

---

# Montana Library Focus

A Publication of the Montana Library Association

Volume 24 Issue 6

[www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org)

December 2006

---

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Lyn McKinney

Season's Greetings  
Everyone!

After a busy fall, I was looking forward to a "break", but your Association business does not allow for slowing down. I attended the wonderful ASLD/PLD retreat at Chico, our board meeting hosted by Milla in Livingston, and OCLC meetings in Ohio all in October. I learned new things and met new people at all these great learning opportunities.

The Conference Committee also met in October and is going full swing. Neil Gaiman, Nancy Pearl, and a host of other great presenters are getting contracts and signing them. Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson and Judy Hart have got their committees together and are working on overdrive to get things ready for us to be in Helena April 25-28, 2007. Programs will be finalized and posted to the MLA web page as soon as they can be after the new year. So please keep checking the MLA website [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org) for updates on the conference.

Are you celebrating Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza, or just watching the snow fly? Want to brighten up someone else's day? I have two ideas for you... First - think about leading an in-person or virtual book discussion group. I'd love for these groups to form around books that relate to the 2007 conference, like **The Tipping Point**, **Book Lust** or **More Book Lust** by Nancy Pearl, or anything by Neil Gaiman (who has written everything from picture books to comics to adult novels - check it out at [www.neilgaiman.com](http://www.neilgaiman.com) If we start in the next month or so - maybe April won't creep up on us so quickly and we will have some background knowledge and context to relate to the information we are presented at the conference. Don't start getting together until January - but buy (or borrow from one of our great libraries) a copy of the book for someone to read in the next few weeks so we can get "discussing".

My second idea is to do something for someone else this holiday season by supporting the MLA effort to build a school with a library through the Central Asia Institute (if you saw him, who could forget Greg

Mortensen and his "Pennies for Peace"). Norma Glock has valiantly been working on this project and the MLA Board has agreed with her that three years is long enough - so we are encouraging libraries to do a fundraiser sometime before April 2007 and help push MLA over the \$20,000 mark to help promote peace in Afghanistan and Pakistan through education. If you have been watching the MLA listserve, Wired-MT, you know that Missoula Public is challenging all libraries to promote this cause by doing a fundraiser soon! If you need ideas or want more information contact Norma Glock at [nglock@cablemt.net](mailto:nglock@cablemt.net)

In December the State Library Commission meets all day on Wednesday December 13. If you can, I highly encourage you to attend the meeting and meet our Commissioners. There was a great article on one member, Caroline Bitz, and her dog, Bridger (who uses his nose to turn the pages and "read" - he was a big hit during the Paws Claws Scales and Tales summer reading program) and the Big Sandy Public Library's outreach program to pre-schoolers. You can read it in the Saturday, November 25, 2006 Great Falls Tribune under the headline "Canine has nose for reading and helping children".

Keep your eye on the MLA calendar hosted at the MLA website. These are some upcoming events I hope you will plan to attend. Tuesday, January 9th, please plan to come to Helena and participate in our MLA Legislative Day. Lois Fitzpatrick and our Government Affairs Committee will be leading us in a "How to talk to Legislators" refresher course and will be giving us information on upcoming MLA initiated bills and Montana library issues. That runs from 10 a.m. to noon then we will go watch the Senate and House Floor action and will be able to sit in on committees. That evening from 5:30 -8:30 we need every librarian available to help us host the MLA's reception for legislators. All 150 legislators - state senators and representatives are invited. Come to meet your district's legislator(s) and talk about the issues for the upcoming session. Plus, enjoy Montana bluegrass, barbeque, good drinks and the company of the state's information experts - your fellow librarians from around the state! Your legislators will be getting an "official invite" but please take the time to personally invite the legislator(s) from your area or town to this event - it is as easy as dropping them a short note or making a phone call. Even if you can't come please encourage your representatives to attend. Contact Lois

**Continued on page 2...**

*Montana Library Focus* [ISSN 1076-352X] is the official publication of the Montana Library Association and is published as a service to its members. It is published six times a year: February, April, June, August, October and December.

Send articles, ads, reviews and letters to:

John Finn, Editor  
Montana Library Focus  
Hearst Free Library  
401 Main Street  
Anaconda, MT 59711  
PHONE: 406-563-6932  
EMAIL: [jfinn@mtlib.org](mailto:jfinn@mtlib.org)

Please send address changes to:

Debra Kramer  
MLA Executive Director  
Montana Library Association  
P.O. Box 1085  
Manhattan, MT 59714-1085  
[mla\\_dkramer@mtlib.org](mailto:mla_dkramer@mtlib.org)

### 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)

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

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

### Continued from Page 1...President's Message

Fitzpatrick at 447-4341 or [lfitzpat@carroll.edu](mailto:lfitzpat@carroll.edu) if you have any questions.

Event: Montana Library Association Reception

Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Time: 5:30pm-8:30pm

Location of Event: Montana State Library, 1515 E. 6th Avenue, Helena

This event is followed by the MLA board meeting at the State Library from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2007. We would love to have any of you who can stay and observe your association in action.

OCLC will be meeting in Montana on Thursday, February 22 in Bozeman - date and time TBA - watch the calendar on the web page for more information.

This will be followed by Offline on Friday and Saturday, February 22 & 23, 2007 in Bozeman. I hope you will plan to attend these wonderful learning opportunities as well.

Finally, I wish you and your families joy in this upcoming holiday season. Stay warm! I look forward to seeing all of you in Helena in January.

*Lyn McKinney, President*  
*Montana Library Association*  
*Billings Senior High School Library*  
[lynmckinney@bresnan.net](mailto:lynmckinney@bresnan.net)

### PNLA News

The Pacific Northwest Library Association representative position will be open next spring. Think about serving your organization through a bi-national organization dedicated to building leadership and literacy throughout our region. Contact Norma Glock if interested. Remember to get your selections into the Young Readers Choice Award for the 2008 nominations. Go to [www.pnla.org](http://www.pnla.org) for more information.

*Norma Glock*  
*PNLA Representative*  
[nglock@cablmt.net](mailto:nglock@cablmt.net)

## Make Your Room Reservations Now For Conference 2007

You can make your room reservation now for the fabulous 2007 MLA Conference to be held in Helena April 25-28 at the Red Lion Colonial Inn! We suggest you do it sooner rather than later as there is that little thing going on in Helena this winter called the legislative session—which sucks up a lot of hotel space.

You can make reservations under "Montana Library Association" either at the Red Lion central reservations office, 1-800-RED-LION, or by calling the hotel directly at 406-443-2100. They kindly request that guests identify themselves as part of the group when making reservations. After the cut-off date of April 1, the hotel may continue to accept reservations at the prevailing room rate, subject to availability.

The Red Lion has 25 rooms available for the state/federal rate of \$67 single occupancy or \$89 double occupancy and you will be asked to provide state/

federal ID at check-in to receive the rate. There are 65 standard queen rooms for all three days at the rate of \$74 for single or double occupancy, 10 king rooms at \$79 single or double occupancy, and five executive king rooms at \$89 single or double occupancy.

You will be asked for a credit card when making reservations. If there is no credit card on file at the time of check-in you will again be asked for one or a \$150 cash deposit that will be refunded by check through the mail.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

***Ljackson@mt.gov*** or 444-4042.

We're looking forward to seeing you all in Helena in the spring!

*Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson*  
*2007 MLA Conference Co-Chair*  
[ljackson@mt.gov](mailto:ljackson@mt.gov)

## Swanson Mobile Installed at Library

The Lewis & Clark Library Board of Trustees unveiled their recently commissioned sculpture during a special dedication ceremony at the Library on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The Board commissioned local artist Richard Swanson this past spring to design an original mobile to hang in the Library's Young Adult Section.

"We are so pleased with Swanson's work. He really captured the essence of our space," commented Library Director, Judy Hart.

Swanson's mobile, **Jabberwocky** is a visual master-piece of copper pipe and aluminum painted in sunset orange that captures your imagination from any angle. Swanson's inspiration for the 45 pound eye-catching piece came from Alice in **Through the Looking Glass**, when she commented, "...it seems to fill my head with ideas-only I don't know exactly what they are..."

The installation of this sculpture brings Swanson's



*Jabberwocky*

relationship with the Library full circle. "What many people may not know is that Richard has ties to the Lewis & Clark Library, which makes the addition of **Jabberwocky** even more meaningful," explained Hart. From August 1978 through April 1981 Richard worked part-time at the library as an Outreach Assistant, assuming many roles. In addition to his work on the Information Desk, Richard was also involved in the Summer Reading Program and was responsible for weekly Story Times.

The purchase of this captivating piece of art was made possible through the generous donation to the Library from the estate of Martha Hawkins. Hawkins, a long-time Helena resident, loved the arts and education and wanted to ensure that generations to come had access to both. "Hawkins passed away in 2003, but her legacy and spirit will always be remembered by those who pass through the Library's doors and view this tremendous and inspiring piece of art," reflected Hart.

**Jabberwocky** will remain on permanent display at the Lewis & Clark Library and the public is welcome to

view it, along with the Library's other art displays, during normal business hours: Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m..

*Patricia C. Spencer  
Lewis and Clark Library  
pspencer@mtlib.org*

## New MSC Partners Group Debuts

Madison Valley Public Library in Ennis, The Thompson-Hickman County Library in Virginia City, Twin Bridges Public Library, Sheridan Public Library, Three Forks Community Library and Whitehall Public Library are pleased to announce that they have joined forces to create "The 4-Rivers Partner Group"!

This new group will benefit all the users at each of these libraries and give them access to nearly 121,000 items. This is an exciting first step toward a state-wide library card.

Library users with a library card at any of these libraries may now check out and return materials at any of the above participating libraries.



**4 Rivers Partners are, back row: Michelle Goggins (Ennis), Joanne Erdall (Virginia City), Kathy Knack (Ennis) Front row: Faye Rutherford (Virginia City), Jean Nielsen (Three Forks), Donna Worth (Whitehall), Betty Humbert (Twin Bridges) and Bill Talbott (Sheridan).**

Library users may place holds on items in any of the 4-Rivers Partner Libraries. The items will arrive at the library the patron designates in about a week. Patrons may call their library to have a hold placed on an item or place it themselves.

For more information, please contact any of these libraries: Whitehall 406-287-3763, Twin Bridges 406-684-5416, Sheridan 406-842-5770, Virginia City 406-843-5346, Ennis 406-682-7244, Three Forks 406-285-3747.

*Michelle Goggins  
Madison Valley Public Library  
ennislib@3rivers.net*

## Conference Focuses on Library Role in Out-of-School Time

Public libraries were challenged to become players in the fast growing Out-of-School Time (OST) movement at a first ever conference ***Learning in Libraries: A National Call to Action*** presented by the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) with support from The Wallace Foundation.

The conference speakers included national OST program and policy experts, as well as library experts. They called on libraries to expand their efforts in six key areas:

- Leadership? From the library director,, local government and community leaders.
- Engagement? Providing meaningful and eeffective ways to engage youth.
- Partnerships? Working in collaborationn with other organizations to identify needs and share resources.
- Capacity building? Developing tools, sskills and other infrastructure needs.
- Investment? Making out-of-school time a priority for time, energy, space and other resources.
- Accountability? Establishing measurablle out-comes to document the value of library programs.

Libraries from 55 communities attended the conference held October 19-20 in New York City. Contributing sponsors were Scholastic, SirsiDynix and Tutor.com. For more information, about the Learning in Libraries conference and initiative, see [www.urbanlibraries.org/lil.html](http://www.urbanlibraries.org/lil.html)

*Peggy Barber and Linda Wallace  
Urban Libraries Council  
barberpeg@aol.com*

## Spinners and Weavers Guild At Great Falls Public Library

The Great Falls Spinners and Weavers guild brought their work to the Great Falls Public library this November. The guild did a hands-on demonstration of Montana Wool. They are exhibiting their creations at the library through the month of November.



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

## Flathead County Library Welcomes Two New Staff Members

Recently graduated professional librarians Jocelyne Bodden and Martha Furman joined the Flathead County Library in August. They are both excited about putting their education to work on behalf of library customers.

As Public Services Librarian, Martha will concentrate on teen services, including the Teen Advisory Board, and programming for both teens and adults. She does selection for the teen collection and adult fiction in book and audio formats as well as working on the information desk. Martha loves the variety of her new job. "You never know what people will be looking for," she said. "I love the moment when you find something."

Martha grew up in a small town in central Minnesota and received her BA from Hamline University in St. Paul. She studied for her master's degree in Library and Information Studies through a distance education



*Martha Furman, left  
and Jocelyne Bodden*

program at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul while working as the events coordinator for Consortium Book Sales there. She received her degree in May from

Dominican University in River Forest, IL. Martha and her husband, Chris Dodge, moved to Kalispell this summer and recently purchased a house.

Jocelyne is from Wisconsin, but has Montana ties. She lived in Bozeman for a couple of years as a child, and was happy to return to Montana to begin her library career. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While studying for her master's she worked at the Center for the Study of Upper Midwest Culture. She's also a certified yoga instructor.

As Information Services Librarian, Jocelyne will be developing programs for adults, managing the reference collection, selecting adult nonfiction, and working with the local history collection. She said her coworkers and working with the public are her favorite parts of her new job. Both she and her partner, Josh, are happy to be in the Flathead Valley and are currently living in Whitefish.

*Kim Crowley  
Flathead County Library, Director  
kcrowley@co.flathead.mt.us*

## Hot Water And Hot Topics In a Very Cool Medium

Combine the eclectic mix of laws, online catalog interfaces, grants, web templates, and digital/media copyright topics intertwined with poetry, thermal float, and a virtual geological tour and you create a cuisine to satisfied the heartiest of appetites.

Thank you to all the Hot Topic presenters: Samantha Hines, Karen Gonzales, Jim Heckel (Intellectual Freedom), Tamara Miller (Innovative Approaches to Online Catalog Interfaces), Anita Scheetz (Write Grants, No Way!!), Julie Klauss (Library Web Template), Samantha Hines, Sebastian Derry (Copyright @ Your Library), and Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson (Significant Tidings in a Nutshell). Thanks also to those individuals who contributed prizes (squash, book rug, home-made items, bags, and other useful items) for the drawings.

After enjoying Significant Tidings in a Nutshell and the Miller Creek Buffet, Dr. Joe McGeshick, Sokaogon Chippewa (Ojibwa), read poetry from his book *The Indian in the Liquor Cabinet* as well as several short stories of his earlier life. Visit his website at [www.turtleislandstorytellers.net/tis\\_montana/transcript\\_j\\_mcgeshick.htm](http://www.turtleislandstorytellers.net/tis_montana/transcript_j_mcgeshick.htm)



*Dr. Joe McGeshick*



*Martha Thayer and  
Della Dubbe*

Later while relaxing in nature's hot water, several people joined in a stimulating discussion of Sherman Alexie's *Ten Little Indians* led by Karen Gonzales.

Following Monday's tasty Fly-fisherman's Sunrise breakfast, Cheryl Jaworowski, Yellowstone National Park geologist, led a virtual trip through the area's geological formations and earthquake activity in Yellowstone National Park. For more information log on to: [volcanoes.usgs.gov/yvo/monitoring.htm](http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/yvo/monitoring.htm)

Special thanks to Martha Thayer, ASLD President and Della Dubbe, PLD President, for their work in organizing a successful ASLD/PLD 2006 Fall Retreat. Check out Montana State Library Digital Resources [statedigitalresources.pbwiki.com/conferences](http://statedigitalresources.pbwiki.com/conferences) for links to some presentations.

*Mary Lou Mires*  
ASLD Secretary/Publicity Committee  
D'Arcy McNickle Library  
[mary\\_mires@skc.edu](mailto:mary_mires@skc.edu)

## School/Library Media Division news

The School Library Media Division of MLA met in Billings during the MEA/MFT convention October 19 and 20. A wonderful hospitality room was shared with MATELA and the Writer's Project, providing warm camaraderie and great treats. Lunch was provided during a business meeting at noon on Friday. Lyn McKinney shared general information about MLA, Norma Glock discussed the Pennies for Peace project and Margy Kernan discussed the upcoming convention in April as well as the Winter Retreat, now in the planning stages. Speaking of the SLMD Winter Retreat, it will be held Saturday, January 27, 9:00 – 3:00 at Capital High School Library, in Helena. OPI Renewal Credits will be available as well as PIR for Helena participants. The cost \$15 which includes snacks and lunch

The theme is Social Networking and Indian Education web resources. Workshop sessions will include Internet Social Networking presented by Jason Nieffer, a talented, young teacher from Capital High who has wowed students and teachers alike with his vast knowledge of cutting edge Internet networking. Indian Ed for All – Resources on the Web. This session will be presented by OPI and will empower school library media specialists to find the best unbiased information on Native American tribes, issues and history available on the web.

To Register, send your check made out to Helena School District #1, SLMWR to either Suzi or Margy. Sorry, we can't accept purchase orders. Include the following information:

Your Name  
Email address  
School  
Preferred mailing address  
Telephone

Send the above information to:  
Suzi Watne, Libraries/IMC Coordinator  
Helena School District. #1  
Front Street Learning Center  
815 Front Street  
Helena, MT 59601  
[swatne@helena.k12.mt.us](mailto:swatne@helena.k12.mt.us)

Or  
Margy Kernan, CRA Librarian  
1200 Knight  
Helena, MT 59601  
[mkernan@helena.k12.mt.us](mailto:mkernan@helena.k12.mt.us)

We hope this workshop will provide us with current, relevant information along with the wonderful colleague networking and friendship which we librarians do so well. We hope to see you there, and please drop us an email if you have questions. Registrations are being accepted now.

## State Library News



### Montana Library Event Calendar

Check online for upcoming library training/activities and add your upcoming event to the calendar. Check it out at [calendar.mtlib.org](http://calendar.mtlib.org)

### For Your Calendars

Montana State Library announces dates and locations for two future library events. The 2007 Summer Institute is scheduled for June 5-7 on the MSU-Billings campus. Next year's Fall Workshop will be September 28-29 in Lewistown. More information will be posted as the details for these events are finalized.

### New Resources for Trustees

The Montana Public Library Trustee Handbook has just been updated and reprinted. All public libraries have received six copies, one for the director and one for each trustee. The publication is also available online at [msl.mt.gov/trustee2006](http://msl.mt.gov/trustee2006)

### 2006 Collection Management Honor Roll

Each year the Montana State Library Commission recognizes libraries that have a commitment to sharing resources with the Collection Management Honor Roll. To be considered for the Honor Roll, a library must have a current and approved collection management policy on file at the State Library, have a minimum of 50% of library holdings on the WorldCat database, and be actively adding/deleting holdings on the database. If you have questions about the Honor Roll or the status of your library's collection management policy, please contact Sue Jackson. To be considered for the 2006 Honor Roll, policies must be submitted by December 31, 2006.

For further information on either of the preceding articles from the Montana State Library, please contact Sue Jackson.

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

## Montanalawhelp.org Unveils New Services

**MontanaLawHelp.org** can help librarians assist their patrons' law-related questions by directing them to Montana-specific legal resources. A new topic on MontanaLawHelp.org is "The Legal System." This topic includes information about the courts, how cases move through the courts, finding attorneys and problems with attorneys, methods of settling disputes out of court, legal terms, legal needs of low to mid-income Montanans, and more. Here are some examples of information available to you on MontanaLawHelp.org:

Families and Kids  
What is an Affidavit?

At: [www.montanalawhelp.org/link.cfm?1633](http://www.montanalawhelp.org/link.cfm?1633)

Custody, Visitation, and Parenting Plan Forms At: [courts.mt.gov/library/topics/childcus.asp](http://courts.mt.gov/library/topics/childcus.asp)

Guardianship Forms At: [courts.mt.gov/library/topics/guardian.asp](http://courts.mt.gov/library/topics/guardian.asp)

How to Change or Correct Your Name on a Social Security Card At: [ssa-custhelp.ssa.gov/cgi-bin/ssa.cfg/php/enduser/std\\_adp.php?p\\_faqid=315](http://ssa-custhelp.ssa.gov/cgi-bin/ssa.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=315)

Seniors

Wills and Living Wills At: [courts.mt.gov/library/topics/end\\_life.asp](http://courts.mt.gov/library/topics/end_life.asp)

Probate Forms At: [courts.mt.gov/library/topics/probate.asp](http://courts.mt.gov/library/topics/probate.asp)

Elder Abuse and the U.S. Administration on Aging At: [www.aoa.dhhs.gov/press/fact/pdf/Elder%20Abuse%20Prevention.pdf](http://www.aoa.dhhs.gov/press/fact/pdf/Elder%20Abuse%20Prevention.pdf)

Taxes

Tax Forms (from the Montana Department of Revenue and the IRS) At: [courts.mt.gov/library/topics/taxes.asp](http://courts.mt.gov/library/topics/taxes.asp)

The Legal System

Questions and Information About Finding and Hiring a Lawyer At: [www.montanabar.org/forthepublic/commonques&info.html](http://www.montanabar.org/forthepublic/commonques&info.html)

Frequently Asked Questions About Representing Yourself in Court At: [www.lawsguide.com/mylawyer/guideview.asp?layer=3&article=564#4](http://www.lawsguide.com/mylawyer/guideview.asp?layer=3&article=564#4)

Waiver of Filing Fee Forms At: [www.montanalawhelp.org/link.cfm?1634](http://www.montanalawhelp.org/link.cfm?1634)

Questions or concerns? E-mail [montanalawhelp@mtlsa.org](mailto:montanalawhelp@mtlsa.org).

Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson  
Legislative Staff Attorney  
Montana Legislative Branch  
[Ljackson@mt.gov](mailto:Ljackson@mt.gov)

## Membership News

### Top Ten Reasons to Join MLA

10. Your library association wants you!
9. Professional growth opportunities
8. Real cool marketing ideas
7. Eclectic friends, experiences, and opportunities
6. You expand your knowledge base exponentially
5. \$\$ for professional development
4. Retreats with your friends (food, fun, fraternizing)
3. Sumo wrestling, bingo, trivia, kazoos, chocolate (food, fun, fraternizing)
2. You get to see Nancy Pearl and Neal Gaiman at MLA 2007
1. Where else can you get Wired for such a low price?

Take the time now to renew your membership or encourage a friend to join. You can check your membership status at [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org) by going to the Directory page and opening the membership list.

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

### Conference Reminder

Mark your calendars for the 2007 Montana Library Association Conference in Helena April 25-28, 2007. **The Tipping Point...Moving Montana Libraries from Good to Great** will feature best-selling author Neil Gaiman and Nancy Pearl in addition to an array of informative and exciting panels, workshops, and programs! Keep watching [mtlib.org](http://mtlib.org) and Focus for more information.

### It's Not Too Soon To Think About the Cates Event

Do I hear \$4000? That's the minimum 2007 MLA Cates Scholarship Fundraising Committee would like to raise during the next conference to help "grow our own" and contribute funds towards MLA members pursuing a library science degree. We raised \$3228.35 in 2006, and we hope to top \$4K in 2007. It's not too early to start planning for Cates Trivia Mania, Round Two in Helena, Thursday evening of our 2007 Conference. Stay tuned for details and put it on your "can't miss" calendar! It's also none too soon to think about Cates Raffle items that you might donate to go on display in the Exhibit Hall at the Cates tables. Response has been terrific in the past, and we hope to have even more baskets of goodies, art, etc., donated to this worthwhile venture. Watch Wired-MT in late winter for the call for Raffle items and more details about Cates conference events. Your 2007 Cates Scholarship Committee includes the following fun friends from across the state: Roberta Gebhardt, Mary Anne Hansen, Cherie Hesper, Debbie Kramer (Ex-officio) Coby Johnson, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson (Yes,

Lisa the Energizer Bunny is pulling double duty as conference co-chair and Cates Committee member extraordinaire!), Lauren McMullen, Magi Malone, Mari Jane Orner, Anita Scheetz, Peggy Smith (Ex-officio), Darlene Staffeldt (Ex-officio), Diane Van Gorden (the driving force behind the Cates Raffle, along with former member, Ve Abrams).

*Mary Anne Hansen, Cates Scholarship Chair  
Montana State University Libraries  
mhansen@montana.edu*

### Call for Nominations – Your Association Wants You

You are one of the invaluable assets of the Montana Library Association. Your expertise and experience, your opinions and energy are essential to your professional organization. Wouldn't you love to deepen your involvement with other energetic and enthusiastic colleagues from around the state? Think about taking an active role in MLA!

This year the nominating committee is seeking candidates for four Board positions. Nominees are needed for Vice-President/President elect, ALA Chapter Councilor, PNLA Representative and Director at Large-East. The terms and duties for these positions may be found in the online handbook at [www.mtlib.org/handbook/officers.html](http://www.mtlib.org/handbook/officers.html) and [www.mtlib.org/handbook/nonofficers.html](http://www.mtlib.org/handbook/nonofficers.html)

Contribute to a vigorous, lively and vital organization by nominating a colleague or yourself for one of these open positions.

Nominations or questions about the open positions may be directed to Nominating Committee Chairman Milla Cummins.

*Milla L. Cummins  
Livingston-Park County Public Library, Director  
mcummins@ycsi.net*

### Offline 2007

Make plans to travel to the new Bozeman Public Library February 23 and 24 for Offline 2007. Lots of friends, great programs, good food and the unlimited supply of chocolate! Rooms are available at the Western Heritage Inn, a convenient .3 mile from the new library. [www.westernheritageinn.com](http://www.westernheritageinn.com) - be sure to mention Offline and get the government rate of \$60/night single, \$65/night double. There are also rooms being offered by your friendly Bozeman and MSU librarians for those folks on a tight budget - mark that option on the registration form if you're interested. See you there!

*Pam Henley, Technology Assistant  
Bozeman Public Library  
phenley@bozeman.net*

## OFFLINE 2007 Registration Form

---

First Name	Last Name	Title
------------	-----------	-------

---

Library Name

---

Mailing Address

---

City	State	Zip/Postal Code
------	-------	-----------------

---

E-mail Address

---

Phone Number

Special meal needs: Food Allergies: (please specify \_\_\_\_\_)  
Vegetarian meal: Y N

I would like to stay in a Bozeman librarian's home. This option is available on a first come, first served basis until space is filled. Y N

### Registration Deadlines

Early registration \$65.00, postmarked before *January 15, 2007*

Registration \$75.00, postmarked before *February 15, 2007*

Late registration, \$85.00, postmarked after *February 15, 2007*, or paid at the door

Please mail completed form and check (payable to: **Montana Library Association**), to:

Kathy Mora, Assistant Director  
Great Falls Public Library  
301 2nd Ave North  
Great Falls, MT 59401-2593

### Office Use Only

Lname, Fname
--------------

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date rcvd: \_\_\_\_\_ Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special meals (circle one): Vegetarian or Vegan

Local librarian host: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## Awards & Honors Nominations Sought!!!

It's time to start thinking about our colleagues who deserve our awards and honors.

Here's the vital info in a nutshell:

1) For every nomination, three letters are required: 1 letter of nomination, 2 letters in support of nomination. For the Media Award, a copy of the nominated project must also be submitted 2) All nomination materials go to:

Suzanne Goodman, Chair, MLA Awards & Honors  
Park High Library  
102 View Vista Dr.  
Livingston, MT 59047  
sgoodman@livingston.k12.mt.us

3) The deadline for nominations is Monday, January 22, 2007.

### Honorary MLA Life-time membership

May be conferred upon an individual who has either made an outstanding contribution to librarianship or has rendered outstanding service to library interests. To be eligible, an individual shall have made a contribution of lasting importance to the field of librarianship. The contribution must be outstanding enough that there can be no question of her/his suitability. Only living persons may be considered.



### Library of the Year

Conferred upon any type of Montana library, library system or network for distinguished achievement in service. The staff, library board or administering body, and the community or people served shall be involved in the work for which recognition is sought. Award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- User services
- Development of innovative partnerships through networks, systems, cooperative planning and programming
- Sound collection development policies
- Offering opportunities for professional growth and job satisfaction for all employees
- Improvement of physical facilities resulting in better services

### Sheila Gates Award for Librarian of the Year

Conferred upon a librarian in recognition of outstanding leadership and accomplishment in library service. The librarian must be currently employed in any field of librarianship in Montana and must be a current member of the Montana Library Association. Award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Provision of high-quality, community-centered library services
- Contribution to any area of service benefiting users
- Distinguished service to the profession, including outstanding participation in activities of professional library associations and/or notable publications
- Leadership in education and in-service training for librarians
- Leadership in cooperative activities
- Outstanding development of library techniques, management, and/or facilities

### Trustee of the Year

Conferred upon a Montana public library trustee in recognition of outstanding achievement and leadership.

Nominations may be made by any library board, individual library, librarian, trustee, MLA member or Montana State Library Commission. Equal consideration shall be given to trustees of small and large libraries. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities and accomplishments such as the following:

- Service to the local library and participation in state and national activities
- Constructive accomplishments in promoting library service shall be considered rather than the length of service as a trustee
- Interest in and contribution to the development of library services beyond those of the local community
- Achievements of nominees are judged according to criteria found in the Montana Public Library Trustee Manual.

### School Administrator of the Year Award

Conferred upon a Montana school administrator in recognition of outstanding achievement and leadership in the development and promotion of school libraries. Nominations for this award should come from the librarian currently employed by the school district of the nominee.

The awards shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Constructive accomplishment towards the advancement of library service to the students and teachers of the school
- Development of sound school library practices
- Creative and effective work in interpreting the library to the school board, school administration, teaching staff, students, and community
- Fostering cooperative relations with other libraries in the area
- Implementation of programs to address special needs or problems

***Awards and Honors, Continued on next page...***

**Awards and Honors, Continued**

- Defense of intellectual freedom
- Promoting and supporting the employment of professional librarians in school

**Special Friend to Libraries Award**

Purpose of the award is to recognize individuals or groups who have rendered outstanding service in support of library interests within Montana. The award is conferred simply as a reward for a job well done. Nominations are accepted from members of the Montana library Association only. Award need not be based solely on service rendered during the previous year, but may be based on cumulative years of service.

**Intellectual Freedom Award**

Conferred upon an individual or group who has made significant contributions during the past year to the enhancement of First Amendment rights. The recipient should have demonstrated a clear understanding of the principles, nature, responsibilities and implications of the First Amendment. The recipient should be a Montanan or a non-Montanian whose contribution has a demonstrable effect on Montana. The recipient should have applied that understanding of the principles in one or more the following ways:

- In defense of the principles in the face of a serious challenge to it which defense is not necessarily limited to libraries
- In support of the principles through an active role in Formulating programs which develop people's ability to deal with a full range of opinion/controversy and with the issues associated with such controversy, or
- Developing or materially assisting in the development, of a legal base for the continued enjoyment of freedom of mind, its strengthening, and its defense, or
- Expanding the philosophical foundation of the principle or contributing to better understanding of it.

**Interest Group Excellence Award**

Conferred upon an individual member of an MLA interest group or upon an interest group as a whole, for meritorious service on behalf of Montana libraries and/or librarians. Award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Comprehensive projects which benefit the larger library community
- Exemplary programs or outstanding services which are not available through other channels
- Extraordinary assistance to other libraries and/or librarians in Montana

**Media Award**

Conferred to honor a production for broadcast or work for publication which best underscores the value of libraries to community and society, This includes works prepared for television, radio, cable, film, and/or print media. News articles/ programs and documentaries also qualify. The broadcast or publication of the

nominated work should be within the two years preceding the annual conference at which the award is to be made. A copy of the nominated work must be submitted to the Awards and Honors Committee for review.

*Suzanne Goodman*  
 Chair, MLA Awards and Honors Committee  
 Park High School Library, Librarian  
 102 View Vista Dr.  
 Livingston MT 59047  
 406/222-0448 ext 211  
 sgoodman@livingston.k12.mt.us

**Report From "Promoting Public Libraries" Workshop - Boston, Spring 2006**

Three Montana librarians from small libraries attended the Gates Foundation's "Promoting Public Libraries: Using Data to Effectively Build Support and Funding" workshop held in Boston in March 2006. The following reports summarize the presentations.

**Part 1: Needs and Assets Assessment**

The first presentation of our "Promoting Public Libraries: Using Data and Advocacy to Build Support and Funding" Gates Workshop in Boston was:

**Needs and Assets Assessment** presented by Leanne Hathcock, Director of Aztec Public Library in New Mexico. She immediately drew in the crowd with her dynamic PowerPoint presentation and charm. I liked that she began by saying, "As a librarian in a small rural public library, you probably already base your selection decisions on what you know about your users' tastes and background." Since a needs assessment can be an expensive and time-consuming exercise, she provided the following information to assist us:

What is a Needs Assessment?

The process of identifying needs and inventorying assets to move toward workable solutions that cause improvement

Use appropriate assessment tools to identify those solutions

Move toward planning; create goals/objectives from data gathered

Why Do a Needs Assessment?

To figure out how to serve your patrons and community better by making educated, positive changes to your library's services.

Outcome: Become a more important, relevant part of your community, which can lead to increased funding, support and local influence.

Outcome: Attract more patrons

**Report, Continued on next page...**

**Report, Continued**

**Types of Library Needs Assessments:** Facility, Staffing, Furniture and Equipment, Collection, Services, Public Access Computing and Outreach.

Once you decide to undertake a needs assessment study, you must plan your strategy. Decide who will conduct the study. Will it be outside consultants, volunteers or library staff? What kind of information will be collected? Be it Historical, Political, Economic, Social or Educational to name a few. How will the information be collected? How will the information be used?

Leanne then stressed that the **main lessons are:**

Networking is essential. Get involved in your community and learn about their needs. Include a broad spectrum of people- not just current users

If you are providing what your community needs, your patrons can become your best champions.

Get Started: if it is to be, it up to me!

**Part 2: Measuring a Library's Impact**

According to Beverly Choltco-Devlin of Mid-York Library System, libraries must work harder to show that they are accountable for every dollar they receive. Public libraries must go beyond "output statistics" such as circulation and patron visits and demonstrate real impact on individuals and communities.

An Impact Study measures the effect or value of programs and services on the community. In many cases you may already have the data to demonstrate your impact, but the challenge is how you tell your story. How has your library made a difference in patrons' lives and in your community as a whole? Libraries need to have better methods for getting feedback from patrons about the importance of specific library services.

Gather **individual success stories** in your community to demonstrate value. Here are some examples:

A patron with a heart disease discovered a drug interaction between her prescription drug and an over-the-counter medicine.

A job seeker who does not have a home computer obtains a local position after he is able to use a library computer to apply for a job that requires an online application.

More challenging, but critical, is to gather **commu-**

**nity-level impacts** such as:

Public access computers led to the establishment of three new small businesses in our community in the past year.

**Part 3: Advocacy Planning**

The final portion of the Gates workshop dealt with Advocacy Planning presented by Eric Gorovitz of The Alliance for Justice. This is not something done when a mill levy or a new building is needed. It is an upfront, on-going process.

Make sure your funding bodies know who you are. It is all about relationships.

Statistics are cold. Use stories and anecdotes. Touch my heartstrings.

Credibility is essential. Double check you figures. Once credibility is lost, it is gone forever.

Don't exaggerate or make empty threats. Don't say that you'll have to cut hours and not follow through.

Don't waste time on known friends and known enemies. Find new resources.

Use personal touch, no letters, no petitions.

Politicians all have egos, feed them.

The Gates' Workshop was a valuable opportunity to network with small librarians from around the United States. Joanne, Gail and Nancy appreciated having the chance to attend both the Gates' Workshop and the following PLA Conference. They would like to encourage all other librarians to beg, borrow or steal a chance to attend a national conference.

*Part One By*

*Joanne Erdall*

*Thompson-Hickman County Library*

*vclibry@3rivers.net*

*Part TwoBy*

*Nancy Brennan*

*Bicentennial Library of Colstrip*

*bicenlib@tgrsolution.net*

*Part Three By*

*Gail Nagle*

*Glendive Public Library*

*gnagle@midrivers.com*