

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 2007

Activity Summary

As always, questions are welcome.

- ♣ Trustee candidate Sheila Reed withdrew her candidacy, and there were no write-in candidates filing before the April 27th deadline. Election plans were cancelled and Loreca J. Stauber is slated to become the new library trustee as of the June meeting.
- ♣ Volunteer Appreciation Week activities went very well. One Troy volunteer specifically expressed her appreciation for the letter of thanks, the column, and the bookplate; commenting that they were thoughtful and professional without causing the library unnecessary expense.
- ♣ The Volunteer Appreciation event at the Moscow Library was attended by over 20 volunteers. Volunteers seemed to enjoy meeting each other and sharing their enthusiasm for the library.
- ♣ George Williams was hired as the new Access Services Manager. George has previous work experience at the Boise Public Library and has been a substitute in the Moscow Library for the past several months. George began training in his new job on May 9th. Thanks to the search committee for their many hours of work. Thanks also to the three-person team filling the job on an interim basis; their teamwork, energy, and sense of commitment have been invaluable.
- ♣ The two new public Internet-access computers funded by a Gates grant were available for public use in the Troy Library on April 25th. The new configuration of computers allows for better patron access as well as better supervision and support by the Troy branch supervisor.
- ♣ I attended the Troy Friends meeting on April 25th to answer questions about the new computers and to thank Margie Fitzmorris, Troy branch supervisor, for her work implementing the change. The Troy Friends plan to write a letter of appreciation to the Gates Foundation.
- ♣ The LCLD Foundation meeting was held April 27th. Foundation President Tim Hillebrand presented information on fundraising strategies and plans to have follow-up activities at the May meeting.
- ♣ The Food for Fines campaign ended April 27th. At the Moscow library alone, 585 pounds of food were collected and donated to local food banks. District-wide the total was over 900 pounds.
- ♣ The LCLD Foundation Grants Committee submitted the grant application for the Traveling Lantern theatre programs of the 2007 Summer Reading program on April 13th. No word yet on the outcome.
- ♣ Carol continues to develop 2007-2008 budget figures.
- ♣ On April 17th, I attended the monthly meeting of VALNet directors. The 2007-2008 VALNet budget was presented and approved at the meeting. The LCLD will pay \$21,049 for VALNet membership next year, up from \$18,926 this year. The increased cost is due primarily to an increase in Washington-Idaho Network (WIN) fees.
- ♣ On April 26th the library's column "Beyond the Building Walls" appeared in the Pulse section of the Moscow-Pullman Daily News.
- ♣ The library finally received all of its 2005-2006 e-rate reimbursement checks totaling over \$2,118. Thanks to Carol Kampenhout for her perseverance.
- ♣ Seven library staff members attended the May 4th ILA regional conference in Clarkston. Feedback on the conference was very positive.
- ♣ The large rotation of JE books is complete.

Department and Branch reports

Adult Services – Chris Sokol

- ✎ Received, framed, and hung a certificate recording the Moscow Library's place on the National Register of Historic Places
- ✎ Weeded adult nonfiction and reference, freeing up seven shelves
- ✎ Produced a flyer about the "Library Elf" reminder service; distributed copies to Branch libraries. Some VALNet libraries also want to use this flyer and the eAudio flyer.
- ✎ Added several new links on LCLD webpage ("Government")

- ✎ Completed the Moscow adult magazine retention list, which helps us to manage the numbers of back issues, depending on the magazine
- ✎ Met several times as member of the Access Services Manager search committee, including phone and on-site interviews
- ✎ Sent off the May "New at the Library" column for the Co-op Newsletter
- ✎ This month's displays in Moscow: "The Mayaguez Incident, A Personal Account" and winners of the 2007 Pleiades Poetry Contest
- ✎ Researched suitable reading chairs for Moscow Library
- ✎ Ordered books, audiobooks, and DVDs as usual. We received a generous donation for more adult DVDs.

Outreach Services – Betsy Bybell

- ✚ Routine month for regular duties – 681 Patron Initiated Holds for Moscow, 19 storytimes at preschools for 359 listeners, and 17 inter-library loans
- ✚ Started promoting Summer Reading Program. I talked to parents at Moscow's HeadStart about the importance of reading to their preschoolers and passed out fliers and free paperback books as part of a grant from Idaho Commission for Librarians. I'll also be handing out fliers about the program to all the preschoolers I visit during each month.
- ✚ Proctored tests as part of regular reference duties. Reference questions seem to be picking up as the end of the school year approaches.
- ✚ I was able to inter-library loan microfilm rolls from 1902 of a Montana newspaper for a patron who's researching his grandfather. He's extremely happy to have these materials available to look at.
- ✚ Participated in program for Arbor Day at the Juliaetta Library by telling two stories about the importance of trees

Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

Things stay busy at the library in Bovill. Lots of things going on in preparation for the upcoming Bovill Days Centennial Celebration and the Summer Reading Programs.

- We had a reporter here from the Daily News and we had a nice picture on the front of the Neighbors section on April 25th. The report was on the many good things that are happening in Bovill and those folks who work hard to make them happen. In the picture were some of my most regular patrons Jean Childers and Dantae Workman and Jan and Pat Eck.
- The Bovill Library Friends are working with the Deary Friends on a writing contest for the upcoming Centennial Celebrations. The contest requirements are stories about Bovill/Deary past and present. The writing contest was also a project that the teachers in the schools had the students work on.
- The Bovill Friends are busy working on projects for Bovill Days. They will be selling t-shirts with a picture of the library on them and will also be raffling off some items as a fund raiser again as they have for the past two years.
- I plan on having the library open for a couple hours during Saturday the weekend of Bovill Days so that we can have a display of pictures for people to come see. We have pictures of Bovill and the Bovill school and school sports teams dating back to the early 1900's.
- Bovill and Deary Friends groups are going to work together to build some type of float that can be used in the parades in both towns, Bovill in July and Deary in August.
- The Bovill Friends are also busy making plans to do some landscaping along the sidewalk coming in to the library. They would like to have things spruced up and looking nice for Bovill Days.

Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- The combined efforts of Friends of the Deary Library, Friends of the Bovill Library and several teachers from Bovill/Deary Elementary Schools resulted in the First Annual Deary Friends of the Library essay contests, taking place during the months of April and June. The K – 6th Grade contest theme was "Come to Deary/Bovill and see...". Their entries were all illustrated! The 7 – 8th grade theme is "It happened in Deary/Bovill...", and the 9 – 12th grade and Adult theme is "Deary/Bovill-Past and Present..." Winners receive gift cards from Hastings or a free book.

- The Deary Friends of the Library celebrated National Library Week by having a "Know Your Library" scavenger hunt throughout the library, for approximately 25 children on Monday afternoon, April 16. The children each received their choice of a rice crispie treat or a bag of oreo cookies for completing the game! Thank you Sandy and Jennie Dalton for setting this up and bringing the treats. There was also a "Guess how many jellybeans in the jar" contest, won by Pam Richardson!
- Also to celebrate National Library Week, on Wednesday evening, April 18, David Blevins from Blevins Enterprises presented a seminar about programming video games to a very enthusiastic crowd of 32 persons. He and his Assistant also handed out hats from his company and stressed the need for a college education for working the video game arena. After the presentation, his wife, Thomasene, planted heather and pansies in the front flower boxes of the library. Thanks go out to both of them for their interest and hard work!

Genesee Branch Report – Sharon Steiger

- ❑ What a period of time! The last part of March and the first week of this month I was in India.
- ❑ Corlene Becker managed the library while I was gone and as usual did a good job.
- ❑ An anonymous donor gave the library a patchwork wall hanging. It's a great addition to the other two and brings a little more color to the room.
- ❑ The Friends met on the April 26th. The plans are set for the annual Community Day book sale. At an earlier meeting they decided they would like to meet with Chris and Anne to have a book selection meeting. The Friends would like to purchase books for the library district but have them shelved here for a while. They would be available to every library in Valnet. More on this later.
- ❑ Summer Reading is sneaking up on us. The theme "Get a Clue at Your Library" seems like it will be fun to work with. Like many of the other Branch library ladies simplification will be part of the program for me. Getting the kids reading more than cutting and pasting is the idea. I've had good volunteer help in the past and hope for the same this summer.
- ❑ The computers as usual in March and April got a lot of use.
- ❑ Patrons have figured out the newest of the new (red dots) and gravitate towards them. Paper backs are checked out but it's been my observation that they are no longer that first place a patron looks for casual reading.
- ❑ The food for fines campaign wasn't a real success here. I say that because in the time frame for it there weren't very many over due fines. The food banks will only gain 3 ½ pounds of canned goods. Actually for April fines were collected from only three patrons. The copy machine generates more cash than the fines do sometimes. April was one of the times.
- ❑ With better weather the little folks are getting out and coming to story time. In April 36 children came to the library for stories and projects.

Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

- Story time attendance was up this month; even with just three programs I had 66 patrons in for story times. I didn't hold a story time the first week of April as our school was on Spring Break and usually no one shows up.
- Class visits were all held on time and 173 students and their teachers came down from the Elementary school to check out items and pay for their fines with canned food.
- The "Food for Fines" drive was less successful as it had been in the past but still worthwhile with 140 pounds of food being collected for the local food bank.
- The Book Discussion Group met with 7 attending to discuss "Kite Runner". Great read!
- The Friends partnered with the ACTION group and some local 4-H youth to present a Family Reading/Arbor Day Celebration on April 27- Arbor Day. Batsy came and told some wonderful stories and several others did readings of prose and poetry, all featuring trees, to entertain an audience of 18 youth and 12 adults. Refreshments were provided, also coming from trees, with some money donated by the City of Juliaetta.
- The Friends of the Library met to discuss the up-coming Rummage Sale in May and also the library information table to be set up at Locust Blossom at the end of the month. Summer reading programs were also discussed.

- The Friends have purchased a new television for program use since the one provided by the District over 16 years ago finally died of natural causes. We also have a new DVD player to use in addition to the old VCR which has been used to show videos for children's and adults' programs.
- At the end of the month we were busy doing a massive rotation of juvenile easy books to have something new in place for summer reading. A couple of people have been coming in to help get the many crates of books on the shelves.
- Summer reading program schedule is almost all set and the prizes, decorations, etc. have arrived. This year's theme will be harder for the younger children but we will try to make it fun for everyone. It would be a huge help to have some extra hands to work the desk during the programs on Thursdays.

Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- ◇ We collected 115 pounds of food for the foods for fines campaign
- ◇ Had the final Storytime program with 23 kids planting sunflowers
- ◇ Finalizing Summer Reading Plans
- ◇ Friends proceeding with the Mystery Dinner Theatre plan
- ◇ So far collected \$750 in SR donations!

Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- ✓ First Step installed 2 Dell computers at the Troy Library. A big Thanks to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the computers and to Anne for writing the grant.
- ✓ Latah County Library District provided a new desk and chair to help with the addition of the new computers. The Troy Library is very appreciative of the additional desk and chair. We now have 5 internet stations and 1 catalog station.
- ✓ I am very lucky to have such hard working patrons. A man and wife team put the desk and chair together and another very nice gentleman did some minor carpentry work so the wiring could be installed.
- ✓ We have been rotating JE books, audios and videos. Also the regular rotation of Red and Orange Dots.
- ✓ Patrons were happy to participate in the Food-for-Fines program.
- ✓ Troy Friends had a meeting this month. The Summer Reading Program was discussed. Also discussed was to do some spring cleaning outside the Library. The Friends bought a new chair mat for the public computer and I will pick up one for the card catalog. The group was pleased to see Anne at the meeting.
- ✓ Story time is still going on. I will be ending it soon to prepare for Summer Reading program.