
Montana Library Focus

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Milla Cummins

This past August, members of your Association's Board and Council gathered in the beautiful setting of The Camp on the Boulder for two and a half days of discussion and meetings. The purpose of this annual leadership retreat is to familiarize new board members with the organizational structure of the Association and to have ample time

to discuss important issues and concerns prior to the first official Board meeting of the year.

On the first evening of the retreat, our American Library Association representative Beth Boyson discussed the professional advantages of membership in ALA and provided information from ALA on membership retention. Membership in our own Association continued to be a topic of interest and discussion throughout the retreat. See Magi Malone's report from the Membership Committee on page 6.

The first full day of the retreat began with a review of the organizational structure of the Association. The composition and roles of the Board of Directors, the Council and the Association Task Forces were described and discussed. Although a topic like organizational structure may seem even drier than the previous seven Montana summers, acquiring an overview of the roles officers, division chairs, regional representatives, standing committee chairs and task forces all play in strengthening the Association is actually an informative and even interesting exercise, especially for newcomers.

Do you know how many Standing Committees your Association has? How many Task Forces? How many Interest Groups? Do you know what they do? The numbers are 12, 3, and 9. The roles and responsibilities of these groups can be found online at www.mtlib.org/manual.

What one realizes in reviewing the MLA manual is how many opportunities exist to contribute to a strong Montana library community. Is your professional passion intellectual freedom? Join Karen Gonzales on the IF Committee. Letting the world know what a real bargain libraries are? Get active with Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson's creative Marketing Committee. Honoring the great achievements of your library colleagues? Assist Jan Dawson on the Awards and Honors Committee. Improving children's services and

encouraging teens to use libraries? Ask Ginny Cowan how you can be a more effective member of the Children and Young Adult Services Interest Group. Better pay for library workers? Call Rich Wojtowicz and volunteer to serve on the newly formed Better Salary and Pay Equity Task Force.

The opportunities are endless, and every member can contribute to make our Association more vital and responsive. Make it a goal during our 100th year to share your talents with your library colleagues by volunteering to serve on a committee or a task force or by becoming an active interest group member. To volunteer, please call me at 222-0862 or email me at mcummins@ycsi.net and let me know your special area of interest.

Although I received some interesting and appropriate suggestions, the title I was thinking of when I wrote to members in August was not identified. The book I had in mind was *Faster: the acceleration of just about everything* by James Gleick. Although no one guessed the actual title, I will be sending copies of the flyfishing mystery *The Nail Knot* by John Galligan to Bill Cochran of Parmly Billings and Diane Slagsvold of Lockwood Elementary for their responses.

*Milla L. Cummins, President
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Heads-Up for Annual MLA Awards & Honors

In December the MLA Awards & Honors Committee will officially solicit nominations for the annual slate of awards. No good reason, though, not to start cogitating about possible nominees now (you know your subconscious will work on it even though your conscious thoughts are elsewhere!).

These are the awards:

- Honorary Life Membership
- Library of the Year
- Sheila Cates Librarian of the Year

Awards & Honors, Continued on Page 3...

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Deadline for December issue is November 25

Please send address changes to:

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 Manhattan, MT 59714-1085

Discussion List: WIRED-MT Information

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

There are two ways to subscribe:

1. a. send an e-mail message to majordomo@bcr.org
 - b. leave the subject line blank
 - c. in the body of the message type: **subscribe wired-mt**
 - d. include nothing else; do not attach a signature file

OR
2. a. go to the web site: www.bcr.org/cgi-bin/MailServ/majordomo
 - b. follow the instructions on the page

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

Saying Good-bye



The Great Falls Public Library announces John Finn, Head of Information Services, has accepted a position as Director of the Hearst Free Library in Anaconda. His last day will be September 30.

John has been at the Great Falls Public Library since February of 2001. We will miss him and wish him good luck!

Celebrating the Big 9-0!

The Chouteau County Library will be celebrating its' 90th year on Thursday, October 13th from 1PM to 4PM. Everyone is invited to attend the open house, especially those county residents and Montana friends 90 years old and over. The library is located at 1518 Main Street in Fort Benton.

The library, the oldest county library in the state of Montana, was originally established through the fundraising work to secure land for the site by the Fort Benton Woman's Club and Mrs. A.E. McLeish. More land was donated for the site by Joseph Hirshberg, a former resident of Fort Benton. The building was constructed with funds received from the Carnegie Foundation, and ten more years of fundraising in the '80s and '90s saw an addition to the library completed in 1994. An elevator, also through fundraising and private donations, was completed in August of 2003.

Both the Geraldine Branch Library and Big Sandy Branch Library are also part of the Chouteau County Library system.

Jill Wigger, Director
 Chouteau County Library
fblibrary@mtintouch.net

Billings Celebrates One Book Montana



Diane Smith signing her book 'Letters from Yellowstone'

During August and September, Parmly Billings Library partnered with MSU-Billings, Rocky Mountain College, Billings School District #2, Barnes & Noble, and Borders to offer a series of nine book discussion

groups on the 2005 One Book Montana selection 'Letters from Yellowstone', by Diane Smith. The Friends of the Library purchased copies of the book for all who participated in one of the groups, as well as ten copies for one of the Library's popular 'Book Club in a Bag' kits, so book clubs which missed the series this fall will be able to enjoy reading and discussing the novel in the future. An audience including many who had participated in the book discussion series engaged author Diane Smith in a fascinating question and answer session following her presentation the afternoon of Saturday, September 10 at the Library.

Bill Cochran, Director
 Parmly Billings Library
cochran@billings.lib.mt.us

Awards & Honors, Continued

- Pat Williams Intellectual Freedom Award
- Trustee of the Year
- School Administrator of the Year
- Special Friend of Libraries
- Interest Group Excellence Award
- Media Award

While the details for nomination criteria and procedures are lined out at the MLA website

www.mtlib.org; click on Handbook; click on Awards & Honors here's the gist: a letter of nomination is required, with two additional letters in support of the nomination. For the Media Award, a copy of the nominated work must be sent along with the letters.

That's enough for now, but please contact me if you have any questions.

Jan Dawson

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

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

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

The Headwaters Association also held elections that day and is pleased to announce Jan Dawson (Livingston Public Library) as the new Chair, Catherine McMullen (Bozeman Public and Big Sky Community Library) as the new Vice-Chair, and Diane Ehernberger

(Retired Bozeman High School Library and Big Sky Indexing) as the new Secretary/Treasurer. Beth Boyson (Bozeman Public Library) and Mary Bushing (Retired) are ending their terms as Chair and Secretary/Treasurer.

*Catherine McMullen
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Lewis and Clark Activity Books Still On Sale!

Don't forget, MLA is still selling Lewis & Clark Activity Books. They're still a bargain at just \$2.00 per book. 2005 and 2006 are the Bicentennial years

of the expedition in Montana, so stock up on this resource now. If you've seen them, you know they also make great Christmas gifts for kids, both in state and out. If you would like to place an order, just email me.

*Julia Herdina
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Young Readers Invited To Enter Library Of Congress Writing Contest: Letters About Literature

State Winners Will Advance for National Competition

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE 

Write a letter to your favorite author, and you might win an expenses-paid trip to Washington, D. C. for yourself, your parents, and your teacher!

The trip to our nation's capital is the national prize in Letters about Literature, a writing contest for readers in grades 4 through 12 sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target Stores, and the Montana Center for the Book, a program of the Montana Committee for the Human-

Letters about Literature, Continued on Page 5...

State Library News



Trustee Workshops in Billings and Missoula

Dr. Debra Wilcox Johnson will present "How Are We Doing? Evaluation at the Library" workshops for public library trustees and directors in Billings (Saturday, October 22) and Missoula (Saturday, November 5). Dr. Wilcox is a professor at the University of Illinois library school and a partner in Johnson & Johnson Consulting, a firm specializing in library management and evaluation. During the workshop, she will explain why evaluation of library services is important, how evaluations can be successfully carried out, and how the results can be used to benefit the library. Dr. Wilcox will also present information about evaluating library staff performance and provide details about effective performance feedback and standards. Registration materials are available at msl.state.mt.us/LDD/Training/Trustee/workshop.pdf

2005 Collection Management Honor Roll

Each year the Montana State Library Commission recognizes libraries across the state that have demonstrated a strong commitment to sharing resources. These libraries are included in the Commission's annual Collection Management Honor Roll.

To be included on the Honor Roll libraries must:

1. have a current and approved collection management policy on file at Montana State Library;
2. have at least 50% of holdings on the OCLC database; and
3. be currently adding/deleting records on the database.

To be considered for the 2005 Honor Roll, libraries must send collection management policies to the State Library by December 31, 2005.

2006 PEEL Scholarships

Ten \$25,000 scholarships will be available in 2006 for Montana residents to earn a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree through the distance program of the University of Washington's Information School. The scholarships are funded by a grant awarded to Montana State Library from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

Scholarship recipients must:

- be a Montana resident
- have a BA or BS degree by fall 2006
- apply to and be accepted into the UW Graduate School (requires GRE scores)
- apply to and be accepted into the UW Information School program
- apply to Montana State Library for a PEEL scholarship award
- begin classes in fall 2006 and complete the degree in 3 calendar years
- have access to technology required for a distance degree program
- travel to Seattle for brief residencies as required by UW (3-5 days per quarter excluding summer)
- agree to work in a professional library position in a public, school (K-12), or tribal library for two years after receiving the MLIS degree

Details are posted at the Great Career @ Your Library web page msl.mt.gov/greatcareer/index.html.

A great career @ your library

PEEL Library Stipends

The deadline for applying for a Professional Education and Employment for Librarians (PEEL) stipend is December 15, 2005. All public, school (K-12), and tribal libraries are eligible to apply for the stipends to employ a full-time professional librarian for two years. Libraries receiving the \$30,000 stipends are required to provide an equal cash match and to make every effort to fund the position following the stipend period. Details and application materials for the PEEL Library Stipend Program are available at msl.state.mt.us/greatcareer/stipendapp05.pdf.

For Information on any of the articles on this page, please contact Sue Jackson of the Montana State Library

Sue Jackson
Montana State Library
1-800-338-5087
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Letters About Literature, Continued

ties. To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author, explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Young readers can select authors from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic.

The Montana Center for the Book will select the top essayists in the state on each of the three competition levels: Level I for children in grades 4 through 6; Level II for grades 7 and 8, and Level III, grades 9 - 12.

Deadline for entries is December 1, 2005. To obtain the required entry coupon, call the Montana Center for the Book at 406-243-6022 or 1-800-624-6001 or visit the Center for the Book Web site at www.loc.gov/letters.

State winners advance to national competition and receive cash prizes plus a \$50 Target gift card. The top three state winners in each age category receive cash prizes and certificates from the Montana Center for the Book and the Montana Committee for the Humanities.

Six national winners will each receive an expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital to read their letters during the National Book Festival in the fall of 2006. In addition, they will receive a \$500 Target gift card redeemable at any Target Store or www.target.com. Target Stores is the presenting sponsor of Letters About Literature.

Teachers, librarians, or parents interested in obtaining copies of the contest guidelines and the 16-page teaching supplement to guide students through the reading-writing process should visit the Center for the Book Web site at www.loc.gov/letters

Target Stores, along with its parent company Target Corporation, gives back more than \$2 million a week to its local communities through grants and special programs.

The Montana Center for the Book is a program of the Montana Committee for the Humanities, Montana's state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Much further information about both is available at the MCH and Montana Center for the Book websites: www.humanities-mt.org and www.montanabook.org.

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE 

*Mark A. Sherouse, Executive Director
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ASLD Folks Got It Going On

Members of the Academic and Special Libraries Division are real movers and shakers. That's why you want to be sure to attend the ASLD/PLD Annual Retreat at Chico Oct. 23-24. In addition to the retreat, ASLD sponsors other events throughout the year, including the

Significant Tidings program held at each annual MLA Conference. The following individuals presented a segment on the following topics as part of Significant Tidings program last April in Billings: Sally Thompson, Director, Lifelong Learning Project,

Center for Continuing Education, University of Montana, "Lifelong Learning Project: Producing Primary Resource Materials about Native Americans;" Barry Brown, Associate Professor, Mansfield Library, University of Montana, "Conceptions and Misconceptions of the Internet and its Origin by College Students;" Jan Zauha, Reference Team Leader, Montana State University-Bozeman, "Meet Your Future Leaders: A Snapshot of the 2004 PNLA Leadership Institute;" Bruce Newell, Director, Montana Library Network, "Small Rural Libraries: What's Next?;" Jennie Burroughs, Government Documents Librarian, Mansfield Library, University of Montana, and Roberta Gebhardt, Cataloging Specialist, Montana State Library, "Blogs, RSS & Aggregators;" and Steve McCann, Digital Projects Librarian, Mansfield Library, University of Montana, "Constructing a Suite of Information Literacy Assessment Instruments."



Participants in the 2004 Significant Tidings program are (L-R, back) Sally Thompson, Steve McCann, Jennie Burroughs, Jan Zauha, and Barry Brown. (Front) Bruce Newell and Roberta Gebhardt

ASLD/PLD Retreat is Fast Approaching

The annual Academic & Special Library Division/ Public Library Division Fall Retreat will be held October 23 and 24 at Chico Hot Springs. Feature speakers and presenters include Jim Heckel, Great Falls Public Library; Brent Roberts, MSU-Billings Library; the Not Ready for Prime Time Freedom Fighters; Lois Dissly, Liz Babbit, Pam Henley and Ginny Cowan, Bozeman Public Library; Montana ALA Councilor Beth Boyson and Jennifer Mayer, University of Wyoming Libraries. Registration deadline was September 30; however, occasionally there are cancellations. If you are interested in attending, contact John Thomas jthomas@carroll.edu or Kathy Mora kmora@mtlib.org to see if there is space to attend this educational and fun gathering.

Membership News

The Value of Membership

As of September 21, the Association has 354 current members. There are 71 in the academic/special library division, 228 in the public library division and 64 in the school/library media division (about 9 of us are in two divisions...).

During the MLA board retreat this past August, the board directed the membership committee to coordinate the production of a glossy brochure for the association by the 2006 conference, purchase pins with the MLA logo to give to new members and sell at the conference bookstore, and host a new-member breakfast during the annual conference. The membership committee would also like to announce an informal membership drive, with a goal of 100 new members who will help us celebrate 100 years. And with 21 new members since conference, we only have 79 to go! A letter of invitation with a membership form will be mailed in the next few weeks to library staff in Montana who are not current members.

While membership dues are the primary means of funding for the Association, members are the primary means of existence for the Association. Only with you, your input and your participation will our Association continue to play an important role in the work-life of Montana's library staff. As current members, we know the value of participation in this professional state-wide organization. Take some time with your co-workers and peers to describe the benefits of membership.

We may feel in a general sense that being a member of MLA is a good thing but more specifically, MLA provides a forum for exchanging information, for solving problems and for learning about the changing world of libraries and information science. Workshops, retreats and special seminars are available throughout the year for those working in libraries, and for library trustees and administrative bodies. This newsletter in your hands (or on your screen) features upcoming events and includes news about the changing world of Montana libraries. Wired-Montana, the association's online list serve, provides a forum for subscribers to use throughout the day to quickly communicate information or ask for help. Our annual late Spring convention regularly brings Montana librarians together for conversation, workshops, speakers and fun. Professional development grants are available to members to encourage continuing education.

These are just some of the benefits of being a current member of MLA. For more information, go to www.mtlib.org/join.html. Together, we can make the next 100 years as good as the first.

Following is a list of those that have realized the value of a membership in the Montana Library Association.

Newest Members

Please help us welcome our 21 newest members:

Kelly Baca-Giuffre, Broadwater School Community Library

Bonnie Berthelsen, Conrad Public Library

Krista Boutillier, Clancy Elementary School

Robert Brophm, Bitterroot Public Library trustee

Elizabeth DeYoung, Bonner School Library

Corrie Douglas, Billings student

Diana Dunn, Joliet Public Library

Alyson Green-Gregory, Stillwater County Library

Samantha Hines, University of Montana Library

Shannon Hollenback, Mineral County Library trustee

TyRee Jenks, Montana State University-Billings

Library

Dawn Kingstad, Glendive Public Library

Connie Lewis Livingston-Park County Public Library

Kathy McDaniel, Glacier County Library, Browning

Anita Millard, Missoula Public Library

Becky Mosbacher, Hellgate Middle School Media

Specialist and Missoula Public Library trustee

Ethel Siemens, Harlem Public Library

Margaret Smith, Lewistown Public Library trustee

Michelle Taylor, Laurel Public Library

Richard Thompson, Sheridan County Library trustee

Marilyn Wenz, Fallon County Library

Magi Malone

Director at Large-West

George C. Ruhle Library

Glacier National Park

magi_malone@nps.gov

I Love, I Love, I Love My Little Calendar Girl...

In the words of Paul Anka, what are you waiting for? The MLA PR & Marketing Committee would like to put together our very own calendar featuring those hotties of the information superhighway, Montana librarians! We're just in the planning stages now, and are looking for women and men who would be interested in posing in tasteful, but fun, photos in this fundraising effort for Montana libraries.

The idea came from Wisconsin, where a group of librarians in small communities (calling themselves Desperate Librarians), www.focol.org/desperatelibrarians/, followed through on an idea, had a local photographer donate studio time and graphic arts designs, and put together a delightful calendar as a fundraiser for the Wisconsin Library Association

Calendar Girl, Continued on Page 7...

Calendar Girl, Continued

Foundation and the models' own libraries. Each month features a clever, artful, and sometimes humorous photo of a naked librarian (not to worry—it is all in good taste—they hide behind big books and library props). We just need “models;” the PR Committee will do the rest.

For more information, or to express your interest, please contact Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Chair of the PR & Marketing Committee, at 444-2957 or ljackson@mt.gov. This could really put Montana librarians on the map, so to speak.

*Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson,
Chair of the PR & Marketing Committee
ljackson@mt.gov*

ALA Membership as a Staff Development Initiative

Support staff have significant opportunities for professional development through membership in library associations. Membership has traditionally been a way to make essential connections that benefit one's work and personal life. However, many support staff do not consider association membership as a regular part of their career development. With encouragement from progressive directors and department heads, support staff can begin to see association membership as a vital, natural component of their professional journey.

Membership is an often overlooked staff development area. Studies have consistently shown that feelings of ‘connection’ motivate staff to perform better at work, have lower absentee rates and stronger personal identification with the success of projects. Look for ways to encourage your support staff to make connections with others in their field by joining a library association. Demonstrate that you believe in your staff by identifying ways they can personally contribute to a library association as a member.

Your state organization may have a special interest group for support staff. Local paraprofessional and support staff groups are often organized “by staff for staff” and can be an excellent venue for involvement. The American Library Association (ALA) recently lowered membership dues for support staff to \$35.00/year, making membership in the national organization very accessible. ALA offers distance education and skills building workshops, support staff conferences, and opportunities for committee work. Information about support staff participation can be found at www.ala.org/ssirt along with information about specialty divisions and round tables at www.ala.org/membership.

Membership can also be used as a staff appreciation technique. Consider gifting a yearly membership in ALA or your state association for an employment

anniversary. Offer membership as a prize during National Library Workers Day or a staff appreciation day. You can encourage your board or friends group to provide membership as a non-salary benefit for key employees. Any efforts to encourage support staff in their career development will return dividends to your library through a well motivated, better informed, and more connected staff.

*John Chrastka
Manager for Membership Development
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New Library News From Bozeman

The Bozeman Public Library Foundation has put up a sign at the new Library site showing a stack of books indicating \$4,850,000 currently raised with a goal of \$5,850,000. Their motto is “Call 522-9900 or Click www.bozemanlibrary.org” to make a donation



toward the \$1,000,000 which still needs to be raised. Back at the site, Martel Construction continues its on-schedule work, putting steel into floor joists for the first floor. Next they will set the steel decking with concrete being poured around the middle of this month. They will then be setting steel columns and I-beams for the second floor.

Look under “New Building Project” on the web site for photos and further information.

Senator Baucus Delivers Funding for Library

Senator Max Baucus was successful in securing \$1,125,000 in the federal highway transportation bill for the new Bozeman Public Library. Signed into law by President Bush in August, the Library will be receiving its \$1,125,000 over a five year period of time, which will be used for the public plaza, the parking lot, and the trail and path system. Senator Baucus was in town on August 12 to present an oversized check to Trustees Chair Ron Farmer, Library Director Alice Meister, Foundation Board Chair Art Thompson, and Development Director Wendy Lewis. This federal funding builds on the \$526,765 VA/HUD Economic Development Initiative money, which Senator Conrad Burns secured for the new Library. The Library Boards and staff appreciate the enormous help they have received from our congressional delegation.

*Cindy Christin
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Book Review

In this stunning compilation of poetry and illustration *Water Like the Soul of an Angel: Memoirs of a Fisherman*, Jack Jelinski and Sheryl Getman create a seamless tapestry of words and images highlighting the beauty of the outdoors. Jelinski's carefully crafted poems evoke a deep reminiscence of the wonder and sanctity that can be found in nature and fishing. A mix of light-hearted fun and deeper emotion permeate this collection giving the reader a sense of the poets' relationship to nature and the experiences therein. The extraordinary colors of Getman's artwork and Jelinski's masterful word play are a perfect compliment to one another. This collection is not only a celebration of fishing, but of love and loss and finding



Sheryl Getman

solace in mountain streams.

Travel down back roads and hidden fishing holes with Jack Jelinski as he looks over a life filled with friends, fish and the natural world that bring it all together. A scholar and professor of Spanish literature at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT, Jelinski is a teacher, a poet, and above all, a fisherman. Having known many of the world's waters, it is those that lie between Montana and Wisconsin to whom Jelinski gives life in this collection. Toying with traditional and freeform poetry, the



Jack Jelinski

author's use of rhyme scheme and rhythm is dynamic. His keen sense of humor is evident in titles such as "The Transgenetic Carp", and "Ice Fishing at Canyon Ferry Near Townsend Montana In my Subaru". Sheryl Getman is an accomplished painter and computer illustrator from Montana, the daughter of a well-known sportsman her liquid artwork creates seamless pictures of Jelinski's world. Whether writing about friends and guides, barking birds, fishing dreams, or his daughter's breakfast bowl, Jelinski's poems are original and powerful.

Anyone that has spent time outdoors knows the smell of camp smoke and the feeling of cold rushing water, the way the pulse quickens and the senses awoken to the world. These poems bring the reader into the special places the author has known and loved. Sheryl Getman's beautiful depictions are a window into the souls of man, fish, and nature each bringing light to Jelinski's hidden and often subtle meaning.

Together these artists create a world of their own, a treasury of humor, wisdom and spirituality.

With delightful wit and candor, *Water Like the Soul of An Angel* will relate to a wide-ranging audience. This beautifully produced work is a must have for any collection.

Jelinski, Jack. *Water Like the Soul of an Angel: Memoirs of a Fisherman*. Illus. Sheryl Getman. Los Angeles: Howling Loon Press, 2005. ISBN: 0-9763280-0-3

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