

**NEW MEXICO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION REPORT
TO THE MOUNTAIN PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
FEBRUARY 23, 2002**

THE LIBRARY GO BOND BILL - HC 1327, the Library Bond Issue was heard before the House Capital Outlay Subcommittee on February 5. About 30 librarians and library supporters were on hand to show support for the bond proposal. Rep. Ed Sandoval, the Subcommittee Chairman and sponsor of HC 1327, moved the presentation to the beginning of the session because of the large number of people who came to hear it. As the bill's sponsor, he presented the proposal to the Committee, noting the importance of libraries in education a concern about outdated books in school libraries. He recognized the limitations of money available for general obligation bond projects, and said that the \$35 million might have to be adjusted.

Eileen Longworth, Director of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System, represented NMLA and the Library Bonds Task Force at the hearing. She stated that the proposal has a wide range of support among librarians, municipal officials, and educators, and assured the Committee that Governor Johnson had expressed a willingness to sign a proposal allowing voters to vote on the question.

Before the Legislature adjourned on February 14, the Senate and the House concurred with the Senate amendments and sent the bill to the Governor. The text pertaining to libraries appears to have been revised, placing the school, academic and public library proposals in one bond issue question.. The amount for the three types of libraries is reported to be set at \$16,080,000.

JOINT MEMORIAL IN THE LEGISLATURE - A study establishing a permanent funding mechanism for public school library materials acquisition that was a memorial initiated by the School Libraries Task Force.

LANL LIBRARY REOPENS - The Los Alamos National Laboratory Research Library, which has been closed to the public as a security precaution following the September 11 attacks, reopened to the public on February 11. Visitors will now be required to sign-in and out and show valid photo identification. Visitors will have access to the Research Library's book and journal collections, the electronic databases, and the electronic journal articles. However, visitors will not have access to either electronic or hard copy of Laboratory technical reports.

UPCOMING AMIGOS TRAINING IN SANTA FE - Amigos has scheduled "Digital Preservation in an Uncertain Future" on April 11 for all librarians and library staff in New Mexico in Santa Fe at the New Mexico State Library. This workshop will explore the nature of digital resources and hazards that can render them useless, then examine how institutions are combating the problem. Topics to be covered include file formats, software, hardware, current strategies like refreshing and migration, possible future strategies, and what you can do to ensure the near-term longevity of your digital resources.

LITERARY "HEAVIES" IN JEMEZ - Friends of the Jemez Springs Library lined up some of New Mexico's heaviest literary hitters for an Author Symposium on Saturday, February 2. N. Scott Momaday, Tony Hillerman, and Rudolfo Anaya were on hand in a celebration of New Mexico's tri-cultural heritage in a public forum with readings, discussions, questions to the authors, and autographs and book sales.

N. Scott Momaday, of Kiowa descent, is a Pulitzer Prize winning novelist, poet, literary critic, and PBS commentator. His novel, A House Made of Dawn, which won a Pulitzer, and a book of folklore, The Way to Rainy Mountain, are among his many publications.

Tony Hillerman, recognized for his mystery novels about the Navajo Nation, is known as a soldier, professor, award winning mystery writer, and chronicler of Navajo culture. Skinwalkers made the bestseller list in 1986 and won the Western Writers of America Spur Award and the Anthony Award.

Rudolfo Anaya, is a novelist, short story writer, playwright, professor, and is known as the "father of Chicano literature." His best-known and first novel was Bless Me Ultima. In 1972, Rudolfo Anaya was awarded the prestigious Premio Quinto Sol Award.

STATE LIBRARY ONLINE CATALOG - The New Mexico State Library has introduced a new way to do online searching through the web of its catalog, including the collections for State Archives and the Museum of New Mexico Library. Using the new iPAC, libraries and individuals can use Boolean searching on the Expanded search, and receive results during searching with the option of further focusing them.

HIGH FIVE US! - The *New Mexico Business Journal* (December 2001) named the New Mexico State Library's web site (<http://www.stlib.state.nm.us>) to be among its choices for the best web sites in the state for 2001. "There are at least 50,000 [web sites] in New Mexico alone," the "Best of the Web" article stated. Most are essentially useless. But there are some silver needles among this towering haystack, sites that are worth your attention if you're part of the New Mexico business community." The caption accompanying the State Library's site explains that the site is "nothing flashy," but it is "an excellent collection of links as well as a handy guide to surprisingly deep information vaults of the State Library."

INFORMATIONAL TECHNOLOGY GRANTS - The New Mexico State Library received a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for \$51,600 through the Foundation's State Partnership Program. The purpose of the Program is to provide funds for the promotion of long-term sustainability for public access computing and also to assist with costs for information technology training.

HARRY POTTER BOOKS BURNED - A local Alamogordo group of about 400 people received national media coverage on December 30 by burning Harry Potter books. Christ Community Church Pastor, Jack Brock, who condemned the popular series as "evil," led several hundred churchgoers at the Sunday night bonfire as books from the Harry Potter series and other materials were thrown into the flames.

Up to 800 protestors, according to the report in the December 31 *Alamogordo Daily News*, gathered across the street to condemn the bonfire. The announced burning brought protests from the Otero County Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, members of the county's Democratic and Republican parties, Wiccans, and members of other faiths.

Jim Preston, Director of the Alamogordo Public Library, expressed disagreement with Brock's analysis of "Harry Potter," but defended Brock's right to free expression. "Tolerance and unbridled access to information are fundamental cornerstones of our American way. Pastor Brock can choose to burn Harry Potter books at his church since that is his constitutional right, or one can go to the Public Library and choose or simply not choose to read Harry Potter books."

"Let each person be fully convinced in their own mind regarding what they think is right and let them choose that right. But let no one take away that right to exercise one's right to choose. Let each of us judge the Pastor's statements and actions for what they truly are."

NMLA STRATEGIC PLAN - The New Mexico Library Association has approved a strategic plan to be implemented over the next few years. Its goal is to increase NMLA's influence through legislative efforts, membership, and public relations. It will collaborate with regional, state, and national association to exert influence. A needs assessment survey has already been done toward this end.

NMLA's ANNUAL CONFERENCE - The annual conference will be held April 17-19, 2002 in Las Cruces. The theme is "Libraries: The Human Factor" with Nadine Strossen, President of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Professor of Law as the keynote speaker.

Submitted by Charlene Greenwood, NM State Representative