



# Utah Libraries News

APRIL 2012

## ULA President's Message

By Linda Tillson

It's hard to believe that the centennial conference is only a week away and that this will be my last president's letter. I began the year wondering if I had enough ideas to convey in my letters; now my dilemma has become how to fit my thoughts into just one more letter.

In my last letter, I emphasized the importance of advocating for libraries with elected officials and policymakers. This is essential to ensure the continued funding and survival of libraries. What I did not mention is that it is equally important to advocate for libraries and educate everyone when the opportunity presents itself. When I meet new people and they ask what I do for a living, there is an opportunity to convey some essential information to them about the continued growth of library use and how libraries are effectively responding to our users' changing needs. It doesn't hurt to have some of your talking points ready.

I like to tell people about how the library is now offering e-books for check out. They are often interested in how this works and sometimes giggle when I tell them that whatever they check out is automatically returned—which guarantees they will not have a fine for a late return, lost item, or damage.

I also like to mention how libraries are much more than just a place to check out a book and how increasingly important the role of the library in bridging the digital divide has become. A recent story on *60 Minutes* following the lives of homeless children in Florida reported that the public library was the only place where these kids had access to computers and the Internet to complete their homework.

Somewhere during the conversation I also like to report that use of libraries continues to rise amid speculation of impending irrelevance. Apparently

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someone forgot to tell the increasing number of people using libraries that they are no longer necessary.

It is also helpful during these conversations to listen to what detractors have to say and consider whether any of their points have merit. If so, we should respond, or at least remember what they said so that we can frame a response that will resonate with people in future conversations. In many instances libraries are falling victim to the perception by some that they are no longer necessary. Being able to respond to this incorrect assumption is critical and may just help to ensure that ULA will be hosting a bicentennial program in another 100 years.

On that note, I want to close by encouraging everyone to attend the Centennial Celebration at the Salt Lake City Center Hilton Hotel on Thursday, April 26, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. This will be an entertaining and fun event featuring some special speakers, a unique keepsake, and the premiere of a short film produced specifically for the event.

I have greatly enjoyed the privilege of serving as the ULA President in this very special Centennial Year and look forward to continuing to work with the hardworking and dedicated members of this organization in the years to come.

## Announcements

### ULA Centennial Celebration and Conference

ULA's annual conference will take place April 25-27 at the Salt Palace in Salt Lake City.

The Centennial Gala will be held Thursday, April 26, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Salt Lake Hilton Hotel Ballroom.



### ULA Annual Conference Keynote Speakers

The Utah Library Association is pleased to announce that ALA President Molly Raphael and author Chris Crutcher will be keynote speakers at its annual conference. Ms. Raphael will speak on Thursday, April 26, at 9:30 AM. For more information about the new ALA President, visit her website at <http://mollyraphael.org/>. Mr. Crutcher will speak during lunch that same day. Mr. Crutcher's website is located at [www.chriscrutcher.com/](http://www.chriscrutcher.com/).

At 12:00 PM on Friday, April 27, ULA's own Connie Lamb will speak about the 100 year history of the Utah Library Association.

## New Library and Community Center Opens in Millcreek

By Greg Near, Public Communications Coordinator, Salt Lake County Public Library

Salt Lake County's new Millcreek Community Center opened its doors for business on April 11, 2012. The beautiful, new 46,000 square foot structure at 2266 East Evergreen Avenue in Salt Lake City includes the Millcreek Library, a recreation center with a full gym, meeting rooms, a community café, and a senior center.



*The east entrance of the new library.*

The adjacent Evergreen Park will be restored and will include a beautiful new pavilion and a lovingly refurbished Cinderella Pumpkin, a favorite from the old park playground.

The Millcreek area is a community in flux. As the local population ages and a new generation of families moves into the area, the current population is comprised of a wide variety of demographic groups whose needs will be met by this new community center. It will truly be a gathering center for Millcreek, where patrons can stop in the library to check out materials after exercising, eating at the café, cheering on a basketball game, or attending a senior pottery class. The library has expanded seating, additional staff, a larger collection, two small library meeting rooms, additional computers, an auditorium that can be divided into three meeting rooms or one large room, a story time

room, a separate teen area with computers for groups of young adults to work together and lots of natural light.

Marsha Leclair-Marzolf, library administrator over the new facility said, "I think the new building is fabulous. I believe the community will find the combined facility convenient and accessible. I'm looking forward to the community's response to the new collection, lots of seating including a fireplace in the magazine corner, the new teen area, the fun children's room and expanded public computers. The architects and library staff tried to create a balance between capturing the feel of the old Millcreek Library and the more modern Millcreek Center Community Library, and I think this blend of old and new is a great mix. For example, in the main hall the walls are the old gym floor and in the library the stacks are a dark wood reminiscent of the old library."

Library manager Suzanne Tronier said, "The old Millcreek staff is back from having worked at other libraries and in addition to these familiar faces we've hired a new teen librarian for our enhanced teen program, as well as additional shelvers and customer service staff to assist with our larger collection and the increased business that we anticipate."



*A patron browses the young adult collection.*

## Lost in Space in the Library: A Perfect Collaboration

By Joshua Johnson and Marilyn Getts, Davis County Library

On March 16, 2012, approximately 380 people gathered for our annual spring event at the Davis County Library's Central Branch, in partnership with the Layton City Parks and Recreation Department. This collaboration began several years ago, when Layton City approached us about doing something with them in the spring when it was too cold for outside activities. We were already planning a Dr. Seuss night and they joined us for that event.

This year's theme was "Lost in Space." It was one of our very best and is worthy of mention to libraries as a successful cooperative effort between two different government agencies. It appealed to a wide variety of participants, created an atmosphere of entertainment via information, and provided a wide array of high- and low-tech activities. We were also excited to find evidence that the event's impression lasted longer than the event itself.

The evening began at 6:30 PM after a brief half hour setup to move furniture and finalize our preparations. We set up carnival-style, with events happening simultaneously throughout the library and repeating so that participants could be comfortable coming or going at their leisure.

Events were designed to appeal to a wide age range. In particular, we felt that boys ages 8-11 who often are bored with more traditional library programming were particularly well represented. We know of at least two young men attending our event in this demographic

who are regular users of public Internet. They generally play games for the entire three hour time limit. We observed them at every space activity; they stayed the whole night. We feared that they might be bored by our simple web-based activity because they were used to far more sophisticated games, but we were wrong. We observed them on the computer at various times during the evening working their way through the guided parts, helped occasionally by reference staff. They ended by exploring Google Mars on their own.

Planning for "Lost in Space" began in January. With two agencies shouldering both the planning and the financial burden, activities for the evening fell into place quickly. Michelle Howard was our Layton City team member. The library recruited the Ogden Astronomical Society to participate, and Layton City recruited the Mayor of Layton and the *Ogden Standard Examiner's* mascot, Stan Bird, to tell stories. Mayor Curtis read *Captain Pajamas* and dressed as the title character with such flair and enthusiasm that all were entertained. As veterans of both sports activities and the summer *Arts in the Parks* program, the staff from Layton City were excellent at engaging and encouraging children to participate in a variety of the activities. The library created the informational space with posters of both library and city events and displays of astronomy and science fiction materials. We designed and staffed the Space Academy, presented a planetarium show on the ceiling, and told stories as well.

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Davis County Library's Space Academy

Often librarians speak of our role in terms of entertainment *or* information. We were pleased to offer entertainment *by way of* information. While people obviously enjoyed themselves, it was a night of learning. Public libraries are one of the few places that provide this type of learning environment. The old adage held true for us: the more things change the more they stay the same. While we were pleased to offer some “new” elements like a web-based Space Academy activity introducing participants to Google Moon and Google Mars and

a mock planetarium presentation on the ceiling, we felt that patrons were equally pleased with the traditional type of activities such as a “moon walk” with sponges rubber-banded to children’s feet and crafting a space-ship out of paper plates.

Finally, the event was worthwhile because its effects lasted longer than the time spent at the library. One mother who attended said that the day after our event her daughter was drawing a picture. When asked what she was drawing, she responded, “the solar system.” The mother then asked her daughter where she’d seen it, and the daughter replied “on the ceiling!” Children were encouraged to take home their flying saucers and create their own games similar to the game they played at the library. We know children who used them at home as Frisbees after the event.

Overall, the atmosphere, flow, and timbre of the evening were as good as it gets in our line of work. Families were able to interact together and appreciate what the library often stands for: information repackaged in inviting and useful ways sometimes on the ceiling with professionals dressed in Star Fleet uniforms.

## Library Hug

By Roger Layton, Communications Manager, Harold B. Lee Library

In February, the Harold B. Lee Library at BYU tried something new to promote the library. They organized a "Love Your Library Week" to celebrate Valentine’s Day. They started the week with an open house in Special Collections where patrons were free to visit with curators and look at the curator's favorite items including Academy Awards, movie props, first edition books, rare photographs

and more. Other days featured library trivia contests, pin the tail on the call number, and a call number treasure hunt. The week wrapped up with a giant hug of the library building.

Here is a link to the video by BYU Weekly: <http://byutv.org/watch/7390b575-f2e4-44b9-8e2a-e5448666f13c#!page=1&season=2011>. Look for the library hug about 4:25 minutes in. There is another video at <http://vimeo.com/38528165>.



## Emporia's SLIM Program Changes Admission Requirements

By Adriene Juarez, Utah Regional MLS Director.  
Emporia State University

The Emporia State University School of Library and Information is now accepting applications. The Graduate Requisite Exam (GRE) is no longer needed to apply. The next student cohort will begin in January 2013 at Utah Valley University. For a complete application visit [www.emporia.edu/grad/admissions/](http://www.emporia.edu/grad/admissions/).

Application materials include:

- Official transcripts from **all** undergraduate colleges/universities attended. A minimum 3.0 GPA is required for full admission. Applicants with a GPA under 3.0 may be considered for probationary admission.
- Admissions Interview. An admissions interview, scheduled with your regional program director, is designed to provide you an opportunity to demonstrate your interest in SLIM's MLS program as well as your own professional preparation and experiences, your professional promise, and your academic aptitude. It will also provide you an opportunity to familiarize yourself with the SLIM program and professional outcomes, shown here: <http://slim.emporia.edu/index.php/prospective-students/mission-vision-statements/>.
  - Effective March 2012, the admissions interview requirement replaces the requirement for GRE scores.
- Two letters of reference
- Current résumé or curriculum vitae

- Statement of Objectives. A statement of objectives focuses on how your experiences have shaped your professional and academic goals. You may choose to discuss why you hope to enter a Master of Library Science program, what your current career objectives are, and what you hope to take away from your relationship with Emporia State University's School of Library and Information Management. The statement of objectives should be no longer than two pages, double-spaced.

Please contact Adriane Juarez, Utah Regional MLS Director, at (801) 6610-0457 or by email at [ajuarez@emporia.edu](mailto:ajuarez@emporia.edu).



Emporia State University's SLIM program is ALA accredited and has cohorts meeting across the western United States.

## Report from Utah's MPLA Representative

By Dorothy Horan, MPLA Representative

Drop by the MPLA booth at the ULA conference! We will be happy to talk to you about the benefits of joining MPLA. Joining me at the desk are JaNae Kinikin, MPLA President Elect, and Chris Lake, the newly elected MPLA representative for ULA, and several other wonderful MPLA members.

If you have never been a member of MPLA, you can enter a drawing for free membership. Remember that new MPLA memberships are half price the first year. Memberships run from January to December each year. The link to renew or join MPLA is: [www.mpla.us/forms/membership.html](http://www.mpla.us/forms/membership.html).

One of the greatest benefits of membership in MPLA is the opportunity to attend the MPLA Leadership Institute. Many current library leaders attended the Arizona-based institute. You may know someone who has attended the Institute in the past. This year it will take place May 6-11, at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. Three Utahans are attending. Former Utah attendees of the Institute include Adriane Jurarez, co-chair of the Institute Committee and Vice President/President Elect of the Utah Library Association; JaNae Kinikin the President Elect of MPLA; and Jeffrey Belliston, Assistant University Librarian at BYU, and an Institute mentor again this year. The Institute will be facilitated by Maureen Sullivan, elected President of the American Library Association for 2012-2013.

Another benefit of membership in MPLA is being able to qualify for a Personal

Development Grant. The grants support attendance at workshops and conferences, research projects, library science course work, and visits to other libraries. Grants are also available for MPLA member state associations. ULA has applied a pre-conference grant for the conference in April.

You may still send in program submissions for the next MPLA conference. They are being accepted until April 30 and may be submitted at: [https://nlia.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com\\_mc&view=mc&mcid=form\\_114315&tmpl=component](https://nlia.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mc&view=mc&mcid=form_114315&tmpl=component). The conference will be held October 17-19 in LaVista Nebraska, located near Omaha. The theme of the Conference is "Back to the Basics: Building the Future." It will be a joint conference with the Nebraska Library Association and the Nebraska Educational Media Association.

I want to express my thanks to the ULA members for allowing me to represent them on the MPLA board. I've met a lot of good people and had opportunities to take things that I've learned from each board back to the other board. The members of MPLA are very nice, accepting and fun people. I've enjoyed my time with them and learned a lot from them, especially about being a leader. It's also been fun to see people who have attended the Leadership Institute blossom as they have increased their leadership abilities and skills and gone on to give back to ULA, MPLA, both, their employers, or other leadership opportunities. Thanks again for the opportunity!

## ULA Annual Conference Programs

### From A to Zentangle: How to Make Programs Work in your Library

Presenter: Melinda Barlow

Date: April 27, 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Location: Ballroom C

I have been doing programs in our library for over ten years and I know what works and what does not. I will share with you some of my programs ideas and how to plan your own. You will not want to miss this presentation. I will cover:

- Make programs work in your library, and have your patrons excited about coming.
- What to do and how to do it, for every age: adults, teens, and children.
- Ideas for programs in your library such as

quilting, art classes, book clubs, parenting classes, cooking demos, Fancy Nancy, Star Ward Jedi Training, NaNoWriMo and more.

- How to plan, for this programs, prepare and pull the whole thing off and still love coming to work. Hands on planning guide, working with staff to make things run smooth, and doing it all on a small budget.

### Want to Learn More?

A complete conference schedule is available on the Utah Library Association web site at: <http://conference.ula.org/>

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#### ABOUT THE UTAH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The mission of the Utah Library Association is to serve the professional development and educational needs of its members and to provide leadership and direction in developing and improving library and information services in the state. In order to accomplish these goals, ULA supports and provides continuing education programs for Utah librarians and library employees, especially at its annual spring conference. ULA also offers members a number of opportunities for library leadership, professional growth, networking, and community service. We hope you find the Utah Library Association to be an organization that makes a difference for you, for Utah librarians, for Utah Libraries, and for the citizens of Utah.



Utah Library  
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[www.ula.org](http://www.ula.org)