

# Latah County Library District

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT March 2008

### Activity Summary

As always, questions are welcome.

- ✓ On March 11<sup>th</sup>, the library held an all-staff meeting in Moscow. The agenda included discussion of WIN-Borrow and other changing procedures, a presentation on the new VEBA staff benefit, a Summer Reading Program planning session, and several small group meetings.
- ✓ The library is currently posting information about the trustee filing deadline of March 21<sup>st</sup>.
- ✓ A special collection of books to address the needs of senior citizens was added to the library collection in mid-March. Donated by "Project ACCESS", these books are just one component of a community-wide partnership to give area seniors better access to medical care and social services.
- ✓ Youth Services Manager Cathy Ensley and I attended the 2008 Read to Me meeting in Boise from March 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> and later shared ideas from the conference at the staff meeting. From my perspective, it was an invaluable chance to learn more about the efforts of the Idaho Commission for Libraries and the State Legislature to address early childhood literacy issues.
- ✓ The group working on the Potlatch Library heat pump project met with two different contractors to discuss options and request bids.
- ✓ We continue to work with Washington Idaho Network staff on doing the first batch update of our library's holdings in the OCLC WorldCat catalog. This will give patrons another way to access our collection online.
- ✓ Clark House has begun using its new library card to make books, CDs and movies available to residents. In a note to Outreach Services Manager, Betsy Bybell, the Activities Director commented, "I already have requests from residents for specific books and CDs, and for next week's movie, so I'll be making frequent trips to the library! I am thrilled that our residents are so interested in utilizing all the Moscow Library has to offer. Thank you for helping make your resources available to our residents."
- ✓ I contacted the Latah County Sheriff to offer library-related service to the county's inmate population.
- ✓ The library column "New picture books spring in to the library", written by Youth Services Manager Cathy Ensley to promote new library titles, was submitted to the Daily News and the Latah Eagle.
- ✓ A Just in Time grant submitted by the VALNet consortium and requesting funds to add authority control to the catalog was approved by the Idaho Commission for Libraries. Authority control will help produce a consistent, effective catalog and improve patron access to the collection.
- ✓ I attended the monthly meeting of VALNet Directors in Clarkston on March 11th. The Voyager software upgrade will take place from March 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Libraries will remain open for checkout and computer use only; the online catalog and hold functions will not be available. The VALNet directors approved next year's budget. LCLD will pay \$22,585 for VALNet membership next year, up from \$21,049 this year. The increased cost reflects an increase in Washington-Idaho Network (WIN) fees and also matching funds for the authority control grant.
- ✓ The Friends of the Moscow Library Spring booksale was held February 29<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>. The booksale netted over \$6,500, an increase of \$300 over last year's proceeds.
- ✓ We are currently creating an online survey using SurveyMonkey to ask Deary patrons their opinion on changing the open hours of the Deary library.
- ✓ Several staff members have registered for March webinar sessions to learn more about a new Voyager software release available in late spring. These webinars were offered through the consortium.
- ✓ The library began a systematic rotation of audiobooks and juvenile kits, similar to that of DVDs but less frequent due to the longer checkout time. This is the first systematic movement of these formats.
- ✓ On March 13<sup>th</sup>, Carol Kampenhout and I met with the Deary Library supervisor and members of the Deary Friends group to discuss improvements to the library. The library will partner with the Friends, the City of Deary and the LCLD Foundation to fund carpet replacement and possibly other improvements this summer.
- ✓ The Policy committee met Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Department and Branch reports

### Adult Services – Chris Sokol

- ✘ Grants: Submitted a grant to The Circle: Moscow Women Giving Together for funding for the proposed Xeriscape garden at the Moscow Library
- ✘ Programs: Palouse Habitat for Humanity, February 11  
Next month: Readers and Writers Roundtable (March 21, 1912 Center, in cooperation with BookPeople)
- ✘ Displays:  
February: Realms of Avalon  
March: Borah Symposium (March 30-April 2), plus Three Cups of Tea (April 3)
- ✘ Was appointed chair for VALNet committee to research consortial electronic resources (if the state library picks up the NetLibrary tab after 9/30/08)
- ✘ Weeding: January Adult deletions kept very close pace with Adult acquisitions, in the ongoing effort to preserve sufficient shelf space
- ✘ Continuing to attend semi-monthly meetings at the UI to arrange the Moscow appearance of Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin, authors of *Three Cups of Tea*
- ✘ Moscow Library Book Club titles for March:  
Evening group: *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi  
Daytime group: *Three Cups of Tea*

### Technical Services – Jeannie Haag

- ✓ Eliminated BIB records and LCD holdings suppressed from the OPAC. Acknowledge that there may still be a few stragglers.
- ✓ Completed edit of non-fiction items with incorrect statistical categories which were a result of import limitations during the software migration.
- ✓ Caught up on the backlog of new and withdrawn materials.
- ✓ At Debbie Fischer's request, reduced her hours by 3 in Tech. and added 3 Tech. hours to Karon Chiavaras' schedule.
- ✓ Purchased VENMILL disc cleaning machine which is located in Tech. To date approximately 180 discs have been cleaned and placed back in circulation, representing a disc replacement value of \$1932.03. The VENMILL also saves a significant amount of staff time. At this rate the machine will have paid for itself within a couple of more weeks.

### Bovill Branch Report – Paula Winter

- ❖ Business as usual again this month—rotating books and filling holds.
- ❖ I still offer story times every week but I usually only have one family that comes regularly.
- ❖ I had one evening program this month. The Palouse Discovery Science Center came up and showed us some optical illusions. I had 9 kids and 5 adults.
- ❖ Busy gearing up and gathering materials for the Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is easy to work with and it is going to be a lot of fun, I think. What kid doesn't like bugs.
- ❖ Watching the snow melt!!

### Deary Branch Report – Debbie Fischer

- Carol Kampenhout came to Deary with good ideas about redecorating and general facility needs. An Avista representative looked at ways to upgrade the library for more efficient use of power.
- George Williams came to Deary with training ideas.
- A Community Service worker has been a great help a few hours each week.
- As part of his Eagle Badge Award, Trent Dalton organized and ran our Winter book sale, and with the proceeds bought large locking shelves he installed in the bathroom. This will help with storage needs.
- Snow removal was an important part of February!

- Nine adults and 23 children attended the Palouse Discovery Science Center "Optical Eye" Program at the library on Wednesday, February 20.

#### Genesee Branch Report – Sharon Steiger

- ❖ Kathy Dawes from the Palouse Discovery Science Center was here and presented a very interesting program to a small but attentive audience. As it happened, a basketball game at the school was rescheduled for the same time the program went on. It's very difficult for the library to compete with school sports, but 17 kids did come with their parents. It was an easy group to work with.
- ❖ I have a person who is willing to substitute for me when I'm gone. The other two people who are trained are not always readily available. I'm hoping for more stability with this candidate, so I'll be developing a training schedule for her.
- ❖ Other than that it's business as usual here at Genesee.

#### Juliaetta Branch Report – Jan Welles

- Story time attendance was pretty small as people were snowed in and also sick with colds and flu. We had a total of 36 for the four programs.
- Class visits were also affected by the weather as school was closed on two scheduled class visit days. There were 87 students and their teachers who did make it down to visit and check out books.
- The Friends met and did some more yearly planning. Their focus right now is summer reading along with collecting donations for the annual rummage sale in May.
- The scrapbook class that is being sponsored by the Friends met twice in Feb. with a total of 20 people attending. They are beginning to make accordion scrapbooks ("brag" books that fit in a purse or desk or briefcase) to be used as a fund raiser at Locust Blossom Festival at the end of May.
- Book Prowlers met with just 7 attending to discuss "A Thousand Splendid Suns". Many of the group were snowed in or sick.
- Spring should be coming so summer won't be far behind and summer reading is the next big thing on my agenda!

#### Potlatch Branch Report – Donna Quiring

- ♣ Another snowy first Thursday, so no Friends Meeting
- ♣ Despite the weather, storytimes were well attended with 57 kids and 32 adults.
- ♣ Winter Reading got off to a late start. We have 27 people signed up. It will run until the end of May.
- ♣ \$720 donated in memory of Casey Merrell, local young man who was killed in a logging accident. We will buy a new bench for outside the library with the money.
- ♣ Trying to get Summer Reading plans into high gear. Most of the programs are lined out, and looking at decorations, books, incentive prizes and all the rest that goes along with it.
- ♣ Looking forward to the Staff Meeting in March and hopefully the Voyager upgrade will be a piece of cake!

#### Troy Branch Report – Margie Fitzmorris

- Computers were down on the 7<sup>th</sup> due to the wind storm during the day. Makes it difficult to get anything done.
- Contacted the City about sand bags for the back door in case of flooding. Connie helped me put the computer towers and surge protectors up on stools in case of flooding.
- I took a few days of vacation and Betty was kind enough to fill in for me.
- We have a display in the Library of a vision of the Troy Community Center at the old high school. Two U of I students developed the display.
- We are talking about Summer Reading Programs. Prize books have been ordered. Is it that time already?
- Puzzle update: Patrons are still working on the second ¼. I am enjoying getting to know a couple that make their weekly trip, if not more often, to work on the puzzle. They are from Moscow.
- LCSC students are still coming in to have their tests proctored.
- George and Carol have been out for visits this month.