

ST-4

#### Montana State Report

The ASLD/PLD (Academic/Special and Public Library divisions) retreat will be held at Chico Hot Springs, in Pray, MT October 12-13. Programs include TechAtlas, Open Office, Digital Cameras, Koha open source ILS, and Facebook for libraries. The highlight of this retreat is often the Thermal Float and Book Club meeting in the pool, this year discussing *Oddballs, Geeks and Gangstas in the Public Library* by Dan Borchert.

A license for HeritageQuest genealogy database from ProQuest has been purchased for all Montana public libraries. Funding comes from 48 public libraries and LSTA funding from the Montana State Library. The subscription will run through September 2009.

The Montana-supported Central Asia Institute's Batangi Girls and Boys School, in the Neelam Valley, Azad Kashmir, Pakistan has been in operation for over a year. This school is funded by the Pennies for Peace campaign as well as other fund-raising plans developed by the CAI interest group of MLA. It costs \$5000 a year to operate the school.

The State Library is updating the Montana Library Certification Program to bring it in line with other certification programs and reflect new competencies for librarians. A 10-member focus group is being created to coordinate the update, which should be launched in 2010.

The High Plains Book Award, created by Parmly Billings Public Library will be given October 17. The award recognizes authors and works which reflect life on the high plains in North America and Canada.

One Book One Bozeman continues, highlighting *Mountains Beyond Mountains – The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World* by Tracy Kidder. Events include a photo display, programs on Haiti and book discussions.

Lewis and Clark Library, in Helena, is responding to a challenge to *The Joy of Gay Sex*.

The 9th annual Montana Festival of the Book takes place October 23 – 25 in Missoula, and includes such authors as Thomas McGuane, James Lee Burke, William Kittredge. Most events are free to the public.

The new MLA website should be up and running in November. Using Drupal software, it is designed to allow committees and divisions to update their information easily, making the site more current and useful to members and vendors.

The 2009 MLA conference will be in Kalispell – programs have been selected, and the conference planning committee is hard at work organizing!

Pam Henley  
Bozeman Public Library