

MONTANA LIBRARY FOCUS

MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2014 VOL. 32 ISSUE 5

Message from the President

One of the things I value about MLA is the array of professional development and networking opportunities it organizes for its members throughout the year. There is just no excuse to not stay current with library innovations and trends. And there is no excuse not to know who in the Montana library world you can turn to for help, mentoring, friendship, and support.

The first of MLA's events for the year is just around the corner. The Academic and Special Libraries Division (ASLD) and the Public Library Division (PLD) leadership has worked hard to organize a stimulating **Fall Retreat** for us. Chico continues to be the favored location for this great event – and why not? Fabulous food, stellar location, great accommodations, and lots and lots of hot water (great weather, too, we hope!). The dates are Sunday, October 12 and Monday, October 13; the retreat runs from noon to noon to accommodate everyone's travel. Thanks go to Mary Braun (PLD) and Sam Suber (ASLD) for all their hard work in organizing the retreat. I hope many of you will join in this always fun, always rewarding retreat.

(A side note: I'm sorry to say that ASLD chair Sam Suber has stepped down because of an out-of-state opportunity but Kirsten Bryson, chair-elect, has graciously stepped in for a seamless transition. She is also helping ensure a great ASLD/PLD retreat.)

Work is already well underway for both the **Offline** technology retreat to be held in Billings on February 6 and 7, 2015 and the **2015 Annual Conference** in April in Bozeman.

The theme for annual is ***Access for All: A Montana Value***; I am deeply committed to the intellectual freedom mission of libraries and chose this year's annual conference theme to reflect that. I'm also very excited to announce that Barbara Jones, Director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, will be joining us as our keynote speaker. Our access to information continues to be threatened, as evidenced by the latest book challenge that took place in Livingston in the spring. A member of the community asked Park High School to remove its copy of *Punkzilla* by Adam Rapp from the shelves. Happily, the Livingston School District Board of Trustees had a policy in place to deal with challenges and followed that policy and process carefully. They also called upon your Intellectual Freedom Committee for training and IFC members presented their Intellectual Freedom 101 workshop for the district. The members of the reconsideration committee conducted a thorough review that resulted in a considered, measured, and fair report. At the public hearings (yes, there were several), the Board of Trustees exhibited a strong respect for the need to provide access to divergent views. As a result, *Punkzilla* remains in the library. Barbara Jones will be able to update us on current intellectual freedom issues and shed light on the role libraries play in protecting the right to access information.

So join in and take advantage of these wonderful professional development opportunities. They are just some of the many benefits of your MLA membership!



Sheila Bonnard, MLA President



Montana Library Association

Montana's Libraries from the Mountains to Plains

MPLA Updates

By Eileen Wright,
MPLA Representative



MPLA/AzLA Conference – *Libraries: Best of the West*

November 12-14, 2014 at Radisson Fort McDowell Resort and Conference Center

Who doesn't want to get out of the snow in November? So, head to Arizona and attend a robust twelve state regional conference. Not only do you get to hang out with fantastic folks and learn from wonderful librarians from twelve different states, you can attend one of the most popular roundtables: MPLA Hot Tub Roundtable with guest stars, the rubber duckies. One highlight from the conference will be the One Book, One Author Luncheon Program with guest Kevin Fedarko, author of the *Emerald Mile*. Other guest speakers present will be Bill Boze Bell (Arizona storyteller), H. Alan Day (author, *Cowboy's Quest to Save the Wild Mustang*), Maggie Farrell (Dean of Libraries, University of Wyoming), Lee Rainie (Director of Pew Research Center), and many more. For further information about the conference, check out the newsletter <http://new.mpla.us/documents/newsletter/2014/september-2014-special-conference-issue.pdf> or the conference website <http://www.azla.org/?page=2014AzLAMPLA>.

Need money to attend the MPLA conference or another professional conference, workshop, seminar, or training? Professional Development money is available for MPLA members, which can be used towards all of these. For full details, check out this link <http://www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grants.html>.

ASLD/PLD Fall Retreat

By Mary Braun,
PLD Chair

The early registration deadline is past, but you can still claim a spot at Montana Library Association's ASLD/PLD Retreat. The event will be at beautiful Chico Hot Springs on Sunday and Monday, October 12-13. The retreat offers an amazing schedule of events as well as plenty of scrumptious food.

Please register [online](#) or use this [form](#). Final registration is Monday, October 6.

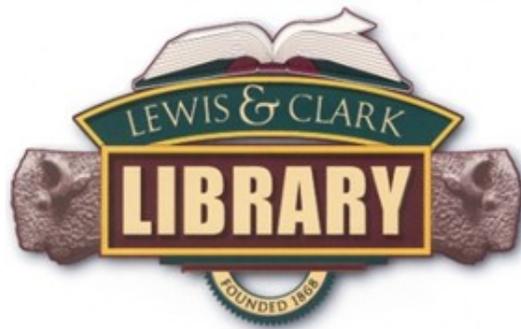
An Evening with Alexander McCall Smith

By Patricia Spencer,
Public Information Officer
Lewis & Clark Library

Lewis & Clark Library and Foundation present "An Evening with Alexander McCall Smith" on Sunday, November 9, 2014 from 7-8:30 p.m. with a book signing to follow at the Helena Civic Center. The event is free, but tickets are required. Tickets will be available at the Lewis & Clark Library beginning Monday, September 15, 2014.

Alexander McCall Smith is the award winning author of The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series. He has written more than 60 books, including specialist academic titles, short story collections, and a number of immensely popular children's books. Referred to as our new P.G. Wodehouse, he is best known for his internationally acclaimed No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series, which rapidly rose to the top of the bestseller lists throughout the world.

For more information on Alexander McCall Smith, visit his website at <http://www.randomhouse.com/features/mccallsmith/main.php>. For more information about his visit to Helena, log onto www.lclibrary.org or call (406) 447-1690.



Nonprofit Donates 3D Printer to Library

By Mary Drew Powers,
Public Relations
Missoula Public Library

The Missoula Public Library had never heard of The Millennial Trains Project until it received an unsolicited donation. Staff first became aware of MTP from a phone call. Someone wanted to donate a \$2,799 CubePro Trio 3D printer to the MPL MakerSpace.

The Millennial Trains Project's mission as stated on their website <http://millennialtrain.co> is "to enable participants and virtual audiences to identify, evaluate, and explore emerging opportunities and challenges in communities where our trains stop while advancing a project that benefits, serves, and inspires others."

Apparently, someone aboard the train decided that MPL's MakerSpace was just that kind of project.

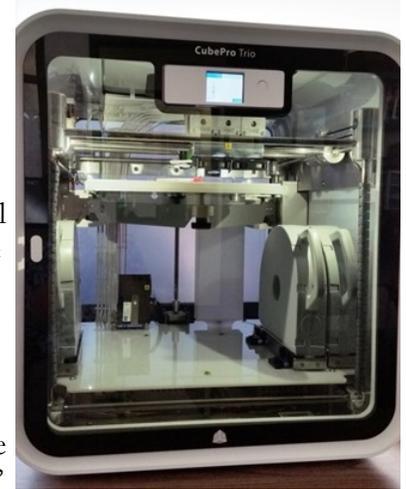
"Of course we said 'YES!,'" said MakerSpace Coordinator, Becca Rice. "The MakerSpace will use the printer, which prints with Nylon and two kinds of thermoplastics, to fabricate projects related to, but not limited to, STEM fields. Providing access to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) learning is exactly what the MakerSpace is all about."

Riding the Millennial trains are young people who have funded their own way by pitching ideas on the MTP website, where supporters can donate to the projects they feel are valid. Those who get funded go on the "journey," a cross-country train trip visiting the kinds of projects that the Millennial Trains Project supports.

There are bigger sponsors, like Coca-Cola and 3D Systems, the company that makes the CubePro Trio. The connection is that while Coca-Cola produces millions of plastic bottles, 3D Systems recycles that plastic for use in their 3D printers. These are the kinds of ideas and connections that MTP hopes to foster.

It was during the most recent journey in August of 2014, that MTP stopped at Whitefish, and a few travelers drove down to Missoula to deliver the printer.

"The printer is open for public use," said Rice. "So come learn, design, and enjoy!" Open hours to view, learn about, and use the CubePro Trio are every Wednesday evening from 5:30 to 8:45.



CubePro Trio 3D printer.

MontanaLibrary2Go: The New OverDrive App is Here

By Susie McIntyre,
Chair, MontanaLibrary2Go Executive Committee

The new OverDrive app for Android, iOS (iPhone/iPad/iPod touch), and Windows 8 is now available, and it features three major changes.

App Name

The app name has been shortened from "OverDrive Media Console" to "OverDrive." To support the new name, the app website has moved to <http://app.overdrive.com>.

No More Adobe ID

Patrons no longer have to sign-up for an Adobe ID to authorize a device. Patrons will now only have to sign up for an OverDrive Account.

First-time users will now be prompted to create an OverDrive account. There is no change for existing users who already have an Adobe ID or OverDrive account associated with their OverDrive app, even after they update to the newest version.

(Continued Next Page)



Users under the age of 13 can anonymously authorize the OverDrive app without creating an OverDrive account.

Syncing Across Devices

To sync books across devices, please follow these steps.

1. Download and install the Overdrive App on both devices.
2. Sign in to your Overdrive account on both devices. You must use the same account for syncing to work.
3. Download the title (eBook or Audio Book) on both devices.

After completing these steps, titles downloaded through the app will sync automatically on each device (whenever you have an active internet connection). So, if you read a book on your phone during the day, you can pick up right where you left off on your tablet later that night.

The MontanaLibrary2Go handouts have been updated to reflect the changes.

Billings Public Library's New Teen Technology Space Enjoys Successful First Summer

By Andrew Golden,
AmeriCorps VISTA
Billings Public Library

The Teen Education & Creation Hub at the Billings Public Library saw hundreds of teens in its first months of operation this summer. Also called the "TECH Lab," the teen-only technology space opened in early June for teens to learn about and use 21st-century technology in an informal, out-of-school setting.

Located on the library's second floor Integra Learning Lab, the TECH Lab welcomed over 450 visitors from June through August, averaging about ten teens using the lab per day. The space has a wide array of equipment and software available to teens, including a recording booth, iPads, Adobe digital art software, computers, cameras, drawing tablets, Minecraft, circuit boards, LEGO Robotics, and more.

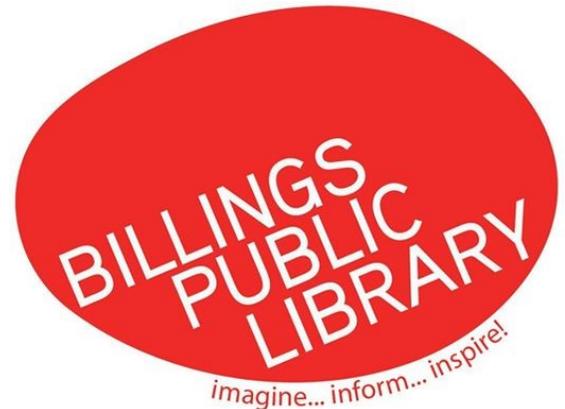
The TECH Lab held summer open hours alternating between four and five afternoons every week where teens could come to the room and explore on their own, and also hosted nearly 20 workshops led by librarians and community members. One of the most popular was a weeklong series on 3D design led by two architects from Billings-based Collaborative Design Architects. The pair taught teen attendees how to create 3D models using SketchUp design software. The teens designed cookie cutters in the program, which the architects then printed using their 3D printer and gave to the creators. Other highlights included a weekly coding series, programming with Arduino circuit boards, a steampunk airship craft, geocaching with the Parks & Recreation department, and exploring the "guts" of computers.

The Library also partnered with three youth-serving organizations to provide resources to teens these agencies serve. The YMCA and the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC) had groups come in weekly throughout the summer, while United Way's Discover Zone attended a weeklong LEGO Robotics series in July.

The TECH Lab has now transitioned to fall hours and programs. The space is still open alternating between and four and five days a week after school hours, with open hours every other Saturday.

The Library recently hired a part-time, seasonal worker to staff the TECH Lab for these hours to supervise, help teens with projects, and schedule programming. College mentors from Rocky Mountain College, Montana State University Billings, and City College at MSU Billings are also being recruited to work with teens that use the space.

The TECH Lab was made possible through a grant from the MacArthur Foundation and the Institute for Museum and Library Services, one of only 24 awarded to museums and libraries across the country. Community members and businesses have also provided generous support for the lab.



Making Reading Less Ruff

By Alison Pomerantz,
Secretary, Whitefish Community Library Board

Bark if you like to read! Whitefish Community Library brought back its “Read with a Dog” program by popular demand. The program is a terrific way of promoting literacy and generating enthusiasm for reading. Every Tuesday at both 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. the children take turns reading (or creatively telling stories) to a cuddly canine.

Reading to a lovable, affectionate dog provides a relaxed and “dog-friendly” atmosphere in which students can practice the skill of reading. Often children who have difficulties reading develop self-esteem issues and are self-conscious when reading aloud in front of other classmates. However, by sitting down and reading to the dog, the child relaxes, pats the attentive dog, and focuses on the story. Reading improves because the child is practicing the skill of reading, building self-esteem, and associating reading with something pleasant.

As excitement for reading grows, many children talk about going home and also reading to their own dog, or other pet. Through practice, the skill of reading is enhanced. Another benefit of the program is the joy children get from being around a dog. Even children who might be uncomfortable around canines at first begin to develop a better understanding of dogs.

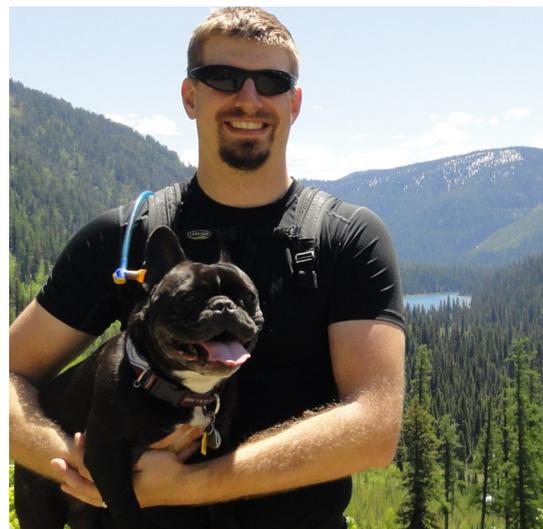
According to a study at UC Davis (Feb 2010), kids in reading dog programs increase their reading skills by 12% to 20% over kids not in a reading dog program. Educators working in cooperation with reading dog programs report that 82% of participating students increased their reading skills, self-confidence, and/or class participation.

“This year we are delighted to welcome a new therapy dog, Kramer, and his owner Sarah Galloway to read with the children,” said Joey Kositzky, director of WCL. “Kramer is a black French Bulldog who loves children and won’t care if you actually read the words in the book or use your imagination to tell him your own story.”

Kramer’s owners Sarah and Kevin Galloway explained that they decided to get him certified as a therapy dog shortly after he almost died of kidney failure. Kramer recovered after a week and a half stint in the ICU.

“We decided he was too amazing of a dog not to share with the rest of the world,” Sarah explained. She added that dogs like Kramer are certified therapy dogs who can not only visit libraries, but also visit hospitals, nursing homes and other locations to provide comfort and help improve health and well being. “He is a great listener and loves to cuddle. He has previously worked with Alzheimer’s patients and is very good at making people comfortable and happy. He loves to sit on a child’s lap and encourage them to read to him. Anyone who meets Kramer immediately feels at ease. I think it is a wonderful program the library is offering and I can’t wait to get started!”

For more information on this and other upcoming events at the Whitefish Community Library, visit www.whitefishlibrary.org and like us on Facebook.



Kramer, Whitefish Community Library’s new “Read with a Dog” canine, poses with owner, Kevin Galloway.



MLA Professional Development Grant: Want to attend professional development events but short on funds? Apply for a MLA Professional Development Grant! For more information visit http://mtlib.org/Handbook/grant_guidelines.asp or contact Samantha Hines at (406)243-7818 or samantha.hines@umontana.edu.



Dues Payment Time

By Debbie Kramer,
Executive Director
Montana Library Association

Didn't I just pay my dues? I'm sure that is the first thought that comes to mind when you read this article. The Montana Library Association's membership year runs from July 1 to June 30 each year, and now it's time to join or renew to take full advantage of all MLA has to offer librarians, trustees, friends, students and all others interested in strengthening the Montana library community. But what does MLA do for me? Glad you asked!

MLA offers its members many wonderful benefits for their membership:

- Membership discounts for all MLA retreats and conferences;
- Educational opportunities, including ASLD/PLD Retreat, Offline and the annual conference;
- Great networking opportunities for library staff, trustees, and friends;
- Travel grants to help members attend conferences;
- Professional Development Grants to provide members with the opportunity to further their education;
 - ◊ Last year MLA distributed more than \$6850 in ALA Emerging Leader, Conference Travel Grants, Professional Development Grants, and PNLA Professional Development grants. If you haven't taken advantage of all the professional development funds that are available, learn more about it on the MLA website under "Quick Links" [MLA Grant information](#).
- Membership costs for the Collaborative Summer Library Program in conjunction with the Montana State Library;
- Extensive lobbying support to promote and secure funding for the Montana State Library;
 - ◊ MLA is a champion for the Montana State Library, fighting to secure new financial support and maintain available funding for programs through legislative lobbying. As the Montana State Library is not allowed to lobby the legislature on its own behalf, the Montana Library Association takes on this task. During legislative years, MLA spends more than \$18,000 to lobby for increases in State Aid to libraries and to keep funding to support databases and other services essential to all Montana libraries.
- Representation at regional and national library associations;
 - ◊ MLA covers representatives' travel costs while they serve as Montana's delegates to the American Library Association, Mountain Plains Library Association and the Pacific Northwest Library Association.
- Leadership training by serving as Division Officers, Interest Group Chairs and members, or Committees chairs and members;
- Intellectual Freedom and support for all Montana librarians and libraries that experience a book challenge or other intellectual freedom concern.
- Complimentary breakfast at the annual conference for all new members; and
- Discounts at Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores and other retail stores.

Need I say more? Joining and renewing is quick and easy. Go to www.mtlib.org. Click on the "join" link, and either pay your dues with a credit card or scroll to the bottom of the webpage and download a membership form and send it in with a check or PO. It's just that easy. Your 2014-15 membership card will be emailed to you as evidence of your paid dues.

While it's fresh in your mind, get this task completed for the year. Don't put it off for later! Together we can all make the Montana Library Association a strong, robust organization to further Montana librarianship.

Local Teacher Finalist for Grant

By Kimberly Cummins, CIC
President of Agency Operations
Farmers Insurance Group

The \$100,000 Dream Big Teacher Challenge is designed to inspire and motivate teachers to think beyond making progress in their individual classrooms. Farmers Insurance is giving five \$100,000 grants to support those teachers ready and willing to truly transform their schools and their communities.

Mrs. Lynne Erger from Trinity Lutheran School in Billings, MT was selected as a Dream Big Finalist from over 78 grant submissions. Her proposal "Operation F-I-L-L It Up" is to use the grant money to furnish the school's new library.

With the \$100,000 grant, Erger proposes to F-I-L-L the school's future library and computer lab with furniture, iPads, laptops and literature (F-I-L-L) to promote the use of new technology and reading comprehension. The much-needed library/computer lab will be completed by the fall of 2015, but needs the funds from this grant to fill the new facility with materials and equipment to bring it into the 21st century.

Erger's proposal is only one of three finalists in the Northwest zone. Five winners, one from each zone, will ultimately be selected to receive the grant.

Please go to <https://www.thankamillionteachers.com/vote-for-a-proposal/vote-for-a-proposal-form-100k/> to view a video about Mrs. Erger's proposal and to vote for her project. Voting starts October 1 and ends November 30, 2014. The proposal with the most votes wins. You can vote once every 24 hours. Please pass along this information to friends and help support a local teacher and library.



Lynne Erger, Dream Big Teacher Challenge finalist. Photo from Farmers Insurance.

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