Fall Mini-Conference — Libraries: Mining Opportunities

The New Mexico Library Association will host its annual Mini Conference on October 12th-13th in Silver City at Western New Mexico University. The conference will open on October 12th with a reception: enjoy fine food to the accompaniment of local musician, Brandon Perrault. Following the reception, all attendees are encouraged to continue the conversation at dinner. Conference planners are organizing a dine-around, an excellent opportunity to meet up with old friends and make new ones.

Programs begin on October 13th at WNMU, and there is something for everyone. A peek at session topics reveals programs on intellectual freedom, fund raising, school librarians working with teachers, storytelling, a digital library, and hiking in the Southwest.

Along with great programming, there will be some terrific events on the 13th that you won’t want to miss. The Silver City-based Bookmobile will be in the conference parking lot in the morning and will offer tours and information to anyone who stops by. You can also participate in a silent auction. The Department of Cultural Affairs has generously donated reproductions broadsides from the “Lasting Impressions: Private Presses of New Mexico” exhibit. Funds raised from the silent auction will benefit NMLA.

Come for the conference and stay for the weekend! Silver City has so much to offer. The downtown has a growing district of fine art galleries. The Silver City Museum is also downtown, and will have an exhibit on Mimbres pottery while we are there. Learn about Silver City’s unique architecture by taking a self-guided walking tour of the city’s oldest buildings. The Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, occupied by the people of the Mogollon in the late 13th century, is a two hour drive from Silver City. For a look at all of Silver City’s great destinations visit http://www.silvercity.org.

Registration forms will be in the mail soon, but you can register online and pay by credit card now.

NMLA Leadership

The Nominations and Election Committee is seeking candidates to run for the following NMLA Board positions:

- Vice President/President Elect
- Treasurer
- Members-at-Large (2)
- ALA Councilor

It is both an honor and a privilege to serve the profession as an NMLA officer. Serving on the Board is a benefit of membership that enhances an individual’s professional profile. Board service expands opportunities for developing leadership skills, networking with professionals and organizations both locally and nationally, and collaborating to shape the future of libraries and librarianship in New Mexico through advocacy and legislative activity. Help us to identify our best and brightest new stars. We are looking for representation from all types of libraries and from geographically diverse areas of the state.

Please send recommendations to Kathy Matter at matterkathy@aol.com by October 1.
NMLA Officers and More

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Library Leaders as Library Advocates

Anne Lefkofsky, NMLA President

Fall Greetings to All!

Much of this year’s advocacy discussion focuses on the power of action at the local level. That said, I’d like to celebrate the careers and accomplishments of two library leaders in New Mexico whose collective impact has gone beyond a local focus: Heather Gallegos-Rex and Eileen Longsworth. Through their personal commitments to libraries as transformational forces in our communities, each brought a clarity of vision and mission to their work in NMLA – and each exemplified a resolute passion for the cause of libraries. It’s bittersweet to acknowledge that Heather and Eileen, both past NMLA Presidents, have retired within the last month.

With a background in special and academic libraries, I admire Heather’s attention to “working from the inside” – especially through her roles at the NM State Library as Library Development Services Bureau Director and Deputy State Librarian. With an ongoing focus on best practices, Heather’s commitment to strengthening library professionals (as well as the organizations in which they work) led to positive outcomes that enhanced library service throughout the state. Heather told me once that when asked what she did as Development Director, she would joyfully reply, “I grow libraries!” An important legacy that Heather contributed to NMLA during her presidency was leadership in revising and updating the association’s strategic plan. Heather’s gift for understanding and honoring the key role of the process, and the necessity of planning will continue to benefit and serve NMLA and the State Library well in years to come.

Eileen’s arrival in Albuquerque was the realization of her life plan she’d held since visiting and working in northern New Mexico as a teenager – to live in the Land of Enchantment. In her 6 ½ years as Director of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System, she galvanized staff and library users by “working from the outside” – re-directing the system’s vision and mission to a full-on customer service focus. With a passion for the political process, Eileen often – and enthusiastically – testified to the “positive difference” libraries play in people’s everyday lives. Whether advocating for statewide GO Bond efforts, or working locally with City Councilors and County Commissioners, Eileen’s love of libraries was evident from the moment the conversation began. She is truly the consummate library customer, and always speaks effectively for customers because, first and foremost, she is one.

The larger lesson of both Heather’s and Eileen’s dynamism serves as a touchstone of abundant and timeless inspiration to the NM library community. In thinking about their careers, we can best honor them by taking their good examples forward, and continuing the priceless work that they undertook on our behalf.

NMLA Advocacy Toolkit – An Update.

Development of NMLA’s Advocacy Toolkit is well underway. Key developments are:

- A campaign team has assembled to create a public awareness campaign to support local efforts to get the word out on the 2006 GO Bond. In partnership with the NM Library Foundation, NMLA has engaged political consultant Maggie Toulouse to work with us on focusing strategy and approaches.

- The Librarians’ Guide to the Legislature is in progress – thanks to the good work of Joe Sabatini and Dinah Jentgen. The “first edition” will debut this fall on the NMLA website.

- New pages on the NMLA website are in progress for the GO Bond campaign and a permanent Legislation and Advocacy presence.

More Advocacy Food for Thought.

In late July, I had the good fortune to attend the COSLA (Chief Officers of State Library Agencies) Executive Leadership Institute in Madison, WI. The Institute included a mix of state library personnel from throughout the U.S., library association executive directors, politicians, business people, and academics. One of the best parts of this experience was the swag – the souvenirs – that everyone attending was able to take home. No pens, bags, stickers, pins or mugs – just the powerful message of advocacy that was repeated throughout panel discussions, case studies, presentations, and informal exchanges: the best advocates for libraries are community members. The Institute’s theme of

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Fire at the University of New Mexico Zimmerman Library

Linda K. Lewis and Frances C. Wilkinson

Just before 11 p.m. on Sunday, August 30, 2006, UNM’s Zimmerman Library was on fire. Library staff quickly evacuated the students preparing for finals. The fire department arrived and put out the fire, which was confined to the basement periodicals area. The cause of the fire is still officially under investigation. Thankfully, no one was hurt, and the damage was limited to the periodicals area; our books, special collections, and archives were not damaged.

The Library’s Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Plan guided our emergency response. Managers used the Plan’s phone tree to inform Zimmerman employees where to report. The DRAT (Disaster Response Assistance Team) met Monday morning at 8 in our Centennial Science and Engineering Library to deal with the crisis.

Our first priority was to re-establish services to our customers. We set-up minimal reference and information services in the Student Union Building and arranged for extended hours at the Union for students to study. We also extended hours at two of our branch library locations and relocated interlibrary loan and reserve services. We staffed information tables near both entrances to Zimmerman. In addition, we created a webpage with information about the fire and our recovery, including a FAQ sheet.

As soon as we regained partial access to Zimmerman Library, we developed a paging system to retrieve books. Our staff was relocated to our other campus libraries. To stay in communication with each other, we borrowed cell phones for those who needed them. We also borrowed laptop computers from various campus and state organizations for our displaced staff.

All the surviving journals and microforms in the basement were packed in 18-wheel trucks and taken to an out-of-state disaster recovery company for cleaning. We estimate that we lost at least 30,000 volumes of journals in American history, Latin American studies, ethnic studies, Southwestern...

(Continued on page 5)
Fire at the University of New Mexico Zimmerman Library (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

(studies, anthropology, social sciences and humanities.

We reopened part of the Zimmerman first floor on June 25, providing reference and circulation services, access to the Center for Southwest Research, and study space in our historic West Wing. Starbucks, located in our lobby, also reopened. Our paging service continued until July 17 when our second and third floors reopened to the public.

Our reference area, located on the first floor directly above the fire, sustained significant smoke damage and will require renovation. We are taking this opportunity to remodel the area to provide additional public space. We will merge our general reference and our government information reference services, provide more computers, offer more collaborative study space to our customers, and install a fire suppression system. Completion of the project is expected in late November.

Reconstruction of the extensively damaged basement will take considerably longer. Lighting and smoke detectors were melted, the flooring and walls were destroyed, and even the shelving warped and collapsed. The basement has now been cleared completely down to the cement. It will be totally rebuilt. The estimated date for reopening the basement is late spring to summer 2007.

We continuously update our web page with information about the fire. See http://library.unm.edu/ziminfo.php. We have also posted a preliminary list of the lost titles on that website. We will work closely with the campus to identify materials that are priorities for immediate replacement. We are tracking offers of donations, but we have very limited storage and are therefore unable to accept physical donations yet unless the circumstances are exceptional.

We hope other New Mexico libraries will never have to go through a disaster; however, some of you may. We have learned some lessons that might help others if they face disasters:

1. Have a disaster plan. All managers must have copies at home and at work. If you have an intranet, put a copy there.
2. Know whom to call in your organization’s administration, your library staff, your police and fire departments, your physical maintenance people and your insurance companies.
3. Have someone able to deal with the media.
4. Use technology to keep in touch: cell phones, email, instant messaging.
5. Communicate continuously with everyone. Have staff meetings in addition to email. Meetings are especially crucial when people are scattered and working in different locations.
6. Know that some decisions will have to be made incredibly quickly. Do the best you can and keep moving forward.
7. Know that some things will seem to take forever. While some things do take a long time, such as investigations of what caused the disaster, others just seem to take longer because it is a crisis situation.
8. Accept the emotional aftershocks. Some people will go through many of the stages of grief: shock, denial, bargaining, guilt, anger, depression, acceptance). Others may have some post-traumatic stress reactions. Respect that, and do not dismiss it. Some people will be helped by informational meetings. We used pizza and ice cream parties as an opportunity for staff scattered in several buildings to come together. Depending upon the situation, counseling referral services may be helpful.

Zimmerman’s fire was tragic, and it will take a long time to rebuild some of the collections that were lost. We will rebuild the physical library into an even better facility. While it is a cliché, we have become stronger through this disaster and view it as an opportunity for improvement. We are deeply grateful for all the support we have received from our campus, our colleagues throughout New Mexico and nationally. We know that we could not rebuild without that support.
REFORMA at Silver City and Dallas

Bernice P. Martinez, President, REFORMA de Nuevo Mexico (NM REFORMA)

Please join us at the Mini-Conference for a presentation on "Mining Cultural Heritage through Story" to be presented by New Mexico Storyteller Estevan Pla. If you never thought of yourself as a storyteller, Mr. Pla will give an overview of the techniques and tips that will bring out the storyteller in you. You will learn how to plan and present library programs and workshops that will encourage patrons to pass on cultural and family traditions through story. A business meeting will follow with Irene Shown, Immediate Past President of NM REFORMA, presiding.

During the same week as the mini-conference, some NM REFORMA members will attend the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color in Dallas from October 11-15. The theme is “Gathering at the Waters: Embracing Our Spirits, Telling Our Stories.” Among the guest speakers will be Loung Ung, a survivor of the killing fields of Cambodia and author of a best-selling memoir, First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers. Keynote Speaker will be Juan Williams, senior correspondent for NPR. His latest book is Enough: The Phony Leaders, Dead-End Movements, and Culture of Failure That Are Undermining Black America and What We can Do About It. Albuquerque’s Alisa Valdez-Rodriguez, author of the best-selling novel, The Dirty Girls Social Club will also present. Registration is still open for anyone wanting to join this extraordinary event. Paid members of NM REFORMA will be given a registration discount. You can find information on becoming a member of our local chapter and national REFORMA at http://lib.nmsu.edu/reforma/.

Two Library Staff Members in Search of Spanish-Language Resources

Bernice P. Martinez, President, REFORMA de Nuevo Mexico (NM REFORMA)

Lisa and Jessica are in the library break room, talking about how hard it is to find good materials and program ideas in Spanish. Sandy comes into the break room and, passing their table, picks up part of the conversation. She decides it is time for her to do her daily good turn.

“So,” says Sandy, “you haven’t had much luck with Spanish-language materials. You know, I am a member of REFORMA de Nuevo México. I see stuff all the time on REFORMANET.”

“REFORMA,” says Jessica. “¿Qué es esto?”

“No sabes what REFORMA is?” exclaims Sandy, amazed. “REFORMA is the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking. And REFORANET has postings with questions and answers about how best to reach our Spanish-speaking public. REFORMA members help each other all the time with great ideas. And all you have to do is join the organization to have access to tons of great information.”


“It’s easy,” says Sandy. “Just go to the web page—
MPLA Leadership Institute:
New Mexico Librarians Selected

Valerie Nye

The Mountain Plains Library Association Leadership Institute is drawing near. Library leaders from the mountain plains states will be immersed in leadership training from October 29th to November 3rd. This year’s slate of New Mexico candidates was outstanding, with a record number of 10 applicants. Choosing only three people for the 2006 Institute was very difficult for the selection committee.

Along with the large number applications, the committee contacted many NMLA members who provided references for Institute applicants. Thank you all for participating in the selection process. All of the information we gathered was important to our selection process. The New Mexico librarians selected to attend this year’s Leadership Institute are Barbara Lah, Librarian\Lecturer III at the UNM Law Library; Eileen O’Connell, Generalist Librarian at the Taylor Ranch Library in Albuquerque; and Jennifer Sprague, Library Director at the Meem Library, St. John's College in Santa Fe. Please congratulate these library leaders in our community!

For more information on the Mountain Plains Library Association and the Leadership Institute, visit http://www.mpla.us.

NMLA Advocacy for School

Our goals:
• To provide leadership to initiate, maintain, and enhance library legislation and act on political issues affecting school library interests
• To provide and support educational opportunities for school library personnel
• To communicate the role and value of school libraries and librarian-teachers
• To support and improve networking among school librarian-teachers in New Mexico
• To support and promote literacy initiatives for youth.

We welcome new members, new ideas, and new voices! If you are a current member of the New Mexico Library Association, please consider joining ASL-SIG, too. Be a part of building strong New Mexico school libraries!

Questions? Call (505) 866-8434 for more information.
Library Leaders as Library Advocates (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

sustainability provided an uncanny mirror to the issues and opportunities NMLA is working on this year. So if you’ll indulge me, I’ll share some of the great souvenirs that COSLA sent home with participants:

- **Know your audience** – know what lawmakers want, and tell them how libraries can help them achieve it. Look for ways that library goals parallel and support the goals of lawmakers.

- **Develop your message, and package it** – it’s about: the economy, education, community, our heritage, learning, jobs, the future…

- **Identify champions** – key people to articulate your message. Someone in a leadership role who will “fight for you in the backroom”. A champion could be an established legislator, or an up-and-coming legislator who’s ripe for cultivation on behalf the library cause.

- **Coalition building** – more voices ensure the message is communicated louder. A united front reduces opportunities to fail. Forming enduring alliances and partnerships with like-minded, complementary groups and organizations will yield additional benefits as the coalition grows and synergies are created.

- **Forge and maintain relationships** – both within the legislative setting and within your community. Shared history and common goals in library advocacy will build and maintain the urgency of the cause and message over time. In addition to the grass roots, work hard at rallying support among the grass tops in your library’s community: Library board members, library users, donors, and other partners.

Hoping to see you at the Mini-Conference in Silver City!
Library/People News

Eileen Longsworth, Director of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System announced her retirement, effective August 18, 2006. Eileen joined A/BCLS as Director in 2000. Prior to that time, she had served as Director of the Salt Lake County Library System for 12 years. Eileen has held a variety of library positions in Utah, Maryland and the District of Columbia. She began her career in Montgomery County Maryland Public Libraries, working as a desk clerk to support her college education. Eileen has a BA from the University of Maryland and an MLS from Catholic University in Washington DC.

During her career, Eileen has served as President of both the New Mexico and Utah Library Associations.

She has been active in ALA's Public Library Association, both as a Committee Chair and speaker at national conferences. She has been awarded the Utah Library Association "Librarian of the Year" award for her success in helping to defeat a property tax limitation with negative library impacts. She has served as the Chair of the Statewide Bond Task Force for the three recent New Mexico efforts. During her tenure in Utah and New Mexico, Eileen successfully improved services, built new libraries, and renovated existing branches. Although Eileen is ending her 40 year library career, she will continue to enjoy life in New Mexico with her husband, Bruce.

New Mexico Library Foundation: A Good Mining Opportunity

Caroline Beckner

Do you have a great idea for your library, and all you need is a little money? And you’ve heard that New Mexico Library Foundation gives grants of money up to $1000? Come learn how to apply for a grant at our hands-on workshop at the Fall Mini-conference in Silver City on Friday, October 13! We can’t wait to see you!

Check the conference schedule for time and location!

Bring your ideas  
Ask questions  
Hear and talk with Silver City grant recipients  
Take home an application and grant guidelines  
See the NMLF website: www.nm-lf.org

Since 1992 the New Mexico Library Foundation has been a tax deductible foundation serving the libraries and library organizations of the state by providing grants and services.

Your donations are welcome in your name or to honor another person. Make checks payable to “NMLF” and send to the address below. To learn more about our organization, go to www.nm-lf.org
Libraries Kick Off Banned Books Week: Celebrate the Freedom to Read!

Richard Akeroyd, State Librarian
Joy Poole, Deputy State Librarian

Thousands of libraries and bookstores nationwide, including the New Mexico State Library, the Santa Fe Public Library, and the Palace of the Governors, will celebrate the freedom to read during Banned Books Week, September 23-30, 2006.

Observed since 1982, the annual event reminds Americans not to take for granted their democratic freedom to read. Libraries and bookstores will help get the message out and raise awareness of censorship with displays, readings, and presentations by authors, journalists, and speakers about books that have been banned or threatened throughout history.

The State Library encourages the general public to attend this year’s presentation “Banned Books Exposed!” on Sunday, September 24 at 2 pm at the Santa Fe Public Library, 145 Washington Avenue. Featured presenters are Val Nye, assistant professor and librarian at the Fogelson Library, College of Santa Fe, and Beth Aeby Teel, library specialist at Sombrillo Elementary School in Española who tours the state telling stories and singing medieval ballads as the New Mexico Troubador and is currently writing a book to accompany her ballad on the history of the first atomic bomb.

Following the “Banned Books Exposed!” presentation, Pamela S. Smith, author, guest curator, and former director of the Palace Press, will lead a tour of Lasting Impressions: The Private Presses of New Mexico at the Palace of the Governors. Smith is author of Passions in Print: Private Press Artistry in New Mexico, 1834 – Present. The afternoon event is free and open to the public. Banned Books Exposed! is a “Lasting Impressions” event funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The IMLS, a federal grant-making agency dedicated to creating and sustaining a nation of learners by helping libraries and museums serve their communities, supports the New Mexico State Library and Palace of the Governors.

In 2005, the American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom received a total of 405 challenges, most often initiated at schools and school libraries by concerned parents. A challenge is defined as a formal, written complaint, filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness. According to Judith F. Krug, director of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom, the number of challenges reflects only incidents reported, and for each reported, four or five likely remain unreported.

According to the ALA, the “10 Most Challenged Books of 2005” reflect a range of themes:
- It’s Perfectly Normal by Robie H. Harris
- Forever by Judy Blume
- The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
- The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier
- Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher
- Detour for Emmy by Marilyn Reynolds
- What My Mother Doesn’t Know by Sonya Sones
- The Captain Underpants series by Dav Pilkey
- Crazy Lady! by Jane Leslie Conly
- “It’s So Amazing!” A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies and Families by Robie H. Harris

Off the list this year, but on for several years past are the Alice series by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain.

Banned Books Week is sponsored by the American Booksellers Association, the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, the American Library Association, the Association of American Publishers, the American Society of Journalists and Authors, and the National Association of College Stores. It is endorsed by the Library of Congress Center for the Book. For more information on Banned Books Week, please visit http://www.ala.org/bbooks, or your local library.

What Do You Think?

Dinah Jentgen, Awards Committee Chair

Awards should reflect the organization giving them, and the Awards Committee wants to know what you think of NMLA’s way of celebrating our best co-workers and supporters. Please take two minutes before September 30 to log onto


and answer a few questions regarding the awards we give and whom we give them to. Thank you for your participation!
Fall Mini-Conference Registration Form

Silver City, New Mexico
October 13, 2006

Name: __________________________________________________________

Library/Affiliation: ______________________________________________

Address:_________________________________________________________

Telephone:__________________________ Email: __________________

NMLA Member: Yes ______________       No ___________________

Registration fee includes reception, all programs, continental breakfast, buffet lunch and morning/ afternoon snacks. 
Register by Friday September 29.

$40 NMLA member

$50 Non-NMLA member

TOTAL

Please check the special events you plan to attend so we can anticipate numbers.

☐ October 12 evening reception 5-7 pm at WNMU featuring Silver City entertainer Brandon Perrault. Number in your party____.

Silver City Dine-Around Oct 12, 7:30 pm -- Join colleagues for a pleasant meal-- Dutch treat. See restaurant descriptions on mini-conference flyer to make your choice.

☐ Silver City Brewing Company. Number in your party____.

OR

☐ Diane’s Restaurant. Number in your party____.

Return this form with payment or P.O. number to:

NMLA - P.O. Box 26074 - Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125

For more registration information, contact Lorie Christian at admin@nmla.org or 400-7309.

See also the NMLA website at www.nmla.org where you can

Register online and pay by credit card!
NMLA is YOUR organization!

Let us know what you would like to see in the newsletter, at conferences, and, above all, what we can do for you.

We want to make NMLA an association everyone can boast about belonging to!

Please check out the website at www.NMLA.ORG
You can find all sorts of information on NMLA — Awards, Continuing Education, Events, Grants, Jobs, Scholarships, etc.