

MONTANA LIBRARY FOCUS

MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2014 VOL. 32 ISSUE 6

Message from the President: Become a Library Advocate!

Well, the elections are over (hooray) and 2015 is closing in. You know what that means: another exciting, invigorating, exhausting legislative session! MLA will need your help in making sure that libraries get the support they need so be prepared to step up as a library advocate.

Why advocacy? It would be great if the wonderful work libraries do every day (and do efficiently and cost-effectively, I might add) were simply recognized and funded. And it would be great if there were never challenges to fundamental library principles such as access and privacy. However, we are dealing with the real world here, with competing political interests and fierce competition for available public dollars. That means librarians, in addition to all the other great work they do, must also put in the time and energy needed to keep libraries at the top of the list for funding and in the conversations about access. Librarians need to advocate for both money and policies that support libraries and librarians.

If you need some help to get started, the American Library Association has some excellent resources for library advocacy through its [Office for Library Advocacy](#). On that page, you can find a link for the Advocacy University and a menu of great advocacy resources by topic and by library type.

You will also be happy to know that your library association is gearing up to lead advocacy efforts on your behalf. Our Government Affairs committee, led by Judy Hart, drafted a legislative agenda that was approved by the Board of Directors at its October meeting. A lobbyist has been hired to work with Government Affairs to make library voices heard during the legislative process. However, they can't do this work alone. Please make sure you follow the work of this committee and respond to calls for contacting legislators in your area when key decisions are being made. If you have the time and travel funds, consider testifying at the legislature when needed. And support **MLA Legislative Day on January 15** by donating to the reception and/or attending the events in Helena, including the advocacy training that will be held from 1 to 3 for all librarians, trustees, and library friends. Together, we can make a difference for libraries.

When you can, please take the time to thank these wonderful MLA members who are serving on the Government Affairs committee: Chair **Judy Hart** from Lewis and Clark Public Library, **Rick Ball** from Lincoln County Public Libraries, **Connie Behe** from ImagineIF Libraries, **Honore Bray** from Missoula Public Library, **Jodi Christophe** from Missoula Public Library, **Susan Gregory** from Bozeman Public Library, **Holly Harper** from Whitehall K-12 Library, **Debbi Kramer** from Three Forks Community Library, **Kathy Mora** from Great Falls Public Library, **Linda Murphy** from Cottonwood Union Library, and **Anita Scheetz** from the James E. Shanley Tribal Library. Their work is so greatly appreciated.

(Continued Next Page)



Sheila Bonnard, MLA President



Montana Library Association

Montana's Libraries from the Mountains to Plains

Offline

February can be a dark and dreary month (especially during a legislative year) but not for librarians in Montana. That's because we all have Offline to look forward to. This year's Offline will be in Billings on February 6th and 7th. **Lynne Puckett** chaired the planning group that has lined up a fabulous program for us. Session topics range from game design for teens to cool apps and gadgetry to how to organize a science fiction or comic con – and so much more. Of course, Offline traditions will be maintained with door prizes and lots of chocolate. There will also be tours of both the new Billings Public Library and local breweries. Please keep a lookout for details and registration information. Escape the February blahs—join us in Billings for a great mid-winter conference!

MPLA Updates

By Eileen Wright,
MPLA Representative



It was another successful MPLA conference with our Arizona librarians. Great sessions and absorbing author keynote speakers were enjoyed. We heard from Kevin Fedarko of *The Emerald Mile* and the fascinating Connie Willis of *Blackout*. The ever popular Hot Tub Roundtable with the infamous rubber duckies made an appearance one night, where laughter and friendship were shared. The passing of the President's gavel happened at the membership meeting too. Annie Epperson, from Greely Colorado, is our new MPLA President. Save the date for next year's joint conference *Changing Libraries in the New West*, September 23-25, 2015 in Cheyenne, WY.

MPLA updated their website, check it out at <http://www.mpla.us>.

Do you need money to attend the MPLA conference or another professional conference, workshop, seminar, or training? Professional Development money is available for MPLA members. For full details, check out the [Professional Development Grant](#) page and online application.



MPLA Executive Board—Eric Stroshane, Vice President Elect, Annie Epperson, President, and Wendy Wendt, Past President

Tamarack Federation Libraries Partner for Interactives

By Mary Drew Powers,
Public Relations/Reference Librarian
Missoula Public Library

Something new is happening in five libraries of the Tamarack Federation: interactive panels for toddlers and babies have been purchased to share on a rotating basis.

The interactive panels are made of wood, are extremely durable, and involve moving parts, mirrors, sounds and other ways to engage the youngest library patrons. Missoula Public Library Director Honore Bray first saw the panels made by Burgeon Group of Portland, Oregon, at an ALA Conference. When Tamarack Federation libraries met at ImagineIf Library in Kalispell in May, they saw the panels in action. "Once they saw them, they wanted to have them," said Bray. The plan was solidified between ImagineIf, Missoula, Plains, North Lake County and Ronan public libraries for each to buy a number of panels to be rotated among them on a quarterly basis.

Burgeon Group's sole marketing niche is to create interactive learning spaces in public libraries, mentioned Bray, so none of the interactives can be duplicated in doctor's offices or even museums. Twelve different panels were purchased, among them an Animal Sounds panel, a Hungry Caterpillar matching panel, a convex mirror/kaleidoscope, and a Spinning Stories panel.

For more information about sharing interactives among libraries, contact Honore Bray at Missoula Public Library. For more information about the Burgeon Group, visit burgeongroup.com.



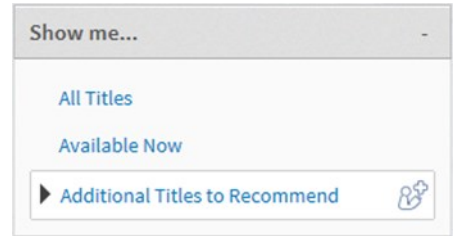
Spinning stories interactive panel.

MontanaLibrary2Go: How to Recommend Titles

By Susie McIntyre,
Chair, MontanaLibrary2Go Executive Committee

Note: If you recommend a title, there is no guarantee we will purchase it. There are often more titles recommended that we can afford to purchase.

1. After you search for something in MontanaLibrary2Go, you'll see an option to view **Additional Titles to Recommend** in the search results filters.



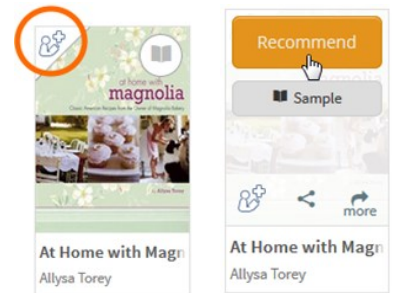
If you select **Additional Titles to Recommend**, titles that you can recommend to your library will be added to your search results. You can then continue to sort and filter your results to find exactly what you're looking for.

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>.

2. To determine which titles you can recommend to your library, look for the recommend icon.

NOTE: Some titles are not available for us to purchase. If you cannot find a title in the Additional Titles to Recommend, Overdrive is not able to offer it for sale to MontanaLibrary2Go.

3. To recommend a title, mouse over it (or tap it, on a mobile device) and select the **Recommend** button.
4. When you select Recommend, a pop-up will open where you can choose to be notified and/or to be placed on the holds list if your library purchases the title.
5. Select Recommend this title to complete your recommendation.
6. Patrons are limited to recommending 5 titles per month.



Patrons can view a list of their recommended titles under Account > Lists > Titles you recommended.



Reading Group Field Trip

By Guna K. Chaberek, Director;
Laurie Crawford and Cassie McCloskey, Patrons
Mineral County Public Library

A love of reading brought an exciting, unexpected invitation for the local adult book club. Mineral County Public Library hosts an adult book club each week to promote reading and companionship. Usually a genre or a particular author is selected for the next month's reading, each participant can read whatever she wants within that category. This group grew from a past Summer Reading Program—no one wanted to stop meeting. As many have expressed, the book club "gets me out of my comfort zone," "helps me to understand the meanings of a book," and "it's amazing what each reader sees as the main idea."

Previously, the group read Susan Wiggs' novel *The Apple Orchard*, and then visited an apple orchard in Washington State, and then this past June, the Mineral County Public Library book club received 10 copies of Northwest author Susan Wiggs' novel, *The Beekeeper's Ball*, from the author. Ms. Wiggs encourages reading and helps rural areas with donations of her books.

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After reading *The Beekeeper's Ball*, the book club decided to honor the story by hosting a dinner featuring the recipes highlighted in the novel. Each member prepared a dish and the club members came together to share an evening of laughter, camaraderie, and discussion.

After the dinner party, Florence Evans, Superior Branch Librarian, posted pictures to the library's Facebook page and sent a thank you card from the group, along with copies of the pictures from the party. Ms. Wiggs uploaded the pictures to her own [blog](#), and contacted Florence via Facebook to invite the group to her home on Bainbridge Island, WA.

Nine members were able to go on this unforgettable trip. While there, several local authors including Carol Casella, Suzanne Selfors, and Lynn Brunelle came to meet the group. Since then Carol and Suzanne have donated copies of their books to the library, and Lynn will hopefully do so also.

While on the Island, a local journalist, Sarah Lane, interviewed the members; her story can be found on the [Inside Bainbridge website](#).

The reading group is a great way to spend the afternoon, as well as to expand your reading list. The book club hopes to begin book kits to share with other rural libraries, and hopefully, to come together in the future to share an afternoon of reading discussion with neighbors. The first book the library will put in a kit to lend is *The Beekeeper's Ball*.

ImagineIF Welcomes Sean Anderson

By April Vomfell,
Public Services Librarian
ImagineIF Libraries

This June, Sean Anderson came to ImagineIF Libraries as the new Senior Librarian for Collection Management and Branch Services. Sean and his family moved to Kalispell from Great Falls, where Sean worked as a library assistant and helped to create the Great Falls Public Library's MakerSpace program.

A new job was just the tip of the iceberg for Sean and his family this summer. A few days before starting at ImagineIF, the Andersons welcomed a new daughter, Peyton; they purchased a house in Kalispell and sold a house in Great Falls; and Kim transitioned to a stay-at-home parent. And they did all of this with their 3-year-old son, Evan, in tow.

In his new position, Sean manages ImagineIF's three branches in Bigfork, Columbia Falls and Marion, and can be found riding bikes in local parades and stirring up enthusiasm about ImagineIF. Becoming the sole selector for all ImagineIF collections is his most current ambitious project. This change in collection management is huge for the library, involving a number of staff in all departments, and is critical to making ImagineIF's new experiential programming a success by freeing up staff time.

Sean's energy, interpersonal skills and willingness to dive into new projects have made him an easy fit at ImagineIF. We are excited to welcome him to our team!

Find out more about ImagineIF at www.imagineiflibraries.org.



The group's last evening on Bainbridge Island during a special visit with author Susan Wiggs.



Sean Anderson take a ride on his bike during the local parade.

Great Falls Public Library Director Receives Award

By Jude Smith,
Public Relations
Great Falls Public Library

Great Falls Public Library Director Kathy Mora and volunteer Pat Carroll received the Montana Literacy Award this fall for their work in developing the Little Free Libraries in Great Falls. This award was given by the Montana State Reading Council. According to the Council's website, any individual, agency or institution who promotes literacy within the community is eligible to receive the MSRC Literacy Award.

Ms. Mora, as the driving force for this project, worked tirelessly on bringing it to our community for over six months in co-operation with Neighborhood Councils, the Park and Recreation Department, NeighborWorks, community volunteers, and the three Great Falls High Schools. She continues to work with the caretakers of these libraries in each neighborhood in which they are placed, visits the libraries regularly, and helps to keep them stocked with books. Her commitment to not only this project, but bringing literacy to and enhancing our community, reflect in her continuing dedication to the Little Free Library project.

Mr. Carroll, who sits on the Park and Recreation Advisory Board, built the nine structures, purchased some of the building materials, and solicited donations of materials from local businesses. He also painted three of the structures.

Little Free Libraries are "take a book, return a book" gathering places where neighbors share books and stories. At its most basic, a little free library is a structure that holds books and is placed in a public area where community members can borrow a book and replace it with another. This program is popular nationwide.

Thanks to Ms. Mora and Mr. Carroll, Great Falls has nine such libraries in various parks around the city. These sites were determined by the Neighborhood Councils. The Park and Recreation Department installed the structures. Each neighborhood has a designated steward from the neighborhood it resides in and library staff, specifically, Ms. Mora, makes sure they are continually stocked with books. These books typically come from donations. Community members have been enthusiastic about the project.



Community members checking out one of the Little Free Libraries.



Annual Conference: Want an idea for your Christmas wish list? How about attendance at the 2015 Montana Library Association Conference, *Access for All: A Montana Value?* It will be held April 8-11, 2015 in Bozeman. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements regarding registration and previews of conference events! We are excited about the array of programs as well as some scheduling experiments.

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 the MLA website or contact Samantha Hines at (406)243-7818 or samantha.hines@umontana.edu.

PR & Marketing Opportunity: Do you sing? Can you dance? Can't do either but like to have fun? Contact MLA PR & Marketing Committee Chair Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson at lisameckjack@gmail.com to participate in a special library-related music video she is putting together. If there is enough interest, Lisa will put together the video to be shown at MLA in April! Come on! It will be fun!



It's Time to Nominate Award Winners

By Debbie Kramer,
Executive Director
Montana Library Association

Do you know someone who is very deserving of a Montana Library Associations Award? It's time to get your nominations prepared.

The Awards Committee invites you to send in your nominations for the 2015 Awards. Each nomination must consist of three letters of support; one from the nominator and two from other supporters of the nomination. No more than three letters of support will be considered by the committee. In addition, those nominating a work for the Media Award must provide the committee with a copy of the nominated work. All nominations will be confidential until the recommendations of the committee have been approved by the Board of Directors and the recipients notified. The deadline date should be set no later than the fourth Monday in January in order for the committee to complete its work. The Montana Library Association honors individuals and groups who have served the Association and/or the Montana library community with distinction. The Montana Library Association confers the following awards and honors:

- Honorary Life Membership Award
- Pat Williams Intellectual Freedom Award
- Interest Group Excellence Award
- Media Award
- School Administrator of the Year Award
- Special Friend to Libraries Award
- Trustee of the Year Award
- Legislator of the Year Award
- Outstanding Support Staff Award
- School Library Program of the Year Award
- Librarian of the Year Award
- Library of the Year Award

Nomination Guidelines:

- A. The committee chair will screen the nominations to check that they are complete. Copies of the nominations will be sent to committee members for review. Because the letters of support may provide information of historical interest about those nominated, the original letters of support should be sent to the Executive Director for retention in the Association's files/archives upon completion of the awards selection process.
- B. The committee should select only one recipient should be selected for the following awards: Library of the Year Award, Sheila Cates Award for Librarian of the Year, Trustee of the Year Award, and School Administrator of the Year Award. With the approval of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, the committee may select more than one recipient for the following awards, if in the judgment of the committee all recipients meet the criteria established for the award: Honorary Life Membership, Special Friend to Libraries Award, Intellectual Freedom Award, Media Award, and Interest Group Excellence Award.
- C. If, in the judgment of the committee, no nominees meet the criteria established for an award, no award will be conferred in that category.

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- D. The committee should complete its review of the nominations and select award recipients by February 15. The committee chair should recommend the award recipients in writing to the President for approval by the Board of Directors no later than March 1.
- E. The Intellectual Freedom Committee, while generally making the decision as to the recipients of the Intellectual Freedom Award, works closely with the Awards and Honors Committee. Solicitation for award nominations includes information about the Intellectual Freedom Award. If nominations for this award are received by the Awards and Honors Committee, they should be forwarded to the Intellectual Freedom Committee chair. The Intellectual Freedom Committee chair should inform the Awards and Honors Committee chair of the recipient(s) selected. The Awards and Honors Committee chair includes the recipients in notification correspondence and Awards Luncheon plans. The announcement of the Intellectual Freedom Award recipients may be made with the other recipients or made separately by the Intellectual Freedom Committee. The two committee chairs should work together to make these decisions.
- F. No awards may be presented on behalf of the Montana Library Association without the approval of the Board of Directors.

Nomination Categories:

Honorary Life Membership

Honorary life membership may be conferred upon an individual who either has made an outstanding contribution to librarianship or who has rendered outstanding service to library interests. To be eligible for honorary life membership, an individual shall have made a contribution of lasting importance to the field of librarianship. The contribution must be outstanding enough so there can be no question of his/her suitability. Only living persons may be considered for honorary life membership.

Library of the Year Award

The award is conferred upon any type of Montana library, library system, or library network for distinguished achievement in service. The staff, library board of administering body, and the community or people served shall all be involved in the work for which recognition is sought. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- User services.
- Development of innovative partnerships through networks, systems, cooperative planning and programming.
- Sound collection development policies.
- Offering opportunities for professional growth and job satisfaction for all employees.
- Improvement of physical facilities resulting in better services.

Sheila Cates Award for Librarian of the Year

The award is conferred upon a librarian in recognition of outstanding leadership and accomplishment in library service. The librarian must be currently employed in any field of librarianship in Montana and must be a current member of the Montana Library Association. The librarian must be in a professional librarian position. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Provision of high quality, community-centered library services.
- Contribution to any area of service benefiting users.
- Distinguished service to the profession, including outstanding participation in activities of professional library associations and/or notable publications.
- Leadership in education and in-service training for librarians.
- Leadership in cooperative activities.
- Outstanding development of library techniques, management, and/or facilities.

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Honorary Trustee of the Year Award

The award is conferred upon a Montana public library trustee in recognition of outstanding achievement and leadership. Nominations may be made by any library board, individual library, librarian, trustee, MLA member, or the Montana State Library Commission. Equal consideration shall be given to trustees of small and large libraries. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Service to the local library and participation in state and national activities.
- Constructive accomplishments in promoting library service shall be considered rather than the length of service as a trustee.
- Interest in and contribution to the development of library services beyond those of the local community.
- Achievements of nominees are judged according to criteria found in the Montana Public Library Trustee Manual.

School Administrator of the Year Award

The award is conferred upon a Montana school administrator in recognition of outstanding achievement and leadership in the development and promotion of school libraries. Nominations for this award should come from the librarian currently employed by the school district of the nominee. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Constructive accomplishment toward the advancement of library service to the students and teachers of the school.
- Development of sound school library policies.
- Creative and effective work in interpreting the library to the school board, school administration, teaching staff, students, and community.
- Fostering cooperative relations with other libraries in the area.
- Implementation of programs to address special needs or problems.
- Defense of intellectual freedom.
- Promoting and supporting the employment of professional librarians in schools.

Special Friend to Libraries Award

The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals or groups who are not members of the Montana Library Association and who have rendered outstanding service in support of library interests within Montana. The award is conferred simply as a reward for a job well done. Nominations are accepted only from members of the Montana Library Association. The award need not be based solely on service rendered during the previous year, but may be based on cumulative years of service.

Intellectual Freedom Award

The award is conferred upon an individual or group who has made significant contributions during the past year to the enhancement of First Amendment rights or upon an individual whose body of work over time has made significant contributions to the enhancement of intellectual freedom. The recipient should have demonstrated a clear understanding of the principles, nature and responsibilities and implications of the First Amendment. The recipient should be a Montanan or a non-Montanian whose contribution has a demonstrable effect on Montana. The recipient should have applied that understanding of the principles in one or more of the following ways:

- In defense of the principles in the face of a serious challenge to it which defense is not necessarily limited to libraries.
- In support of the principles through an active role in:
 - Formulating programs which develop people's ability to deal with a full range of opinion/controversy and with the issues associated with such controversy, or
 - Developing, or materially assisting in the development of, a legal base for the continued enjoyment of freedom of mind, its strengthening, and its defense, or

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- Expanding the philosophical foundations of the principle or contributing to better understanding of it.

Interest Group Excellence Award

The award is conferred upon an individual member of an MLA interest group, or upon an interest group as a whole, for meritorious service on behalf of Montana libraries and/or librarians. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Comprehensive projects which benefit the larger library community
- Exemplary programs or outstanding services which are not available through other channels
- Extraordinary assistance to other libraries and/or librarians in Montana

Media Award

The award is conferred to honor a production for broadcast or a work for publication which best underscores the value of libraries to community and society. This includes works prepared for television, radio, cable, film and/or print media. News articles/programs and documentaries also qualify. The broadcast or publication of the nominated work should be within the two year preceding the annual conference at which the award is to be made. A copy of the nominated work must be submitted to the Awards and Honors Committee for review.

Outstanding Support Staff of the Year

This award is conferred upon a Montana library Support Staff employee in recognition of outstanding service to the library profession and excellence in job performance. The Support Staff worker must be currently employed in a Montana library. The award shall be based upon, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Provision of high quality library services.
- Contribution to any area of service benefitting library users.
- Commitment to promoting library service and free access to information for all.
- Leadership in strengthening the image of library staff.
- Leadership in fostering communication between library workers.
- Active service in library activities at the local, state, regional, or national level.

School Library Program of the Year Award

This award is conferred upon a distinguished Montana Teacher-Librarian and the school library program in which they serve. This award recognizes the outstanding achievement of the teacher-librarian in fully integrating the school library program with curricular goals. A cash award of \$500.00 will be provided by Follett Library Resources to be used for library development. The award shall be based on, but not limited to, activities or accomplishments such as the following:

- Emphasis of the school library program's role in the instructional process through professionalism, collaboration, and design of library resources that are in support of curricular goals.
- Leadership in information literacy instruction through a variety of models for students, staff, and other community members.
- Administration of information management systems that support student learning and school and district programs.
- Establishment of a powerful, relevant, and ubiquitous culture of reading in the school community.

Presentation of Awards:

Awards are presented to the recipients at the Awards Luncheon during the annual conference. The chair of the Awards and Honors Committee serves as coordinator of the awards presentation segment of the luncheon. The chair should make arrangements with nominators to identify who will present awards to the recipients at the luncheon. Recipients should be informed that may make a brief response, if they wish.

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Recipients should also be informed of the date, place, time, and menu of the Awards Luncheon. This information may be obtained from the chair(s) of the conference Local Arrangements Committee.

- The Association provides each award recipient with two complimentary tickets for the Awards Luncheon. If printed and available, the tickets may be included in the letter of notification. Otherwise, tickets should be sent later or arrangements made for them to be picked up at the conference site. Nominators/presenters of awards do not receive complimentary luncheon tickets.
- Award recipients should also be notified that they may purchase additional luncheon tickets, if they wish. The chair should confirm whether recipients will attend the luncheon and who will present each award. The chair should also confirm how many people will be in each recipients group of supporters so that enough places for them may be reserved at the luncheon.
- Depending on the circumstances and on a very limited basis, the Association may provide a hotel room for a recipient, who is not a member of MLA and who is required to travel a long distance to the conference. Such an expense must be approved by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

Please send all nominations and letters of support to Co-Chairs Debbi Kramer and Eva English at debkmla@hotmail.com or mail them to PO Box 1352, Three Forks, MT 59752. The nominating committee is made up of 3 representatives from each library division.

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 an online readership of over 500.

If you are interested in placing an ad, or sponsoring the MLA Focus Newsletter, please send inquires, articles, ads, and reviews to the editor:

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