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# Montana Library Focus

Volume 25 Issue 4

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Honore Bray

I hope everyone is having a great summer and the heat and smoke are not interfering with your plans. When ABC news announced MT Governor Brian Schweitzer's prayers for rain and snow, summer had just arrived. It was surprising to hear of all the fires as the MLA Board has just spent three days at Camp on the Boulder in seclusion, no cell phones, radios, TVs or newspapers. The retreat provides uninterrupted time and emphasis on planning and preparing for the 2007-2008 MLA year. The goal was met and everyone left the camp with his or her heads ringing and not knowing what we had

missed in the outside world. What would one see when they wound down the rough, rocky road from the camp through McLeod and on to Big Timber where once again reality hit?

If you are reading this you know about MLA and the reasons to be a member. There are many Librarians out there who are not members of the organization and we are missing their ideas when networking at meetings. We have all been challenged by the new PNLA representative, Mary Lou Mires, to go out in the library community and find a library worker who is not part of MLA and encourage their involvement in MLA. This will help our organization become stronger and provide new members with a support system and a wealth of expertise provided by all of the members. Please accept Mary Lou's challenge and let her know you will get a non-member involved in the next couple months.

The association has three new

Interest Groups for this year, bringing the total number to ten groups. The new groups are American Indian Interest Group, Central Asia Institute Interest Group and a Book Discussion Interest Group. One new Standing Committee has been added to the existing eleven committees. The new committee is the Bookstore Committee and it has the duty of planning and managing the bookstore at the Annual Conference. The creation of new committees and Interest Groups increase the opportunities members have to be involved in MLA. If you are interested in one of these new opportunities or one of the existing Interest Groups or Committees let a Board Member know.

You may wonder why the Central Asia Institute Task Force became an interest group. If you attended the conference last year you know that Norma Glock announced that the goal of building a school and library in Afghanistan has been met. The Montana School will be started soon and Norma had many summer reading programs that had committed to raising money during the summer. Job 12 is still open at CAI and if you have donations please apply them to job 12 to ensure the correct monetary appropriation for Montana School.

The Board and a task force will be updating the MLA manual in the next few months. The version that is online does not match the version that was updated in 2003 by

**Continued on page 2...**

## Table of Contents

• <i>President's Letter</i> ----- 1	• <i>Public Library News</i> -----6
• <i>Publication Information</i> ----- 2	• <i>Book &amp; Big Read News</i> ----7-9
• <i>Bruce's Corner</i> ----- 3	• <i>Harry Potter Day at Ft. Belknap</i> -----10
• <i>State Library News</i> ----- 4	• <i>Montana Festival of the Book News</i> -----11
• <i>Trustee's Corner</i> -----4	
• <i>Membership News</i> -----5	

**Continued from page 1...**

Beth Boyson. When the update is complete it will be posted to the WEB so when members have a question they know where they can find the answers. In the meantime the online manual will be taken off the WEB so members will not be misinformed.

The Communications Committee is working on an improved WEB presence. Steve, Pam and Matt will be working hard to update the information and reconfigure what we have now. Tune in to Wired for more information as things improve.

Randy Wahl, CPA and Chief Financial Officer of Rocky Mountain Supply will audit the Association books in the near future. The audit has been necessary since Karen Hatcher resigned as Executive Director. Since then we have had two new Executive Director's who requested an audit. We now have a CPA in place and the audit can take place. Thanks Debbi Kramer for finding a qualified CPA for us.

I would like to encourage all members to think of joining a committee, interest group or running for office. Lynn McKinney will be calling later in the year to find those interested in participating in this worthwhile endeavor. Retired members are very important to the organization and their perspective divisions. They hold the expertise and tradition that has made this Association what it is today. I would ask retired members to step up to this task and help to lead the Association forward. Your expertise is invaluable.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and remember Fall Workshop is open to all types of librarians. It is a very worthwhile learning experience and has little impact on local library budgets.

The MLA Conference Planning Committee will be meeting the day before Fall Workshop in Lewistown to look at project proposals and decide on the conference schedule for 2008 in Great Falls. If you have a great idea for a program, send Kathy Mora a proposal. You can obtain the form from the WEB Site.

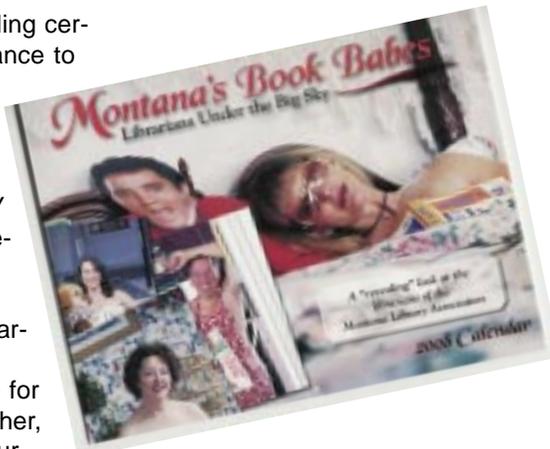
All for now...

Honore

*Honore Bray, President,  
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## **Don't be the Only One To Miss Out! Oh My! Montana Book Babes 2008 Calendars Are Still on Sale**

If you missed the unveiling ceremony, or didn't get a chance to see the calendars in all their splendor, don't fret. You can still buy yours today! They are available online at [www.mtlib.org/calendar/index.html](http://www.mtlib.org/calendar/index.html). Remember, it's a fundraiser for MLA, so every dollar made goes to support librarians and their libraries across the state. Buy one for you, your sister, your mother, your friends, your dog, your ...



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## **MLA Discussion List: WIRED-MT**

**WIRED-MT-L** is a listserv sponsored by the Montana Library Association and hosted by **OCLC-Western**. The list is open to everyone interested in Montana libraries and library issues, including MLA members and non-members. Additional information and guidelines for use may be found at [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org).

To subscribe to **WIRED-MT-L**,

1. Send a message to:

**[listserv@OCLC.ORG](mailto:listserv@OCLC.ORG)**;

2. Leave the subject line blank;

3. In the body of the message type: **SUBSCRIBE WIRED-MT-L <your name>**

4. Do not attach a signature.

If you have problems subscribing or have additional questions, contact Margaret Webster, List Manager (on behalf of MLA) at:

**[mwebster@crowleylaw.com](mailto:mwebster@crowleylaw.com)**

or call me at 406-255-7201.

## Bruce's Corner

### Libraries and Privilege

By  
Bruce Newell  
MLN Director, (retired)  
bnewell@mt.net

In the past one had to be privileged to have a personal library or even own more than one or two books. Lavish book collections spoke of their owner's privileged status, purchased either with coin or cow. Those without a private library were those without access to books and written knowledge.

Library access was a privilege extended to all with the advent of public libraries. Individual book ownership was replaced by locally shared, publicly owned collections. Many wealthy citizens owned private libraries, but finally everyone had lots of books to read-access to knowledge had been made more universal, more democratic. This was sufficient (if not perfect) for society's purpose for many years, but in the 1990s the playing field was changed with the advent of the Web.

With the World Wide Web has come more of more-more books, more movies, more of everything; further, it's never been easier or more convenient to slurp deeply from the trough of knowledge. As a retired Trustee from Hamilton's Bitterroot Public Library succinctly said, "[Now] it's not about ownership, it's about access." What's on your library's shelf is important, but for your patrons, libraries are just part of the picture-albeit the democratic 'part' offering to all fair and equal access to knowledge.

Convenience has become as important as collection breadth and depth. And with a little money, finding, requesting, and getting books, movies, and so forth is a snap. Chris Anderson's long tail (**footnote 1**) is apparent everywhere, for example, in the Newell

household (and we are fairly typical of a growing information-privileged class); we have convenient access to just about any knowledge resource that catches our fancy-

In light of my esteem for my favorite local bookstore, I am a little chagrined to report that **Amazon.com** gets more business from us every year. Amazon has a huge selection and makes it easy to do business with them-in this age of \$3/gallon gas they actually mail stuff to our house!

We now forego small, expensive, and (to us) uninteresting collections at local video stores for a never-ending stream of great movies mailed to our home via Netflix. We'll buy more Internet bandwidth when Netflix (or someone else) begins distributing film over the Web.

I grow increasingly frustrated by the process of ripping (**footnote 2**) spoken word CDs from my local library to listen to on my iPod (I hasten to add, listened to once, not shared, then deleted); instead I am enjoying the incredible convenience of getting spoken-word books from **Audible.com**. (**footnote 3**)

My family's convenient access to the world's knowledge resources makes us privileged in the way (in former days) tycoon's, lords' and ladies' personal libraries were marks of their privilege. We enjoy an easy access to knowledge-stuff-access that has replaced ownership in today's networked world; however, many lack the means to enjoy access to sup from the new knowledge-feast.

I am concerned that libraries have been slow to provide this kind of convenient access to their users. Too few Montana libraries provide group catalogs and reciprocal borrowing; video collections while immensely popular are too often exclusively circulated locally, while being limited in title and scope; and I can't think of a single Montana library where I could get

digital audio files to directly download to my iPod.

It can be debated whether this is solely due to our lack of resources or for other reasons. Regardless, I am very concerned about the increasingly wide gap separating those of us with the means to enjoy convenient access to all-the-world's knowledge resources, and those without the means to do so. This should concern all of us who believe public libraries exist, in large part, to level the playing field and to provide opportunities for all.

I believe that libraries must quickly begin providing the privilege of 21st century library services (convenient, personalized, and with access to global information resources) to all their patrons. It's only fair, and I suspect it's necessary for the health of our struggling democracy and the health of our communities.

Footnotes:

1) Article: [www.wired.com/wired/archive/12.10/tail\\_pr.html](http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/12.10/tail_pr.html)  
Short incomplete explanation: Huge inventories have something for everyone; huge customer bases have buyers for everything in huge inventories.

2) Ripping: copying digital content from one format to another, see [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ripping](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ripping)

3) I just finished listening to the new James Lee Burke novel, **The Tin Roof Blowdown**, from Audible. My local library has three copies and 18 holds as of this writing; it would probably be months before I got a copy locally, and then it would be printed, or if digital, on CD or likely incompatible with my iPod; incidentally, over 70% of the installed base of MP3 players are iPods. Source: News story July 26, 2007, **SeekingAlpha** blog, "The best is yet to come", [ce.seekingalpha.com/article/42456](http://ce.seekingalpha.com/article/42456)

# State Library News



All of the following articles relating to programs and services of the Montana State Library are by:

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## 2007 PEEL Scholarship Recipient



Mary Drew Powers

Montana State Library is excited to announce that the 2007 Professional Education and Employment for Librarians (PEEL) \$25,000 scholarship has been awarded to Mary Drew Powers. Mary, who is currently the assistant branch manager at the Whitefish Branch Library, will begin work this fall on her MLIS degree through the distance program of the University of Washington's Information School. This PEEL scholarship is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through its Librarians for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant program. Congratulations to Mary!

## Professional Development RSS Feed

If you subscribe to RSS feeds you can now receive weekly updates about new library professional development materials available at the State Library. The new Library and Information Services Division Library Professional Development RSS feed lists recent additions to the professional development collection. For more information or to subscribe visit: [msl.mt.gov/PubRSS/RSSNewPubs.asp](http://msl.mt.gov/PubRSS/RSSNewPubs.asp)

## Spanish Language Outreach Program

Three Montana public libraries will be participating in the Spanish Language Outreach Program: Empowering Library Staff to Reach Out to Spanish Speakers and Increase their Access to Technology. This initiative is being funded by the Gates Foundation and coordinated by OCLC. Staff were selected from the Billings (Kathy Robins), Bozeman (Catherine McMullen), and Missoula (Molly Kliss) libraries to attend a 3-day training institute in Seattle in late September to learn the Outreach Curriculum. Then, these librarians will work closely with leaders of their local Spanish-speaking com-

## 9th Annual Fall Workshop

Don't forget the Fall Workshop in Lewistown on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. This year will feature sessions on Library 2.0, statewide databases, technology for teens, customer service, book mending, library finances, programming for baby boomers, e-books, and graphic novels and zines for teens. All of the presenters will be terrific, but three special guests this year include Montana's own Mary Bushing; Stephanie Vance of Advocacy Associates in Washington, DC; and, from Chicago, Rita Emmett, author of *The Procrastinator's Handbook* and *The Clutter-Busting Handbook* ([www.ritaemmett.com](http://www.ritaemmett.com)). Details and registration materials will be available in late August. There is no registration fee for the Fall Workshop and lunch is provided for all participants.

## Montana Library Event Calendar

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

## Trustees Corner Trustee News from the MSL

Two trustee workshops on Montana library laws are scheduled for late fall. The workshops will be offered in Billings on October 27<sup>th</sup> and in Missoula on November 10. Details will be announced and registration will begin in the fall.

## Budgeting Basics: The Four Bs

By  
Carol Grover, Chair  
Trustees Interest Group  
[cchettoy@yahoo.com](mailto:cchettoy@yahoo.com)

Last time I wrote about where the money comes from; this time I'm going to share some thoughts on where the money goes. As I see it, the budget is comprised of four Bs—Building, Books, Bodies, and Busyness. First of all, the Building. If the library is a unique building and not part of a county or city complex, the expenses include upkeep, insurance, and staying compliant with government regulations such as ADA. The upkeep, maintenance and repairs, can run into a lot of money, but the library board is in control of how much is done. If the library is part of a complex, the upkeep is less, but the control of what one can do with the space is out of the library board's hands for the most part. Books are what most people have come to associate with the library, and a certain amount of money must be allocated to purchase reading materials for the patrons. Bodies are the necessary staff, diverse in their competencies, but all needing salaries and benefits. How many employees is, of course, dependent on the size and hours of the individual library. The last of the four Bs is Busyness. There's a lot of activity in the library. There are programs for patrons of all ages. There are computers and

*Continued on page 5...*

### **Continued from page 4...**

classes on how to operate them. There are outreach programs. So how does the Board make up a budget? The easiest way is to take the old budget, see how the expenditures and revenues match up and adjust accordingly. If the library is new, check out Chapter 12 in the Montana Public Library Trustee Handbook or call the friendly folks at the Montana State Library for help. Good luck, and have a great rest of the summer.

### **2008 Conference Announcement**

By  
Sheila Bonnard  
MSU-Great Falls Library  
sbonnard@msugf.edu

April 2008 is only a few short months away! We hope you will be spending at least one weekend of it in beautiful Great Falls, the site of the 2008 MLA Annual Conference. September 2007 is even closer and that is when program proposals are due to the conference planning committee. Please take the time to think about programs and training possibilities – and consider submitting a proposal for a session (we know you have great programs in your libraries, wonderful projects going on behind the scenes, expertise in areas that would be helpful to others, and more). Proposals are due by September 21<sup>st</sup>. The forms to submit your proposal are available on the MLA web site: [www.mtlib.org/conf/programproposalform2008.pdf](http://www.mtlib.org/conf/programproposalform2008.pdf)

Reminder to MLA divisions and interest groups: you must submit a program proposal in order to schedule business meetings or other events at the conference.

Please contact either of your conference planning co-chairs – Kathy Mora [kmora@mtlib.org](mailto:kmora@mtlib.org) or Sheila Bonnard [sbonnard@msugf.edu](mailto:sbonnard@msugf.edu) – if you have any.

### **Call For Conference Volunteers**

By  
Jude Smith  
Public Relations Coordinator  
Great Falls Public Library  
[jusmith@mtlib.org](mailto:jusmith@mtlib.org)

The 2008 Montana Library Association Conference (April 9 – 12) will be held at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls. Planning has begun, committee chairs have met, and ideas are percolating. Lots of jobs need lots of hands pitching in. Committees need members to help make a memorable conference. You can choose to participate on any of seven committees. They include Registration, Meals; Publicity; Meeting Rooms/Equipment/Technology/Internet Café; Exhibits; Conference Program Booklet; and Hospitality. Don't let living in another community stop you; E-mail and phones eliminate the need to be in Great Falls for many of the committees' work. But the more local hands involved the better. If anyone is interested in volunteering or would like more information please contact Jude Smith at [jusmith@mtlib.org](mailto:jusmith@mtlib.org) or (406) 453-0349 and you'll be directed to the committee of your interest.

### **The 2007 ASLD/PLD retreat is coming up!**

This year's retreat will be held at Chico Hot Springs on October 14-15, 2007. We are planning a dozen programs, with topics for all types of libraries. The topics include Archive Montana, Transportation Librarians, Digitized Historical Collections, Medical Information Online, "Made to Stick" Ideas, Website Evaluation and Digital Camera How-to.

Plan to join us at this favorite location. Watch for the retreat on the MLA page, [www.mtlib.org](http://www.mtlib.org). For questions and comments, contact Samantha Schmehl Hines or Judy Hart.

### **Funding Opportunity for Leadership Institutes**

By  
Marjorie Doyle, Chair  
Continuing Education Committee  
Missoula Public Library  
[mdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us](mailto:mdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us)

The Montana Library Association will be making grants available for the MPLA and PNLA Leadership Institutes. These will be funded up to \$1000 per Institute (to be divided among applicants). The applications are not yet available through the website but if you are interested please send inquiries to Marjorie Doyle, Professional Development Committee chair, [mdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us](mailto:mdoyle@missoula.lib.mt.us) as soon as possible so that these may be granted in a timely manner for this year's Ghost Ranch Institute.

### **Hearst Free Library Announces 2nd Annual Reading the Greens Golf Scramble**

Last September, 60 golfers participated in the first ever Reading the Greens Golf Scramble. A 9 hole golf tournament/fundraiser that was perfectly executed by the Friends of the Hearst Free Library. It was so successful that there was no hesitation in deciding to do it again. However, this year it will be bigger and better. We'll play 18 holes this year!

The 2nd Annual Reading the Greens Golf Scramble will take place on September 15th at the Anaconda Country Club. If you participated last year, you know that it's a "must play" tournament. If you didn't play last year and want more information, or if you're already sure you wish to play, call or email John Finn for details or for a registration form ([jfinn@mtlib.org](mailto:jfinn@mtlib.org), or 563-6932).

We promise that this year, the competition for the Reader's Cup (Librarian Team challenge) will heat up with even more Librarians and their ringers... er, uhm... team members!

## Summer Reading Ends With Pies in the Face

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

Children participating in the Great Falls Public Library's Summer Reading Program got to celebrate its success with a bang. At the onset of Summer Reading Youth Services Librarian Nola Huey and her assistant Diane Kliewer announced they'd take pies to the face if enough pages were read.

Collectively, participants read over one million pages and the librarians got pied. Kliewer is pictured tasting the cream.



## News from Lincoln County Libraries

Sami Pierson, Director  
Lincoln County Libraries  
samantha@libby.org

Libby is pleased to be a recipient of a grant from the Libri Foundation. The Libby Friends of the library provided \$350 towards a 2-to-1 matching grant provided by the foundation. The Libri Foundation was established in 1989 for the sole purpose of helping rural libraries acquire new, quality, hardcover children's books they could not otherwise afford to buy. This grant has allowed the Libby Library to more than double their children's book budget. The focus will be to rebuild an aging children's non-fiction selection. For more information about the Libri Foundation, [www.librifoundation.org/](http://www.librifoundation.org/).

## Library Foundation Receives Private Donation

By  
Alice Meister, Director  
Bozeman Public Library  
ameister@bozeman.net

Wonderful news! The Bozeman Public Library Foundation received \$880,000 from an anonymous donor to completely fund the remaining cost of the new Library. This generous donation frees up City money for the Library and



other important uses, and will allow the Foundation to focus on offering new programs and events for the community in the new building. According to the donor's representative, this gift was given as a tribute to Wendy Bay Lewis, former Development Director, and her outstanding work for the Library.

The donor previously has provided extensive support to the new Library, especially for environmental clean-up and the LEED certified Library building. Thank you to all of our generous donors for contributing to over 36% of private funding for this unprecedented public/private capital campaign!

## Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Descend on Miles City

By  
Hannah Nash, MCPL  
montanalibrarian@yahoo.com

On Saturday July 21st the Miles City Public Library hosted its last Harry Potter Celebration, to coincide with the release of the final book in the phenomenal series. Prospective Hogwarts students from all over came for the festivities, which covered all three floors of the Library.

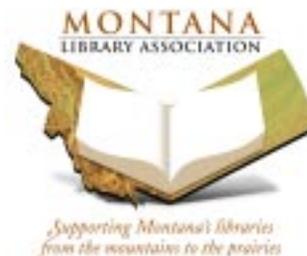
The party began with a reading of the final book "Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows", and kept the magic going for two hours while students visited many activity stations including: a Potions class, Flourish and Blotts, Hagrid's Hut, Trelawny's Tea Room, the



The characters take a break from signing autographs for a group photo

Slytherin Common Room, and more. Fifteen Potter-verse characters were on hand in costume and in character to sign autographs, as well as one special guest magician Bob the Janitor, who has high hopes of taking over for Filch the Caretaker when he retires from Hogwarts.

A wonderful afternoon spent saying Farewell to a great epic series.



## Honoring Montana's Best Literature

Anne Kish, Librarian/Asst. Prof  
University of Montana, Western  
a\_kish@umwestern.edu

The winners of the 2006 Montana Book Award will be honored at a reception on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the Fact and Fiction bookstore in Missoula. The reception is free to the public and will be one of the many events at the Montana Festival of the Book. Come one – come all!

Kirby Larsen will be present to formally receive the 2006 Montana Book Award for her winning novel **Hattie Big Sky**. Her young adult fiction story, based on the true life of Larsen's great-grandmother, depicts an orphaned teen who moves to Vida, Montana to prove up on a homestead claim. Three 2006 Honor Books were also selected, and the authors have been invited to receive their awards at the reception as well: David Quammen for **The Reluctant Mr. Darwin**, David Oliver Relin and Greg Mortenson for **Three Cups of Tea**, and Donald M. Jones for **Wings Over Montana**.

The 2006 Montana Book Awards will be presented at the Montana Festival of the Book, but the Montana Book Award committee is pleased to announce that the 2007 awards presentation will be held at the Montana Library Association's annual conference.

The Montana Book Award is bestowed annually upon a book written or illustrated by a Montanan, a book that is Montana-themed, or a book that is set in Montana. Nobody is more aware of the amount of new quality Montana literature than the members of the Montana Book Award committee. They get to read it all! The committee is already hard at work reading and discussing eligible titles published in 2007. Keep them busy by submitting your nominations. For more information, visit [www.montanabookaward.org](http://www.montanabookaward.org).

Barbara Theroux of Missoula chairs the Montana Book Award committee. The 2006 voting members were: Jean Lemire Dahlman (Forsyth), Della Dubbe (Cut Bank), Susan Duffy (Missoula), Haven Gourneau, (Poplar), Jan Jelinek (Billings), Anne Kish (Twin Bridges), Linda Minich (Butte), Sonya Neisess (Libby), Kay Unger (Missoula), and Jan Zauha (Bozeman). Committee members serve three-year terms and the committee has at least one representative from each geographic library federation area.

## Montana SHRAB Announces Funding for Scholarships, Assistance

The Montana State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) is pleased to announce the continued availability of scholarships of up to \$1,000 to paid and volunteer staff of Montana's cultural heritage institutions to attend training, educational workshops, or courses on topics related to the management and/or preservation of historical records. Each scholarship may cover registration fees, travel costs, lodging and per diem (for food). Funding may also be used to bring recognized experts into an

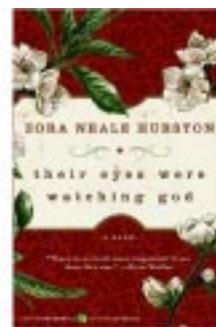
institution for consultation related to the management, accessibility, or preservation of the historical records in its care. The scholarships are made possible through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

An application for these funds is available at the SHRAB website, [www.his.state.mt.us/research/library/rc\\_brdscoms.asp](http://www.his.state.mt.us/research/library/rc_brdscoms.asp), or by contacting State Archivist Jodie Foley at [jfoley@mt.gov](mailto:jfoley@mt.gov) or (406) 444-7482.

## Lincoln County Libraries Announces NEA Big Read Grant

Sami Pierson, Director  
Lincoln County Libraries  
[samantha@libby.org](mailto:samantha@libby.org)

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has announced that the Lincoln County Libraries will receive a Big Read grant in celebration of the novel **Their Eyes Were Watching God** by Zora



Neale Hurston. The Big Read is an initiative of the NEA designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. Through this program, nearly two hundred communities nationwide have received grants to create month-long, community-based programs to celebrate the reading and discussion of one of twelve classic American novels.

"The libraries are thrilled to have been chosen to participate in the Big Read," said Adult Public Services Librarian Sarah Daviau.

**Their Eyes Were Watching God** is a wonderful story about finding your voice and finding love. We hope that everyone in the community will come together to discuss their diverse experiences, share their stories, and celebrate reading."

In support of the Big Read, the Lincoln County Libraries will collaborate with other community organizations, including schools in

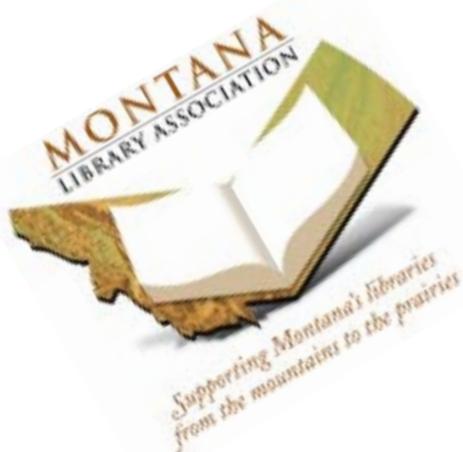
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Eureka, Troy, and Libby, and the Heritage Museum in Libby to present a full calendar of programs to celebrate ***Their Eyes Were Watching God***. Events will be held in fall 2007 in Troy, Eureka, and Libby, and will include book discussion groups, movie showings and kick-off dinners in all three communities. Additionally, a keynote address will be given by Valerie Boyd, author of the biography ***Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston*** and arts editor at the ***Atlanta Journal-Constitution***.

The NEA presents the Big Read in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. The Big Read in the Pacific Northwest is supported, in part, by a grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation. The Big Read brings together partners from across the country to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment.

For more information about the Big Read and for a complete list of communities participating in the program, please visit [www.neabigread.org](http://www.neabigread.org).



## National Endowment For The Arts Announces Big Read Grant To Lewis & Clark Library To Celebrate The Big Read Under The Big Sky

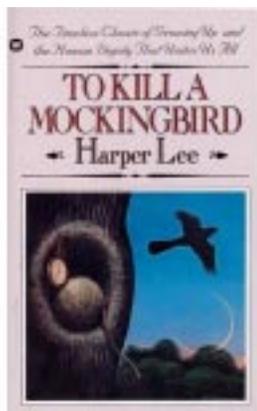
Patricia Spencer  
Public Information Officer  
Lewis & Clark Library  
[pspencer@MTLIB.ORG](mailto:pspencer@MTLIB.ORG)

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced on June 28, 2007 that the Lewis & Clark Library is one of 117 organizations that will receive grants to support Big Read programs between September and December 2007.

Library Director Judy Hart, on behalf of the Lewis & Clark Library Board of Trustees, and staff, announced that Lewis & Clark Library is the recipient of a national Big Read grant.

Modeled on successful "one book, one community" programs, the Big Read was created to address the national decline in literary reading as documented in the NEA's 2004 landmark survey Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America. The survey showed that less than half the American adult population now reads literature.

The Lewis & Clark Library received a \$20,000 grant from the NEA to promote and carry out community-based programs for The Big Read. The Lewis & Clark Library is proud to announce The Big Read Under The Big Sky. Lewis & Clark Library selected Harper Lee's classic ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** as the literary novel that will be the focal point of community readings, school curriculum, movie screenings, musical and



theatrical productions, lectures, and non-traditional events and activities that will bring residents of all ages and backgrounds in Lewis & Clark County together, bridging generational, socio-economic and cultural gaps. The Big Read Under the Big Sky will promote reading literacy, visual literacy and cross cultural understanding, addressing themes that have vital importance in our schools and communities, including tolerance, prejudice, loyalty, family, class, as well as redemption.

"We are very excited and honored to be a recipient of this prestigious grant and are looking forward to developing many long-term partnerships," explained Hart. The Big Read Under The Big Sky will be a month-long county-wide celebration beginning mid-October and running through mid-November. The Big Read Under The Big Sky will partner with Downtown Helena, Inc. for the opening event to be held at the annual Kid's Fall Fest on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.



*Continued on page 9...*

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To encourage community-wide participation in the project, the Lewis & Clark Library is collaborating with public and private partners through out the county to develop a program of activities related to ***To Kill a Mockingbird***.

Hart also introduced project partners and members of the Big Read planning committee, which include: Major Garth Scott, Montana National Guard Joint Public Affairs Officer and Julie North, Montana National Guard Child and Youth Program Coordinator. "The Library is pleased to form this new partnership with Ft. Harrison, where a number of our activities will be held," explained Hart. Also present were Niki Whearty, Helena High School Librarian, and Jeanne Tweeten and Joan Meyer, Capital High School Librarians, who were instrumental in developing our partnership with the Helena High Schools; and representing Lewis & Clark Library on the committee were Pad McCracken, Teen Services Librarian, Suzanne Schwichtenberg, Adult Services Librarian, , and Patricia Spencer, Public Information Officer. "The Library also wishes to extend thanks to Suzi Watne, Helena School District, and the High School English departments for their input during the planning process. We look forward to continuing this collaboration," continued Hart.

In addition to primary partners and planning committee members, many organizations will be involved in specific events and activities throughout the celebration. "We're committed to having enough copies of the book available for students of participating educators and to distribute county-wide at Big Read events, as well as area book discussion groups. Thanks to the Boeing Company, 100 copies of ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** will be given to Ft. Harrison. Having copies available in different formats, such as large print and audio, will accommodate those who are sight impaired, as well as encourage participation by lapsed, reluctant or low level literary readers who may be hesitant or unable to read the book," explained Hart.

The NEA also will provide the Lewis & Clark Library with a library of free materials, including reader's and teacher's guides for ***To Kill a Mockingbird***, an audio guide featuring distinguished actors and writers, an online organizer's guide for hosting a Big Read program, Big Read publicity materials, and a comprehensive program Website.

"This truly is a community partnership, and without the support of Senator Baucus; Senator Tester; Congressman Rehberg; Governor Schweitzer; Lewis & Clark County Commissioners Mike Murray, Ed Tinsley, Andy Hunthausen; City of Helena Commissioners, Paul Cartwright, Sandy Oitzinger, Alan Peura, Robert Throssell; Mayor Jim Smith and countless others this celebration bringing residents of Lewis & Clark County together to generate enthusiasm over the joyful experience of reading and discussing a good book, would not be possible."

NEA Chairman Dana Gioia sent the following statement of support: "By joining the Big Read, Helena and Lewis & Clark County is demonstrating that reading is necessary to the cultural, civic, even economic fabric of their community. They understand the benefit of having people from different generations and walks of life reading and discussing a great book. Yes, this is about reading, but it's also about getting people to leave their homes and offices, unplug themselves for a few hours, and enjoy the pleasures of literature with their neighbors."



*Harper Lee*

## **Kendeda Fund offers Challenge Grant to Madison Valley Public Library**

By  
*Kathy Knack*  
*Madison Valley Public Library*  
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Madison Valley Public Library in Ennis has received exciting news! The Kendeda Fund has offered a challenge grant to help raise the balance of funds needed for the library building and expansion. The Kendeda Fund will offer up to \$162,500.00 to be matched 1:1



*Madison Valley Public Library*

with new funds from individual donors and institutional supporters from June 15, 2007 to December 31, 2007.

The library received this wonderful news after an anonymous person visited the library, saw the information about fundraising, and asked a few questions. A few days later, the Kendeda Fund contacted the library with the news of their proposal.

Then, even more good news, when a new group of fundraisers volunteered to help finish the task of fundraising. Their fresh outlook and new ideas should bring the fundraising to a close by the end of the year, with the help of the Kendeda Fund.

Currently, the library is waiting for the architect (L'Heureux, Page, Werner from Great Falls) to finish the plans so they can be submitted for contract bids. The new building will be underway as soon as possible!

## Harry Potter Day @ the Fort Belknap College Library: Everyone was “Wild About Harry” at the Fort Belknap College Library

By  
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The one-day event started with the participants building their own wizard hats, followed by making broomstick or magical pencils. Fortunes were read by Professor Char at the “Divinations Station”. Magic Wands were made at the “Defense of the Dark Arts Station.” Potions and Flowers were made by everyone interested. The first Harry Potter movie, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* was shown for everyone who wanted to watch. When everyone was done watching the movie, they went outside for a quick game of dodge ball. Lunch was served, then back to the fun. Treats from Hogwarts’ Trolley were handed out to everyone who participated. And finally the Wizard Hat Pinata was broken to signify the end of the day. A Quiddich match had been scheduled but unfortunately the end of the day came a little quicker than planned due to a water outage. In spite of that, everyone had a wonderful time celebrating the magic of Harry Potter.

Thirty-five people of all ages attended, with 22 staying for the whole day. The first 20 participants

received a copy of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the final book in the Harry Potter series. This event was due in large part to the efforts of Girl Scout Troop 1602 of the Huron Valley Council, Ann Arbor, Michigan. For her efforts in coordinating the event, one of the



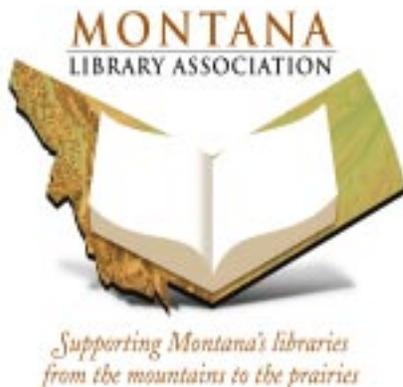
Fort Belknap Harry Potter Day Attendees

members, Liz McCubbrey, will be earning her Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest Girl Scout award for her age level. Other Girl Scout leaders and members were Char Olson, Gabriela McCubbrey, Carol Collins, Rebecca Donnelly, Lydia Basinger, Sophia Bell-Streety, Tila Havlik and DeAnna Crout. Fort Belknap College Library was represented by Brenda Hopkins, Steve Gives and Eva English. This one-time event was also

sponsored through an Enhancement Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

This event came about because Char Olson saw Fort Belknap College Library listed on the Adopt-A-Library website [www.adoptalibrary.org](http://www.adoptalibrary.org). She e-mailed me to ask about donations. When we had completed that, she mentioned that she is one of the leaders of a very active Girl Scout Troop in Michigan and wondered if there was any way they could help us out. After e-mailing back and forth a few times, I mentioned that the local “Milk River Days Powwow” would be taking place the end of July. She wrote back to say that the final Harry Potter book would be coming out about the same time and maybe we could do something around that. Thus, “Harry Potter Day” at the Fort Belknap College Library was born.

Fort Belknap College is a two-year Tribal College serving the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation and everyone in the surrounding areas. The library has the special distinction of serving as both academic library to the Fort Belknap College, and as public library to the Fort Belknap Community and surrounding areas.



## 2007 Montana Festival of the Book!

The 2007 Montana Festival of the Book—September 13-15 in Missoula—will feature scores of the region’s writers in a variety of readings, panels, exhibits, demonstrations, signings, workshops, entertainments, receptions, and other events. More than 6,000 visitors from across the state, the nation, and Europe are expected to attend. The Festival is presented by Humanities Montana, 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 James Lee Burke, William Kittredge, Deirdre McNamer, Ron Carlson, Larry Watson, Mary Clearman Blew, Pete Fromm, Aryn Kyle, Christy Leskovar, Kat Martin, Guy Vanderhaeghe, Kevin Canty, Alyson Hagy, and many others.

Featured events include:

- A Thursday evening Define-a-Thon with master of ceremonies Steve Kleinedler, editor of the American Heritage dictionaries and featuring celebrity teams of “definers.”

- Several events celebrating the 2007 One Book Montana selection, **The Last Crossing**, including a session with the author Guy Vanderhaeghe

- A celebration of the publication of a new poetry anthology, **Poems Across the Big Sky**, featuring many of the book’s contributors

- A staged reading of

**The Story of Mary MacLane**, adapted by Joan Melcher, with the Montana Festival of the Book Players

- Friday night’s traditional author’s reception and silent auction. Come mingle with your favorite authors, and get some great literary memorabilia while you do!

- Panels on fiction of the old and new west, the short story, Shakespeare, and non fiction, writing and publishing workshops for children and adults, book appraisals, exhibits, and much, much more

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 Art Museum, 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 2007 Festival sponsors already include the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, the Montana Arts Council, and **The Missoulian**.

For more information on the Montana Festival of the Book, contact Kim Anderson, Festival Coordinator, [kim.anderson@umontana.edu](mailto:kim.anderson@umontana.edu), or Mark Sherouse, Executive Director, Humanities Montana/Montana Center for the Book, 243-



6022 (in Montana 800-624-6001), [mark.sherouse@umontana.edu](mailto:mark.sherouse@umontana.edu). The Montana Festival of the Book website is at [www.bookfest-mt.org](http://www.bookfest-mt.org).

By  
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