

LEAD AKLA INTO THE FUTURE

A nominating committee, including Judith Anglin, Pat Kilmain and myself, is working on developing a slate of candidates for this year's AkLA election. Positions open this year are as follows:

- * President (2 year commitment, one as President and one as Past President)
- * Vice President for Committees (2 year commitment, one for committees and one as VP for Conference)
- * Treasurer (2 year commitment)

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Officer descriptions and responsibilities can be found on the AkLA web site at:

<http://akla.org/handbook/iv-1-2organization.html#council>

If you are interested in running for a position, please reply to me at jdedia@city.kodiak.ak.us so that I can share your interest with the committee. If you have a recommendation of someone that you think would enjoy serving on the Executive Council, please let us know.

All of the members of the nominating committee have served on the Executive Council, and we can assure you that it is a most rewarding experience. Please consider sharing your expertise with your Alaska Library Association.

Please respond to my e-mail address no later than September 30. I look forward to hearing from you. ❖

Joe D'Elia
AkLA Past President



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**JANE FUERSTENAU**

Last month I attended my first ALA conference since graduate school. What an experience! Never mind the fact that I am unaccustomed to big cities, or travel outside of Alaska—attending a conference for librarians representing all types of libraries in all parts of the country is a big deal.

I expected to be overwhelmed from the start. It seemed best to assume this up front, and then do my best to achieve as much as I could. I missed an average of one bus a day, and re-arranged my schedule at least twice a day throughout the conference. I over-scheduled myself—not calculating the distance between conference facilities. I learned to decipher the multitudes of acronyms representing ALA chapters and sections and used this knowledge to pick worthwhile sessions. By the last day of the conference, I had a firm grip on how to assemble a schedule and work the exhibitors' area without getting dizzy.

For weeks afterwards I could not stop talking about the conference and my time in Washington D.C. I was anxious to let people know that I hadn't just "been on vacation," but had actually been "at ALA." Many librarians that I spoke to after returning from my trip expressed their opinion that ALA is "too big" and less effective than other gatherings. On one level I understand how they feel. ALA conferences are huge. I missed the familiarity and collegial nature of AkLA conferences. Networking appeared futile, since the chances of my ever encountering these people again in the future was slim.

But Alaskan librarians need to see that ALA isn't some separate entity out there that we as librarians have the choice to either acknowledge or ignore. AkLA is a chapter of ALA, and how we are perceived as librarians is affected as much by our national organization as by our in-state activities. How effective we are as librarians is affected by all these chapters, divisions, and offices with odd acronyms for names. ALA is big, but then so is America. If ALA were to be downsized to a manageable, negotiable size, then who would we leave out?

So I recommend that AkLA members who are reluctant to participate in ALA take a second look at their national organization. If you just can't bear the huge throngs of people and exhibitors at the ALA mid-winter or annual conferences, then consider participating in an ALA chapter, division or affiliate event in your area. Advances in online technology make it easier than ever to get information and participate in ALA activities nationwide—and there really isn't any excuse not to. ❖

Sincerely,
Jane Fuerstenau
 2007 AkLA President

CHANGES TO LIVE HOMEWORK HELP – PASSWORD MAYBE NEEDED!

Our Live Homework Help program (<http://sled.alaska.edu/homework.html>) has been very successful in tutoring students in grades 4-12 and in college introductory courses. While nearly half of the students are receiving help with math, students are also getting assistance with English, science and the social sciences. In April more than 2,000 students signed in and worked with a tutor online.

The program has been so successful that we are getting the attention of students from the Lower 48. With the time difference our service is available later into the night than the Live Homework Help programs in Chicago or even LA. Of course our licensing agreement with

tutor.com restricts the use of the service to students and residents of Alaska. Therefore we have to put into place a better user authentication process for Live Homework Help. This process using IP authentication and passwords is really no different than what we currently use for the other statewide databases.

You may notice some new wording on the Live Homework Help web page. If you are using the service from a registered in-state network, you will not be asked for a password. However if you are accessing the tutoring service from a national network (e.g., America Online) or from a network that is not currently registered with tutor.com, you will be asked for a library card

number. However it is important to know that if you are prompted for a library card number, use the special Alaska password instead (NOT your library card number). The Alaska password is the same one we use with the other statewide databases. If you need the Alaska password, call 1-800-440-2919.

I hope this change is not too confusing. It is a change that we must make to comply with the terms of our statewide license.

If you have any questions, please let me know. ❖

Steve Rollins
ansjr3@uaa.alaska.edu



WHY BANNED BOOKS WEEK?

Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read is observed during the last week of September each year. Observed since 1982, the annual event reminds Americans not to take this precious democratic freedom for granted.

Banned Books Week (BBW) celebrates the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one's

opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular *and* stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them.

Each year, the American Library Association (ALA) is asked why the week is called "Banned Books Week" instead of "Chal-

lenged Books Week," since the majority of the books featured during the week are not banned, but "merely" challenged. There are two reasons. One, ALA does not "own" the name Banned Books Week, but is just one of several co-sponsors of BBW; therefore, ALA cannot change the name without all the co-sponsors

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JUNEAU

KATY'S SURPRISE!

Catherine (Katy) Wallen, Head of Information Services at the Alaska State Library and longtime State of Alaska employee (30 years!) retired the end of June. Given her long service, both to the State and to State Library parties and get-togethers, her friends, family and co-workers decided she should have a special party.

We planned a surprise party in the evening, but knew that she would be expecting something, so we threw her off the scent, taking her out to lunch and also had a small get together at afternoon break (cheese themed, in honor of her home state of Wisconsin).

At this "party," we presented her with her big gift, a limited edition of "Feast of the Animals: an Alaskan Bestiary" by Dale DeArmond, along with three cards. We were all tickled pink that this really seemed to work - she thought that was it.

That evening, we got together at

St. Ann's parish hall, which had been decorated with a Norwegian theme (in honor of her involvement with Sons of Norway and interest in all things Scandinavian) and lots of wildflowers (in honor of, well, summer and wildflowers!). Becky Orford had put together a wonderful scrapbook; and Sue Wallen, Katy's sister-in-law, had brought a beautiful display of pictures from Katy's childhood and family.

Sue and Bob had invited Katy out to dinner, and said that they needed to stop by St. Ann's to preview a sale of antique linens. Katy seemed to buy this, and really seemed surprised when they arrived to see no linens, but lots of library people. With polka music in the background, Katy, her family (her brother Bob, Sue and nephew Tor made it) and friends chatted and munched on some wonderful potluck goodies.

Due to some glitches with the AkLA-Juneau list (which seem to have since been resolved), we regret that we were unable to notify more of the Juneau library community in a timely fashion. Many thanks, though, to Jeremy Frank for his hard work on fixing the issues and on helping with a workaround.

We had brief speeches, with Daniel Cornwall reading some quotes from a memo Katy had written, lo, these many years ago. We also presented a few more gifts: a brooch beaded by a local artist; yarn in a GEAC bag (Daniel indicated that he was

going to knit her a scarf, since she's often cold, but then realized that he doesn't knit, but Katy does and will have time for it so she could knit her own scarf-this may have been funnier the way Daniel told it!); some Wisconsin cheese coasters from Aja Razumny; and a great t-shirt that Mendi Antisdal made of a picture of Lou Coatney with the caption "Birdman of Alcatraz."

Folks might also be interested in the Lou Coatney story, "The Birdman of Alcatraz," referenced above.

Katy told the story for those who didn't know: Long before my time at the Alaska State Library, Lou Coatney worked here. From all I've heard, and as some of you may remember, he was quite a character.

Apparently, one of his pet peeves was staff leaving the telephone receiver on the desk when off researching the answer to a telephone reference question.

One day, he noticed that this had happened and, as was his habit, picked up the phone with a "Lou Coatney." To his surprise, the person on the other end replied, "thank you," and hung up! Later, when speaking to the one who had originally taken the call, he (and everyone else) discovered that the reference question had been, "Who was the Birdman of Alcatraz?"

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I don't know if this impacted Lou's telephone answering practices, but from what I've heard, I kind of doubt it!

*Freya Anderson
Alaska State Library*

ANCHORAGE

CHECK OUT A GREAT LITTLE HEALTH NEWS- LETTER PUBLISHED RIGHT HERE IN ALASKA!

The Health Sciences Information Service (HSIS) is part of the Consortium Library at UAA. We offer fee-based service to healthcare providers across Alaska, as well as supporting UAA's health science programs. In December of 2000, Loretta Andress, then a medical librarian with us, started a bimonthly electronic newsletter to remind our far-flung clients of our existence as well as share news and information. The single page was sent out as a PDF attached to an e-mail, faxed or mailed to a few hundred people.



By Issue #14, Loretta retired and

sometime later the Newsletter started appearing monthly—often highlighting a hot health topic and providing clickable links to recent articles, reports or websites with quality up-to-date information for further reading. We've covered obesity, kids with complex medical conditions, colon cancer screening, patient education materials in foreign languages, Vitamin D, health literacy, Pilates, Alaska Native suicide and a host of others. Some of the issues focus on licensed resources just for healthcare providers in Alaska, but much of the information is free-for-the-taking or encourages Alaskans to tap into the Digital Pipeline¹ (Databases free for Alaskans) to retrieve complete articles.

As we broadened the content, we also broadened the audience—adding a few health-related listservs, UAA employees (who were encouraged by the UAA Benefits Administration to subscribe), health science librarians across the Pacific Northwest, and

individuals who heard about “favorite” issues from friends. People seem to enjoy the newsletters and find the overviews with resources for follow-up a useful format for busy people. Smaller clinics appreciate attractive, topical items for their bulletin boards. Each issue brings a flood

of unwelcome e-mail bounces, but as well, enthusiastic comments, suggestions for other great resources, requests to share the information with various communities of practice, and at times corrections or revisions. We enjoy this dialog with our readers very much—we all learn from it.

Sixty-five back issues are archived on our website and anyone can now sign up for free or unsubscribe from the monthly e-mail alerting them to check out the latest issue. Our alerts now go out to 1,500 e-mail addresses each month!

It's all at:

<http://consortiumlibrary.org/hsis/about/newsletter.php>

¹Live in Alaska? Why not explore the Digital Pipeline at <http://sled.alaska.edu/databases/home.html> ?

*Sally Bremner
Newsletter Editor &
Medical Librarian, HSIS
Consortium Library@UAA*

KETCHIKAN

I like teenagers. They have so much energy and so much curiosity, but try so hard to be laid-back and uninterested. They are amazing, confusing, articulate, awkward, interesting people. I

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truly enjoy their company and love to hear what they have to say. I know life can be tough as a teen; my own teenage years were rough. I was lucky though, I had somewhere to go where I was always welcome, where I was valued, where I was allowed to be myself. It was my library's young adult room and it was my second home for most of my teen years. There I was a part of a group that made contributions, I learned and I was listened to; all very special things in my life.

The group was Y.A.A.C. (Young Adult Advisory Committee) and we met once or twice a month to talk about books. We had a newsletter, we had a bunch of other activities, and we had a good time. We felt like we were really heard. Y.A.A.C. still meets in Mesa, Arizona—and they still write Open Shelf and they still have lots of activities. Diane Tuccillo, the librarian who was in charge of Y.A.A.C. during my years of involvement (and for many years after I moved away), is still a good friend. We go get ice cream and talk libraries whenever I get back home.

However, I am in Alaska now. And I have missed Y.A.A.C. and being a part of the “teen world.” So, with a bit of work and time and

some great teens, the Ketchikan Public Library's Teen Advisory Group has formed.

The first meeting was in June, but the work started quite a bit earlier. I attended the AkLA Conference in Juneau back in February and took a ton of notes at the pre-conference sessions: *Teen Advisory Boards* and *Teen*



Programming Ideas that were made possible by a grant written by Charlotte Glover and the *Four*



“S”s of *Teen Service* session later in the conference. With ideas from there, using lots of

resources that were mentioned and my own experience, I developed a program proposal for the Teen Advisory Group to take to my library division heads. I included advertising posters, application forms, a rough draft of bylaws for the group, and an outline of goals in my proposal.

Once I got a green light, the next step was funding—luckily we have a generous Friends of the Library group and they kindly approved funds for not only food at the meeting and events, but seed money for other program needs that would probably pop up along the way. Lisa Pearson, the Adult Services Librarian, also agreed to let me use a portion of her departmental supplies budget for posters and other basic materials.

Now all I needed was the teens. Putting up the posters was part of the process, but I knew it would be more important to ask the teens, in person, to give it a try. One step was pretty easy: The Ketchikan Public Library is part of a consortium including all the libraries in Ketchikan, so I know the school librarians, and it was easy to make contact with them. Our high school librarian, David Miller, was amazing; he worked with the English department and got me into more than 16 classes in one day to present my program

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idea to the teens. I also went to the alternative high school and presented to kids interested—here I got a surprise when the teacher I was working with offered school incentives for teens that became active in the group, but I wasn't going to complain!

I also went online—Ketchikan has an active online teen community and I have been keeping up with them for a while (that whole “I like teens” thing), so I wanted to tap into that group and let them know of the program. To help with the online crowd I made all the information available on the Teen Corner section of the library's web page. The application for membership is available online as well.

I request that all the teens interested fill out a form to become a member. I have two reasons for this: One, to gather information on what they are interested in and to get contact information. Second, and more importantly, I want them to go through a process and understand that I ask for more than just a quick pass, that this is a commitment. I was very nervous, but in the end I had 17 applications turned in, and on June 3 the Teen Advisory Group (T.A.G.) was born.

That first meeting went pretty well, and right away they requested a “Lock In” –not an

overnight, but an evening just for teens with a movie and games where they could be loud and relaxed and enjoy themselves.



We also talked about a lot of different books. From that first gathering meetings have covered music, magazines and lots more



books. We've done crafts, celebrated birthdays and eaten lots of food!

It can get a bit loud, but the rest of the library staff has been understanding and supportive of this new program, and for good reasons: T.A.G. kids have not only attended meetings (when they weren't working or on

vacation) but have also volunteered as helpers at several other library programs and helped with fundraising for our new library building.

The “Lock In” idea also came to fruition, all the teens that came brought in food to share (and ate it ALL!), our Friends of the Library provided beverages and everyone enjoyed a movie and games after regular library hours with lots of talking, laughter and fun. T.A.G. has decided the next project is going to be creating an entry for the “Unshelved” guys “Pimp my Bookcart” contest that we can also use in the schools as part of a T.A.G. membership drive during Teen Read Week in October. And after that we're hoping to plan a Christmas party and more programs just for teens at the library.

So, now I get to hang out with teens again, and I get to listen to them talk about books (and music and a lot of other stuff) and have had a program open to all the teens in town. It isn't Y.A.A.C. and we don't have our own room in the library –yet— but the Ketchikan Public Library's Teen Advisory Group rocks. I only hope they are as happy to be there as I am.

*Kelly Johnson
Ketchikan Public Library
and T.A.G. Adviser ;-)*

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BOOK BUZZ

BY PATIENCE FREDERIKSEN

Anchorage: From Its Humble Origins as a Railroad Construction Camp, by Elizabeth A. Tower (1999). Explore the



www.library.mun.ca

personalities and organizations that have made Anchorage into the thriving Alaskan metropolis it is today. Learn how Anchorage began as a company town built with left-over equipment from construction of the Panama Canal. This book is made even more interesting by numerous biographical sidebars and a great selection of illustrations. Includes a bibliography and index. *(Mary Jo Joiner, Kenai Community Library)*

White Night, by Jim Butcher (2007) is the 9th in the Dresden Files series, which features Harry Dresden as a wizard who lives in Chicago. This is magic for grownups with fantasy and sci fi thrown in.



The Dresden Files is a nice series to sate your appetite for wizards, now that the other Harry's reign has come to an end. Hint: do start at the beginning to keep the wizards, vampires, fairies and others straight. *(Mary Jo Joiner, Kenai Community Library)*

Talk Talk, by T. Coraghessan Boyle (2006). Dana Halter is falsely arrested for assault with a deadly weapon, auto theft, and passing bad checks, while William Wilson has been living a blameless life of criminal excess at Dana's expense. Dana and her boyfriend Bridger set out to track Wilson down. After reading this fast-moving and startling story about the impact of identity theft, you may want to reduce the number of credit cards you own. Reads like a John Grisham book. *(Ruth Jean Shaw, Anchorage School District)*

I have just finished reading **Three Bags Full**, by debut novelist Leonie Swann, (2006) where the murder of an Irish shepherd is solved by an unusual cast of characters: his flock of sheep. Even though the sheep are unable to question suspects or collect forensic evidence, they manage to find clues and information in a

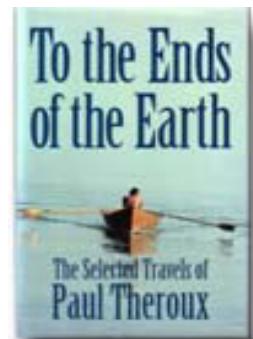
variety of imaginative ways. The flock is even able to unmask the culprit! The



writing flows so smoothly and the characters are so nicely developed, that I couldn't put the book down, even though the solution to the crime was a bit disappointing. *(Lisa Pearson, Ketchikan Public Library)*

I just finished reading Paul Theroux's **To the Ends of the Earth: The Selected Travels of Paul Theroux**,

(1991). Less a strict travelogue than a compilation of vignettes and stream-of-consciousness descriptions, Theroux



writes vividly, capturing the feel of various exotic (and not so exotic) locales. Reading the book was like wandering through an art show mostly composed of vibrant, evocative scenes, with a few clinkers thrown in. Despite some issues with his attitudes

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toward women, this book still left me eager to read more about his various travels. (Freya Anderson, Alaska State Library)

Cooked: From the Streets to the Stove, From Cocaine to Foie Gras, by Jeff Henderson (2007). A first-time author with a colorful past – this guy’s lived a lot of lifetime for someone so young! A fascinatingly honest story about a young man so caught up in southern California’s drug trade that he has to be busted before he can learn that there can be another kind of good life on the other side. Now head chef at Bellagio in Las Vegas, Henderson’s story is inspiring. A good read, I enjoyed learning about being a head chef in a big restaurant as much as the drug and jail sides of his story.

(Cathy Sherman, Cordova Public Library)





Heat: An Amateur’s Adventures as Kitchen Slave, Line

Cook, Pasta Maker, and Apprentice to a Dante-Quoting Butcher in Tuscany, by Bill

Buford (2006). The title says it all for this exploration of restaurants, cooking and food. This fabulous read is a great summer book. (Robin Hanson, UAAM Library)

Hurricane Punch, by Tim Dorsey (2007). If you’re a fan of Carl Hiaasen, you’ll love Dorsey’s style of writing and his creative characters. **Hurricane Punch** has an added twist of being post-Katrina, so Dorsey’s digs at FEMA trailers and government assistance are on the mark. It’s an easy and fun read for the summer, especially when the other book you’re reading is about parenting teens. (Cathy Sherman, Cordova Public Library)

Yes, Your Teen Is Crazy, by Michael Bradley (2002). As parent of a 16 year old, this book has been invaluable. Not only does Bradley put everything into easy to understand information, he provides suggestions and examples of how to carry out some critical parenting advice. My husband and I have both read it, continue to read it and use it. Sane advice for a crazy time. And yes, teens really are crazy...just don’t tell them that. (Cathy Sherman, Cordova Public Library)

A Thousand Splendid Suns, by

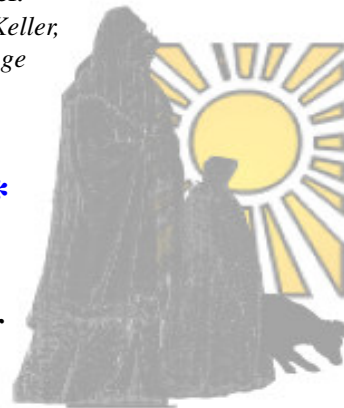
Khaled Hosseini (2007), is a searing epic of Afghanistan in turmoil. The story covers three decades of anti-Soviet jihad, civil war and Taliban tyranny through the lives of two women.

Hosseini’s first book, **The Kite Runner**, was a sleeper that became a New York Times bestseller.

(Karen Keller, Anchorage Public Library)

Copper Sun,

by Sharon Draper (2006). This book, which won the Coretta Scott King Award, tells the story of fifteen-year-old Amari, who was stolen from her village and sold to the highest bidder. She learns that she has only one thing left of her own: hope. This is a very intense story with a predictable outcome, or so I thought. When Amari, her friend’s four-year-old son, an indentured white girl, Polly, and a dog head SOUTH to freedom, my curiosity about Spanish Florida was piqued. I spotted two mistakes, can you? About a four-hour read. (Lyn Ballam, North Pole Middle School Library)



Do your patrons include geeky young men in the 17 to 19 age

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range? These two strange coming-of-age books should appeal to these young men: **An Abundance of Katherines**, by John Green (2006) and **I Am the Messenger**, by Markus Zusak (2006). I thought both were well written, with unusual storylines. *(Lyn Ballam, North Pole Middle School Library)*

A Rambling Fancy: In The Footsteps of Jane Austen, by Caroline Sanderson (2006). For lovers of Jane Austen, this book is a treat. The author revisits the environs that Jane lived in and visited during her life. This is a sort of travelogue with biographical details of Jane and her family thrown in. This book is an easy read, one I thoroughly enjoyed. *(Robin Hanson, UAA Consortium Library)*

*(Cont. on pg. 11)**(Banned Books - Cont. from pg. 3)*

agreeing to a change. Two, none want to do so, primarily because a challenge *is* an attempt to ban or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A successful challenge *would result* in materials being banned or restricted.

Although they were the targets of attempted bannings, most of the books featured during BBW were not banned, thanks to the efforts of librarians to maintain them in their collections. (See also [Censorship and Challenges](#) and [Notable First Amendment Cases.](#))

To assist in planning the weeklong celebration, each year a BBW kit is developed. This kit includes three posters, 100 bookmarks, a button and a *Resource Guide*, which contains [suggested activities and ideas for a BBW celebration](#). Moreover, the *Resource Guide* contains an annotated list of challenged or banned books and is an excellent reference for conducting research on censorship. (Since 2001, the *Resource Guide* is published every three years. Between new editions, kits include one List of Books Challenged or Banned since the last BBW.)

Often challenges are motivated by a desire to protect children from “inappropriate” sexual content or “offensive” language. Although this is a commendable motivation, [Free Access to Libraries for Minors](#), an inter-

pretation of the [Library Bill of Rights](#) (ALA’s basic policy concerning access to information) states that, “Librarians and governing bodies should maintain that parents—and only parents—have the right and the responsibility to restrict the access of their children—and only their children—to library resources.” Censorship by librarians of constitutionally protected speech, whether for protection or for any other reason, violates the First Amendment.

As Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., in [Texas v. Johnson](#), said most eloquently:

“If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable.”

If we are to continue to protect our First Amendment, we would do well to keep in mind these words of Noam Chomsky:

“If we don’t believe in freedom of expression for people we despise, we don’t believe in it at all.”

For more information on Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read, please contact the American Library Association/ Office for Intellectual Freedom at 1-800-545-2433, ext. 4220, or bbw@ala.org

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/background/background.htm#wbbw> ♦

(Book Buzz - Cont. from pg.10)

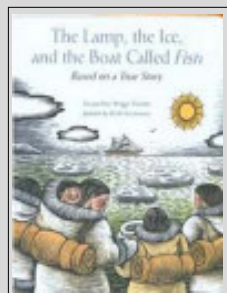
POLAR SURVIVAL STORIES

Two of my favorite polar survival stories in picture book format are nonfiction:

Lamp, the Ice, and the Boat Called Fish, by Jacqueline Briggs Martin (2001) and **After the Last Dog Died: The True-Life, Hair-Raising Adventure of Douglas Mawson's 1912 Antarctic Expedition**, by Carmen Bredeson (2003). Both retell actual survival stories and are based on the accounts of survivors. Both of these stories are so powerful that they deserve to be remembered by adults and children. (*Sue Sherif, Alaska State Library*)

Martin adapts an amazing story for a young audience in her creative nonfiction work **The Lamp, the Ice and the Boat Called Fish**. Beth Krommes'

scratchboard illustrations contribute much to Martin's retelling of the fate of the Karluk expedition. In the summer of 1913, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the Canadian-Icelandic explorer, commissioned a fishing boat, the Karluk (which means 'fish' in Aleut), to transport him, a group of scientists, the crew, and an Inupiaq family up the coast of Alaska. The goal was to discover the continent that Stefansson



erroneously thought would be found under the Arctic polar ice cap. The voyage was curtailed when the boat was iced in off the coast of Alaska.

Stefansson and three scientists left the rest to fend for themselves and set off over land. The boat with the remaining crew and the family on board was trapped in a slow, but horrible drift northwest in sea ice until the Karluk sank off the north coast of Siberia. A party of survivors was rescued on Wrangel Island 8 months later, 12 months after the expedition set sail, thanks to the survival skills of the Inupiaq family and a heroic trek hundreds of miles over ice by two of the party members. Two children and a cat were on board and were among the survivors, a fact that Martin uses to focus her story for a younger audience. She consulted Barrow descendants of the

Eskimo family in her research and includes photos of the family at the end. Martin's children's version might be a little slow-going for some independent readers, but as a read-aloud, it's terrific.

After the Last Dog Died: The True-Life, Hair-Raising Adventure of Douglas Mawson's 1912 Antarctic Expedition is a retelling for children of the fate of a smaller, three-person Antarctic exploration. Strikingly designed

and well illustrated with large-format historical photographs, this book gives more context for Mawson's true-life survival story than Martin provides for the Karluk story. Mawson, a seasoned Australian polar explorer at age 29, led a geologic expedition of 30 men and 39 dogs that was much more carefully planned and reasoned than Stefansson's, but took a night-marish turn when Mawson, two of the team, and 16 dogs set off on a map-



ping trek. What followed was a hellish experience that only Mawson survived. The miracle of Mawson's enormous desire to survive has been documented for adults both in his own telling, **The Home of the Blizzard**, and in Lennard Bickel's **Mawson's Will**. Bredeson used these books and her own interviews with Mawson's descendants to produce a solid work of nonfiction for children. If the results are less poetic than Martin's, the power of the actual story and Bredeson's attention to detail make this title one to recommend to young fans of survival fiction. ❖

(Chapter News - Cont. from pg. 7)

HAINES

On Monday, July 9, the Haines Borough Public Library upgraded its online catalog to make searching for materials more user friendly and a lot more cool. Patrons are now able to log on to the library's website, type a key word or phrase into a search box and discover all the different materials the library has related to the subject.

Powered by AquaBrowser Library, an innovative technology developed by the company Medialab, patrons not only find the materials they are looking for but are provided links to a lot more.

After seeing a demonstration of the technology at the Public Library Association Conference in Boston, Library Director Dan Coleman applied for a grant from the Alaska State Library for funding and also appealed to the Friends of the Library for support.

"We're the first library in the state to implement this technology and 1 of 100 in the country," says Coleman. "And it's so fun to use. It offers alternative search terms, makes relevant associations to subjects and authors, and suggests other titles that's more akin to browsing the stacks."

When introducing the technology to the library's youth mentors, Gus Rasmussen remarked, "Wow, it's like Google. People are gonna love it." And so far, patron re-

sponse has been extremely positive. Many have remarked that they're so happy they don't have to type last name comma first anymore when looking up an author. People are even accessing the catalog in the wee hours of the morning and placing holds on books. "Hits to the catalog are averaging 177 a day, with four an hour between midnight and 4:00 a.m.," states technology coordinator Heidi Berry.

If you're interested in testing the technology, visit the Haines Borough Public Library website at www.haineslibrary.org and type your query into the search box or click on the catalog button in the upper right corner. ❖

*Linda Moyer
Haines Borough Public Library
"Best Small Library in America 2005"*

A SCHOLARSHIP THANKS

Please convey my sincere appreciation to the committee for their generous scholarship support of my graduate education in Library Science. I am honored to receive such recognition, especially from my colleagues here in Alaska.

I am proud of the work the Association does on behalf of Alaska's libraries and librarians. I look forward to serving the state and my local library for years to come and am grateful to have been chosen for such an honor.

Sincerely, Tiffany Bryner

2008 AKLA REGIONAL CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE GRANT

FOR AN EMPLOYEE, VOLUNTEER OR BOARD MEMBER OF A LIBRARY IN INTERIOR
AND NORTHERN ALASKA

Do you live in the Interior or Northern Region of Alaska and are you interested in attending the Alaska Library Association 2008 Conference in Fairbanks? Grant assistance is available. The Alaska Library Association is offering \$500 to one library employee, volunteer and/or board member from a library in the [Interior or Northern Regions](#)* to assist with travel and lodging expenses incurred while attending the 2008 AkLA Conference. The conference registration fee will also be waived for the award recipient.

Eligibility:

- You must be working in or with a public, school, academic or special library within the Interior or Northern region boundaries, as designated by the Alaska Library Network*.
 - You must be a library staff member, board member or volunteer.
 - You must either currently be a member of the Alaska Library Association, or join before the grant is awarded.
 - Submit your application by January 15, 2008
-
- The recipient will sign an acceptance statement agreeing to the following conditions:
 - The recipient will attend three days of the conference.
 - The recipient will receive his or her grant check at an awards function, to take place during the conference.
 - The recipient will keep an informal log or diary about the sessions attended. The log or diary is to be submitted to the Continuing Education Committee as a basis for project evaluation. This will be used by the committee to improve this grant award and its requirements. Both positive and negative comments are helpful.

Conference Attendance Award applications may be sent by email, fax or letter by January 15, 2008 to:

**AkLA Conference Attendance Grant
c/o Alaska State Library
P.O. Box 110571
Juneau, AK 99811-0571**

1-888-820-4525 fax 907-465-2458

aja.razumny@alaska.gov

* http://www.dced.state.ak.us/oed/student_info/learn/region.htm



SECRETARY SPELLINGS AND MRS. LAURA BUSH ANNOUNCE NEARLY \$19 MILLION TO ENHANCE LIBRARIES IN LOW-INCOME SCHOOLS

IMPROVING LITERACY THROUGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES GRANTS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS' READING SKILLS

Waterbury, CT — U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings today joined Mrs. Laura Bush to announce nearly \$19 million in federal funds to enhance libraries in 78 low-income school districts across the United States. Visiting Driggs Elementary School, a beneficiary of an Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Grant, Secretary Spellings and Mrs. Bush underscored the need to equip all students with a strong reading foundation so they can achieve grade-level success under No Child Left Behind. The grants announced today support the goals of the law by furthering opportunities for students to develop strong reading skills, which will help narrow our nation's achievement gap and sustain students throughout their lifetimes.

"Reading enriches our lives and is the building block upon which all other learning is possible. These grants will help school libraries equip students with resources that build knowledge and foster a lifelong love of reading," Secretary Spellings said.

"From Maine to California, these students from low-income com-

munities will now have access to top-notch libraries," said Mrs. Bush. "In every one of these school districts, the grants we are awarding today will help teachers, principals, and librarians encourage their students' love of books."

The Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program provides funds to help schools improve their library media and address the reading and other literacy challenges of their students. Funds can be used to increase library holdings, improve schools' technological resources and capabilities, facilitate Internet links and other resource-sharing networks, enhance professional development opportunities and expand hours of access to library services. This program will help improve students' reading achievement by focusing on available resources to ensure that no child is left behind.

With the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Grant awarded today, Waterbury Public Schools will launch an innovative literacy project that integrates technology into curriculum and instruction. Waterbury will equip each of its twenty Title I elementary schools, including Driggs

Elementary School, with advanced technology and non-fiction books to support reading in the core content areas. Additionally, library media specialists and teachers will be equipped with resources to collaborate on the development of lessons for students promoting literacy and critical thinking.

For more information about the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program, visit: www.ed.gov/programs/lsl

Following are the Alaskan Improving Literacy Through School Libraries grant recipients:

AK Klawock School District 243,872

AK Kashunamiat School District 268,096

<http://www.ed.gov/news/pressreleases/2007/07/07242007.html>

Contact: Rebecca Neale
(202) 401-1576
July 24, 2007 ❖

ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GRADUATE LIBRARY STUDIES**

AkLA has established a scholarship program to support the education of librarians for Alaska's libraries, including school libraries. The stated purpose is to provide financial assistance to worthy students pursuing graduate studies in Library Science and to encourage graduates to return to Alaska to work in professional library positions. Preference is given to qualified applicants meeting the federal requirements of Alaska Native ethnicity.

Three scholarships of \$3,000 each may be awarded: one for a Master's Degree candidate, one for School Library Media Certification (the B.Jo Morse Scholarship), and a third from either category.

To be eligible for the scholarship, an applicant must be an Alaskan resident who:

- possesses a Bachelor's Degree or higher from an accredited college or university;
- is eligible for acceptance, or is currently enrolled, in a graduate program in Library and Information Science leading to a Master's Degree or School Library Media Certification, from a university program accredited by the American Library Association;
- is or will be a student during the academic year, semester, or academic quarter for which the scholarship is received; and
- makes a commitment to work in an Alaskan library for a minimum of one year after graduation as a paid employee or volunteer, or for two semesters for one semester's financial assistance.

Completed applications must be received by January 15 of the award year. If you are interested in applying, copies of the guidelines and application forms are available online at <http://www.akla.org/scholarships/index.html>. If you have questions about graduate library studies or would like paper copies of the scholarship application, contact:

AkLA Scholarship Committee
Attn.: Aja Markel Razumny
Alaska State Library
P.O. Box 110571
Juneau, AK 99811-0571

ph: (907) 465-2458 or 1-888-820-4525
[email: aja.razumny@alaska.gov](mailto:aja.razumny@alaska.gov)



ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
PO Box 81084
Fairbanks, AK 99708



ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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	* <i>Newspoke</i> , Loretta Andress	
Executive Officer	Mary Jennings	aflma@gci.net
E-list		maryj@gci.net
Website		aklalist@akla.org http://www.akla.org

CALENDAR

Library Card Sign-up Month	September 2007
Banned Books Week	Sept. 29–Oct. 6, 2007
Annual Conf. of Assoc. for Information Management Professionals, Baltimore, MD	October 7-10, 2007
Children's Book Week of the Children's Book Council	November 12-18, 2007
Midwinter Meeting of the American Library Association, Philadelphia, PA	January 11-16, 2008
National Conference of the Public Library Association, Minneapolis, MN	March 25-29, 2008