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MPLA Newsletter

A Publication of the Mountain Plains Library Association

February 2002

Volume 46 #4

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MPLA Listserv

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President's Letter

Debbie Iverson
MPLA President

Greetings fellow MPLA members,

Usually at this time of the year I am concerned about winter blizzards and hazardous driving, but northern Wyoming continues to enjoy a balmy winter. So, my energy has been focused on the process of appointing MPLA Committee Chairs and Committee members.

I have been thrilled with the many positive interactions I have had with old and new MPLA friends who pick up the phone to hear (or open an e-mail to see) a surprise inquiry from their President asking them to serve the association and their colleagues with a specific committee assignment. Most of you know and recognize the various activities of this association as happening in the sections and interest groups – public, academic, government publications, etc. While those sections are vital, so too are the various committees which handle our annual awards celebration at conference, the continuing education and professional development functions which are key to the effectiveness with which we are able to do our work, or the intellectual freedom issues which continue to challenge various libraries and states in our region.

When next you renew your membership in MPLA, please check a committee interest box; your involvement in the nominating, the public relations or another committee of your choice will have a

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(Continued from page 1)

positive impact on MPLA efforts to provide the kinds of resources and services needed by our community of users.

Other activities which have engaged my time and energy have to do with implementation of the Long Range Plan. The annual update to the plan has been posted on the MPLA Website. Thanks to all who helped with the implementation and thanks to our Webmaster Dan Chaney who posted the document so quickly!! We have accomplished much and we still have an ambitious list in front of us. Topping that list for me is the initiation of the MPLA (Ghost Ranch) Leadership Institute; you'll soon have an article in the newsletter on that exciting project and you'll also have seen an ad for an Institute Coordinator.

The final topic which currently captures my MPLA time is the plan to hold a virtual meeting of the MPLA Board in July. This excites me because it offers the possibility of truly accessible and open participation by MPLA members wherever they are, wherever they work, whether or not they have the funds to travel to meetings and conferences. It also challenges me to overcome some trepidation about the use of new technologies. With the assistance and guidance of the MPLA Electronic Communications Committee, under the thoughtful leadership of Carol Hammond and her able committee members, I am confident that our virtual electronic meeting will be successful.

In the meantime, to paraphrase Garrison Keillor, all above average MPLA librarians are encouraged to do good work, be well and have a good St. Patty's Day.

Debbie

- NEW -

Reports from MPLA State Representatives,
Sections, Committees, and Officers
now on the MPLA Webpage.

<http://www.usd.edu/mpla/documents/reports/>

Program Proposals due April 1 **Planning for MPLA Tri-Conference Underway**

**Jean Hatfield
MPLA Vice-President**



Plans are underway for the 2002 MPLA Conference, "Exploring New Pathways to Information," to be held

Oct. 2 - 5 in Fargo, ND. This is a tri-conference with the North Dakota Library Association, the South Dakota Library Association, and MPLA. It is promising to be an exciting conference - the hotel facilities are great and Fargo will be a fun city to visit (and I mean that! There are great attractions near the hotel and other tourist attractions in the city that will make it a good trip for the whole family).

BUT, a conference is only as good as the programs planned by its members. Those of you who have responsibilities as section chairs should be working on your program proposals now. The proposal form is at <http://ndsl.lib.state.nd.us/ndla/02confproposal.pdf>

Note - the program proposals are due April 1st (no foolin'!) and the committee will be meeting on April 6 to decide what programs will be accepted, and to map out a draft of the schedule. We have a tight timeframe for this conference and we need everyone's help in making it a success.

So take a look at the program proposal form and talk it over with others in your section to plan programs that are interesting, enlightening, and not to be missed. Think about co-sponsoring with the corresponding sections from NDLA and SDLA. Following on the next page is contact information for those groups.



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and Special Collections Section**

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SDLA

No corresponding section

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask!

UW Offers Online Masters

*New Degree First of its Kind
in Western Region*



A new program at the UW will make it possible for aspiring librarians to get the education they need to advance their careers, without having to relocate or leave their jobs.

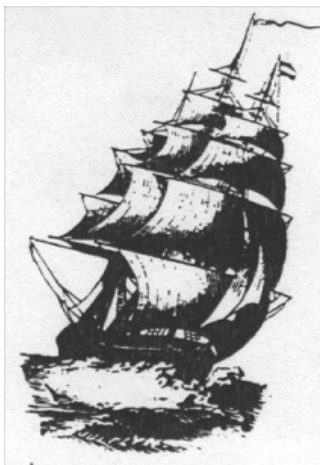
Starting this fall, the Information School of the University of Washington will offer an online Master's degree in Library and Information Science (MLIS). The UW Information School is the only American Library Association accredited institution in the Northwest, making this the first such degree by a school in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah

and Nevada.

"We know we will see many people leave the workforce in libraries in the next decade," said Jim Schepcke, state librarian at the Oregon State Library. In the next few years, younger librarians with master degrees "can look forward to advancing very rapidly into well-paying positions," he said.

The distance-learning format is convenient for working professionals who don't have the luxury of time and mobility to pursue an education. But the UW's use of short campus sessions also gives students the opportunity to meet their instructors and to network with other students, maintaining the benefits of an on-site degree. The 63-credit degree will take students about three years to complete.

"How do MPLA libraries use Pattern Research?"



Library trustee training in NV, NE, KS, SD, and ND

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Communication workshops in all 12 MPLA states

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We provide entertaining and practical programs for libraries and library organizations of all sizes, for volunteers, staff, directors, and board members. See our Website for a current list of typical programs and our travel calendar.

“We have a number of staff who’d love to get a degree in library science, but they are working full time, and they are unable to pick up and move to Seattle for a couple of years,” said Michael Wirt, library director, Spokane County Library District. “I think this is a wonderful opportunity.”

To apply, candidates need a bachelor’s degree with a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 and a GRE score. A TOEFL score is required for international students. The Information School requires a personal statement, transcripts, and three letters of recommendation. The application deadline is March 15, 2002.

For application materials, please call (206) 543-2320 or (800) 543-2320, or e-mail requests@ese.washington.edu.

Your Library:

A Safe Place?

Dail Barbour
Teton County Library, Jackson WY

EDITOR’S NOTE: Dail Barbour is the Facility Manager at the Teton County Library in Jackson, WY. Part of her job is security (which she claims was assigned to her when she missed a meeting!). However she has completed her Certified Institutional Protection Manager(CIPM) certification and continues to attend security sessions whenever possible. MPLA supported Dail’s attendance at the IFCPP(International Foundation for Cultural Property Protection) conference this year and encouraged her to contribute security information to the organization. This is a series of safety steps Dail has taken in her library that are relatively cheap and available almost everywhere. Contact her at dbarbour@will.state.wy.us with questions.

Security in public buildings is always a challenge especially in libraries where a basic part of the mission is to be open and accessible to everyone. It can be difficult to assume a protective stance towards staff and patrons while maintaining an atmosphere conducive to learning and access to information. Library budgets often don’t leave room for security equipment, especially in small

towns with low crime rates. Staff members can be difficult to enlist in security precautions when they have been lucky to live in an area where they have experienced little crime personally or at work.

At our library in northwestern Wyoming, all of these concerns have been issues for us. During construction of our new library four years ago, an intruder spent the night in the old library severely frightening the librarian arriving in the morning. This certainly had an influence on our thinking and a security system was installed in the new building. Rarely, does reality(or available funding) so conveniently influence a decision process. However, we have discovered that a good security system is just a start and that staff’s investment in prevention measures on a daily basis is equally as important. The following suggestions are steps we have taken in our library to encourage this.

1. Establish partnerships with local law enforcement, the Department of Family Services, and the local mental health center if available. All of these agencies have expertise which can help the library establish policies and procedures to deal with potentially bad situations. Our police department and mental health center do a joint presentation for the staff once a year which gives them information about which situations require law enforcement and what kinds of other help are available if that is not needed. The Department of Family Services has also provided guidelines to help the staff deal with unattended minors-the “babysitting problem” that is endemic in libraries.
2. Get your board involved and generate good policies for their approval. Recruiting board members from some of the agencies mentioned can be very helpful in encouraging support for prevention security measures.
3. Control your keys. One person should be in charge, give out the absolute minimum, and know who has them. Try to restrict them to internal doors. Keypads are a good way to provide entry and you can easily reprogram as staff turnover

occurs.

4. Keep all spaces you cannot monitor locked. This especially includes auditoriums and meeting rooms when not in use as patrons can be creative about getting into and using empty rooms.

5. Prominently post library policies about patron responsibilities while in the library. Don't take care of packages, backpacks, or any personal belongings and encourage staff to be alert to unattended items. Administration is responsible for assessing abandoned parcels or backpacks in our library and uses guidelines furnished by local law enforcement.

6. Panic buttons are a relatively inexpensive security measure. They provide a silent alarm

which is immediately transmitted to the local police who respond. All of our public desks have them and staff is encouraged to carry them to lock up at night if they wish.

7. Provide staff continuing information and "tune-ups" about security measures. This should include an orientation for all new staff about building security measures with a copy of the emergency plan for the building. Regular fire drills should be practiced and presentations about prevention and security improvements can be included in staff meetings.

8. Provide "cheat sheets" at your public desks which contain emergency phone numbers and procedures such as how to react to a bomb threat

(Continued on page 8)

Laura Bush Addresses Nation's Critical Shortage of Librarians

\$10 Million to Recruit New Librarians

Recently Laura Bush announced a proposed \$10 million initiative for 2003 to recruit a new generation of librarians. The initiative will be managed by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. In announcing this initiative Mrs. Bush said, "In May 2000, *Library Journal* magazine reported 40% of America's library directors plan to retire in nine years or less. And, according to the July 2000 Monthly Labor Review, in 1998 57% of professional librarians were age 45 or older."

Recruiting a new generation of librarians is vital. Research scheduled for publication in the March 2002 issue of *American Libraries* magazine will show that based on 1990 Census data almost 58% of professional librarians will reach the age of 65 between 2005 and 2019.

Dr. Robert S. Martin, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent federal agency that supports the nation's 122,000 libraries, said, "The signing of the 'No Child Left

Behind Act' this week is a great achievement. This recruitment initiative is a further indication of the depth of the President and Mrs. Bush's commitment to education. Recruiting and educating the next generation of librarians is essential. They help parents teach their children before they enter school, they are partners with the schools in their communities and they help adults continue to achieve and enjoy learning throughout their lifetimes."

Funds will be used to invest in a variety of recruitment efforts such as scholarships and fellowships for master's programs; support for doctoral students who will train the next generation of librarians; leadership development; distance learning for underserved rural areas; and efforts to recruit librarians to serve increasingly diverse communities with varying language skills.

Mrs. Bush made the announcement at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library in Kansas.

(See related story on page 17 of this issue)

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on the phone. These should not be visible to the public but readily available for staff. We velcro ours in place (along with our panic buttons) so they don't get lost and stay in the same place consistently and the locations are part of our staff orientation.

Most of these suggestions don't involve expensive solutions and we, like most small libraries, don't have professional security personnel. However, encouraging an atmosphere of awareness among your staff and providing training from local sources to help them are basic steps available in all communities. Informative and helpful sessions about security are often available at state and regional library conferences. The personal contacts gained from attending these presentations, as well as the information provided, can help throughout the year when questions and/or problems arise. As librarians, we all know there is no such thing as access to too much information!

Business Sense

Jean Anderson
Business Librarian
Fort Collins Public Library, CO

Be Tax Savvy!

It's that time of year again, time to begin thinking about taxes. A tax headache is only one mistake away, be it a missed payment or filing deadline, an improperly claimed deduction, or incomplete records. And, you can safely assume that a tax auditor presenting an assessment of additional taxes, penalties, and interest will not look kindly on an "I didn't know I was required to do that" claim. Here are some great Internet sites to help you get a working knowledge of how the tax system works for the small businessperson.

IRS Tax Information for Business

www.irs.ustreas.gov/bus_info/index.html

The federal government provides tons of information for the business owner. Some of the more interesting links are listed below:

- *Small Business Corner* - information on starting and operating a new small business.
- *Frequently Asked Business Tax Questions* - questions and answers for small businesses, self-employed persons, and others.
- *Employee Plans Center* - provides insights into employee retirement plans.
- *Federal, State and Local Government* - tax information for federal, state, and local governments.
- *Tax Calendars* - helps find important individual, business, and excise tax dates. This site also has a tax calendar for small businesses. It contains helpful hints, general tax information, a listing of the most common tax filing dates and more, all in one comprehensive publication. (The calendar can be downloaded).
- *Braintaxer* - an interactive game to test your knowledge of a specific IRS or tax related topic.
- *Digital Dispatch* - an e-mail service of the IRS providing daily messages with information on the IRS and taxes.

U.S. Business Advisor (sponsored by SBA)

www.business.gov

Click on the "Taxes" link to find answers and guidance on common business tax questions. Find out the latest about Social Security, how to submit an IRS e-file for businesses, read tax regulations in plain English, download forms, and much, much more. The U.S. Business Advisor site also has many other services for the businessperson and is sponsored by the Small Business Administration.

Small Business Taxes and Management

www.smbiz.com/

Designed as a daily newsletter, this site provides current news on taxes and management. Click on the "News and Tip of the Day" for today's update along with updates from previous days. Look here for the newest information on tax rulings and tables. The site also contains a glossary of tax terms and a synopsis of the Tax Relief Extension Act of 1999. Note: This Web page has been designated a *Dow Jones Business Directory* select site.

Nolo Press

www.nolo.com/category/tax_home.html

Nolo Press provides many pages of help to individuals and small business owners. The Taxes and Audits page includes links to their online encyclopedia on topics such as audits and appeals, how to deal with the IRS, tax bills, and small business taxes. Take a look at other links on this page such as "Tax Savvy for Small Businesses." Or, look at the FAQ section on "Small Business Taxes." Note: Nolo Press publishes legal assistance books written in plain English and beware, they aggressively market them on their Web site.

Quick Tip: Need Tax Forms?

Federal: www.irs.ustreas.gov/prod/forms_pubs/forms.html

States: www.lib.lsu.edu/govdocs/taxes.html

Suggestions for future "Business Sense" columns are welcome at anderson@libs.ci.fort-collins.co.us.

Outstanding Educators Honored in Oklahoma by OASLMS

Three Oklahoma educators were honored by the Oklahoma Association of School Library Media Specialists (OASLMS), a division of the Oklahoma Library Association, at Encyclo-Media, a statewide conference sponsored by the Oklahoma State Department of Education on Sept. 27, 2001.

The **OASLMS Polly Clarke Award for Outstanding Library Media Services** was given to Linda Gann, library media specialist at Jenks East Elementary in Jenks. The **OASLMS Barbara Priestersbach Award for Excellence in Teaching** was awarded to Sally Siewert and Carolyn LaBrue, third grade teachers at McKinley Elementary in Enid. The **OASLMS Certificate of Merit for Promotion of School Library Media Services** was awarded to Bill Caruthers, superintendent of Geary Public Schools in Geary.

EBSCO AD



MPLA Featured State OKLAHOMA



The Oklahoma Library Association is a vital organization for libraries in Oklahoma. The members of the association are active, hard working individuals dedicated to excellent library services, continuing education and freedom of information. The Oklahoma Library Association supports all aspects of librarianship in our state: academic, public, school, and special libraries.

OLA was founded on May 17, 1907 to “Promote library interests in Oklahoma” with 19 charter members. The first President was M. J. Ferguson from the University of Oklahoma Library. Dues were 50 cents for the first year and \$1.00 thereafter. Membership was open to anyone interested in libraries in Oklahoma.

95 years later, the Oklahoma Library Association has over a thousand members and annual dues are still a bargain, they range from \$18 to \$91 depending on member’s salary. Our purpose is to strengthen the quality of libraries, library services, and librarianship in Oklahoma. Our president is Wayne Hanway, Director of the Southeastern Public Library System in McAlester, OK. Wayne has been an active and supportive MPLA member since 1982. He was recently chair of the MPLA Awards Committee and has been on the MPLA Nominating Committee.

Continuing education is one of the great strengths of our organization. In addition to the annual spring conference, OLA sponsors 8-10 workshops a year in locations around the state. Our legislative committee is particularly strong, actively educating our legislators on current library and information access issues.

OLA sponsors the highly successful Sequoyah

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I am Basha
Hartley,
Oklahoma
Library

Association Representative for the Mountain Plains Library Association. I am a librarian for the Pioneer Library System, a three county public library system headquartered in Norman, OK. I have at various times worked in five of the nine Pioneer libraries. I have been Children’s Services Manager at the Norman Public Library for over 10 years and still love talking to two year olds, but at the moment I am Assistant Branch Manager at the Shawnee Public Library. My husband, John, is an archaeologist, and we have three sons.

My membership in the Oklahoma Library Association has been a continuing adventure. The excellent conferences, workshops and retreats have brought me new ideas, new friends and much growth. My peers are not just those folks in the cubicles around me, but folks in little tiny libraries tucked away in rural Oklahoma and librarians in great metropolitan areas. Together we work to enrich libraries across the state. I have, with a great deal of help from the Membership Committee, shepherded the OLA store at conferences. We have developed new merchandise every year to coordinate with each OLA President’s theme. Our theme this year is “Oklahoma Libraries: Where it’s @!” And our colors are teal and purple. We are developing khaki denim shirts and polo shirts with the logo, as well as teddy bears with t-shirt logos, letter openers and mugs. Every year has been a different adventure with the OLA store, but each year we raise needed funds for our organization and entuse new committee members who have a wonderful time developing merchandise to promote our mission.

I have been a member of MPLA for ten years. I discovered Mountain Plains Library Association at the AzLA/MPLA/AEMA conference in Phoenix, AZ where I was sent to give a paper in 1991. No one remembers the paper, least of all myself, but I do remember the great conference and the exciting but friendly atmosphere. Enjoying one MPLA Conference is like eating just one jellybean. It’s hard to stop with just one. I have been to MPLA Conferences in Kansas,

(Continued on page 11)

OK First Amendment Congress just the Ticket

The Third Annual Oklahoma First Amendment Congress was a record breaker. The event, held Nov. 8 and 9 at the University of Central Oklahoma, attracted 232 participants – triple the participation of previous years.

Oklahoma's library community has been a major player in planning the Congresses, which are sponsored by a special committee of Freedom of Information Oklahoma. The Congress grew out of a project to help public libraries in the state purchase materials on First Amendment issues. Committee members this year included Kay Boies, OLA Executive Director, and OLA members Janet Brooks, Metropolitan Library System; Jan Keene, Tulsa City-County Library System; and Bill Young, Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Committee members said there were a number of reasons why this year's Congress was so successful:

- Committee chairman Sue Hale, executive editor of *The Oklahoman*, invited some of the leading national authorities on Freedom of Information and First Amendment issues. It was a very strong program.
- For the first time, FOI was able to obtain approval from the Oklahoma Bar Association to offer continuing legal education units. 45 attorneys attended.

(Continued from page 10)

Nebraska, Utah, South Dakota, Oklahoma and this year Arizona again! MPLA Conferences are unique because of the great MPLA members. MPLA members are friendly, cheerful, good-hearted people who are willing to invite a shy new librarian to join the gang for a drink and a good chin wag. MPLA members from big cities and tiny towns are united in their passion for good libraries and good customer service. We may wear jeans and sweatshirts, but we are professionals down to the pointy tips of our cowboy boots.

Mountain Plains Library Association has been a great experience. My life has been enriched with new friends, continuing education opportunities, and a shared enthusiasm for libraries and librarianship.



Participants in Oklahoma's First Amendent Congress.

- A special Education Day attracted more than 40 students, teachers and student publications advisers.
- The tragic events of Sept. 11 and subsequent legislation have put First Amendment issues on the front burner, along with security issues.

The committee also hosted an essay contest for college and high school age students. The students were asked to write about the impact technology has had on the First Amendment. The only other rule was a limit of 500 words or less. Beyond that, students were told to let "creativity reign." More than 90 essays were submitted. The winners were:
(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 10)

Book Awards for children and young adults. These are students' choice awards designed to encourage young Oklahomans to read outstanding literature. With this award, OLA honors the Native American leader Sequoyah for his unique achievement in creating the Cherokee syllabary.

The Oklahoma Library Association Executive Director is Kay Boies. It has been our honor to work with Kay for 18 years. Kay brings out the best in our OLA members; she is unfailingly cheerful, resourceful, and supportive. We are proud of our library association. Visit us on the Web at www.oklibs.org or call us at (405) 348-0506.

(Continued from page 11)

- First place, and a computer, went to David McCrary of the University of Tulsa. David's essay contrasted the two years it took for some slaves in Texas to hear of their emancipation with the two seconds it takes for information to travel around the world today.
- Second place, and a DVD/CD player, went to Emily Gard of Perry High School for her essay on the Internet search for her birth parents. Emily's essay focused on the conflict between her rights to information and the privacy rights of biological parents.
- Third place, and a Palm Pilot, went to Carrie Spielman of Edmond Santa Fe High School, for her overview of the issue.

The first day of the congress, Nov. 8, was billed as Education Day. Special guest for the day was Bennett Haselton, creator of Peacefire.org. Haselton began Peacefire in 1996 to represent the interests of people under 18 in the debate over freedom of speech on the Internet. His reports on blocking software have been featured on national news shows and have been used as evidence in federal court cases testing the constitutionality of filtering software in libraries.

Other guests included Stan Ketterer, assistant professor at Oklahoma State University, who presented a session on Web resources; and Joey Senat, another OSU assistant professor, who moderated a role playing exercise for participants. At the last session of the day, a panel of student editors and advisers from area colleges and universities shared their experiences of dealing with First Amendment issues while producing campus newspapers.

Oklahoma Literary Landmarks

"I don't sing any silly or jerky songs, nor any songs that make fun of your color, your race, the color of your eyes or the shape of your stomach or the shape of your nose...I

sing songs that people made up to help them do more work, to get somewhere in this old world, to fall in love and to get married and to have kids."—Woody Guthrie

On Oct. 5, 2001 Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO), designated Okemah as a Literary Landmark in honor of Woody Guthrie. It was the first step in FOLIO's Oklahoma Literary Landmarks Celebration, an official Oklahoma Centennial project. Other Literary Landmarks in the United States are the Thomas Jefferson Building at the Library of Congress, the Plaza Hotel of Eloise fame, and the William Faulkner home in Oxford, Mississippi. The guidelines for Literary Landmark status come from Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA). FOLIO is a member of FOLUSA as local Oklahoma Friends are members of FOLIO. Michael Wallis, author of *Route 66* and an indispensable library supporter, chaired the Oklahoma Literary Landmark Steering Committee. The committee discussed many of Oklahoma's excellent authors such as Lynn Riggs, Will Rogers, John Berryman, Ralph Ellison, and Angie Debo, but they selected Woody Guthrie to be the first. For his thousands of songs and poems, for his autobiographical novel *Bound for Glory*, for his love of America, he and his birthplace deserved it. One of his thousands of songs, *This Land is Your Land*, is among the most beloved songs of the twentieth century. Another, *The Oklahoma Hills*, is Oklahoma's official state song. We also knew that Smithsonian exhibit on Woody Guthrie will be in Oklahoma in early 2002.

The day started with a meeting of Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO), the major sponsor. Friends live all around the state and they meet when they get together. Library Friends and the people of Okemah ate good Oklahoma barbecue and got to know each other. A drawing was held and a student from Virginia Beach, VA won a children's book, *This Land is Your Land*, beautifully illustrated by Kathy Jakobsen. She was asked to read it to a child. She could easily do that since she is going to be an elementary teacher. She was also asked to take it back home and donate

Welcome to MPLA

New Members



ARIZONA

Ruby Gordon
Retired

SOUTH DAKOTA

Beverly Lewis
Rawlins Municipal Library

KANSAS

Kimberlee Ried
Kansas City Public Library

WYOMING

Ejenita Calton
Carbon County Library

NEBRASKA

Alicia Graybill
Fairbury Public Library

Lori Clark-Erickson
Teton County Library

NEVADA

Jean Adams
Amargosa Valley Community Library

Sheri Levasseur
Teton County Library

Karen Dannehl
Great Basin College Library

Judy Morris
Burlington School Library

Anita Guymon
Wells Combined Schools

Peggy Norris
Powell Branch Library

Eileen Horn
Clark County School District

Pat Robbins
Mountain View Middle School Library

NEW MEXICO

Ana Vigil
Librarian/teacher

Timothy Skeers
University of Nevada Las Vegas

Debbie Schlinger
Teton County Library

NORTH DAKOTA

Liz Mason
North Dakota State University

Susan Williams
Clark County Library



Meet your MPLA Section Chairs in the next issue
of the MPLA newsletter!

it to her public library. She promised to do that. Michael Wallis donated first edition copies of all his books to Bonnie Crawford, the Okemah Public Library librarian.

With Woody's sister in attendance, a plaque was unveiled at the Crystal Theater. It reads: "Friends of Libraries USA, Literary Landmarks Register - Okemah, Oklahoma, nestled in the Oklahoma Hills and the birthplace on July 14, 1912 of Woody Guthrie, the renowned poet and folk singer. The hometown that influenced songs such as the American classic *This Land is Your Land* and scores of other songs, poems, and books including his autobiographical novel *Bound for Glory*, is designated a Literary Landmark by Friends of Libraries U.S.A., Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma, FOLIO – October 5, 2001."

As the dedication began each child was given an Oreo, a cookie created in 1912, the year that Woody Guthrie was born. The band, Doublenotspyz played Woody Guthrie songs. Michael Wallis introduced the people and groups who made the day possible. Then Dr. Guy Logsdon, a Smithsonian Scholar, stood on stage alone and made all of us really understand why this town and Woody deserved to be honored over and over again. Accompanied by his guitar he sang Woody's songs. As he ended his presentation the entire audience stood spontaneously to sing, This Land is Your Land. Hopefully this will be one more way for Okemah to let the world know whom and where they are.

Watch for an announcement about the Oklahoma Literary Landmark for 2002.

Where It's @? The OLA Conference, of course!

"Oklahoma Libraries: Where It's @" is the theme of the 95th annual Oklahoma Library Association Conference. This year's conference will be held

April 17-19, 2002 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown Tulsa, OK. Anne Prestamo and the Program



Committee as well as Carol Fox and the Local Arrangements Committee have been hard at work to make this the best conference ever.

A few of the highlights:

The Wednesday preconference programs will focus on issues important to librarians in 2002: "Reorganizing Libraries" will look at the problems and possibilities of staffing and organization in the world of electronic reference and ordering. "Bugs & Slime" will deal with environmental problems in libraries. The Sequoyah Awards will be presented on Wednesday also. A new feature this year will be a golf tournament to be held at the Battle Creek Golf Course in Broken Arrow. The tournament will be a fundraiser for the Ruth Brown Memorial Award. The course location, description and layout are available at <http://www.battlecreekgc.com>.

The programs on Thursday and Friday will cover a wide spectrum of topics: from learning styles to filtering to a look at the best reference sources and our state databases.

Cecile Richards will give the keynote address to the opening general session on Thursday morning. Ms. Richards currently works for the Turner Foundation and was formerly the founder and executive director of the Texas Freedom Foundation.

The Thursday all-conference event will have an Oklahoma theme this year. Our featured guest will be Gene McFall who will perform his engaging one-man show, a portrayal of Will Rogers. When asked why Will Rogers is still so popular, McFall answers: "Will really understood human nature and human nature doesn't change." Various OLA divisions and committees will again provide gift baskets for

the silent auction to be held during the dinner. Proceeds from the auction will go to the OLA scholarship fund.

Tulsa author William Bernhardt will be the speaker at the Friday evening banquet. Mr. Bernhardt has written fifteen books including the series featuring attorney Ben Kincaid. He is a popular speaker and has received many state and regional honors including being the youngest author ever inducted to the Oklahoma Writers Hall of fame. For more information see his Website <http://www.williambernhardt.com>. Just for fun, his Website includes a couple of crossword puzzles he created.

The conference preview guide should be in the mail soon and you can check the OLA Website for information as it becomes available (<http://www.oklibs.org>).

Around the MPLA Region



ARIZONA

AzLA/MPLA Joint Conference -- The 2001 AzLA/MPLA Conference will go down in history as a smashing success! Attendance was close to 1,000 people from 12 states.

Couldn't get to a program at the conference? Unable to copy everything down from that favorite program? Don't worry! Handouts, slide presentations and links to Websites are on the conference Website at <http://www.azla.org/2001>. AzLA Awards are also listed with pictures and information about the recipients.

Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Libraries focus of national conference -- "Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums: Preserving Our Language, Memory and Lifeways" will be held May 7-10, 2002 at the Mesa Centennial Center in Mesa, AZ. The conference is supported by a national leadership grant from

the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Tribal libraries, museums and archives, are steadily increasing across Indian Country since their first wave of development more than thirty years ago. Many early tribal cultural centers sought to combine museum, library and archive components in response to federal programs designed to enhance economic opportunity and education. These cultural centers remain in operation despite the lack of substantial federal or tribal support. Recently, tribes have established cultural centers as part of a tourism based economic development package, and as a consequence of cultural resource management initiatives.

Virtually all of the tribal cultural centers in existence today share similar challenges of funding, staff training and education, management, collections development, community support, and tribal political support. Tribal cultural programs also carry the added responsibility of honoring the cultural past while preserving and revitalizing its future.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has supported a multi-state, multi-year project that targets tribal libraries, archives, museums, and cultural centers.

Through a National Leadership Grant, the five western states of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah assessed, developed programs, and established communication networks with

Coming...April 2002
One Book AZ
Many Readers...One Book in Common.

One Book AZ, a new program for participants statewide to read and discuss the same book--kicks off April 2002 during the Arizona Book Festival.

Join this event by ordering multiple copies of *Animal Dreams* by Barbara Kingsolver, and scheduling it for April book discussions.

Information: Karen Drake 480.782.2817 or visit WWW.TEMPE.GOV/MCLC

One Book AZ sponsored by MCLC (Maricopa County Library Council), with the State Library and the Arizona Humanities Council

tribal libraries, archives, and museums. A highlight of the grant project was a regional conference held in June of 2000. The conference focused on tribal libraries, museums, and archives, language programs, cultural preservation and education departments, as well as tribal NAGPRA programs. The opportunity to network and to learn about resources of support was soundly supported by participants. Based on the success of that regional gathering, the project has been extended to develop a national conference. "Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums: Preserving our Language, Memory and Lifeways," shares the theme and goals of the regional conference.

The conference is designed to: create a network of support for tribal cultural institutions and programs; articulate contemporary issues related to the development of tribal libraries, archives, and museums; and encourage collaboration among tribal and non-tribal cultural institutions. We invite you to join us as we reflect on the past and look to the future of tribal libraries, archives, and museums. Registration information is available at <http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/aip/5stateproject>.

COLORADO

New library focuses on African Americans -- Construction of Denver Public Library's African American Research Library began with a ground breaking on Feb. 2, 2002. The AARL is slated to open in the Spring of 2003. The Library will be unique to the Rocky Mountain region and will focus on the history, literature, art, music, religion, and politics of African American people in Denver and throughout the Rocky Mountain West. The design is for a three-story 40,000 square foot space housing a full-service branch library, the AARL Archives and Research Library, an exhibition space, and parking for 65 cars.

Information on CIPA compliance available -- The Colorado Library Association (soon to be Colorado Association of Libraries) Intellectual Freedom Committee has prepared informational fliers on

compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) for e-rate funding, and on alternative methods for managing Internet access. These documents are available in PDF format from the CLA Website at <http://www.cla-web.org>.

Library Legislative Day sample letter -- The CLA/CEMA Library Legislative Day Workshop and Luncheon will take place Thursday, Feb. 21, 2002. A sample invitation letter that one can customize and send to legislators is available from the CLA Website. Online registration for the workshop and luncheon is available. The program runs from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Denver Public Library.

Hoping to revise library laws -- A bill will be introduced in the 2001-2002 session of the Colorado State Legislature to revise the Library Law portion of the Colorado Statutes. The CLA Legislative Committee's Library Law Task Force has reviewed the law, identified problems and proposed revisions. A sizable group of interested CLA members attended a conference session on the proposed changes and their collective comments have been reviewed. Additional changes have been made and a legislative drafter is currently formatting the proposed revisions into senate bill format. Senator Bill Thiebaut from Pueblo has agreed to be the primary sponsor. A House sponsor has not yet been named. An explanation of the primary proposed revisions is available at <http://www.cla-web.org/librarylawrevision.htm>.

KANSAS

First Lady visits Topeka Shawnee Library (Excerpts from an article appearing in the *Topeka Capital-Journal*) -- "For a while Wednesday [Jan. 9, 2002], Laura Bush looked more like the first librarian of the United States than its first lady.

Taking a page from her days as a school librarian, the wife of President Bush read to a group of Topeka schoolchildren at the newly expanded and renovated Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. She held the book up high and to her right so the Randolph Elementary School third-graders

could follow the pictures, as well as the words.

Although she would during the course of her day perform more traditional first lady roles — ribbon cutting, after-dinner speaking, and some politicking on her husband's behalf — Mrs. Bush clearly was in a place she loved — a library — doing something in which she believed — promoting reading.

“There's nothing quite like a trip to the library. Whether you choose a casual stroll down the aisles of books or a speedy trip along the Information Superhighway, libraries will allow you to journey as far and as wide as your imagination wants to go,” Mrs. Bush said in a speech Wednesday night that ended her day in Topeka.

Mrs. Bush was the honored guest at a by-invitation-only gala to honor those who contributed money, time, or political support to the just-completed expansion and renovation of the library.

Mrs. Bush's visit to Topeka was the result of a Topekan, former state senator and city council member Marge Petty, who has maintained a friendship with the first lady that dates back to their childhood in Texas.

Mrs. Bush praised Topeka's historical support of the library, noting it began as the result of a women's committee that pre-empted a male effort to establish



Gala Gallery Gathering

The Topeka Shawnee County Public Library was the site of an Alice C. Sabatini Gallery opening on Jan. 5, 2002. Over 300 attended the opening, commemorating the endowment established to honor the late Mrs. Sabatini by her husband, Frank Sabatini, and sons Marc, Matt, Mike and Dan, and Capital City Bank. The Gallery houses Topeka's oldest permanent art collection in the state of Kansas, with over 3,000 items including contemporary American ceramics, Art Nouveau, West African cultural objects, regional paintings, and late Chinese decorative arts. The Gallery's first show features Sabatini's lifeworks in a variety of media (paint, charcoal, and watercolor).

a library. The first library opened on March 11, 1871, with 40 new books and a secondhand bookcase in the corner of a dry goods store.”

For the full *Capital Journal* story, see <http://www.cjonline.com>

Cooperative effort brings images of Wichita's history to Internet -- Browse through many years of photographs documenting Wichita's history online at the Wichita Photo Archive (<http://specialcollections.wichita.edu/wdl/frontpage.asp>). The Wichita Public Library Local History Section, Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, and Wichita State University Libraries' Department of Special

Collections have collaborated on a pilot program designed to provide the citizens of Wichita and others with convenient and free access to the institutions' archives via the World Wide Web. The site officially launched on Kansas Day, Jan. 29, 2002

“This is a success story on so many levels,” states Heidi Dressler, Local History Librarian at the Wichita Public Library. “Not only did the three repositories work exceedingly well together, we've also developed a very usable, informative, and entertaining site. Too few people know what excellent local history resources our three organizations can provide, so we hope that this Website will highlight our

collections and also spark interest in Wichita's history."

The Wichita Photo Archive currently has approximately 150 pictures available, a fraction of the resources available from the three institutions. "Depending on the feedback we get from the community, we would like to add more to the archive," states Michael Kelly of Wichita State University Libraries' Department of Special Collections. "Before we invest more in the project, we need to determine its usefulness. We would love to hear from our visitors." A feedback form has been provided to encourage users to comment.

For more information, please contact Heidi Dressler at (316) 261-8500.

MONTANA

State association is busy, busy -- The Montana Library Association is gearing up for several important events this spring, and presently are soliciting nominations for the annual awards given at the spring convention. The Marketing and Public Relations Committee has worked with a school art department on the



design of a poster with the theme "The Sky's the Limit at Montana Libraries," which is the theme for the convention this year. The poster will depict a beautiful Montana sunrise with "blurbs" in the bursts of light about MLA activities and benefits, and library activities throughout the state.

Technology conference offers networking, chocolate -- Feb. 21-23 will see a group of MLA librarians in Kalispell, MT for the annual Offline Conference, sponsored by the Offline Interest Group of MLA. Offline is a conference about library-related automation along with opportunities for "networking" while librarians learn about the latest technologies and programs. The conference always features plenty of "chocolate breaks" and this year will have sleigh rides and an evening of cowboy entertainment at Big Mountain. Conference sessions include "New Technologies for Libraries" by the Executive Director for Information Services at Montana State University, a class on "Ergonomics," and Charles F. Thomas, the Digital Projects Coordinator at the University of Minnesota Libraries, is offering a pre-conference session on "XML Basics." There will be further sessions on database construction, electronic mailing lists, and shared library systems.

MLA Conference is April 24-27, 2002 -- Plans are in the works

for a great annual conference in Great Falls, MT, home of the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, with opportunities to enjoy Lewis and Clark sessions as well as a whole variety of other topics. MLA is currently contracting for the artwork and activities in a special activity book for children related to the themes of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. The activity book will be available beginning in 2003, along with Montana Library Association "Passports" which will be distributed free to anyone interested in stopping at libraries throughout the state as they pursue their Lewis & Clark Bicentennial activities.

NEBRASKA

Tips for effective library advocacy [Contributed by Brenda Ealey/SELS Administrator] -- The 2002 regular session of the Nebraska Legislature convened on Jan. 9, 2002 and the Nebraska Library Association's (NLA) Legislative Day will be on Feb. 20. Nebraska librarians are strong advocates for the services they provide, and will be taking advantage of this opportunity to inform elected officials of library issues and of the vital role they play for the citizens of their communities. It's also an opportunity for library board members and librarians to gain continuing education hours for the day's activities which include a morning legislative briefing, a luncheon with senators, and an afternoon continuing education program.

NLA's lobbyist, Ken Winston, suggests the following tips for effective advocacy:

- 1) Be friendly, irrespective of what you think of a legislator's position.
- 2) Be factual. Have a good grasp of the issues you would like supported or opposed.
- 3) Be brief. Legislators are busy people with hundreds of pieces of legislation to consider.
- 4) Make contact at appropriate times and places.
- 5) Try to get the legislator to visit you on your own "turf," especially for a special event. This is an opportunity to show them why the work you do is so important.
- 6) Build alliances. Look for allies in the mayor, trustees or board members, and individuals who are friends or supporters of a legislator.
- 7) Treat the legislator's staff with the same courtesy you would the senator.
- 8) Write letters, make phone calls, send e-mail. Genuine contact from constituents can have an impact.
- 9) Know your legislator and how s/he has voted on library-related issues in the past.
- 10) Don't give up. Legislation often takes time, and requires education so the legislators understand your issue.

Library visits part of project -- In May 2001, the Nebraska Library Commission launched a venture called "Making a Difference @ your library."™ As part of this project, Library Commission

staff are visiting all the public libraries in the state, to discuss successes and challenges, and to talk about future planning for library services. At the close of 2001, 62.7% (172) of the visits have been made, with another 20 visits already scheduled for the first three months of 2002. That leaves just 29.9% of the library visits to be scheduled.

Commission staff have been welcomed by both library staff and community members alike. Check out the Webpage for this project. New photographs are added on a regular basis, as more visits are completed. See <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/mission/librariesstafflist.html>.

If you have any questions about this project, contact Nancy Busch, Deputy Director, at (402)471-4002, or (800) 307-2665.

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New librarian at Nebraska Omaha -- Gregory D. Goessman began as the Science/Reference Librarian at the University of Nebraska at Omaha's University Library on Jan. 7, 2002. He completed his Master of Library Science degree at Syracuse University in December 2001. He served as an intern in Reference & Instructional Services at the UNLV Lied Library from June to August 2001.

NEVADA

Nevada Online Encyclopedia Project

--The Nevada Humanities Committee has received a one-year planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to explore the feasibility of preparing a Web-based state encyclopedia.

Presuming that sufficient resources--both intellectual and financial--can be identified during the planning grant, the NHC will become the principal sponsor of the NOE. An application for implementation funding will be submitted to NEH in July 2002 (although financial support will also be required from numerous other sources). During the planning phase we must recruit potential editors, contributors, advisory board members, and encyclopedia staff. The editorial board will create a table of contents and identify potential section editors and contributors in a broad range of areas. The scale of this undertaking is substantial for a relatively small state such as Nevada, so individual commitment to the project is crucial to its success.

Verdi Nature Center and Library project receives funds -- The Washoe County School District and Washoe County have each provided \$180,000 towards the completion of the Verdi Nature Center and Library project, matching the generous contributions of private donors and foundations, as well as the

\$200,000 grant from the Nevada Division of Wildlife.

Northwest branch of North Vegas Library opens -- The North Las Vegas Library District has opened the doors of its new Northwest Branch to the public. The 4,000 square foot storefront facility is located in the Northpointe Centre and is providing much needed library service to the growing Northwest area of the city. The new branch was established as an interim solution to provide basic library service to this growing community as the planning process continues for a new full service library in the Northwest area.

The storefront branch was made possible through the planning of the North Las Vegas Library District's Director, Anita Laruy, and the district staff. The cost for the project was \$379,000 of which \$50,000 came from an LSTA grant that was awarded by the State Library for the opening day collection. The commitment of the staff at the North Las Vegas Library District's main branch enabled the district to open its new branch in record time. In just a few short months, the staff processed the opening collection, designed the library's interior, and purchased and installed the shelving, technology, and communication system. The library collection was moved from the technical services area at the main branch to the new library by Boy Scouts

as part of an Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project. The Scouts moved thousands of books and shelved the paperback book collection, as well as moved and assembled the shelving.

Lukasko named Librarian of the Year -- Frankie Lukasko was appointed by the Governor to the State Council on Libraries and Literacy to represent school libraries. She has served on the SCLL for two years. In 1999, SCLL Chair Dan Gouker asked Frankie to create and chair a task force for the addition of standards for school (K-12) library curriculum. Previously, the Nevada State Board of Education had adopted content standards for subject areas, but nothing had been submitted nor approved for library skills. After months of hard work and dedication, Nevada Literacy Standards were adopted by the State Board of Education in June 2001. Frankie worked with library staff from all over the state, building a task force to aid in the development and successful adoption of these process standards.

Special Citation Award to Porters for Spread the Word...Kids to Kids program -- State Senator Jon Porter and Laurie Porter were concerned about children in Nevada who may not have books in their homes. Knowing that ownership of books is a critical factor in every child's intellectual development, they

initiated the Spread the Word ... Kids to Kids program. Through this program, new and gently used books are distributed to children in pre-kindergarten through third grade. Children are given a canvas book bag and a chance to select five books of their choice for their own personal collection. The students continue to receive an additional book monthly, and have the opportunity to trade their books if they wish.

Approximately 24,000 books were distributed to 3,600 students during the spring of 2001, with plans to expand the program in the 2001-2002 school year. This was very much a hands on project for Laurie, a former Clark County School Librarian, as she solicited, collected, sorted, and distributed these books.



Learning about Nevada the fun way -- The Nevada Kids Page <http://nevadaculture.org/docs/kids/> for kids in elementary through high school, is designed to teach children about Nevada, past and present. The Nevada Kids Page includes a wide variety of activities designed to attract children to this Website. The Webpages include fun facts, games, project ideas, virtual tours, and career information. Visitors discover information on the state symbols, Nevada facts

and links to Nevada school Web sites. The Nevada Kids Page includes "Teacher Resources" that can be used by teachers, parents, and other caretakers to motivate young children to learn about Nevada.

NEW MEXICO

NMLA awards mini-grants -- The New Mexico Library Association has awarded two mini-grants. One was awarded to the Literacy Link-Leamos and Silver City Public Library for \$900 to address literacy needs by presenting a morning of "Families Reading Together on Valentine's Day--Love Your Library!" The grant included funds for promotional items, prizes, and a storyteller.

The second mini-grant was awarded to the "Carlsbad Public Library Historical Collection Preservation" project for \$859 to preserve its rare books collection. The grant included funds for purchasing supplies and a locking glass bookcase.

New library certification program offered at community college -- The Library and Information Technology Program at Dona Ana Branch Community College is now offering a certificate option in Library and Information Technology, consisting of 24 credit hours. This is in addition to the Associates Degree in Library and Information Technology and the Library Media Specialist endorsement that have been

offered since 1994. Students may also take individual courses on a continuing education basis without pursuing a degree or certificate.

NORTH DAKOTA

New State Librarian -- Doris Ott has been hired as the North Dakota State Librarian. Doris took the position on Jan. 1, 2002. She has been with the State Library for 15 years and was the Assistant State Librarian for nine years.

Doris, a native North Dakotan, is a graduate of Dickinson State University with a degree in Elementary Education. She has a Masters of Library Science from George Peabody College, Nashville, TN. Prior to her employment at the North Dakota State Library she was an elementary school media center specialist at Rushville Consolidated Schools, Rushville, IN; a high school media specialist at Minot High School, Minot, ND; head of technical services at Bartholomew County Library, Columbus IN; an elementary teacher at Mott High School, Mott, ND; and Assistant Professor of Library Science at Dickinson State University, Dickinson, ND.

Doris is excited about the opportunities this new position brings. "My goal is to continue to foster the partnership that exists between the State Library and other libraries." She says as

State Librarian her goals include making lifelong learning possible for all North Dakota citizens. Ott says North Dakota libraries currently do this by providing a statewide library catalog as well as online resources such as full-text magazines and newspapers, reference materials, and electronic books.



Doris Ott

The North Dakota State Library provides research for state employees, citizens, and elected officials. Training programs are provided to librarians and students across the state. The State Library provides a statewide talking book program for persons with visual or physical impairments and reading disabilities, technical assistance, and consultation services to librarians and library boards statewide. The State Library also develops and administers grant opportunities for all types of libraries in the state.

German books available -- The Germans from Russia Heritage Collection at North Dakota State University Libraries is pleased to announce publication of two German books: Rose Marie Gueldner's outstanding book, *German Food & Folkways: Heirloom Memories from Europe, South Russia & the Great Plains*

and *Why are you still alive?: A German in the Gulag*. The popular book was published in 1993 in the German language, *Wieso Lebst du Noch?: Ein Deutscher im Gulag*. Georg Hildebrandt was 90 years of age in July, 2001.

To order either of these books, contact Mike Miller (mike.miller@ndsu.nodak.edu) at the NDSU Libraries, PO Box 5599, Fargo, ND 58105-5599.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Library receives building donation -- Dell Rapids Carnegie Public Library will be expanding their facility as a result of a generous donation by Eileen Denn. Mrs. Denn and her husband were active supporters of the local library and willed \$419,000 to the library for the purpose of expansion. The addition will be constructed to complement the existing Carnegie Library which was originally built in 1910.

Bookmobile receives a year respite -- The bookmobile service for the Siouxland Libraries was saved for one year through the grassroots efforts of its patrons. The bookmobile serves the outlying areas of Minnehaha County, supporting the library needs of small communities and schools. When county commissioners considered the library service unnecessary, despite large and increasing circulation, and attempted to shut down the service earlier this year, patron protests were loud and effective.

UTAH

Library recipient of endowment -- Members of the Utah State University Faculty Senate voted unanimously to create a library endowment. The group hopes to raise \$500,000 over the next seven years. Collections from faculty members will be used to establish a fund, the interest income from which will be used to add to the holdings of the university libraries.

Library leader of the year -- Ronald Jenkins, director of the Logan Public Library, was applauded by Lt.

Gov. Olene Walker as Utah's library leader of the year for 2001 in recognition for his commitment to literacy programs. Ron has served the Logan library and its patrons for twenty years. In 1988 he provided the county literacy program a home in the Logan Library and has helped acquire funding and participants.

Weber State hosts special art collection -- A juried exhibition by Utah artists will hang in the Weber State University Stewart Library Special Collections throughout the 2002 Winter Olympics. The exhibition includes paintings, sculptures, tapestries and glasswork, and features a bust of historian Helen Zeese Papanikolas.



The Utah Women Artists' Exhibition 2002 is entitled "Celebrating the Universality of Women." It is sponsored by the American Association of University Women of Utah and the Friends of the Stewart Library as a cultural contribution to the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

WYOMING

WYLD Network -- Come July of 2002, there will be a new integrated library system (ILS) in the state of Wyoming. Responses to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the new system have been delivered to the Wyoming State Library (WSL), and evaluators have been busy reading and scrutinizing each response. Seven vendors responded to the RFP: CARL Corp., Endeavor, Epixtech, Ex Libris, Inc., Gaylord Information Systems, Innovative Interfaces, and Sirsi Corp. The vendors attended the Wyoming Library Association Conference in September in Cody where each demonstrated their latest system. Training for the new system will be aggressive and will begin after April 2002.

Continuing Ed for MLS -- Through a partnership between the Wyoming State Library and the University of Missouri-Columbia, courses for completion of an MLS are coming to Wyoming! There will be three class meetings in Wyoming: held on the University of Wyoming campus Feb. 8-10 and April 5-7

Winter Semester 2002 offerings

1.Q443 (6) The Academic Library.

The course will be delivered in mixed media mode. Most instruction will be online, using Blackboard courseware via the Internet.

2.Q410 (25) Consumer Health Information

The course will be delivered in mixed media mode. Most instruction will be online, using Blackboard courseware via the Internet.

Go to <http://mudirect.missouri.edu/> for registration and course information, including online course availability.

WLA Meeting notes -- 2002 WLA Conference dates are Sept. 18-21, 2002 in Casper. The theme not yet set. 2003 WLA Conference dates are Oct. 1-4, 2003 in Evanston and the Wyoming Reading Council will be contacted about having their conference at the same time and place. The Wyoming Library hosts a Legislative Reception every year and this year's date is set for Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2002.

UPCOMING EVENTS-2002

| | |
|-------------|---|
| April 3-5 | Kansas Tri-Conference, Wichita |
| April 17-19 | Oklahoma Library Association Annual Conference, Tulsa |
| April 17-20 | New Mexico Library Association Conference, Las Cruces |
| April 24-27 | Montana Library Association Annual Conference, Great Falls |
| May 1-3 | Utah Library Association Conference, Sandy |
| Sept. 19-21 | Wyoming Library Association, Casper |
| Oct. 2-5 | MPLA/North Dakota Library Association/ South Dakota Library Association Tri-Conference, Fargo |
| Oct. 3-5 | Nevada Library Association Conference, Ely |
| Oct. 16-20 | First Annual Colorado Association of Libraries Conference, Keystone |
| Oct. 23-25 | Nebraska Library Association Convention, Lincoln |
| Dec. 4-6 | Arizona Library Association Annual Conference, Phoenix |

National Library Week

Celebrate @ your library, April 14-20

This year's National Library Week - the American Library Association's (ALA) annual celebration of our nation's libraries and librarians - kicks off April 14. Libraries of all types will offer special programs to encourage users to learn more about the exciting range of new and traditional resources available.



Rediscover America @ your library™ will take center stage this year.. In the post-911 environment, Americans of all ages and backgrounds are rediscovering the meaning of words like democracy, freedom, citizenship and community. Libraries are the cornerstone of our democracy - offering the broadest range of print and online resources, along with the expertise of a librarian.

MPLA Newsletter

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- Support of regional library efforts

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MPLA Dues Schedule (Membership year is calendar year)

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RETIREE, STUDENT, TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP - \$15/yr.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP - Libraries, business firms, and other institutions supporting the Association. Institutional members also receive FREE advertising for job openings in the newsletter! Membership fee is based on total annual budget

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|-------------------------|-----------|
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| \$100,000-\$299,999 | \$75/yr. | \$500,000- up | \$125/yr. |

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 Institution _____
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For information on paying by credit card, go to the MPLA Website at www.usd.edu/mpla

Mail to: Joe Edelen, MPLA Executive Secretary
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