THE CARLSBAD CONFERENCE IS COMING
DO WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU!

By: Charlene Greenwood

This year’s annual library conference will be held in sunny, warm Carlsbad April 29-30, 1999. We hope to have something for everyone. The Program Committee has worked diligently to provide a wide variety of programming for all library personnel. You may go to the NMLA website and see a more complete listing of the programs including the tentative dates and times. Here is an overview of what you can expect.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Marilyn Hinshaw who is the Oklahoma State Librarian and the president of the Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) will talk on “The Power of Resilience.” Hinshaw will welcome the New Mexico Library Association into affiliation with MPLA by sharing the secrets of MPLA’s success. “Human organizations, like nature, have an inherent internal logic that explains to some extent the source of their resilience and power to survive. They follow a few key principles.” She will apply these principles to the examples of MPLA and other library organizations of her experience.

YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL AND PUBLIC LIBRARIANS

Deborah Robinson will be the featured author of the annual Youth Services Luncheon. She is the winner of the Land of Enchantment Book Award for 1998. Her book, “The Best School Year Ever,” is the continuing story of the Herdman family who were first introduced in “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” which is a disastrously funny account of a very UNUSUAL family. This award is chosen annually by New Mexico’s young people and is sponsored by the New Mexico Library Association and the NM Council of the International Reading Association.

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NMLA officers & more
President: Ellanie Sampson
Tor C Public Library
Phone: 505/894-3027 Fax: 894-2068
torcpl@riolink.com
Vice President: Charlene Greenwood
Phone: 505/256-1379
cgreen2224@aol.com
Secretary: Kris Warmoth
University of New Mexico
Phone: 505/925-8991 Fax: 505/925-8501
krisw@unm.edu
Treasurer: Earl Phillips
Las Cruces School District
Phone: 505/527-6065 Fax: 505/526-1941
ephillip@lcps.k12.nm.us
ALA Councilor: Drew Harrington
Phone: 505/828-3111 Fax: 505/828-3119
harrington@merlin.aa.edu
Member at Large: Dina Jentgen
Zia Middle School, Las Cruces
Phone: 505/257-9475
dinaj@zianet.com
Member at Large: Betsy Kraus
Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute
Phone: 505-262-6626 Fax: 505-262-3989
email: bbraus@lrr.org
Administrative Svc.: Linda O’Connell
Phone: 800/898-6652 or 505/899-3516
Fax: 505/899-7600
nmla@rt66.com
NMLA homepage: http://lib.nmsu.edu/nmla
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from the president’s paw

I must be having a good time since the days, weeks, and months have just flown by...It was a great pleasure to host the January Executive Board meeting at the Truth or Consequences Public Library. When I was Association Treasurer ten years ago, the January 1989 board meeting was held in our newly constructed library building, and I am pleased that many of the same people are still on the board (or are back on the board) and that they could once again make the trip to T or C in 1999, the very edge of the Millennium.

This has been an exciting year for me, as NMLA President. I have been pleased to participate in the process, and wish Charlene the best of luck as she wraps up the plans for the 1999 Annual Conference in Carlsbad and gets ready to assume the mantle of President.

The Mini-Retreat we had in Roswell in the early part of December was successful, and you'll read about what we did there elsewhere in this newsletter. I was rather surprised at the turnout. Of the forty people invited, about 20 participated. Since this retreat was designed to review and possibly revise the mission statement and work program of the Association for the next three years, I was somewhat unsettled to find that many of the people invited, who were invited because they were running for an NMLA office, declined to participate. I was extremely pleased that the persons who did attend were very creative in their ideas and proposed plans, and I believe that, if the membership adopts the revised mission statement at the business meeting at conference, the Association is on a straight path to the future, whatever it may hold.

As the current President of NMLA, I felt it was appropriate to address the changes that have occurred since 1992, and to call the Mini-Retreat in order to review those changes and revise the Mission Statement, Goals, and work plan accordingly. I would like to extend my sincere and deep thanks to all those who participated in the Mini-Retreat and to Carol Brey and Cesar Caballero for their excellent job of facilitation. Thank you all.

On the home front, we're still holding at 94 rescued kittens. We did place one with a young lady injured in a car accident and confined to bed. It was very strange that we would have one kitty who refused to tell us her name, that we would get a request to place a kitty, and that when I opened the carrier in the room that had the "last" four kittens, the nameless one walked straight into the carrier, and refused to come out. I guess she just knew she had a mission in life and that she was destined to go to the homebound young lady. Life is so interesting. The other three, by the way, bonded with us even stronger than they had, reinforcing their names (Ee Ow, Howie Noodles, and Peanut Butter) and becoming full members of the Multitude. Hank calls Ee Ow his "puppy cat" because she follows him everywhere he goes around the house.

Thanks to all NMLA members for your creativity, your ideas, and your hard work on behalf of the Association. It has been an honor to serve as your President. I know there is one more column for me to write; I just wanted to say "thank you" right now to all of you.

Ellanie Sampson
transborder library forum / foro in mexicali baja california offers library cooperation across the u.s.-mexico border

Mexican and American librarians and library staff have teamed up over the past nine years to plan and organize the Transborder Library Forum / Foro Transfronterizo de Bibliotecas. This annual conference provides a venue for the cooperative exchange of ideas, experiences, and efforts concerning library service in the bi-national Border region, from California to Texas and Baja California to Tamaulipas. In spring 2000, New Mexico will host Foro X in Albuquerque.

IX Foro will be held in Mexicali, Baja California, March 4-6, 1999. Its theme is "Facing a New Millennium of Information" and it is being co-sponsored by Centro de Ensenanza Tecnica y Superior (CETYS) and San Diego State University. The goals of this Foro, as those eight before it, are to strengthen cooperative linkages between librarians and their institutions in Mexico and the United States and to increase knowledge of information resources in Mexico and the United States.

The principal organizers of IX Foro are Cecilia Aviles, Director of the Library at CETYS, and Cecilia Puerto, SDSU General Reference Librarian and bibliographer for Latin American and Mexican-American Studies. Others from libraries in Baja California and California are contributing to the Foro's success by creating, translating, and distributing publicity, arranging transportation and tours, securing financial support, and inviting experts to share their knowledge and expertise on libraries and information management.

The IX Foro will attract some 250 participants from Mexico, Canada, and the Southwestern states to hear keynote speakers tackle issues concerning education, new technologies, the Internet, business research, electronic journals, writing, translating and publishing border literature, and other common areas of concern. Then participants will select sessions pertinent to various types of libraries: public, academic, or special; or on professional areas: interlibrary loan, reference, administration, special collections, acquisitions, etc. Evening events will offer delicious Mexican cuisine, mariachi music, folkloric performances and dancing, creating a festive setting to enjoy the social companionship of colleagues.

Past Foros have resulted in cooperative projects between libraries across geographic borders, development of resource networks beyond libraries, introduction to the most recent commercial library products and services; and sharing the common cultural heritage of the US-Mexico Border region. As Foro X will be held in Albuquerque, librarians from New Mexico are especially urged to attend the Foro in Mexicali where they may establish lasting connection with Mexican colleagues.

For additional information, contact Cecilia Puerto through email at cpuesto@mail.sdsu.edu. A web page with more information in Spanish and English is located at http://www.ml.cetys.mx/foro.

Martha McPhail, Catalog Librarian San Diego State University

Gwen Gregory
NMLA leaders conduct strategic planning retreat

On Saturday, December 5, 1998, eighteen NMLA leaders and two facilitators gathered in Roswell to conduct a strategic planning retreat. The purpose of this retreat, according to President Ellanie Sampson, was "to review the current Mission and Goals of the New Mexico Library Association," and the planning team accomplished that and more.

Carol Brey, Co-chair of the Legislation and Intellectual Freedom Committee facilitated the retreat along with her husband, Cesar Caballero, who serves as Associate Librarian for Public Service at the University of Texas-El Paso Library. Brey and Caballero have facilitated strategic planning retreats for several organizations, including the Illinois Library Association, the Border Book Festival, and the Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua, Mexico. The retreat began with Brey's definition of strategic planning: "developing a vision for your organization for the next three to five years, and determining how to achieve that vision." She noted that strategic planning is a valuable tool that can:

- Improve the performance of your organization;
- Solve major organizational problems in an organized way;
- Build teamwork and expertise among those involved in NMLA; and
- Stimulate forward thinking and clarify future direction.

Throughout the day, the planning team prepared to develop a revised set of goals and objectives that would lead the organization into the next century. We discussed a brief history of NMLA, current goals and objectives of NMLA, values shared by members of the planning team, the strengths and weaknesses of NMLA, and opportunities and challenges that NMLA will face in the future. We also reviewed the current NMLA Mission Statement. Carol Brey noted that a strong mission statement tells what your organization wants to accomplish, and for whom. It should be clear and concise; ideally short enough to fit on a coffee cup! Following much discussion, the planning team came up with the following new draft statement:

**Draft Mission Statement**

The New Mexico Library Association actively promotes the cooperation and development of libraries and their personnel, to enrich the lives [lifelong learning] of all New Mexicans.

By the end of the day, the planning team had developed the following ten critical issues that NMLA would need to address in the coming three years (in priority order):

1. Influence/PR/Marketing/Advocacy
2. Membership
3. More paid staff
4. Web site/communications
5. Continuing education
6. Leadership development
7. Collaboration/networking
8. Recognition
9. Needs assessment
10. Clearinghouse

These critical issues were consolidated into four draft goals, that read as follows:

**Goal I:** To increase the New Mexico Library Association's influence.

**Goal II:** To attract, retain, involve and develop active members and leaders for the New Mexico Library Association.

**Goal III:** To increase funding resources in order to maximize organizational effectiveness.

**Goal IV:** To increase and diversify means of communication within NMLA and the library community.

The next steps for the planning team will be to develop objectives and action steps for these draft goals in order to make them happen. The final draft of the plan will be printed in the NMLA newsletter and on the NMLA list so that all may comment on it before it is presented to the Board for approval on April 30.

Carol Brey
(Conference from page 1)

There will be two programs revolving around book illustrations by two illustrators who live in New Mexico. The "Golden Age of Illustration" by Caroline Garrett will show you the power and effect of the art and craft of children's books as she explains the current second golden age. In "Picture Book ABC's and the Question of Visual Literacy," Daniel Powers will examine the intricate relationship of image, text and page layout and their influence on what it means to "read" pictures. Both illustrators will be available to sign their books.

Two programs will also be presenting information on children's book awards. "I Am Phoenix/Immortal/Eternal/Undying: The Children's Literature Association's Phoenix Award" with Linnea Hendrickson presenting books that rise from the ashes of neglect and obscurity and once again touch the imaginations and enrich the lives of those who read them. The program, "Land of Enchantment Book Award," with Patricia Froehlich and Committee will introduce the new books for the coming year.

"Libros Para Ninos: The Baby Talk Program" with Verla Peterson and Debbie Williams discussing this Viburnum Foundation project in Las Cruces in which the library partners with the hospital and Medical Center to provide a board book to newborns. Parents receive a resource book and are invited to a birthday party and reading readiness activities with their children at the library.

"Media Literacy" with the nationally known Bob McCannon from the Albuquerque Academy giving his presentation on how today's media impacts children (as well as adults). You will never look at television and written advertisements the same way.

"The New Information Power for School Libraries" with Eugene Hainer from Colorado will introduce how to rethink library services in schools. This is a "must" for school librarians.

Then back by popular demand is Bonnie Hopkins with "Big Six Continued." This will include information on literature, homework skills, and libraries.

PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS
(See also under Youth Services and Technical Services)

The first morning is strong with a program, "Regional Libraries," with four state librarians: Ben Wakashighe, New Mexico; Marilyn Hinshaw, Oklahoma; Nancy Bolt, Colorado; and Gary Nichols, Maine. Should there be a regional library program in New Mexico? Representative from four states all with regional library systems will share information about their state's system.

"Internet without Filters or Tears: Positive Approaches to Providing Access" with Nancy Turner, Electronic Resources Coordinator, NM State University and Carol Brey, Director, Thomas Branigan Public Library, both of Las Cruces will provide practical examples of how public libraries can use their web site, training of staff and public, and handouts to gear patrons toward the positive resources on the Internet without using filters.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

There is a strong line-up that no one will want to miss. There were lots of requests for a program on distance education. Steve Rollins, Barbara Rosen and Nancy Dennis all of UNM will present "What You Should Know About WGU." The Western Governors' University started in September 1998 and it's web site currently lists nearly 300 courses. What makes it unique? Why is it different from the others?

Helping academic as well as other librarians is "Decisions, Decisions, Decisions" with a panel consisting of Kris Warmoth, UNM, Valencia Campus; Kay Krehbiel, NMT; and Anne Moore, NMSU. This deals with the decision making process related to subscribing to and the maintaining of serials.
in a variety of physical and electronic formats.

Cindy Watkins, Interlibrary Loan Document-Delivery Services, NM State University, Las Cruces, will present “Future Directions and Connections: An ILL Study on Best Practices.” She will compare the practices of the lowest cost and highest performance libraries identifying some operation that can be initiated in our libraries to maximize access while minimizing costs.

For a unique library workshop, Greg Candela, UNM Valencia Campus will do “Generation X” with an overview of them as a student or patron – who they are, how they learn, and how they view libraries.

TECHNICAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

“Weaving Your Way through the World Wide Web” with Nancy Turner, Electronic Resources Coordinator, NM State University, Las Cruces will help you select the right tool for your topic, strategize your search process, and locate the best web-sites for your reference work.

“Taking Advantage of Z39.50 and TCP/IP” with Michael Bunney, Regional Manager of Winnebago Software will share shortcuts of maximizing resources by using uniform methods and understanding terminology and protocols. There will be a 20 page booklet that summarizes the material covered.

“Networking Basics” with Richard Mazon will de-mystify networking hardware—everything you need to know about routers, hubs, cabling, etc.

OF INTEREST TO ALL

“Copyright” with Marsha Baum from the UNM Law School will provide vital information concerning this always present issue.

“Spanish in Libraries” will be presented by Stella Quinones, Library Information Specialist and Materials Coordinator, Zimmerman Library, UNM; Bernice Martinez-Comstock, Reference Librarian, South Broadway Library, Rio Grande Valley Library System; and Mark Emmons, Head, Research Education Program, Zimmerman Library UNM. This bilingual workshop for librarians who are Spanish speakers as well as librarians interested in learning Spanish to enable basic communication with their Spanish speaking patrons. It would be of interest to library personnel with large Spanish speaking populations from small to large libraries. It will introduce basic every day communication to Internet Web sites.

“Global Reach, Local Touch: A Visit to Libraries in Northern Ireland” with Karen Stabler who visited 16 different libraries, a storytelling session, historic sites, and learned about the 300 year history between the Catholics and Protestants gathered important information to share with librarians in New Mexico.

“Financial Planning for Your Future” with Andree Fritchy, Investment Representative of Edward Jones, will include 10 steps to successful investing, types of investments, risk and return, asset allocation, and investments issues unique to women.

SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS

“Services to Latinos” by the author, Camila Alire, covers developing library services for the under-served Hispanic community. It is aimed at folks who are in the initial stages of doing this or who may be frustrated with their efforts so far. Topics/ideas such as non-library partnerships, community needs assessments, outreach, programming and services will be covered as well as preparing staff to work effectively with Hispanics. Most ideas are applicable to other ethnic groups. We hope to have her book available and she is willing to sign.

“Tribal Libraries Project” (NM State Library) with Alison Freese and Jean Whitehorse will explain about this project.

“Solo Librarian” presented by Kathryn Baker, LANL Law Librarian will use the paradigm of Knowledge Management. Today’s library goals expand traditional...
information to include the meaning of resources (and organization), archival and delivery methods. Could this enrich librarians and make solo's more resilient?

"Bias Is a 4 Letter Word" presented by Mary Alice Tsosie, American Indian Research and Outreach Librarian, Library Office of American Indian Research and Outreach, UNM, will be of particular interest to Native American libraries and anyone who has an interest in this area.

"Federal Documents" is a program being developed at the moment and we hope to have it ready for the conference.

"Documenting Southeastern New Mexico History: New Approaches" with Austin Hoover, NMSU; Ann Massmann, UNM; and Frank Sanchez of Roswell will appeal to all libraries with local history collections. It focuses on the southeast, but the theory and practice apply anywhere.

"Carlsbad Local History" will be presented by Jed Howard.

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR AT THE CONFERENCE

Here are some new and exciting differences in this year's conference:

- Four meals will be included in the registration – two breakfasts and two lunches in the exhibit area.
- Students and retirees will have a special rate - $30.00 for the entire conference. See the registration packet for more details.
- New member attendees will receive an invitation to the Past Presidents' Reception on Wednesday evening preceding the conference.
- There will be "Table Talks" by some vendors during the Grand Opening Lunch.
- There will be a Bingo game to interact with the Exhibitors.

This is our first year as a member of Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) and this will be addressed in the Keynote.

SIGHTSEEING AND TOURS

Check out the registration packet when it arrives early in March to look for interesting sightseeing such as:

- Carlsbad Caverns
- WIPP
- Living Desert
- Boat ride

JOB FAIR

Last year was the first time for having a job fair. It was very well received and there will be another one this year. Look in your registration packets for more information.

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NMLA awards banquet

Please join us at the NMLA Awards Banquet to honor this year's NMLA Award Winners and the Winner of the Progressive School Library Award

Marjorie S. Tansey
Farmington Public Library
Amigo Award

Antoinette Beatty
Director of the Rio Rancho Public Library
NMLA Leadership Award

Mary Lee Smith
Director of the Lovington Public Library
NMLA Leadership Award

Representative Danice Picraux
Albuquerque, NM
Legislator of the Year Award

Lyra Geroy
Taos High School
Progressive School Library Award

Karen Stabler

Claire Alire to present reforma program at nmla

At the NMLA Conference in Carlsbad, the New Mexico chapter of REFORMA will sponsor a program on "Services to Hispanics" by Dr. Camila Alire. Alire is dean of libraries at Colorado State University, and coauthor of the new book Serving Latino communities: a how-to-do-it manual for libraries (Neal-Schuman, 1998). She is also a past president of national REFORMA.

Alire is a Colorado native; she grew up in the San Luis Valley in the southern part of the state. While in college, she worked at the library, where she was encouraged to pursue a career in librarianship. She attended library school at the University of Denver and earned her doctorate from the University of Northern Colorado.

Her NMLA program will focus on how libraries can promote and develop services for the underserved Hispanic community. She notes that "Hispanics have traditionally been non-library users, causing the gap between the "information have"s" and the "information have-nots." If you are developing this type of program, or if you are frustrated with your efforts to serve the Hispanic community, this program is for you!

According to Alire, "folks are tearing their hair out trying to figure out ways to attract the non-user Hispanic community to use the library." Her program will include discussion of community needs assessments and how to conduct them, partnerships with non-library groups, and preparing staff to work with Hispanic patrons.

REFORMA is the National Association to Promote Library Services to the Spanish-Speaking. At the national level, REFORMA acts as an ethnic caucus within ALA, representing the interests of Hispanics. Local chapters, such as ours, develop programs and workshops to help librarians serve their Spanish-speaking populations. Both national and local organizations also raise funds for scholarships to send Hispanics to library school. The New Mexico chapter is also sponsoring another program at the NMLA Conference. This program will focus on basic Spanish language skills for library staff members. Check your conference program for the time and location. For more information about the New Mexico chapter, please contact Norece Lee at (505) 527-7556 or nlee@lib.nmsu.edu.

Gwen Gregory
NMLA Executive Board Meeting Minutes, approved April 25, 1998

New Mexico Library Association Executive Board Meeting April 22, 1998:
Call to Order- President, Betty Long, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Albuquerque Convention Center.


Announcements- Betty Long welcomed NMLA Board members to the 75th Anniversary Conference. Karen McPheeters announced that Jane Ulrich of SWIRLSS, Southwestern Colorado Regional Library Service System, is interested in a joint NM/CO Fall training program. This could be an option for our Mini Conference.

Minutes- Beverly McFarland asked if there were any changes, additions or deletions to the minutes of the January 16, 1998 meeting. Moved by Beverly McFarland, seconded by Ellanie Sampson that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

E-mail Actions- Moved by Ellanie Sampson, seconded by Carol Brey that the NMLA Board allow Joyce to use the name "NMLA Battle of the Books" for fund raising purposes and that the monies raised will be kept separate from other NMLA funds. Motion carried.

Moved by Ellanie Sampson, seconded by Beverly McFarland that the NMLA Board approve the work plan. Motion carried.

Moved by Ellanie Sampson, seconded by Beverly McFarland that the NMLA Board ask the President to write a letter to the Governor urging him not to sign SB 127. Motion carried.

Moved by Carol Brey, seconded by Jeanne Howard that the NMLA Board decline Doubletree's offer to hold the 1999 conference in Albuquerque at the Doubletree. The consensus permitted Ellanie to negotiate for the 2001 conference and that an attorney review any future contracts with the Doubletree. Motion carried.

Moved by Ellanie Sampson, seconded by Beverly McFarland that the NMLA Board "lend its name" to the ACLU, SB 127 lawsuit. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report- The Bank of America checking account had a balance of $26,624, of which $450 belongs to the Marion Dorrah Scholarship Fund. The $10,000 CD from Bank of America earns 5.2%. The Merrill Lynch Ready Asset account contains $11,373. The Marion Dorrah Scholarship checking account has a balance of $1,519 and a 24-month $21,605.36 Bank of America CD that will mature October 1, 1999. The New Mexico Library Foundation received $498 in flow-through funding.

Moved by Earl Phillips, seconded by Ellanie Sampson that the NMLA Board approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

NMLA Action Plan- Betty Long asked if there was anything new to report from the Goal Committees. She reported that Goal Six has been met under Valerie Horton. Carol Brey reported that the Goal Five Committee will meet at the Conference.

Conference Report- Ellanie Sampson thanked Kathy Matter and the Local Arrangements Committee for all their fine work on the Conference. She also passed out handcrafted "dimeand Anniversary pins. There are 358 registrants and 74 exhibitors. Kathy Matter reminded the Board to stop by the NMLA table to purchase commemorative items. The Doubletree accepted our proposal to serve as the site for 2001. Nominations and Elections- Betty Long reported for Jenny Minter that the NMLA election results were as follows: Ellanie Sampson, President; Charlene Greenwood, Vice President; Kris Warmoth, Secretary; Russell Gladstone, Dinah Jentgen, and Betsy Krause, Members at Large.
Conference Site—Susan Deese-Phillips recommended that we stay with the same firm.
...Roberts reported that Charlene Greenwood will visit Carlsbad in early May to firm up the site for the 1999 Conference. Taos has an excellent convention center with adequate space. The Sagebrush Inn can be used for the banquet. The dates for the 1999 Conference in Carlsbad are April 28 - May 1. The dates for the 2000 Conference in Taos are April 26 - 29.

Legislation and Intellectual Freedom—Joe Sabatini explained that SB 127 was introduced by last year’s Legislator of the Year, Stuart Engle. The intent of the bill was to stop felonious conduct. An unintended consequence is that it may effect libraries and librarians who offer public Internet access. The ACLU will be filing the suit today in Albuquerque. Carol Brey suggested that we contact OIF for assistance in handling the publicity.

Selection of Accountant—After checking on the costs to change firms, Earl Phillips recommended that we stay with the same firm.

Moved by Earl Phillips, seconded by Ellanie Sampson that the NMLA Board continue with the same accounting firm. Motion carried.

Agenda for Business Meeting—Betty Long reminded everyone to be brief so that Barbara Ford, President of ALA could be recognized.

Adjournment—The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m. The next Executive Board Meeting will be held April 25 from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. at the Doubletree.

Respectfully Submitted
Beverly McFarland
Secretary
library@sdc.org

New Mexico library foundation news: Last of quilt trilogy and BRLA award for “one book”

Attendees at January’s NMLA Executive Board meeting in T or C were given a sneak preview of Betty Reynolds’ third and final quilt donated to the Foundation for raffling off during NMLA’s annual meeting in Carlsbad, April 28-May 1. Modestly titled “The First Ever Black Range International Balloon Festival,” the quilt has contributions of colorful hot air balloons from quilters living in 14 states and five nations—a truly international event. The first quilt was “Whose Library?” and cheers visitors to Bernie Margolis’ Boston PL President’s office—a gift from his father, Sidney, the first quilt winner. The second quilt, “It’s a Small World”, is on display at Mesa PL in Los Alamos after Mary Pat Kraemer’s name was drawn by ALA president Barbara Ford. Advance quilt raffle tickets will be mailed out shortly to NMLA members. Your contributions to the Foundation in purchasing tickets to the first two quilts have totaled $4,100. For your own sneak preview, go to Betty’s web site at: http://www.nmt.edu/~breynold/quilts/balloon.html

BRLA SOUTHWEST BOOK AWARD One Book at a Time written by Lindy G. Harris and supported by the Foundation to commemorate NMLA’s 75th anniversary, has been given a Border Regional Library Association 1998 Southwest Book Award. This award is shared by all those readers of this newsletter and others who submitted their libraries’ stories and photographs to Linda. The book is on sale by mail and direct purchase at the NMLA annual meeting. Contact NMLF Book Orders, PO Box 30572, Albuquerque, NM 87190. Soft cover price is $20 plus $4.50 for shipping. Limited edition hardcovers are $75 plus $4.50.

David Giltrow
youth services SIG

Youth Services SIG is working hard to take the library message to other conferences. We are making contacts with the NM Middle School Association and the NM Coalition of School Administrators. We are looking for people who would like to present a program to the NM Council of Teachers of English and the NM Council for the Social Studies. Both of these conferences are in Albuquerque in the fall. If you would like to present your library program at one of these conferences, or know someone who should, please contact Patricia Froehlich, Rogers Bardé or Claire Odenheim. We are all in the NMLA Directory. If you have other ideas or inspirations concerning spreading the word about libraries, we would be delighted to hear about them.

NMLA Conference in Carlsbad is full of programs of interest to everyone providing library services to young people. The Pre-conference session on “Library Advocacy Now” is planned for Wednesday the 28th. Other programs include children’s literature, media literacy, solo librarianship, Land of Enchantment Book Award, and Internet filtering, to list only a few topics. At the luncheon on Friday Barbara Robinson will receive the Land of Enchantment Award for The Best School Year Ever. The SIG meeting also held on Friday is a good time to bring up your ideas about youth service, to meet colleagues, and to help with planning for the next year. We look forward to seeing you in Carlsbad.

Rogers Bardé

nmla electronic mailing list

Since 1995, the New Mexico Library Association has sponsored an Internet mailing list for librarians and library-news in New Mexico. If you join the list, you will automatically receive all mail sent to members of the list. You can join or drop out of the list at any time. The list isn’t just for NMLA members, but rather for anyone interested in New Mexico libraries. Belonging to the NMLA list has many advantages for you! Messages will come right to your electronic mailbox. You will hear quickly about library news and job openings in the state, as well as workshops and other training opportunities. Timely news items of library interest will also be posted here. Recent items include applications for national awards available to libraries and notices of important library legislation. It’s like a supplement to your NMLA newsletter. Don’t worry about being overwhelmed by large amounts of email from the list, either. There are generally no more than 3 or 4 messages sent out per week. The NMLA list is also a great way to publicize events and job openings. A message posted to the list goes out instantly to over 300 subscribers. These subscribers are mostly from New Mexico, but include librarians in Texas, Arizona, California, and even Mexico. It’s a great way to get information out to a wide group of people instantly and easily. You can send messages to the list even if you aren’t a member. Just address your email to nmla@nmsu.edu and it will go out to all members of the list. We welcome mail about any library-related topics, especially if they concern New Mexico in particular. To join the NMLA electronic mailing list, just send an email to listproc@nmsu.edu. In the body of the message, include this text: sub nmla <your name>. You will then be added to the list. To remove yourself from the list, send a message saying: unsub nmla. If you have any problems, please contact me at ggregory@lib.nmsu.edu or (505) 646-7488. I am happy to help.

Gwen Gregory
Cambridge expands features

The Internet Database Service from Cambridge Scientific Abstracts has added tools to its service that expedite user access to fulltext versions of articles retrieved in abstract/citation form by a database search:

**Link to Electronic Fulltext** provides database users seamless information access from citation/abstract search results to your electronic fulltext subscriptions. Services currently accessible include Academic Press (IDEAL), SWETS, CatchWord, Kluwer, and Springer-Verlag (EBSCO, Blackwell's are forthcoming).

**Link to Holdings** establishes a seamless link from the citations delivered by the Internet Database Service to the holdings available from your library's collection.

**Link to Inter Library Loan** automatically sets up an e-mail message addressed to your institution's ILL service, with the citation already included; the user adds requestor information.

**Link to Document Delivery** provides a direct link to your institution's preferred document delivery providers.

In addition, the Internet Database Service has introduced two new unique information resources:

- **Web Resources Database** – with active links to Web-based resources of relevance to the search, and
- **Recent References Related to Your Search** – providing daily updates of citations from 1000 journals in the biological, aquatic and environmental sciences to provide a current-awareness service to supplement our abstracts databases.

The Internet Database Service provides site-wide access to databases in:

- Aquatic Sciences & Oceanography
- Biological & Medical Sciences
- Computer Science
- Engineering Specialties & Technology
- Environmental Sciences
- Materials Science & Technology
- Social Sciences

Cambridge Scientific Abstracts will be represented at the NMLA in Carlsbad, NM April 28-30: stop by the exhibit to see these new services in action, or to sign up for a complimentary database trial. If you are not attending NMLA, please feel free to contact Shannon (tel: 303-332-6413 / e-mail: shannon@csa.com) with any questions or to arrange for complimentary access to the Internet Database Service.

date change for SLA program

The date for the March program at the Museum of Natural History has been changed to March 12, 1999. Meet in the lobby at 2:00 PM. Optional lunch at High Noon Restaurant -12:30 PM. Call Judith Bernstein for lunch reservations 277-5054 or e-mail rosen@unm.edu
A Chinese Journey -- Part I

It all started with a flyer in the mail last May -- the kind you glance at and toss. Only this one was from the American Association of School Librarians and advertised a People to People Ambassador trip to China. The trip was for school librarians and youth service librarians. Was I crazy? The middle of October found me in a meeting room in Los Angeles with 45 strangers from 22 states. These strangers would soon become friends as we traveled through China together for the next two weeks. I was crazy!

A 12-1/2 hour plane trip took us to Seoul, Korea and another 3 hours found us in Beijing. I was in China! A late afternoon visit to the Summer Palace with its Imperial Gardens and 7000 meter covered walkway was followed by an early dinner and bed.

The next morning was our first professional meeting with the representatives from the National Ministry of Basic Education. They gave us lots of facts and statistics on which to base our experience. Formal education in China starts at age 7. The school day for primary (elementary) students is from 8 AM to 4 PM. The class size is 50 students and they are taught, Math, Chinese, Science, Art, Music, and PE. English is added by about 3rd grade. The officials were very open and frank with us, talking about their 16% illiteracy rate, and their concerns, goals and challenges for the future. China is struggling to universalize compulsory education, while trying to improve the quality of teachers. It was interesting to hear these officials of the Communist government say, "all men are created equal -- even those without a prosperous future deserve a quality education; education is empowerment, and education is joy. We had to remind ourselves that only 20 years ago the universities were shut down during the Cultural Revolution and educators and intellectuals were persecuted.

Our guide told us that there are 13 million people in Beijing, 6 million bicycles and 60,000 cars. To buy a car is very expensive, as there is a 120% tax on the purchase price. There are taxies and buses everywhere. Traffic is a nightmare with the right of way apparently determined by whoever is bigger. Traffic lights seem to be suggestions and headlights at night -- optional. Mr. Lee, our city guide, told us if we saw something scary about to happen in traffic just to close our eyes --- it would be OK. He applied that not only to riding in the bus but crossing the street as well. Quite a beginning to an awesome adventure. (Next month -- a visit to a Children's Library and a meeting with a children's book publisher.)

Bonnie Tollefson
nmia newsletter contributions sought

The NMLA newsletter seeks news articles, ideas, interest groups, research, updates, etc. The deadline for the April/May 1999 issue is March 19, 1999. That issue should arrive in your mailboxes by mid-April.
Send submissions to Jackie Shane (UNM) at jshane@unm.edu; phone 505/277-5327.
Electronic submissions (e-mail or disk) in Word or ascii are preferred. The editor reserves the right to edit contributions.

New Mexico Library Association Newsletter

The New Mexico Library Association Newsletter (ISSN 0893-2956) is published six times a year (February, April, June, August, October, and December) Submissions can be sent via e-mail (preferred), on disk, or printed (double spaced). Electronic format is highly preferred.

Send Newsletter submissions to:
Jackie Shane, Newsletter Editor
Centennial Science and Engineering Library
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-1466
e-mail: jshane@unm.edu
fax: 505/277-0702
phone: 505/277-5327

Send address changes, back issue requests and other requests to:
Linda O’Connell, Administrative Services Contractor
c/o NMLA, PO Box 26074
Albuquerque, NM 87125
e-mail: nmla@rt66.com
fax: 505/899-7600
phone: 505/899-3516 or 800/898-6652
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