



MONTANA LIBRARY FOCUS



MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2011 VOL. 29 ISSUE 4

Message from the President

Greetings Montana Library Community!

Your MLA Board has been very busy these last few months. In June, we spent three days in Great Falls working on a new strategic plan for the Montana Library Association. I think I can speak for the entire group in saying it was a great experience, while using up a LOT of collective brain power.

MLA hired Ned Cooney, of Ascent Strategic Development, to guide us through the planning work. Even though some of us tired during the many hours of discussion and debate, we were always confident that one of the others in the group could pick up and continue to move us forward. It was a very positive and energizing experience. We have such a great group of volunteers on our MLA Board! Please take a look at the full strategic plan on the MLA website (or click on the link above). I think you'll be impressed the Board's accomplishment.



Summer is winding down and we're already gearing up for our 2012 MLA Conference in Big Sky. Our conference co-chairs this year are Desiree Dramstad, Director, Montana Prison Library, Deer Lodge; and Kathy House, Librarian, Ophir School/Big Sky Community Library, Gallatin Gateway. Kathy will be focusing on the local arrangements with her dedicated team of librarians and friends of the library, while Desiree will be the overall project manager working directly with Janel and Mark Trowbridge, our conference planners.

Please consider presenting at the conference this year. To quote our conference co-chair, Desiree Dramstad, "Next year's theme is mountaineering, so lace up your boots, strap on your packs, and get ready to ascend mountains of information with the Montana library community!" You can find more information and conference program proposal forms at the MLA website. <http://www.mtlib.org/> Program proposals are due October 3, 2011.

I hope to see each of you soon at a Montana libraries conference or workshop! Wishing you a wonderful Montana autumn,

Kim Crowley, President
Montana Library Association



Montana Library Association

Montana's Libraries from the Mountains to Plains



Lewis & Clark Library One of 76 Organizations Nationwide to Receive a Big Read Grant

The Lewis & Clark Library has been recommended for a grant to host The Big Read in Lewis & Clark County. The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) designed to restore reading to the center of American culture.

The NEA presents The Big Read in cooperation with Arts Midwest. Your Lewis & Clark Library is one of 76 not-for-profits to be recommended for a grant to host a Big Read project between September 2011 and June 2012. The Big Read in Lewis & Clark County will celebrate Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451 from September 24th thru October 22nd.

"The NEA awarded three grants to Montana institutions this time around, and we are excited and honored to be one of the recipients," explained Lewis & Clark Library Director Judy Hart during a press conference held at the Library announcing receipt of the grant. Due to budget cuts and the current economic climate, the NEA scaled back the amount of grants awarded during this cycle. "Last year the NEA awarded four grants to Montana libraries alone so we feel very fortunate to have been one of the 76 institutions selected to host a Big Read," Hart explained to the gathering at the Library.

This marks the fifth NEA Big Read grant that the Lewis & Clark Library has received since 2007. "The impact of these grants on our community is priceless," stated Hart. "Because of these grants we have been able to bring world renowned authors such as Tim O'Brien to Helena as well as academic scholars such as Brent Hartinger. From book discussions to film screenings, each Big Read Under the Big Sky has brought literature alive those who have participated."

"We are looking forward to continuing the many valuable partnerships that were begun with our previous Big Reads," explained Hart. "This truly is a community partnership, and without the support of our public officials, Senator Baucus; Senator Tester; Congressman Rehberg; Governor Schweitzer; Lewis & Clark County Commissioners Mike Murray, Derek Brown, and Andy Hunthausen; City of Helena Commissioners, Paul Cartwright, Dan Ellison, Dick Thweatt, and Matt Elsaesser; Mayor James Smith, and the dedicated organizing committee, patrons, and staff, who organized and support this celebration designed to bring residents of Lewis and Clark County together to generate enthusiasm over the joyful experience of reading and discussing a good book, would not be possible." "I'd also like to recognize the many partners in the 2011 The Big Read Under The Big Sky V who have worked to bring this fabulous event to our community:"

The 2011 Planning Committee members: Adult Services Librarian Suzanne Schwichtenberg; Teen Services Librarian Pad McCracken; Helena High School Librarian Joanne Didriksen; Capital High School Librarians Joan Meyer and Elisa McLaughlin; Dr. Kay Satre, Department of Languages & Literature at Carroll College; The University of Montana College of Technology Librarians Andrea Mott and Janice Bacino; Myrna Loy Center Executive Director Ed Noonan; Montana Historical Society Outreach and Interpretation Program Manager Kirby Lambert; Helena School District #1 teachers, Bryant Elementary Librarian Joice Franzen, Helena Middle School English Teacher Jesse Franzen, Helena Public Schools Technology Information Services Administrator, Barb Ridgeway. Other individuals and organizations helping to bring The Big Read Under The Big Sky V to Helena include: The Montana Historical Society; Capital and Helena High Schools; Mary Ann Barbie-Rice and the Capital High Art Students; Lewis & Clark Library Public Foundation; The University of Montana Helena College of Technology; Carroll College; Café Zuppa; Fireside Coffee; ExplorationWorks; Capital High School Robotics Club; Downtown Helena, Inc.; Helena Area Chamber of Commerce; Cherry Creek Radio Stations; KMTX Radio; Queen City Caching; Holter Museum of Art; Dive Bakery; and Riley's Irish Pub.

In addition to primary partners and planning committee members, many organizations will be involved in specific events and activities throughout the celebration. The tentative schedule of events includes a Sci-Fi Film Festival; Geocaching; book discussions; lectures; a poetry slam; and much more.

In addition to the Library's website, www.bigread.info will be used as a key communication tool throughout the event. Both web sites will contain a calendar of events as well as program and speaker information.

"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 to area book discussion groups. Having copies available in different formats, such as the graphic novel and audio, will accommodate all readers, 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.

NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman said, "Since 2006, nearly three million Americans have attended a Big Read event, more than 39,000 volunteers have participated locally, and nearly 27,000 community partner organizations have been involved. The Big Read's success depends on these commitments of time, energy, and enthusiasm and I look forward to seeing these 76 communities come together in celebration of a great work of literature." The selected organizations will receive Big Read grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$17,000 to promote and carry out community-based reading programs featuring activities such as read-a-thons, book discussions, lectures, movie screenings, and performing arts events. Participating communities also receive high-quality, free-of-charge educational materials to supplement each title, including Reader's, Teacher's, and Audio Guides. For more information about The Big Read please visit neabigread.org.




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Northwest Council for Computer Education Presents Free 2-Day Library of Congress Workshop

Montana educators are back to school this summer to improve their technology and research skills in Helena, Montana, on July 28-29. Twenty-two teachers are participating in a free workshop provided by the Library of Congress through a grant for professional development for educators and librarians.

Northwest Council for Computer Education, NCCE, is presenting a two day workshop for teachers and teacher-librarians to develop lessons from the Library of Congress vast collection of free digitized primary resources to enrich their classroom instruction.

“The educators in Montana have really had an opportunity to see what our nation's library has to offer teachers and students! Our rich history is best seen and heard through the photos, documents, maps, audio and video that tell the stories of our lives. Our teachers have all contributed their unique lessons plans, using these primary sources, that will be accessible to all of the participants--our Montana teachers are now part of a larger community that is using primary sources to engage and challenge students.” Colet Bartow, Montana Office of Public Instruction.

Northwest Council for Computer Education recently joined the Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Education Consortium and will be providing professional development for K-12 educators in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington this summer. Over the next two years, NCCE will provide workshops, webinars and sessions on an ongoing basis, year round at no charge as part of their partnership with the Library of Congress.

NCCE is one of 26 Educational Consortium members across the nation to offer professional development programs that help teachers use the Library of Congress rich reservoir of primary source materials to design challenging, high quality instruction.

About Northwest Council for Computer Education

Northwest Council for Computer Education (NCCE) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting effective uses of technology in education. In addition to hosting the largest educational technology conference in the Northwest, NCCE provides its nearly 3400 members with resources and professional development opportunities through-out the year. The mission of NCCE is to promote and support the effective use of technology in all aspects of education.

For more information contact:

Sally Bouvia at 559.909.1968

Northwest Council for Computer Education

Retreat, Refresh, and Relate with ASLD/PLD

By Jim Kammerer, Montana State Library, and ASLD chair

There is no arm twisting when it comes to announcing the annual ASLD/PLD fall retreat at Chico Hot Springs, Sunday and Monday, October 16th-17th 2011. This meeting is not a hard sell. I know you are coming, but let me tell you the program anyway.

You will like the variety of topics: Ready2Ready (Sara Groves), What is GIS? (Diane Papineau), Performance Appraisal, Performance Re-view, or Performance Pre-view? Choosing the tools that work best for your organization (Kim Crowley), Information Literacy Course (Eileen Wright, Megan Thomas, Darlene Hert, and TyRee Jenks), How to Stay Tech Savvy (Matt Beckstrom), Explore the Law @ Your Public Library (Judy Meadows and the Honorable Michele Snowberger) Legislative Lowdown (Sonia Gavin), Library Law Update (Brian Close), MLA Intellectual Freedom Committee Report and Privacy: Roadblock on the Information Superhighway (Lauren McMullen, Sheila Bonnard, Tamara Miller, and BJ McCracken), Copyright Info and Q&A (Samantha Hines and Tammy Ravas).

On Sunday evening historical geographer Diane Papineau presents: Transforming Place at Canyon: Politics and Settlement Creation in Yellowstone Park. In her words: “This illustrated presentation will shed light on significant political and ideological changes within the National Park Service as well as the role that American culture and tourism played in Canyon's evolving cultural landscape.” (Full description found in retreat program)

Later that same evening, Karen Gonzales will lead the hot tub book discussion of Into the Beautiful North by Luis Alberto Urrea.

Participants can earn continuing education credit for most programs.

Retreat registration is \$80 for ASLD/PLD members and \$125 for non-members. Registration includes all programs, lunch and dinner on Sunday, breakfast on Monday, and snacks. Guests are welcome to attend. The cost of their meals is \$50. Early registration deadline is September 30th. Late registration fee is \$15. Participants are responsible for their own accommodations. A block of rooms has been set aside for conference participants at Chico Hot Springs Resort. Call 406-333-4933 or 800-468-9232 to reserve a room and mention MLA. Attendees may also reserve any room they want outside of the reserved block or stay with a friend in the area.

Additional retreat information, retreat menu, an updated list and summary of programs, and a registration form can be found at <http://www.mtlib.org>.

Completed registrations and payment should be sent to event treasurer Beth Boyson at Bozeman Public Library, 626 E. Main Street, Bozeman, MT 59715.

Questions or offers to assist with the event should be directed to MLA Division chairs Kathy Mora (PLD) (kmora@greatfalllibrary.org) and Jim Kammerer (ASLD) (jkammerer@mt.gov).

See you at Chico!

Focus - Publication Standards and Guidelines

In accordance with the Montana Library Association Focus Publication Guidelines, the following information is included in this issue:

1. Montana Library Focus is published by the Montana Library Association as its official vehicle for communications. It is published four times a year in the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December. The deadline for submission of material is the first week prior to the month of publication.
2. Send submissions of reports, news releases, or features to: Focus Editor
3. Submissions in print copy and ASCII disk are preferred. (Disks will be returned after publication). If no disk copy can be sent, please submit text in clean, scan able copy. Use facsimile only upon request from the editor.
4. Reports should cover the business of MLA committees, divisions, or interest groups; for example, meetings, activities, announcements, upcoming events. As a general guideline, keep reports to 700 words or less. Please contact the editor prior to submitting any report significantly longer than this.
5. News releases are brief announcements of interest to Montana librarians, but not related to official MLA business; for example, personnel news, grants received, programs held, new services offered. News releases should be 500 words or less.
6. Features are any article-length (1000 plus words) essay, discussion, interview, research paper, or other form of expository writing. Please submit complete manuscript or contact the editor for details.
7. In general, writing in the third person is preferred for reports and news releases.
8. All manuscripts must be double-spaced with wide margins. Indicate your name, address, affiliation, and phone number. For other stylistic or formatting guidelines, refer to the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 13th edition.

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