

8 June 2005

President's Message

Librarian extraordinaire Nancy Pearl spoke during the recent ULA Conference about her life in books and how she was shaped early on by the kindness of librarians. I was struck by her openness and ability to eloquently translate her love of reading and of libraries. The rapt audience found a bit of themselves in one of her stories. I know I left her lunch with a renewed sense of pride in my profession.

Utah Library Association has been part of my professional life for ten years now. I feel honored by my current role as steward of our organization and hope to serve my tenure as president as a conduit and catalyst for growth, change, diversity, and communication. I joined ULA ten years ago to learn more about Utah and our profession and am constantly in awe of what I am still learning. I hope that you will help me – all of us, really – in learning.

How can you do this? Take every opportunity to have your voice heard. Fill out questionnaires, write to ULA board members, talk to your colleagues, let your legislators know that libraries are absolutely vital to our communities.

I, in turn, will do my best to provide our organization with continuity and coordination. And every opportunity for creativity, I'm all for it! Thanks for all that you do. It is through our participation and service that we can grow – each action means something and does not go unnoticed.

My best,
Hikmet Sidney Loe, President
Utah Library Association

Events

ULA Board Member's Training Day
Mark your calendars now! If you served on the ULA Board during 2004-2005 and/or are on the Board for 2005-2006, please plan on attending the Board training on 10 June 2005. Details are on ULA's home page.

ULA/MPLA Members

The upcoming MPLA Conference will be held in conjunction with the Wyoming Library Association in scenic Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Dates are 12-15 October, 2005. Click here for more information:

<http://www.wyla.org/2005conference/index.shtml>

ULA Strategic Plan

Between now and May 2006, the ULA Strategic Plan Committee will be drafting a strategic plan to serve our organization from 2006-2009. We have already begun by reviewing plans of organizations similar to ours. During the 2005 Conference we included a questionnaire from the committee and received good feedback. But, more is needed! If you haven't already done so, please take a moment and fill out the Strategic Plan questionnaire that's available on ULA's home page. You have a voice in sharing and shaping ULA's visions, priorities, and goals.



Conference News

2005 ULA Conference

Thank you to all who participated in making the 2005 Conference a fabulous one! The Conference Committee, including past-president Gene Nelson, put on a great conference. The numbers aren't in yet, but they will show strong attendance, increased revenues for ULA, and greater membership numbers.

2006 ULA Conference Update

Looking forward to the next ULA Conference? I am! It will be held in beautiful St. George at the Dixie Center. By the time of our conference (17-19 May) the new Hilton Hotel will be open, adjacent to the Center. The conference theme is *When the Boundaries Blur: Creating Synergy in a Time of Transformation*. It continues the idea of change introduced at the 2005 Conference as we face expanding communities, increasing and morphing collections, rising costs, connectivity, and customer service. Along with dynamic sessions and an ALA LAMA Regional Institute training, we're planning great events and tours. Ellen Bonadurer, Dixie College Library, is the 2006 Conference Chair – please contact her with suggestions/ideas at bonadure@dixie.edu.



Road Tripping

My parents instilled in me a love of travel. In the 28 years I've either lived in Utah, or visited the state, I've seen a lot of our pretty great state. But, not all of it. As president I will take the opportunity, as I travel and road trip around, to visit libraries I've never seen before and say hi. Each library has a story, which I'd like to share. If you have stories to share, or want to make sure I stop by your library to say hi, please contact me: hloe@slcpl.org

May

The day could not be more beautiful. Driving from Salt Lake City to Park City reminded me of the first time I visited Park City in 1977. A lot has changed there, including the Library's location!

Linda Tillson, Park City Library Director writes: One of the most unique things about the PC Library is its history. It began in the basement of the First Congregational Church in 1888. Later the collection moved to Main Street, then to Miner's Hospital via a book brigade composed of local citizens. The idea to put the library in the old Miner's Hospital really ended up saving this historic building. The building was moved from an area near the Park City Mountain Resort to its current location on Park Avenue, where local citizens cleaned and repaired it in preparation for the library collection. Later, in 1993 moving the library to the old high school resulted in saving another local historic building. The vacant high school was renovated in preparation of becoming a new and larger home for the Park City Library. As you can see from this history the Park City Library has had tremendous support from the community.

<http://www.youseemore.com/parkcity/default.asp>

"Ghost Ranch, or How I Learned to Stop Whining and Love Leadership"

(Alternate title: "Being Warren Beatty")

Written by: Debbie Ehrman, Staff Development Coordinator, Main Library, Salt Lake City Public Library; Greg Hatch, Instruction Librarian, Marriott Library, University of Utah; Susie Woodward, Assistant Manager, Sprague Branch, Salt Lake City Public Library

Last November, we three had the honor and pleasure of being selected, along with 26 other future library leaders, to learn from experienced librarian mentors (including former Utah State Librarian, Amy Owen) and speakers from across the 12-state region at MPLA's Leadership Institute 2004. A literal retreat, at the extraordinarily beautiful Ghost Ranch-made famous through the New Mexico landscape paintings of Georgia O'Keefe-we left the trappings of work and daily life behind for five full days. Without cell phone reception, few computers, and not a television in sight, the setting was conducive to self-reflection and collegial exchanges of ideas. As if to magnify the experience, mule deer, jack rabbits and even a coyote passed by our classroom windows, to the thrill of the attendees.

The Institute is underwritten by EBSCO Information Services, coordinated by Mary Bushing (recently retired from Montana State University and 2001 Montana Librarian of the Year, whose den-motherly touch kept us all well-nourished and in good spirits) and facilitated by Maureen Sullivan (an organizational development consultant with extensive library experience, and the most well-read

person on the topic of leadership you'll ever meet). Institute attendees were exposed to a wide variety of leadership theories and skill sets covering leadership styles, interpersonal communication, power and influence, leading change, problems solving, decision making, and much more. These sessions helped us recognize the leadership qualities that we already possess, how we can develop those to contribute to the work place, and discover areas where we need to improve. We future leaders, and library professionals as a whole, are blessed to have someone as knowledgeable, inspiring, and committed to excellence and empowerment in library leadership as Maureen Sullivan.

Throughout the week, we also had opportunities to share our own life and work experiences. It was surprising and encouraging to realize librarians from all types of organizations and institutions have similar workplace issues to address. Based on these commonalities, we were able to openly reveal our specific challenges, offer suggestions, and gain new perspectives. We all came to understand that the Leadership Institute is a perfect opportunity not just to network, but to develop strong bonds with colleagues throughout the region that we can draw on for years to come. This year's "fellows," as alumni are called, have already been communicating via a listserv to ask questions, solicit ideas, and give advice and support.

While we worked hard during the day, we also played hard each night and during break periods. Group meals, game nights, hikes into the painted desert landscape, and a bonfire farewell party added to a well-rounded learning experience.

National Library Legislative Day

Written by: Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Librarian

National Legislative Library Day was held on May 4, 2005. Utah delegates Linda Tillson, Chair, ULA Legislative Committee (Director Park City Public Library), Karen Burton, Chair-Elect, ULA Legislative Committee (Assistant Director, Weber County Library) and Donna Jones Morris (State Librarian, Utah State Library) joined 480 librarians and library supporters from 45 states to learn new advocacy techniques and to meet with staff of each Utah Congressional office.



Goals of these consultations included:

1. Establishing an on-going working relationship between the Utah library community and the people in each office.
2. Reporting on how Library Service Technology Act (LSTA) Utah funds have been expended in each Congressional District.
3. Asking our Utah Congressional Delegation to inform us when there are opportunities that can improve services in Utah libraries.
4. Highlighting the National Legislative Day Legislative Agenda including:

[Civil Liberties, Intellectual Freedom, and Privacy](#)
[Copyright Issues](#)

[Federal Library Programs](#)

[Funding](#)

[Government Information](#)

[Pre-Disaster Mitigation](#)

[Technology, the Internet, and Telecommunications](#)

National Legislative Day 2006 will be held May 1 and 2 (Monday and Tuesday), in Washington, D.C. Please let Linda Tillson, Chair of the ULA Legislative Committee know if you are interested in participating. In 2005 some states participated in a virtual process, Utah may want to explore that option in 2006, along with personal participation.

For more information on National Legislative Day, including details of each legislative agenda item consult: <http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/washevents/nlld/nationallibrary.htm>

Honors

ULA member Eve Tallman (Director, Grand County Library), was recently awarded a Merit Award by the Utah Humanities Council for her work as coordinator of the Southeastern Utah Book Festival. Congratulations, Eve!

Upcoming Newsletter

Newsletter Articles Wanted!

This is a quarterly newsletter that will be posted every three months (June, September, December, April). During the year I encourage you to submit articles. The more diverse voices are heard, the more interesting the organization becomes. Please submit your articles to Hikmet (hloe@slcpl.org) no later than the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication.