

Wichita Area Library Association

# WALA News

Volume 20, No 2

Summer 2011

My time as President of the WALA Board is coming to an end and I wonder where the time has flown. I thank you for being a part of WALA. We had a good year in that we had such a great turnout for our Legislative Luncheon with about 51 people attending and the attendance for the Holiday Party was the best I had seen in quite awhile. Sharon Ailsleiger and Janet Fowler represented us at the KLA Conference by giving a presentation on our Book Buddy project. And speaking of the Book Buddy Project, we have expanded and now have books in the police cars of the El Dorado Police Department as well as the cars of the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department. Janet and Sharon also put together a basket to represent WALA for the Kansas Library Association Education Foundation (KLAEF) fundraising raffle at the KLA Conference.

We are looking forward to our Annual Meeting on May 19, 2011 at the Crestview Country Club. Kathryn Kysar will be our guest speaker. She will be speaking to us about her career as an author and specifically about editing the book *Riding Shotgun: Women Write about Their Mothers*. We will also hold our election for the Board at this time and I will hand over the reins to a new President.

As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter, the WALA Board will work for you, but it will be easier if everyone who is a member would actively participate and be a part of the organization. The Annual Meeting is a good time to come and visit with fellow librarians. You can renew your membership and, if you know of someone who would be interested in WALA, urge them to come and invite them to join as well.

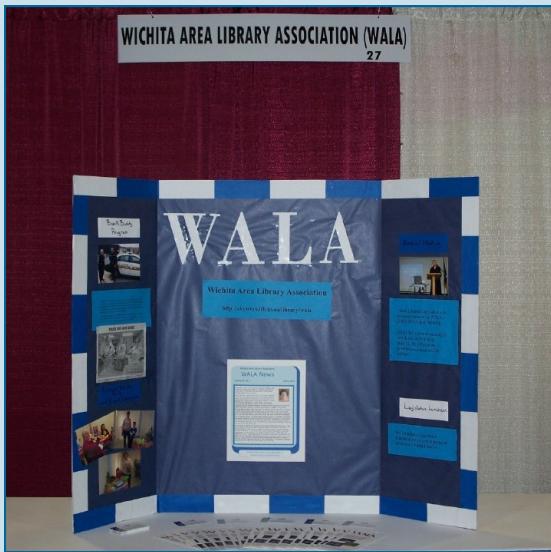
With my days as President winding down, I want to take this time to say thank you to the Board who was a constant support to me and worked very hard on behalf of the association. When I was nervous about saying yes to being President, I was told many times that they would all help. And help me they did! They made my time as President easier and I can't thank them enough. I look forward to assisting the new President next year. I am proud to be a part of this organization.



# WALA at KLA



**WALA members Sharon Ailslieger and Janet Fowler presented "Local Library Organization Making a Difference in the Community", a program about WALA's Book Buddy community project, at the conference. The program was well attended and sparked discussion on similar community projects.**



WALA set up a table with the vendors to promote our organization. Convention attendees were able to pick up our informational brochures and business cards.



WALA donated a "Cooking With WALA" basket to the Kansas Library Association Education Foundation (KLAEF) fundraising raffle.

**WALA's basket included:**

- 6 cookbooks
- Mixing bowls
- Towels and potholders
- Recipe cards and card holder
- Glass cutting board
- Brown sugar bear
- Measuring spoons and cups
- Can opener
- Serrated peeler
- Wire cheese slicer
- Spatulas
- Spoons
- Lasagna turner

**Total Retail Value of \$340.62**

\*special thanks to Watermark Books for their generous cookbook donations and Kitchen Corner for their great discount.

# *Congratulations!*



Kathy Delker, Reference Librarian at Friends University, has been promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor. The change in title will become official August 1.



Nicole Penley, Wichita, recently accepted the position of Outreach Services Specialist for SCKLS. She will be responsible for coordinating the Rotating Collections Service and other outreach and support duties. Penley was formerly circulation librarian at the Andover Public Library; Bands Librarian at Wichita State University; and employed by Barnes and Noble Bookstores in Wichita and Tucson, AZ. She completed her Master of Library Science degree from Emporia State University in August 2010 and also has a

Master of Music in Musicology from Wichita State University. Penley can be reached at 800-234-0529, Ext. 133 or [Nicole@sckls.info](mailto:Nicole@sckls.info).



You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting of WALA

Thursday, May 19, 2011

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

CRESTVIEW COUNTRY CLUB  
GARDEN ROOM  
1000 NORTH 127<sup>TH</sup> STREET EAST

PRICE: \$25.00 PER PERSON



Our speaker will be Kathryn Kysar who is the author of two books of poetry, *Dark Lake* and *Pretend the World*. She will be speaking to us about her career as an author and specifically about editing the book *Riding Shotgun: Women Write about Their Mothers*. In this anthology, a group of America's celebrated literary women have come together to tackle a topic close to their hearts: Mom. These highly personal yet often universal stories offer windows into those influential mother-daughter moments that have forever shaped the lives and perspectives of the writers, powerful women—authors, spokespeople, scholars, teachers, and some mothers themselves.

Our menu consists of two options:

CICKEN PARMESAN  
CAESAR SALAD  
BROCCOLI POLONAISE  
FETTUCCINI MARINARA  
CHOCOLATE MOUSSE CAKE

OR

CHEESE SOUFFLE  
HOUSE SALAD  
SAUTEED VEGETABLES  
CHOCOLATE MOUSSE CAKE

ALL SERVED WITH COFFEE, TEA, WATER, ASSORTED ROLLS AND MUFFINS

Please RSVP by --May 16, 2011 to Joe Forte at (316) 942-4291 x2104 or fortej@newman.edu and please indicate your menu option. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Membership dues of \$15.00 may be made at this time.**

# **Mountain Plains Library Association Highlights**

**By Jean Hatfield**

The Mountain Plains Library Association held their annual conference in conjunction with the Montana Library Association in Billings MT. MPLA played off of the conference theme "Libraries: The Road to Everywhere" by providing MPLA members with "road warrior" bandanas that could be worn throughout the conference so they could easily identify each other. MPLA members are known for providing conferences with interesting programs and an infusion of fun, and this year was no different.

Here are a few programs I attended that I found interesting:

"True Stories of Censorship Battles in American Libraries" presented by Val Nye and Kathy Barco from New Mexico. This is from a book by the same name being published by ALA soon. Val and Kathy talked about their process in gathering stories for the book and highlighted some of the more interesting ones, including an essay by our own Paul Hawkins on how the BTK Killer used libraries. They recommended that all library staff should know how to handle challenges by patrons so that they are handled appropriately. By planning and preparation, libraries can withstand challenges of all types.

"Customer Service Guidelines: How to Have a Nice Day Yourself" presented by Theresa Dickson from Oklahoma. Theresa's handouts can be found on the MPLA conference site. She emphasized that libraries are in the "relationship" business and that good customer service includes having empathy for our customers and that we treat everyone the same. Theresa's wry advice for dealing with upset customers: Don't upset them.

"Bucking Out: Exploring New Frontiers in Children's Literature" presented by children's author Sneed Collard III. Collard is well known as a nature writer, but he is crossing over into fiction and has created his own publishing company. He provided an interesting presentation on his life, how it affected his writing and how he goes about writing and researching his books. He was an excellent presenter and would be great with schools as well as adult audiences.

The two best programs I attended were the special presentations by authors. Marilyn Johnson, author of "This Book Is Overdue: How Librarians and Cybarians Can Save Us All" is a writer who discovered how indispensable librarians are. Her presentation covered some highlights from her book (which I recommend!) and gave an outsider's view of our profession. And while author Adriana Trigiani was unable to travel to Montana to do her presentation, she was able to entertain and inform attendees through the magic of Skype. While she was comfortably ensconced in her home office/laundry room in New York City, those of us in Montana peppered her with questions about her popular Big Stone Gap series and her foray into writing for young adults.

The next MPLA conference will be held in Omaha in the fall of 2012, so be sure to mark your calendar and put it in your travel budget. MPLA is the most inexpensive professional association I belong to (next to WALA) and it is definitely the most fun. If you haven't joined yet, I encourage you to go to their website at [www.mpla.us](http://www.mpla.us) and check it out.



## **Wichita Area Library Association**

**Wichita Area Library Association (WALA) is an organization of library professionals started in 1988 in Wichita, Kansas.**

**WALA is dedicated to supporting libraries and library employees in the Wichita area and works to improve library services and access for the Wichita area community of library users.**

**Read *WALA NEWS* at:** <http://www.skyways.org/library/wala/walapubs.html>

**Submit your materials for *WALA NEWS* to Amy Ramsey at [aramsey@wichita.gov](mailto:aramsey@wichita.gov) phone: 316-261-8594.**

**Web:** <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/library/wala>