
Montana Library Focus

A Publication of the Montana Library Association

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August 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Montana Librarians!

Summer has been a time of rejuvenation and chaos for me. I've been enjoying friends, family and traveling the state. I have also been away from any structure in my life, including that imposed by e-mail, Wired, and telephones, for more continuous days since before I had my daughter 12 years ago. I hope each of you has had time to "recharge" your batteries for the upcoming months.

I just got back from our MLA Leadership Retreat at Camp on the Boulder where we did some brainstorming, planning, and got to know each other very well. We are in for another exciting year of wonderful retreats and conferences, continuing education, and opportunities to work for Montana library patrons.

We are also going to experience some changes in our organization. Ilene Casey, who so ably has served as our Executive Director, has resigned as of August 1, 2006. She has graciously offered to continue taking care of us until a new Executive Director is found, and will also be available to help train the new director. The MLA Executive Committee is working on reviewing and updating the job description and we will be advertising and hiring and soon as possible. We thank Ilene for all her hard work! Please watch Wired-MT for more details.

Another important agenda item for the retreat was reviewing our legislative agenda. Lois Fitzpatrick, Government Affairs Chair, ably reviewed the items we agreed on in May, then spoke about our upcoming session. Many of us have established relationships with legislators and legislative candidates from our area. Some of us have not. I urge all of you to make an effort in the next couple of months to meet the current legislators and legislative candidates. Invite all of them to come to your library to see how library money allocated in Helena positively affects Montana taxpayers in their community.

Conference planning for our 101st annual conference in Helena, MT, April 25-28, 2007 is in full swing. The conference proposal form is on the MLA website

www.mtlib.org/conf/index.html Please be an active member - find a program or programs that interest you and fill out a proposal form. The conference is only as good as what we submit. Please return proposals by September 22, 2006 to our hard-working conference chairs, Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson ljackson@mt.gov or Judy Hart jhart@mtlib.org. Keep an eye on Wired for more information.

As a school librarian, I'm acutely aware that in a few short weeks the academic calendars will be in full swing. I was pleased to see so many of our Montana library workers take advantage of the PEEL scholarship opportunities. Congratulations to Michelle Fenger, Brett Fisher, Melissa Hart, Nancy Hatfield, Stef Johnson, Desiree Olson, Lee Philips, Kathryn Robins, Megan Stark and Sheree West! A decade ago, I was one of 20 who obtained my MLS from the University of Arizona through distance education and know you will not regret the sacrifices you make while

growing professionally.

Speaking of growing professionally...check out the MLA calendar online at calendar.mtlib.org...We have several opportunities for growth and development this fall. The Montana State Library Fall workshop in Lewistown and the Festival of the Book in Missoula are coming in September. I'm looking forward to attending my first ASLD/PLD retreat at Chico. I will also be attending the MEA-MFT in Billings in October. Keep your eye on the calendar and please continue to post upcoming events.

As a final note - along with being your MLA president, I am also your representative to the OCLC Members Council. We meet again in October and I'd love to take your comments and concerns with me. I am a member of the reference group and we have been discussing virtual reference, so I would especially love to hear from those of you participating in the virtual reference project in Montana.

*Lyn McKinney, President
Montana Library Association
Billings Senior High School Library
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MLA President, Lyn McKinney Rocks Out With Draco and the Malfoys, see story page 2.

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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

To subscribe:

1. a. send an e-mail message to 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

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

MPL Mill Levy in Perpetuity!

June 6, 2006 marked a great day for Missoula Public Library. The voters in Missoula County granted the library a \$995,000 mill levy in perpetuity. The base funding for MPL is a 5 mill permissive levy, which grows each year by a percentage of the cost of living increase (which the "Big Bill" in 2001 allowed to offset the decline in mill value in Montana). The \$995,000 will not grow with cost of living increase. The new ballot language stipulates the amount of money being asked for with the approximate amount of mills that equals. Therefore; if the voters vote for a set dollar it remains that amount until it is changed through voting authority.

Why did the MPL Board decide on a levy in perpetuity? If the amount of current funding does not provide for future services, the Library Board can go back to the voters asking that the value of the

\$995,000 be brought up to the current dollar value. Should the voters then say NO, the library funding will remain at \$995,000 added to the 5 permissive mills for operations. If the levy had a time limit rather than being in perpetuity, when it expired if the voters said no to a new levy then the library would need to operate on the permissive levy of 5 mills because the \$995,000 would expire with the levy. A perpetuity levy was a way to secure increased base funding for the library.

The levy replaces a 5 year levy for 3.5 mills which was approved in June of 2001. If the June levy had not passed then MPL would have cut all services and hours which were added through the funding of the 2001 levy.

Future plans of MPL are to continue the level of service now shared with the Patrons, increase programming, add YA services and a Saturday Story Hour and grow with the needs of our patrons.

Honore Bray

Missoula Public Library

hbray@missoula.lib.mt.us

Harry and the Potters Play at Parmly Billings

On Wednesday evening, July 12th, Parmly Billings Library truly rocked when the band Harry and the Potters came to present a concert to 150 people.

In case you haven't heard, Harry and the Potters is a small band, made up of 2 brothers from Massachusetts and 2 friends from Rhode Island, who specialize in songs they have written based on the Harry Potter



Harry and the Potters at Parmly

books. They have been performing for 4 – 5 years. The *New Yorker* magazine for July 10th has a short review of one of their New York concerts.

Their focus is concerts in libraries, and they are now on a tour that will take them from libraries back east, to those in Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles. The concert at Parmly was sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the audience was filled with "tweens", parents and young children. It was really a great evening! We can only say that if they are touring in this part of the country next summer, and your library has a chance to host them, they are well worth it.

Jim Peters

Parmly Billings Library

jpeters@billings.lib.mt.us

Trustee's Corner

Carol Grover, MLA's Trustee Interest Group Chair, and I want to continue this Trustees' Corner column with your contributions. Please send your article ideas to Carol or myself. We also welcome your comments.

*Joan Bishop - Trustee
Lewis & Clark Library
bdl17@qwest.net*

Library Board Education Program (LBEP)

Montana State Library is very excited to announce the availability of board training for public libraries through the Library Board Education Program. LBEP, now in its second year, features experienced public library trustee trainers who volunteer to provide customized board training across the state. Trainers this year will include Joan Bishop and Sandi Conrady, both from Lewis & Clark Library, Helena; Carol Grover, Sheridan County Library, Plentywood; Diane Henriksen, Rosebud County Library; Penny Hughes-Briant, Great Falls Public Library; Veryl Kosteczko, Darby Community Public Library; and Christine Prescott, Missoula Public Library. These trustees are available to present workshops to library boards on a variety of topics including planning, policies, budgeting, evaluating the director, and library laws. If your board would like to schedule an LBEP training, contact Maggie Meredith at the State Library (1-800-338-5087 or mmeredith@mt.gov). LBEP workshops are available beginning September 1st.

*Sue Jackson
Montana State Library
1-800-338-5087
sujackson@mt.gov*

Thoughts on Trusteeship

Recently I read that public library boards need help in becoming more effective as a connecting and unifying force in the community. I've been a trustee for eight years and agree. For a starter we always benefit from attendance at MSL workshops or participating in MSL's Trustee Volunteer Trainers' program.

Now I would like to apply this phrase, "connecting force," to board governance. A close working relationship between the director and board chair is key. This develops when the director and chair meet between regularly scheduled board meetings to discuss the next Agenda. What is the New Business? What policies are up for review? If so, does the board need more background information in the board packet that they receive a week before the meeting?

*Carol Grover, Trustee
Sheridan County Library
Chair, MLA Trustee's Interest Group
grover2@nemontel.net*

Fundraising Workshops

Continuing with the trustee training curriculum, Montana State Library has scheduled two workshops on Fundraising Essentials for this fall: Billings on October 28th (at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana) and Missoula on November 11th (at Ruby's Inn). The presenter will be Illene Roggensack of Third Sector Innovations in Colorado. She has served as President for the Colorado Nonprofit Association and has been involved with fundraising for nonprofit organizations for more than twenty years. Details for the trustee workshops will be available in late September.

*Maggie Meredith
Statewide Technology Librarian
Montana State Library
mmeredith@mt.gov*

Flathead County Library's Computer Classes

The Flathead County Library started providing a series of five free computer classes to the community during National Library Week 2006. Classes have been held at the main library in Kalispell, and at the branches in Bigfork, Columbia Falls, Marion and Whitefish. 31 classes have been team-taught by library staff and 185 customers have attended. The first two classes provide beginning and hands-on training on the basic components of computers, including using the keyboard and mouse, and navigating the computer's operating system and features. Of these two computer comfort classes, the first emphasizes Microsoft features while the second focuses on Useful, the software used on



Magi Malone, left, and Brett Fisher, standing, teach an internet computer class at the Whitefish branch library

all of the library's public computers. Thanks to Heidi Sue Adams, Kalispell Regional Medical Center's librarian, and her successful grant writing, we have access to a lab of seven laptop computers for training on Microsoft programs a real community collaboration. Other classes offered are introduction to Internet searching, setting up and using a free email account, and using the electronic resources available through the

library 24 hours a day. Due to demand, we have also added two classes on using digital cameras, as well as a general question and answer session on computers. For more information on this program, please contact Brett Fisher or Magi Malone at 406-758-5814.

State Library News



PEEL II Scholarship Winners

We announced the PEEL II scholarship recipients in the last issue, but go to msl.mt.gov/greatcareer/html/PEELwinners2.htm to learn more. All ten scholarship recipients will begin classes at the University of Washington's Information School beginning this fall.

Montana Library Event Calendar

Remember to check online for upcoming library training/activities AND add your upcoming event to let everyone know it's coming. calendar.mtlib.org

2006 Fall workshop

Montana State Library's 8th annual Fall Workshop is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, September 22-23, 2006, at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown. Tentative topics include programming for young adults, creativity in the library, securing public access computers, InfoTrac databases, parliamentary procedure, keeping patrons connected, creating a library web page, collaboration strategies and benefits, mental health resources, marketing the library, and more. Details will be available in late August.

For further information on any of the preceding articles from the Montana State Library, please talk with Sue Jackson at the contact information found below.

Sue Jackson
Montana State Library
1-800-338-5087
sujackson@mt.gov

Serve Your Patrons 24/7

You know this is a 24/7 world, but how you can offer library services to your patrons at 3:00am? How can you do this without adding staff in the library or money to the budget? Simple. Take advantage of the Ask A Montana Librarian Virtual Reference Service.

What is Ask A Montana Librarian? It is a cooperative of about 20 Montana libraries that pools librarians' reference skills to offer round-the-clock reference service. Thanks to the Montana State Library, we were able to join OCLC's 24/7 virtual reference cooperative. This means that we don't have to "cover the desk" at 3:00am; someone in London can do that for us. However each library in the cooperative covers at least one hour a week. This translates into virtual reference coverage for Montana from 8:00am-8:00pm Monday through Thursday and 8:00am-5:00pm on Friday.



How does it work? Patrons click on a link from the MLN page montanalibraries.org or from a library's website. (You can link directly to the Ask A Montana Librarian page). Customers fill out a brief form with their question, name, and email address. This information is then sent to the librarian on duty. Patrons can ask questions via chat or email.

What does it cost? It's free this year. If the Montana State Library can continue to cover the costs of 24/7 coverage, we will be able to offer this service free of charge. If they can't cover the costs, we will ask libraries to pay a small fee. We are currently working on a price model, but we anticipate that the fee will be minimal.

Questions? Comments? Interested in joining the cooperative? Contact Betsy Harper Garlish at bgarlish@mtech.edu.

Tracy Cook
Marketing Committee,
Ask A Montana Librarian
tcook@msugf.edu

GFPL Librarian Presents Workshop

Susie McIntyre, head of the Information Services at the Great Falls Public Library, will be presenting a workshop on a suicide prevention practice called QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) on July 20th, sponsored by Voices of Hope. The workshop is part of an ongoing series Voices of Hope sponsors every other month. McIntyre is a certified QPR instructor. To get a glimmer of understanding of this approach McIntyre suggests you "think CPR for mental health", and recommends everyone be familiar with it.

Before joining the staff at the Great Falls Public Library, Susie was the crisis line and 211 - coordinator for Voices of Hope. She has a deep commitment for this work and finds it invaluable in general.

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

Membership News

Your membership is now effective for one year from the date you renew your membership. To check the status of your membership, go to www.mtlib.org and open the membership list from the directory page. You must renew your membership one year from the date shown in the list.

As of June 30, there were 645 members in MLA. Please welcome all those who have joined since the June Focus. They include:

Barbara Boorman, Flathead Co. Library, Kalispell
 Dr. John Brown, Trustee, Missoula Co. Library, Missoula
 Kate Jackson, Trustee, Missoula Co. Library, Missoula
 Tom Javins, Trustee, Missoula Co. Library, Missoula
 Neal Leathers, Trustee, Missoula Co. Library, Missoula
 Anna Mills, Student, Drexel University, Philadelphia
 Christine Prescott, Trustee, Missoula Co. Library, Missoula
 Louise Sorenson, Garrison Elementary School, Deer Lodge

Please contact us with any questions, concerns, or ideas you have for promoting membership to your colleagues. If you need some membership brochures to promote MLA, let us know and we'll send some out to you.

Benefits of Membership

Is the summer heat getting you down? Remember one of the coolest deals around - a membership in the Montana Library Association.

As a MLA member, you will enjoy many benefits:

- You're joining a great network of information professionals.
- You have many chances to get involved with other Montana librarians working on statewide projects and committees.
- You get a subscription to FOCUS, the official MLA newsletter.
- You are eligible for professional development grants.
- You get access to materials that will help you promote your library.
- You can post suggestions or questions to Wired-MT, a great listserv sponsored by MLA.
- You will make many new friends!

Take the time to renew your MLA membership now.

The membership form is on page 7, or can be found at www.mtlib.org/join.html

Gail Wilkerson
 Director-at-Large East
 VA MT Healthcare System Medical Library
gail.wilkerson@med.va.gov

Carlene Engstrom
 Director-at-Large West
 D'Arcy McNickle Library
 Salish Kootenai College
carlene_engstrom@skc.edu

Membership Renewal

Current membership in MLA is good for you and good for the organization. Check the directories on the MLA web site and see when you need to renew your membership. You should pay your dues one year from the last renewal date which is listed on the web site by your name. A special thanks to Pam Henley (Bozeman Public Library) for helping to get this membership list on the web site. A membership renewal form is in this issue of the Focus or you can find it under the "Join" link on the MLA home page. Please provide us with an updated email address. The updated email address is important for a variety of reasons. One reason, that may be enacted soon, is the email delivery of the Focus newsletter to your desktop.

Ilene Casey, executive director
 Montana Library Association
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Conference Bookstore Makes Bundles!

Thank you to everyone who spent their hard-earned money at the MLA Bookstore buying Radical Militant Librarian buttons, books, chocolate, T-shirts, posters or cards.

After all the bills were paid, profits were \$1615.68 to be put in the MLA coffers. That is some good shopping!

Beth Boyson
 Bozeman Public Library
bboyson@mtlib.org

MLA 2007 Conference Program Proposal Forms are Due September 22!

Don't miss your chance to affect policy change and influence people. Oh wait, that's the legislature... But you too, librarians, can have your say. Submit a program proposal for the 2007 MLA Conference in Helena. The program proposal form can be found on the MLA website www.mtlib.org under Conference. The deadline is September 22. The conference is only as good as you make it. And we want to make it good! Please submit your program proposals to Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, 2007 MLA Conference Co-Chair. Montana Legislative Branch, State Capitol, Rm. 10, P.O. Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620-1706, or Ljackson@mt.gov. Any questions, please call 444-2957.

Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson
2007 MLA Conference Co-Chair
Montana Legislative Library
Ljackson@mt.gov

New Interlibrary Loan Policy for Great Falls Public Library

As of July 1st, 2006, Great Falls Public Library began implementing a new interlibrary loan policy. This service is no longer completely free and unrestricted. Patrons may receive up to six interlibrary loans per year at no charge. After the 6th loan within a calendar year, a fee of two dollars will be charged for each additional filled request. The Library Board officially approved this policy change on June 19th.

The number of interlibrary loans processed by the Great Falls Public Library has been steadily increasing over the last few years. In fact, in a month-to-month comparison over the last two years, we have seen interlibrary loan requests double. As usage has increased, state funding reimbursements for interlibrary loan to the Great Falls Public Library have decreased from \$9,094 in fiscal year 2000/2001 to zero in fiscal year 2006/2007.

In an effort to offer the best service to our patrons while remaining fiscally responsible, these policy changes will be re-evaluated regularly.

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



Ignite Student Imaginations

Author visits are a great way to get students charged up about writing! Award winning author, Kirby Larson, offers creative programs to spark enthusiasm in students of all ages. Her love for writing shines through in her educational workshops.

Schedule a Missoula area school event around Kirby's visit to the Montana Festival of the Book this fall and pay no travel expenses!

HATTIE BIG SKY - Available Fall 2006

ISBN 0-383-73313-5 | For Readers Age 12 and Up | Delacorte/Random House

Lovingly stitched together from Kirby Larson's own family history and the sights, sounds, and scents of homesteading life, this young pioneer's story celebrates the true spirit of independence.

"I gave my heart to the brave and determined Hattie, and I think you will, too."
Karen Cushman, Newbery award winner for The Midwife's Apprentice

"Hattie Big Sky is historical fiction at its finest. . ." *Candace Fleming, Our Eleanor: A Scrapbook Look at Eleanor Roosevelt's Remarkable Life*

"I loved it! A teenage "Out of Africa". I can't wait for my daughters to read this book."
Jane Kaczmarek, Actress - Malcolm in the Middle



For more information contact us today.

info@kirbylarson.com | 360.597.3432 | www.kirbylarson.com

Montana Library Association

Membership Application / Renewal Form

MLA fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30

The purpose of the Montana Library Association is to promote library interest and library development and to raise standards of library service in the state of Montana. Membership is open to any person, institution or organization engaged in library work or interested in library service.

New Membership Renewal

NAME (Last) (First) (Middle)

POSITION/TITLE LIBRARY/INSTITUTION

ADDRESS for MLA mailings CITY STATE ZIP

TELEPHONE (Work) (Fax) (E-Mail)

Please exclude my name from mailing lists sold to businesses or organizations outside MLA.

Please indicate areas in which you would like to be an active member. Trustees/friends/students please indicate which division you would like to join.

Divisions

Public School/Media Academic/Special

Interest Groups

Health Sciences Interlibrary Loan Local History and Indexing
 Montana Library Paraprofessionals Offline Public Library Directors
 Services for Children & Young Adults Technical Services Trustees

Dues Schedule

\$10.00 Salary under \$7,000; Student; Non-salaried; Unemployed; Retired; Trustee or Friend
 \$15.00 Salary \$7,000-\$10,999 \$40.00 Salary \$35,000-\$39,999
 \$20.00 Salary \$11,000-\$14,999 \$45.00 Salary \$40,000 or more
 \$30.00 Salary \$15,000-\$24,999 \$50.00 Institutional Membership
 \$35.00 Salary \$25,000-\$34,999 \$75.00 Commercial Membership

**** New first-time members pay half of above dues ****

Total Membership Dues \$ _____

Sheila Cates Scholarship Fund

I wish to make an additional donation in the amount of \$ _____ to the Sheila Cates Scholarship Fund to support professional education for librarianship.

2005rev

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please make check/warrant payable to: **Montana Library Association** (F.E.I.N. 81-0366433). Send your membership form and payment to the following:

**Montana Library Association
PO Box 1085
Manhattan, MT 59741-1085**

LiveHelp Now Available for MontanaLawHelp.org Visitors

Have you ever looked for information that you knew had to be on MontanaLawHelp.org, but you couldn't find it? Or maybe you were looking for legal information that you knew wasn't on MontanaLawHelp.org, but you also knew had to be out on the Web somewhere? If only there had been someone available to help you with your search!

Well, you are in luck — LiveHelp has launched. LiveHelp allows MontanaLawHelp.org visitors to ask for help finding online legal information and resources. Just click on the "LiveHelp" button on the right side of any page on MontanaLawHelp.org to begin. You will be connected with a MontanaLawHelp.org Web site specialist. Type your question into a box and click the Send button. Your question is sent immediately to the Web site specialist, and the Web site specialist quickly sends you the location of the information that answers your question.

During August, LiveHelp is available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Starting in September, LiveHelp will be available Monday through Wednesday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and Thursday from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. When LiveHelp is not available, you can still ask for help. Click the LiveHelp button and send a message with your email address and question. A

MontanaLawHelp.org specialist will email you the information in 1-2 business days.

MontanaLawHelp.org is a project of the Montana Legal Services Association, the State Bar of Montana, the Montana Supreme Court Equal Justice Task Force, and Montana's Credit Unions. LiveHelp is sponsored by the Montana Legal Services Association under a grant from the Legal Services Corporation.

For more information about LiveHelp, see:
www.montanalawhelp.org/link.cfm?1477

If you are interested in receiving additional notices about **MontanaLawHelp.org** and LiveHelp, sign up for the bi-monthly **MontanaLawHelp.org** e-newsletter at lists.mtlsa.org/mailman/listinfo/mlhnewsletter

Katherine A. Bladow
Technology Project Coordinator
Montana Legal Services Association
kbladow@mtlsa.org
www.MontanaLawHelp.org

Chouteau County Library Has A Successful Summer

The Chouteau County Library in Fort Benton has had another successful Summer Reading Program with "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales".

With 83 children ages 0-12 participating, it has been a fantastic summer. With the official library cats, Bert and Ernie, living next door and greeting the kids each week, the staff added animals on loan from patrons and friends to "spruce" up the library. Nibbles and Bits, two parakeets owned by Karsten Campbell, keep the place full of squawk and son. Mr. T, on loan from the 4th grade classroom, is a 15 year old American Box Turtle - full of personality and a favorite of the kids. Mrs. Whitten's science classroom let us keep Oscar the Oscar fish for the summer - and the library added Elmo the fish for a companion. With visits from rabbit owners, therapy dogs, tarantulas and cockatiels - the summer has just flown by!

Exceeding their goal this year, the kids have read over 2500 books! We finished up the summer



program with a pet and doll parade, prizes and a picnic!

The library also acquired Wi-Fi at the beginning of the summer, which has been welcomed by tourists and local patrons alike.

Our two branches, Big Sandy and Geraldine, were awarded Libri Foundation grants and are looking forward to the delivery of new children's books.

Jill Wigger
Chouteau County Library
fblibrary@ttc-cmc.net

Montana Festival of the Book Gears up for Year Number Seven

The 2006 Montana Festival of the Book—September 28-30 in Missoula—is shaping as our best ever, featuring scores of the region's writers in a variety of readings, panels, exhibits, demonstrations, signings, workshops, entertainments, receptions, and other events. More than 5,000 visitors from across the state, the nation, and Europe are expected to attend. The Festival is presented by the Montana Center for the Book and the Montana Committee for the Humanities, in association with numerous other national, state and local organizations and businesses.

As in years past, the Montana Festival of the Book will feature some of the most important voices of the West, including award-winning authors Ivan Doig, William Kittredge, Mary Clearman Blew, James Lee Burke, Annick Smith, David James Duncan, David



Ivan Doig
Photo by Carol Doig

Quammen, David Long, David Sirota, Greg Mortenson, 2006 Edgar winner Jess Walter, Gary Ferguson, Greg Keeler, Richard Wheeler, and many others.

Featured events include:

- A Friday evening Gala Reading at the Wilma Theatre with Ivan Doig and William Kittredge reading from new novels
- Several events celebrating the 2006 One Book Montana selection, ***This House of Sky***, including a session with the author Ivan Doig
- A symposium on the state and tradition of Montana poetry, featuring the state poet laureate Sandra Alcosser, Rick Newby, Tami Haaland, Roger Dunsmore, and many others
- ***Beneath the Surface***: several new works of literature, history and film delve into the history of Butte. This panel will include the editors of ***Motherlode***, and the writers and director of ***The Richest Hill on Earth***, a forthcoming PBS documentary
- Readings and presentations from the Environmental Writing Institute, held this year in conjunction with the Festival and featuring Sharman Apt Russell
- Montana Book Awards luncheon
- Writing and publishing workshops for children and adults, book appraisals, exhibits, and much, much more.

In addition to panels, workshops and readings Montana Public Radio will be bringing a live performance and airing of ***Prairie Home Companion*** to Missoula on Saturday, September 30th. Garrison Keillor and crew will be performing at the Adams Field House and tickets will go on sale in early June.

The Montana Festival of the Book is open to the public and almost all of the more than fifty events are free of charge. Venues in downtown Missoula include the Wilma Theatre, the Holiday Inn Parkside, the Missoula Public Library, and other locations.

Montana has long been recognized for its rich literary life. From authors such as A. B. Guthrie, Norman MacLean, Mildred Walker, Dorothy Johnson, D'Arcy McNickle, and Richard Hugo, through contemporary writers like William Kittredge, Ivan Doig, Richard Ford, James Welch, Mary Clearman Blew, Rick Bass, Thomas McGuane, James Lee Burke, and many others, writers from Montana and its neighboring states have had an important influence on American literature and our understanding of the Western experience. The Montana Festival of the Book will celebrate the northern Rockies literary landscape.

The Montana Festival of the Book has become the state's largest-ever literary celebration. Major 2006 Festival sponsors already include the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, The Charles Engelhard Foundation, the Montana Arts Council, the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, and The Missoulian.

Further information will be available in August at the Festival website, www.bookfest-mt.org.

Mark A. Sherouse

*Montana Committee for the Humanities
Montana Center for The Book
mark.sherouse@umontana.edu*

Prepare To Enjoy... ASLD/PLD Retreat At Chico Hot Springs

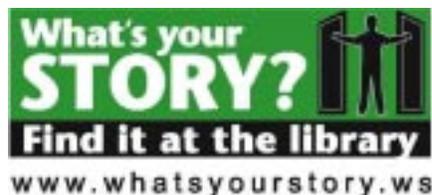
Drag out that calendar and start making plans! This year one of your favorite events, the ASLD/PLD Retreat at Chico Hot Springs, falls right in the middle of October on the 15th and 16th, approximately noon to noon. Put some Xs on those days and look forward to filling your head with a great variety of topics (copyright issues, new catalog interfaces, grant writing and more!) and your stomach with a wonderful variety of food. The book we'll be discussing as we soak in the pool is *Ten Little Indians* by Sherman Alexie (discussion led by Karen Gonzalez). If you'd like to give a mini-report about something that's been going on at your library, contact Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson ljackson@state.mt.us and be part of the "Significant Tidings in a Nutshell" session. Watch for the complete schedule of events and registration information coming soon on Wired-MT. For burning questions that can't wait until then, contact Della Dubbe glibrary@northerntel.net or Martha Thayer mthayer@niaid.nih.gov

What's Your Story? Goes Personal

Bonnie Williamson, Havre-Hill County Library Director asked for citizens to get involved in the Montana State Library's "What's Your Story?" campaign. She asked citizens and patrons to send to their local library stories to her to be published in the annual Library Foundation newsletter. Bonnie wanted to share this story from Emily Mayer-Lossing is an example of the great stories she received.

The first memory I have of a library was the Carnegie Library on Fourth Avenue in Havre, MT. Sometimes my mother and my brothers and I would walk from our home on Fourth Street North, other times we would drive to the library. Most times, we entered the door on the South side of the building that went directly into the children's section. The books we chose to read, or have our mother read to us, varied, though I loved books on horses best. As my reading advanced and genres expanded, I could go upstairs to where the "big people" got their books. I remember the Carnegie Library being well-lit with all those windows, the shiny wood floor, and so many books there was not enough room on the shelves for them all. It also had the pleasant smell of learning and knowledge. We also had great fun on the pole fencing around the perimeter of the library property.

The next memory I have of a library was the one at Lincoln-McKinley School. Library Time was exciting; it was fun to pick out different books on a variety of subjects to learn from and be entertained. When I went into the sixth grade, Lincoln-McKinley and Devlin Schools' classes merged and the Devlin Library was used. Half way through the sixth grade year, the new



Junior High (now the Middle School) was ready for classes and the library there was used. High School saw the use of its Library; I will never forget the kindness of Mrs. Sue Musgrove when she was the librarian. The VandeBogart Library on the campus of MSU-

Northern has seen many students cramming for their final exams and getting the last-minute piece of information for that report due in an hour; yes, I was one of them! When I voluntarily served as the historic preservation officer, one of the proudest achievements, providing an outlet and one more opportunity to provide learning materials for those interested in a subject that is very near and dear to my heart.

I remember when the "new" Library was created, and how exciting it was to have the opportunity of a larger facility with more things to read and discover. As it has grown over the years, it has opened new worlds of knowledge for those who choose to use it. I will be forever grateful to the ladies who, over 100 years ago, got together and formed the concept of a library for Havre, to those people who worked hard especially during the hard times to keep it going, to library staff who encourage us to use this treasure, and to my mother who gave me one of the greatest gifts of all-the love of reading.

Sincerely Emily Mayor Lossing

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