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Montana Library Focus

Volume 27 Issue 2

April 2009

A Publication of the Montana Library Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Della Dube

First of all, thanks to John Finn and those who presented Offline in Anaconda this year. The aura was good, the food was better, and we all learned a boatload of stuff. There was a lot of open conversation about a host of topics. Thank you for a think tank of a retreat.

I am a hopeless copycat. This means that when I have any kind of report to write or message to give, I look at what others have done. Honore Bray, Lyn McKinney, Milla Cummins and Rich Wojtowicz are my role models this time. What to say with our yearly conference imminent? What to say to impress the importance of MLA? My answers aren't in the past this time, but I do commend past presidents on the thought and inspiration of their messages.

My answers this time are in the now and the future. Last year, we

thought that changing the time frame for dues renewals would help. This year, the realization is that it isn't the time frame, it is inflation. We haven't been able to pinpoint when dues were last increased, but the estimate is more than 12 years ago. Lobbyist fees have more than doubled in this time. All other budget expenditures essential to the association have gone up as well. Just as we can't run our libraries on figures from 12 to 15 years ago, neither can we run MLA. A dues increase will therefore be on our agenda for the first conference board meeting and discussed at our annual membership meeting. If you have suggestions or comments, please contact me or another of the board members. Most importantly, participate. Come to the membership meeting, 8:30 a.m. Friday, April 24, and speak up if you are so inclined. The dues structure is ultimately the decision of the board but your input will always be considered on this and all other issues.

Most importantly, participate (I reiterate). I don't know if others of you have watched "Inside the Actors Studio" but I was an avid viewer for a time and still watch occasionally. My favorite part is when Lipton asks the actor his ten questions, two of which are for their favorite and least favorite words. Participate is a top contender for my favorite word and is

also my recommendation to all of you. There are participating roles of all shapes and sizes in MLA. Committee chair or member, interest group chair or member, officer on the MLA board, volunteer at conference or the retreats, presenter at conference or the retreats. I can honestly say that I have never hosted any event in my home library or participated in any MLA event when I haven't been tickled pink to have someone walk up to me and say "what can I do?"

Seek out the sign-up sheets for interest groups at conference and/or talk to a board member about your interest in serving on a committee or running for an office. Lists of the board members, interest groups and committees are available on the new MLA website, www.mtlib.org, under "governance."

This all sounds a little serious, and it is, but that's not all it is. It's also innovative, engaging, and fun. Hence the conference theme this year, "Creating New Paths." The beauty of this theme is that it takes us from where we are now, wherever that might be, to where we are going. It can be applied to each individual library in the state and to each individual within that library. "We're Going on a Bear Hunt", so let's slap our thighs in rhythm and get started. "Can't go over it, can't go under it, got to go through it . . . we're not scared". . . we're innovative! Looking forward to seeing you in Kalispell April 22-25.

Della Dube, MLA President
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Use of Association Credit

By

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With the annual conference right around the corner, as well as at other times during the year, there are many, many members of the Montana Library Association doing business in the name of the association. In the interest of keeping bills paid in a timely manner and staying within our budget, I am asking those authorized* members to be conscientious about contacting me before money is spent. Please let me know immediately if you have charged something in MLA's name, the amount spent, and with whom. At times it may just be an estimate, or an actual invoice may be sent to me. When I receive this information from each of you, I will be looking for a bill and will know ahead of time that it is a legitimate expense. It will streamline and speed up the bill paying process. A quick email with the pertinent information is all I need to be alerted that a credit purchase has been made. By working together we can make the Montana Library Association the vital link for all librarians in Montana.

Thank you all for your help with this fundamental process.

Only members who are carrying out an activity approved by the MLA executive committee or board are authorized to make charges in the name of MLA.

Montana Book Award Winners

By

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Full Court Quest, by Linda Peavey and Ursula Smith, has been selected as the recipient of the 2008 Montana Book Award. This fascinating narrative describes the journey of the girl's basketball team from the Fort Shaw Indian School from its formation through the team's rise to become the world champions at the 1904 St Louis World's Fair. Four Honor Books were selected as well: **Freeman Walker** by David Cates, **Montana: Stories of the Land** edited by Krys Holmes, **Requiem for Locusts** by Wendy Parciak, and **Saving Homewaters** by Gordon Sullivan.

All of the winning authors have been invited to a reception in their honor, to take place Thursday, April 23, during the Montana Library Association Conference in Kalispell. The reception will be open to the public and will begin at 5:15 p.m. in the Flathead County

Library. 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. The Montana Book Award committee will also present a panel discussion on Saturday at the MLA conference about the award winning books and other notable Montana books of 2008.

The Montana Book Award was founded by the Friends of the Missoula Public Library in 2002 and winners are selected by a committee of individuals representing areas throughout Montana. Members of the 2008 Montana Book Award committee included Honore Bray, Missoula; Della Dubbe, Cut Bank; Jan Jelinek, Billings; Anne Kish, Twin Bridges; Mark Miller, Bozeman; Linda Minich, Butte; and Samantha Pierson, Libby. The acting chair is Barbara Theroux, Missoula. The committee is currently looking to add some members, and is specifically looking for readers hailing from Eastern Montana. Contact Barbara Theroux at 406-721-2881 for additional information.

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. It has a print readership of 210 and an online readership of over 500. If you are interested in placing an ad, or sponsoring the MLA Focus Newsletter, please send your request to the editor.

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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.

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

1. Send a message to:

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 Stef Johnson, List Manager (on behalf of MLA) at:

stjohnson@buttepubliclibrary.info
or call Stef at 406-723-3361.

Women of the Bitterroot – Stories from the Cooking Fire

By
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In conjunction with Stevensville Main Street Association's April First Friday festivities, the North Valley Public Library will host local story teller, Mary Irwin. Irwin will present a compilation of stories about early life in the Bitterroot, told from a women's point of view with just enough blood and guts to keep the men amused, too. The performance will be held April 3rd from 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the North Valley Public Library which is located at 208 Main Street, Stevensville. For more information, call the library at 777-5061.

How Does a National Basketball Championship Affect a Library?

By
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On March 24 in Kansas City, Missouri, the RMC "Battlin Bears" convincingly won the NAIA men's basketball championship by a score of 77-61 over the Columbia College cougars. Rocky is the first Frontier Conference team to accomplish that feat. The game between two unseeded teams was also a first in the 32 team, single elimination tournament. RMC senior, Devin Uskoski, scored 24 points and had 20 rebounds in the game and was named the MVP of the tournament. Rocky won 5 consecutive games in the 6 day tourney and ended with a 30-8 record for the season.

The last few days of the tournament, as the excitement built, found the Library increasingly quiet. Everyone was focused on the student activities planned in support of the team and designed to build school spirit. The "party atmosphere" was pervasive and studies took a back seat. On Wednesday evening, however, reality struck and the Library was full of students eager to make up for lost time. Now, the Rocky librarians are busy trying to document and preserve that incredible and historic week for our Archives.

Dream. Discover. Do!

Spokane Falls Community College Library Technician program offers:



Community Colleges of Spokane provides equal opportunity in education and employment. DL

- Online A.A.S. degree option
- Library technician certificate option
- School Library Media emphasis option
- Bachelor's degree transfer option

Students also can take advantage of college credit for work experience, independent study and internships.

For information contact Paula Duffy Swan, library technician program at 509-522-3809, or librarytechnician@spokanefalls.edu.



www.spokanefalls.com



Bruce's Corner

Strong Boards Make For Strong Public Libraries

By
Bruce Newell
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This column is primarily intended for public library directors and trustees.

Good librarians tend to ensure good public libraries, but great boards are necessary for great libraries. Great boards provide their library with continuity, support, and deep roots into the community. That's why a new director can drop in from someplace like Mars and still be instantly connected to their community's many pulses; her board will be her eyes, ears, and wise memory.

Great boards define excellence, and then restrain themselves and let their director make it happen: if you're a board member, think 'noses in, fingers out'. Great board members know what's going on, hire great directors, then let their great directors lead and manage a great staff.

Great directors understand that great boards require more care and feeding than do merely good ones, goodness, they often have opinions!, but great directors understand that excellence will remain elusive without a strong, if sometimes challenging, board of trustees. Good directors invest in and trust their boards, and *visa versa*.

And great board members trust each other's intentions and talents. They divide up work and support each other in their trustee roles, just as they support their library's director and staff.

Great boards are user focused, first considering, "What's best for our users?" Too often we all fret about our library's needs when we should instead be focusing on what we're doing (or not doing) for our users. It's remarkable how seemingly insolvable problems

quickly untangle themselves when the various options are considered in light of our library's users.

The BoardSource, www.boardsource.org, provides an excellent checklist, titled "Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards", which I have modified and added comments:

1. Determine your library's mission and purpose. This often takes the guise of a mission statement, organization goals, and objectives, and a summary of constituents served. This is hard and dry work, but if done right, it will rally your staff and community behind your library.

2. Select the library director. Hiring and retaining (or replacing) the right person doing the right job is job-one of the Board.

3. Provide proper financial oversight. The board must approve the annual budget, understand it thoroughly, and ensure that proper financial controls are in place.

4. Ensure the library is adequately funded. Whatever it takes.

5. Ensure adherence to legal standards and professional and ethical norms.

6. Ensure effective organizational planning. Boards must actively participate in an overall planning process and assist in implementing and monitoring the plan's goals. See #1.

7. Recruit and orient new board members and assess board performance. Board members are responsible for the library's health, first and last. A great board recruits great board members to keep on keeping on.

8. Strengthen the organization's public standing. This pertains to money, marketing, and prestige.

9. Determine, monitor, and strengthen the organization's programs and services. The board's responsibility is to work with the director to determine which programs are consistent with the organization's mission and to monitor their effectiveness. All the while remembering, 'noses in, fingers out'.

10. Support the chief executive and assess his or her performance. The board should ensure that the chief executive has the moral and professional support he or she needs to further the goals of the organization. (1)

So, being a great board member is good, if tough, duty. Ditto being a great library director. I encourage directors to look at their library's board and their relationship with it. Is your library good, or are you great? (2)

1. Modified from: Richard T. Ingram, *The Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards* (BoardSource 2003). www.boardsource.org/Knowledge.asp?ID=3.368

2. See Jim Collins, *Good to Great in the Social Sectors*

Headwaters Library Association To Celebrate 25th Anniversary

By Ilene Casey
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Save the date! Friday evening May 15, 2009 Denise Juneau, State Superintendent of Schools, has been invited to join with the Headwaters Library Association at the Bozeman Public Library to celebrate 25 active years of the Association. Headwaters Association includes all library personnel and retired library personnel from academic, school, business, and public libraries in Madison, Gallatin, and Park counties. Terri Dood, Association chair invites all past members, current members and potential members to gather for a special evening.

More details outlining the plans will be available in the May MLA newsletter.

State Library News



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

Sue Jackson

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PEEL Stipend Awards Approved

The State Library Commission approved recommendations from the PEEL Advisory Committee for four stipend awards. Stipends of \$35,000 each have been awarded to Butte Silver Bow Public Library for two positions — Technical Services and Digital Collections Librarian and Adult Services Librarian — and to Rosebud School District for a K-12 Librarian. A stipend of \$17,500 was awarded to Harrison School for a half-time K-12 Librarian. These libraries will match the award and make every effort to continue the position following the grant period. Public library stipend positions will be filled by individuals with MLIS degrees; school positions will be filled by individuals with MLIS degrees or School Library Media Endorsement credentials.

New Materials at MSL

The State Library has been purchasing new titles for the professional development collection. Notices of new materials are posted on Wired-MT or, if you subscribe to RSS feeds, you can receive weekly updates about recent additions. For more information or to subscribe visit: msl.mt.gov/PubRSS/RSSNewPubs.asp

Montana Library Events Calendar

To see what's coming up for libraries and librarians or to post an upcoming event your library is hosting, check out the Montana Library Event Calendar at msl.mt.gov/calendar.

Certification Program Update in Progress

The Montana Library Certification Program is currently being updated with help from a special Focus Group of volunteers. The Update Focus Group has met and made recommendations for the program that will be considered by the State Library Commission in the fall. Now, MSL and the Focus Group request your input about continuing education and certification. All Montana librarians and trustees are asked to complete a short survey located at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=7U8K0pDEe_2bMA5JFGLSfIKg_3d_3d

The survey will be available until May 31, 2009. Your comments and ideas are important, so please take a few minutes for the survey.

2009 Fall Workshop

The 2009 Fall Workshop will be in Great Falls on September 11-12 at the Holiday Inn. Topics currently in the planning stage include developing library policies, how to get organized, reading to babies, using WorldCat, how statistics can help your library, dealing with change, keeping a talented workforce, how book clubs work, the importance of libraries in troubled economic times, serving a diverse clientele, and more. Please mark the dates on your calendar. Registration will begin in August.

Legislator's Read Posters Now Available

By

Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson
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If you ordered Montana Legislator READ posters and have not received them yet, don't forget to stop by the MLA table at conference and pick them up! If you haven't ordered any posters yet, stop by the MLA table and check the posters out. They're super cool and 100% free to you. The list of posters available is on the MLA Website at www.mtlib.org. Please contact Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, ljackson@mt.gov, if you have any questions or want to place a poster order to be delivered at conference.

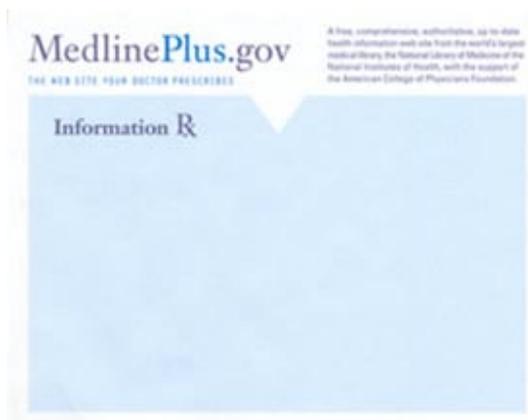
Friend of Montana Libraries, Representative John Sesso of Butte, posed for a READ poster.



Information RX: Prescription for Information

By

Susie McIntyre, Head of Info Serv.
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National studies indicate that nearly half of all American adults have difficulty understanding and using health information. Patients with limited health literacy have a higher rate of hospitalization and use of emergency services. (1.) Studies have also shown that patients with inadequate literacy have less health-related knowledge, receive less preventive care, have poorer control of their chronic illnesses, and are hospitalized more frequently than other patients. (2.)

In January of 2007, the Great Falls Public Library received \$25,000 to help health care patients access quality information. Our project attempted to weave together referrals from health care professionals and increased access to information. The first part of the project involved working with health care providers at our City-County Health Department and at the Great Falls Clinic. We gave short trainings to health care staff on the importance of health literacy and on the use of the Information Rx (Information prescription.) **Information Rx** is a free program offered by the National Library of Medicine and the American College of Physicians Foundation to assist physicians in

referring their patients to *MedlinePlus*. We had pre-printed prescription pads (see picture) printed with the URL of **MedlinePlus** and then we stamped the URL of the Great Falls Public Library health portal on them. The idea was to have health care providers dispense the prescriptions by printing key terms (such as diagnosis, medication etc.) on the prescription and referring the patients to **Medlineplus** and the Great Falls Public Library. It would direct patients to quality information and take very little extra work on behalf of the health care providers. Unfortunately, we were not very successful in the implementation. We encountered resistance from some of the health care providers. Health Care Providers are very busy and some are resistant to change. If we were to do this project over, I would focus on a small subset of providers and really work on getting the doctors to buy-in to the prescription distribution. Even though we did not get a large number of providers to distribute the Information RX, we did have the opportunity to provide training to a wide range of health professionals (over 260 people at 15 trainings) on the importance of health literacy and the resources of the Great Falls Public Library. The Great Falls Clinic also added links to Medlineplus to their Intranet site and reported positive comments on the use of the information. access computers at the City-County Health Department and at the Great Falls Clinic. We created a "Health Commons" as part of our website to direct users to our electronic health resources. We worked with a variety of local health organizations to provide displays and presentations on health related topics. We held a health fair at the library and we held trainings on accessing and evaluating quality health information. We publicized our project through

our local news outlets.

Overall, the project was a great opportunity. We wish that we could have had better distribution of the Information RX, but we are grateful to the NNLM-PNW for the funding that allowed us to provide service to our community and to increase access to quality health information.

The second part of the project involved increasing public access to quality health information. We purchased additional consumer health materials for the library including a set of 100+ DVD's from the PBS Healthy Body, Healthy Mind series. We put public access computers at the City-County Health Department and at the Great Falls Clinic. We created a "Health Commons" as part of our website to direct users to our electronic health resources. We worked with a variety of local health organizations to provide displays and presentations on health related topics. We held a health fair at the library and we held trainings on accessing and evaluating quality health information. We publicized our project through our local news outlets.

Overall, the project was a great opportunity. We wish that we could have had better distribution of the Information RX, but we are grateful to the NNLM-PNW for the funding that allowed us to provide service to our community and to increase access to quality health information.

Footnotes

1. Parker, Ruth **"Library Outreach: Overcoming Health Literacy Challenges"** *Journal of Med Libr Assoc.* 2005 Oct;93(4 Suppl):S81-5.
2. DeWalt DA, Berkman ND, Sheridan S, Lohr KN, Pignone MP. **"Literacy and health outcomes: a systematic review of the literature."** *Journal Gen Intern Med* 2004;19:1228-39.

1st annual

Modern Library Pentathlon

8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Thursday, April 23, 2009

Glacier Room IV

Will the glory be yours? Or at least shared among six of you? Does your knowledge of Dewey surpass all others? Do you have the fastest reference skills in the West? Can you avoid water hazards like it's your job? If so, you may be the greatest librarian in the world. Or at least Montana.

Teams of up to six will compete for the glory. We are taking advance registration of teams. (E-mail team names and rosters to library@lincolncountylibraries.com). If you are a solo athlete, the IOCLC (International Olympic Committee of Lincoln County) will place you on a unified team reminiscent of the post-Soviet Olympic experience. You may also register when you show up at conference: \$10 in advance at the registration table or \$12 at the door. A cash bar will be available, along with complimentary snacks. Prizes will be awarded to the winning Pentathlon team and for best librarian athletic costumes.

Cates, Cates, Cates!

Who was Sheila Cates? Sheila was an inspirational librarian who cared for the development of every librarian and library in Montana; she died of cancer in 1993, but we carry on her passion for libraries and librarians by raising money for the scholarship fund created to honor her.



Sheila Cates

**SILENT
AUCTION**

We need items for the **Cates Scholarship Silent Auction Raffle!** Each year, the raffle provides an exciting shopping experience for conference attendees while earning money for scholarships toward professional education for librarians. Books, baskets, chocolate (luscious, melt in the mouth chocolate), photographs, art, han made items, jewelry, collectibles, all kinds of stuff—if you have something to donate to this worthy cause, please send item descriptions to Coby Johnson, coburn.johnson@umontana.edu or coburn47@hotmail.com. The silent auction will be located in the Special Events Room at conference (across from the registration desk).



Conference 2009 in Kalispell

By

Lynn Kelly, Co-Chair

Conference Planning Committee

Flathead County Library

lkelly@flathead.mt.gov

Conference time is almost here and the Flathead Valley is ready to welcome you all. We are putting the finishing touches on everything from ordering meals to breaking in new track shoes for the Sheila Cates Fundraiser. We hope that everyone will walk away with great memories and some new knowledge to “create new paths”. Don’t forget to take some time to enjoy visiting with your colleagues who are part of Montana’s wonderful library community. We’ll see you all soon!

Cates Scholarship Raffle

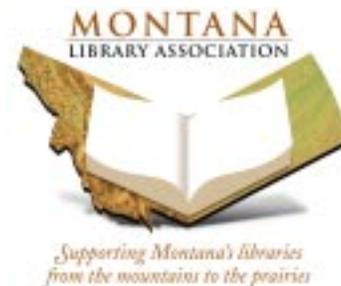
By

Lauren McMullen, Co-Chair

Cates Scholarship Committee

lmcullen@mtlib.org

It’s time to begin thinking about what to put in the basket for the Sheila Cates Scholarship Raffle. MLA 2009 is coming up in a month and the Sheila Cates Scholarship Committee is getting things put together for the raffle and the Thursday night fun. We need items for the Cates Scholarship Raffle. Each year, the raffle provides an exciting shopping experience for conference attendees while earning money for scholarships toward professional education for librarians. Books, baskets, chocolate (luscious, melt in the mouth chocolate), photographs, art, hand made items, jewelry, collectibles, all kinds of stuff —if you have something to donate to this worthy cause, please send item descriptions to Coby Johnson - coburn.johnson@umontana.edu or coburn47@hotmail.com directly. Thanks a lot!



By

Mary Lou Mires, PNLA Rep

D’Arcy McNickle Library

mary_mires@skc.edu

2009 PNLA Conference: **A Century of Cooperation, A Legacy of Leadership!** August 5-7 - Missoula at the Holiday Inn – Parkside. Find more Conference information at www.pnla.org Committee members are, **Co-Chairs:** Mary Lou Mires and Samantha Hines, **Programs:** Jan Zuaha, **Exhibitors:** Mary Lou Mires, **Technology/Equipment:** Jim Semmelroth, **Registration:** Linda Blomquist, **Sponsorships:** Katie Zoellner, **Social Events:** Samantha Hines, **PR:** Sheila Bonnard, Mary Lou Mires and Samantha Hines.

PNLA News

2009 MLA Conference at Kalispel: On Friday at 10:30 PNLA is co-sponsoring: **Freedom of Expression: Resistance and Repression in the Age of Intellectual Property** with Kembrew Macleod and Jeremy Smith. Alos, please stop by the Glacier Room and visit the PNLA Booth and sign up for the free PNLA membership.

Young Readers Choice Awards (YRCA): Check out the 2009 YRCA nominees. Teacher Resources link at www.pnla.org/yrca/2009nominees.htm including Multnomah County Library Discussion Guide for books’ summary, book talk, discussion questions and other book suggestions. Carole Monlux is Montana’s YRCA Rep.

PNLA Quarterly: The PNLA Quarterly will be published as an electronic-only journal beginning with the Spring 2009 issue. Submit material to Mary Bolin at mbolin2@unl.edu

Membership: www.pnla.org/membership/index.htm

Join PNLA as a new member for only \$35.00! Renewals encouraged! Join an International network of librarians and libraries. Save on Conference registration.

Get the latest news about the Young Readers Choice Awards and PNLA Leadership Institute.

Ability to publish and read four issues of the PNLA Quarterly.

Access to one of the best library jobs sites in the library community.

Pacific Northwest Library Association 2009 Conference

Holiday Inn – Parkside Missoula, MT.

A Century of Cooperation, A Legacy of Leadership

August 5 – 7, 2009

Events

Wednesday through Friday



Support the PNLA Leads program! Each State and Province has been challenged to create a spectacular basket for your bidding pleasure. The baskets will be on display at the conference and you may buy tickets to win your favorite one.

Wednesday – August 5

12:00 to 5:00 p.m. **Rafting-- Ticketed Event \$60**

Lewis & Clark Trail Adventures will pick rafters up at the Holiday Inn - Parkside at noon to enjoy an afternoon of scenic, whitewater fun floating the Clark Fork River through the spectacular Alberton Gorge. (Photo provided by Lewis & Clark Trail Adventures.)



6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Free)

Presidents' Reception - Appetizers & no-host cocktail bar

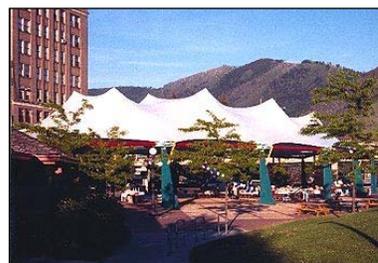
Keynote: Dr. Tomas Lipinski – "Leadership in a Time of Change: Will Access & Use of Protected Content Survive the Next 100 Years?"

(Sponsored by PNLA Intellectual Freedom funds)

Thursday – August 6

5:30 to 6:30 p.m. **Dine Around** Enjoy food from dozens of local restaurants as well as live music! Join us for a no-host evening at Downtown Tonight in Caras Park.

(Photo provided by Missoula Downtown Assoc.)



6:30 – 9:00 p.m. **Corks and Cans – Ticketed Event \$25**

Enjoy a tour of the Ten Spoon Winery along with a beer talk by employees of Kettle House Brewery! Transportation and refreshments included.

Friday – August 7

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

No-host cocktail hour

6:30 – 7:45 pm.

President's Banquet - Membership Dinner Ticketed Event \$34

8:00 – 9:00 p.m.

PNLA's centennial celebration



Need more information? Go to <http://www.pnla.org/events/conference09/index1.html>

News of the Association

ASLD News

By

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Conference time is just around the corner and there are a few conference events that ASLD members will not want to miss!

Be sure to wake up bright and early on Friday because the ASLD breakfast begins at 7 a.m. There will be a brief address from President Anita Scheetz, the election of new officers, and time to enjoy each other's company. Consider running for ASLD office. The incoming chair person is Suzanne Reymer. The division members will vote to fill the positions of Secretary and Chair Elect.

A new interest group has formed and all librarians are invited. Everyone with any interest in the joint

University of Montana / University of Montana Western K-12 Library Media Endorsement Program will meet from 4:30 – 5:30 on Friday afternoon. Among the attendees will be students in the program, alumni of the program, instructors in the program, and anyone who would like to find out how a person can become a School Library Media Specialist in Montana. Come one, come all: drop by the interest group meeting for information, networking, and snacks.

Be sure to stay for the last day of the conference — the Significant Tidings program will be held on Saturday morning from 10:15 – 11:45. Significant Tidings presenters provide capsules of important information in just 10-20 minutes. Among the offerings will be Ann Retzinger's tips on how to use the State Library to find government

information and Donna McCrea's update on the latest archives and special collections that have been made available online. There is still a time slot available for another presenter. Contact Anita Scheetz if you have an idea for a short presentation.

In other news, our own Anita Scheetz has been chosen to attend the Peabody Professional Institute for Academic Library Leadership in Nashville, TN this summer! The content presented at the Institute is based on the information found in *Higher Education and the Internet Age: Libraries Creating a Strategic Edge*, by Patricia Senn Breivik and Gordon Gee. Anita is sure to bring back innovative ideas about how libraries can serve universities in both leadership and support capacities.

MPLA News

By

Pam Henley, MPLA Rep
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MPLA has created MPLA 2.0, a new social network containing a bulletin board discussion area, officer's blog, photo gallery and social meeting space. Members can post questions, ask for advice on problems, and find others with similar interests. Officers will use the blogs to post information and members will be able to leave comments.

If you attended the KLA/MPLA conference and want to view handouts, or if you're curious about programs, you can see the handouts on the MPLA website www.mpla.us/documents/handouts/2009/index.html. A more detailed conference report will appear in the next Focus.

Did you know you can become a fan of MPLA on Facebook? It's a great way to see what's going on!

Archival Training in Billings

By

Bobbi Otte
Rocky Mountain College
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Do you have all the different policies and statements needed to manage your archives? Are they up to date? Come and spend the morning going through all the different forms needed to keep your archives organized. We will take a look at such forms as the Statement of Authorization, the all important Mission Statement, Acquisition Policy, and the form which can help you keep your archives active into the future - the Preseveration Policy. Basic concepts about managing an archive will be discussed, but most of the morning will be spent in smaller groups going through various exercises and developing policies. In the afternoon, we shift to preservation concerns. We will discuss some basic preservation techniques for photographs and personal papers. How should

we preserve our photographs? How should we organize our personal papers? Is there any special way to organize all this important personal history?

Presenter: Eileen Wright Montana State University- Billings Special Collections Librarian. **Where:** Rocky Mountain College 1511 Poly Dr.; Tech Hall Room 14 **When:** Friday, May 8, 2009. Morning Session 9-12 Afternoon Session 1-4. **Who:** The morning session is geared primarily towards institutions such as libraries, museums, historical societies, etc where as the afternoon session will be for institutions as well as the general public. **Cost:** Free **Parking:** Free, ignore the signs that say you need a permit.

Please RSVP by: Friday May 1, 2009 to otteb@rocky.edu or 406-657-1086

Please Specify if you want the morning session only, afternoon session only or both sessions. If you have any questions please contact Bobbi Otte otteb@rocky.edu or Alice O'Reilly alice.oreilly@rocky.edu

News of the Association

Offline 2009 A Success

By
John Finn, Chair
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Offline 2009 in Anaconda was informative, fun, and well attended. Seventy five librarians turned out for two days of chocolate, Open Source education, and camaraderie.

The annual Bibliotechie Award was bestowed upon the absent Claire Morton of the Missoula Public Library. Claire was recognized for her years of work with the Montana Shared Catalog. Claire is moving on to snowier pastures in Alaska, and the Offline Interest Group did not want to miss the opportunity to recognize Claire's contribution.

(Luckily, I was able to track her down for a photo at the Missoula Public Library)



Claire Morton,
2009 Bibliotechie of the Year

It was decided that next year's Offline will be hosted by Dee Ann Redman of Parmly Billings Library and Suzanne Reymer, the Montana State Library's Billings based Technology Consultant. No theme has been decided upon yet. If you have ideas, please be sure to come to the Offline Interest Group meeting at Conference.

Spare Change Weighing You Down?

By
Nancy Venable and
Norma Glock, Co-Chairs
C A I Interest Group
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Spare change laying around? Think of Pennies for Peace! Bring that change to the Kalispell conference! It will find a very happy home with the MLA Central Asia Interest Group's Job #12, our wonderful Batangi Girls and Boys School in Pakistan! Just look for our poster board displays to read all about the good works Montanans are doing to raise money to support our school; the displays are also the perfect place to drop off your donations. If you would like to be a part of the MLA CAI Interest Group, please join our meeting during the conference, April 22, 4:30-5:30! See you in Kalispell! Nancy Venable, MLA CAI Interest Group Co-Chair.

Making Us Proud

By
Catherine McMullen
catherinecmcmullen@gmail.com

At the Belgrade Community Library, under the supervision of Director Gale Bacon, the following staff of the Belgrade Community Library that have received Montana State Library certification within the past six months: **Carla Ranney**, Library Assistant and Circulation Clerk, **Patricia Barrett**, Children's Librarian, and **Mary Gerlach**, VISTA.

The Flathead County Library System is pleased and proud to announce that **Brett Fisher**, Technology Coordinator, has completed all the coursework for his Masters of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Washington. From his "dude-icle", Brett coordinates all aspects of

technology training, network administration, purchasing, and staff entertainment (with his quirky and good-natured sense of humor). Librarian Fisher assures us that he will be "less crabby and short" now that his studies are completed. No one here has ever experienced Brett being either crabby or short; so we are a bit befuddled about what Brett being really, really nice might look like. We'll let you all know. Congratulations, Brett!

Michelle Fenger graduated Winter 2009 with her MLIS from University of Washington in Seattle. Michelle is currently the director of the Ronan City Library. She will now have the time to work in her gardens and enjoy the great outdoors. Most importantly she is very excited to have a graduation party with her son as he is graduating high school in May. Bravo to

both of you!

Beth Boyson, Cataloger and Reference Librarian at the Bozeman Public Library was awarded one of only ten scholarships to attend the ALA annual conference this coming July by the venter EBSCO. The amount is \$1,000 and also includes payment of conference registration fees. Enjoy Chicago, Beth!

Are you a recent graduate or do you have a co-worker or friend in the Montana Library community who is? Please email me at **catherinecmcmullen@gmail.com** with announcements of graduations, endorsements, or other academic achievements. Please include name, library, position, school, date, degree, and any other information. The announcement will make the next issue of **Focus**.

Public Library News

Adult Reading Success At Missoula Public Library

By
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Missoula Public Library's first-ever Adult Winter Reading Program was a hit at our main library and three branches. The program ran January to March and included special events and prizes for ages 18 and older. Readers could sign up to track and write a short review on three titles they read or listened to, and were rewarded with a free coffee drink. Then for every additional trio of titles they tracked, they were entered in monthly raffles. And track them they did – with more than 750 reviews!

We displayed reviews in our Readers Corner in the main library and at the branches, and we posted reviews in our blog throughout the program. Sue Stone at our Seeley Branch says her readers liked sharing and reading the reviews best.

"Participants loved submitting book reviews and finding out what other people were reading," says librarian Molly Ledermann. "Some even told me that they have since been inspired to start a reading journal to continue to track their reading habits."

In addition to the prizes, readers were treated to exciting monthly programs including a Mystery Lovers Book Discussion featuring Jon A. Jackson, an Adult Story Time with Debra Earling, and our Winter Reading Celebration finale with Deirdre McNamer. Several of our readers asked for more story times on a regular basis!

I guess you know what we'll be up to next winter.

Thanks to our Adult Winter Reading Program sponsors: eddie's coffee shop @ the Missoula Public Library, Montana Tea & Spice, Moose B' Mornin, and High Octane Espresso.

The Library is the Art

Teens are leaving their mark at Missoula Public Library by drawing on our YA room windows. The library recently finished a major renovation that included putting windowed walls around the young adult department. To spice things up, the teens are creating their own artwork on the windows using window markers. We plan to let them switch out the art every month, and offer a theme that ties in with other teen programs and services.



Belly Dancing in the Library

By
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Rosebud County Library in Forsyth had a real treat on March 15, when the Friends of the Library, GFWC Forsyth Woman's Club, sponsored their annual International Dinner with this year's emphasis on foods and culture of the Middle East.

Close to ninety people gathered in the library's large meeting room to feast on everything from Saudi Rice with raisins and spices to baklava and to enjoy a number of displays of art from Jordan and Iraq and both entertainment and information related to the area.

Three belly dancers from Miles City demonstrated the traditional and modern variations of belly dancing and treated the crowd to a series of dances with different styles of music. One dance done with a large scarf was a crowd favorite.

The dancers were followed by Basil Pius, an Assyrian who grew up in Iraq, came to the United States to finish his education, and served as a Professor of English at Miles Community College for many years, as well as teaching classes about his country and culture.

The audience responded with enthusiastic questions after learning much about the Assyrians, who are Christians who were driven from Iraq during the Communist takeover before the ascent of Saddam Hussein.

Basil shared his story of having Agatha Christie visit his family's bookstore in Baghdad and her emphatic support of Basil finishing his education, support which influenced him to get his degree and later to be able to leave the country because he wanted to continue his Master's studies, one of the few reasons for anyone to be allowed to leave.

This story is part of his book, "Agatha Christie, the Unknown Assyrian, and Baklava", a charming treatise which shares even more of his background, his philosophy, and his life in the United States.

The Friends of the Library have presented an International Dinner each year for many years, and the proceeds go to help with Summer Reading Program and special projects in the library.

This year they contributed to the Elevator Fund, a fund of local money being used as the basis for grants and county support to finally supply an elevator to the basement meeting rooms, a project which has been requested and promoted for five years now.

Public Library News, Next Page...

More Public Library News

9th Annual Great Falls Festival of the Book

By

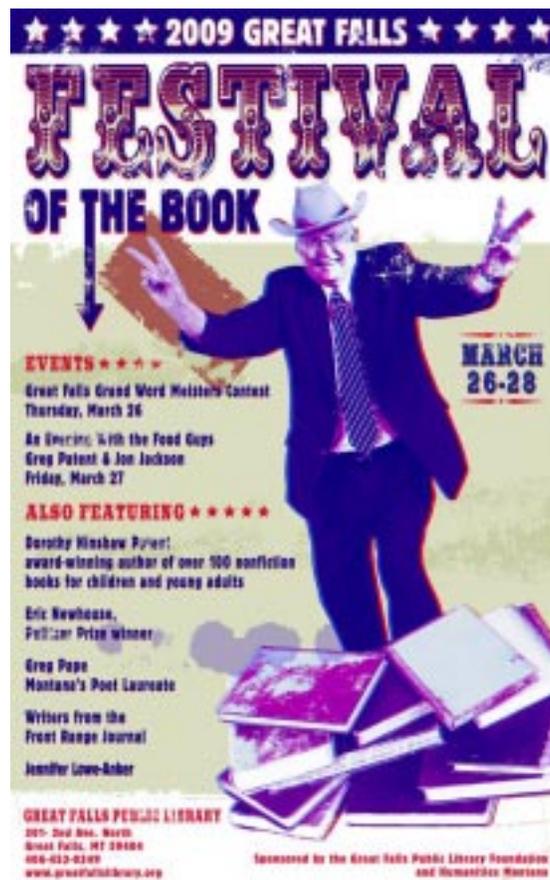
Jude Smith,
Public Relations Coordinator
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The Great Falls Public Library celebrated the written word and community in a big way on March 26 – 28, with its 9th annual Great Falls Festival of the Book. Authors from around the region and state joined to showcase talent, work and community. This book festival has been aptly called the library's gift to the community by the press and that statement encapsulates the intent with which this three-day event is designed.

Project Director Jude Smith explains, "Each year I invite a variety of authors who will appeal to the diverse interests of our community. Because this is a relatively small event in terms of book festivals and budget, being selective is essential. It is also essential to invite authors who represent our city as well as our region and state. Throughout the years, I've never been disappointed."

This year's festival was no different. The line-up included The Food Guys, Greg Patent and Jon Jackson, of Montana Public Radio fame. They brought cookbooks of information and entertainment. Also appearing were Dorothy Hinshaw-Patent (Greg's wife), Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Eric Newhouse, Montana's Poet Laureate Greg Pape, artist and memoirist Jennifer Lowe-Anker, children's author Cookie Grimes, and the editorial panel of *The Front Range Review*. It was a loaded weekend.

A new addition to the roster kicked the festival off this year, the first annual *Great Falls Grand Word Meisters Contest*. Eight teams of three members each vied to win bragging rights by correctly defining words and garnering the most contributed food by their fans and supporters for the Great Falls Community Food Bank. Teams from TV, radio and the Tribune competed with the Museum Consortium, University of Great Falls, and a community team. Words were the main ingredient, community the menu and fun the main dish in getting this year's Great Falls Festival of the Book underway.



Interesting Programs From the Kids Place

The Kids' Place of the Great Falls Public Library is up to something and it's all for the good of the community. Over the last six months the department has added three new programs to their regular and already busy roster.

Library Specialist Lorrie Radar has been conducting puppetry workshops since September. The workshops run once a week over an eight week period. She has scheduled one workshop per season. Originally, the workshops were open to all ages of youth. As Lorrie has gained experience, she is moving the workshops towards registration required and designing different workshops for different age groups. She began with hand-puppets, but is expanding to include marionettes in future workshops.

Lorrie is also conducting signing programs. The signing is based upon American Sign Language, but focuses on the symbols rather than the finger spelling. The programs are directed towards anyone interested and seem to be drawing the most interest from families. Both the puppetry workshops and the signing programs have been well accepted and attended.

The Kids' Place has also stepped into the world of Wii gaming. With help from staff in the Information Services Department, they are offering Wii gaming every other Friday afternoon for anyone under 18. The sessions seem to hold the most appeal for kids between eight and 12. Pizza is provided, graciously donated by Stageline, Dominos, and Pizza Hut. The Wii Gaming is sponsored by the Friends of the Great Falls Public Library.

More Public Library News



Poetry Month At L&C

By
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April is National Poetry Month and the Lewis and Clark Library Foundation is celebrating by hosting its first annual Community Leaders Poetry Reading. "What better way to celebrate National Poetry Month than to have our local leaders read a favorite poem and tell us why it is meaningful to them", states Foundation Board Vice President Donna Davis. Among the readers are Lt. Governor John Bohlinger, Helena Mayor Jim Smith, County Commissioner Derek Brown and Queen City News Publisher Cathy Siegner.

This free event is open to the public and will be held Tuesday Evening, April 14, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Lewis & Clark Library, in the second floor Ambrose Reading Room. The Foundation will host a reception after the reading. Montana Book and Toy Company will be present offering poetry books for sale, a portion of which will benefit the Foundation.

The Lewis & Clark Library Foundation works to enhance the quality of public library services to our community by encouraging and generating philanthropic gifts and bequests, with accountability to donors and the public. Our vision is that each member of the community will have superior access to the highest quality library and information services now and into the future. For further information, contact Library Director Judy Hart at 447-1690, extension 117. The Lewis and Clark Library Foundation – Making a Great Library Even Better!

Bozeman Public Library Foundation Hosts Cornerstone Celebration

The Bozeman Public Library Foundation is hosting its first annual fundraiser for the Library on Saturday, April 18, culminating National Library Week. The *Cornerstone Celebration: Honoring Arts & Ideas* features notable local authors David Quammen, Mark T. Sullivan, Jenni Lowe-Anker, Christy Stillwell, Edward Hemingway, and Greg Keeler, talented musicians Eric Funk and Kelly Roberti, and well-known local artists Jerolyn Dirks and Robert Rath.

The first-ever presentation of the *Cornerstone Award* will honor Mary Jane DiSanti's significant literary contribution to the community through her Main Street business, Country Bookshelf. The day begins with activities and a reading by Amira Mortensen of *Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg and Three Cups of Tea* in the Children's Room. This event is free and open to children of all ages. At 2 p.m., a limited number of lucky people will hear a reading, followed by a book signing from Christopher Paolini, famed author of *Eragon* and *The Inheritance* series. Call Paula Beswick at the Library Foundation at 582-2426 for more information.

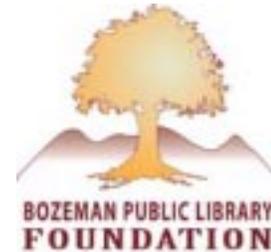
News From Bozeman Public Library

By
Cindy Christin
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New Library Website

Check out the Library's new website at:

www.bozemanlibrary.org It has been redesigned thanks to funding from the Library Foundation, with design work by Chris Grinnell of Bearing the Light. The project was guided by members of the Library Technology Committee.



Screen Free Week

We are again encouraging families to try a week without television or videos during Screen-Free Week from April 20-26. The Library is part of dozens of community organizations around Bozeman offering special programs and activities all week long. The Library is the perfect place to let people know about this national annual event; for more information, please call me or check the website at www.screentime.org



Christopher Paolini caricature,
by Bozeman artist Robert Rath