hot Springs Resort. Our annual retreat returns to the Paradise Valley in time to start celebrating the MLA Centennial.

As in the past, the retreat offers a variety of educational programs with great presenters, a wonderful opportunity to network with fellow librarians and to do so in the fabulous surroundings of Chico Hot Springs. It will be a time to celebrate the paradise that is Montana libraries...collaboration, diversity, resource sharing and much more.

This year's programs are strong and promise to be both fun and enlightening. The programs include; a session on Internet time and print management software presented by staff of the Bozeman Public Library; a tune-up of Reference skills by Brent Roberts of MSU-Billings; analysis of Richard Florida's books on the Rise of the Creative Class as they relate to

libraries presented by Jim Heckel of Great Falls Public Library; and the triumphant return of The Not Ready for Primetime Freedom Fighters! And to top off the great agenda, how about the Hot Tub Book Club? Karen Gonzales will lead a discussion of **The Eyre Affair**, by Jasper Fforde, while immersed in the hot springs.

For further information, complete program descriptions, and registration forms, please visit the MLA website [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org).

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## Why Join MPLA?

Because it is a great organization with lots of great people! It's small enough, so that you aren't overwhelmed, but large enough to have members with a variety of different talents which many share at the annual conference. Plus, you get to see new places for a reasonable cost.

This year, you could be looking forward to a wonderful October conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming (October 12-15, 2005). Each year, MPLA co-sponsors a conference with a state association; and it's great to get away while not paying those national conference prices (MPLA members pay in-state rate). Future conferences will be held in Albuquerque, NM and Salt Lake City, UT. These joint conferences provide more training choices than many state associations and more opportunities for professional involvement than ALA.

You also get to meet librarians from the twelve different members' states—Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. There is a more manageable pace to these conferences—time to meet, mingle, and learn.

Though our twelve states have many differences, we share similar "library stories." Discovering how much we as librarians have in common is another reason to join. You may even get to know the librarians in your state better through MPLA.

Another great "perk" of membership in MPLA is the opportunity to apply for professional development grants to cover the costs of attending conferences, for continuing education, or for developing library-related

research projects.

Belonging to this dynamic network of librarians is simply a great idea!!!

Check out the MPLA web page [www.usd.edu/mpla](http://www.usd.edu/mpla) for more information – or give me a call! See you in Jackson Hole!

*JaNae Kinikin  
MPLA PR/Membership Committee Co-chair  
801-626-6093  
jkinikin@weber.edu*

## MPLA Awards

It's not too late to make a nomination for an MPLA Award to be given at the awards ceremony in Jackson, Wyoming during our joint conference with the Wyoming Library Association this October! The deadline has been extended to August 12.

The MPLA Awards are an important way to say "thank you" to special staff, volunteers, and library supporters. Please help MPLA recognize those who help to make our jobs easier and those who promote libraries, among others. For a complete description of the awards and to access nomination forms visit the following link: [www.usd.edu/mpla/committees/awards/awardsform.html](http://www.usd.edu/mpla/committees/awards/awardsform.html)

*Bridget Johnson, MPLA Representative  
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