Philanthropist Carol McMurry Passes Away

Noted library philanthropist and former librarian Carol McMurry passed away on June 1, 2019, at the age of 74.

In 2000, Carol and her two sisters donated $5 million to the Wyoming Community Foundation, $1 million of which was dedicated to libraries through the Carol McMurry Library Endowment.

The Library Endowment supports both library projects and continuing education. Over the years, numerous projects have been accomplished with this funding, and many library workers have furthered their education and training due to her generosity.

More recently, Carol and her husband Pat Spieles made a $2.5 million gift to the University of Wyoming to create two programs, a campus reading program and a librarian position to work closely with the UW Honors College.

Carol Jean McMurry, 1944-2019.
Photo credit: Dignity Memorial.

Carol graduated from Natrona County High School in 1962, attended Casper College, and graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1966. She worked as a librarian for most of her career. More details about her life may be found in her obituary and in a 2007 article in the Wyoming Library Roundup.
WSL News

WYOMING BOOK TO BE FEATURED AT NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

(R to L) Roz and Mary Fichtner with the real-life Rusty the Ranch Horse.

Rusty and the River: A Rusty the Ranch Horse Tale by Mary Fichtner and illustrated by her daughter Roz Fichtner has been selected for the “Discover Great Places Through Reading” list for the National Book Festival. This annual list celebrates the literary heritage of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and will be distributed by the Library of Congress’s Center for the Book during the Festival in Washington, D.C., on August 31.

Rusty and the River was selected by the Wyoming State Library as part of its Center for the Book program. Each state’s book on the “Discover Great Places” list may be written by authors from that state, take place in the state, or celebrate the state’s culture and heritage.

Mary and Roz Fichtner, now in Casper, lived in Cheyenne many years. Mary is a graduate of the University of Wyoming, and rodeo was her sport from 10-years-old through college. She is certified in equine-assisted learning to help veterans and families. Her daughter Roz attends college at the University of Wyoming where she has competed on the rodeo team and is pursuing a degree in Art Education. Learn more on their website.

A WYOMING LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE READING LIST

The Letters About Literature contest invites each student in grades 4-12 to write to an author — living or dead — whose work influenced the student’s life. It’s not a formal report where someone picks a book the child or teen “should” read. Instead, the students pick the books that touched their hearts. What matters most is that a connection was made.

With that in mind, we compiled a reading list of all the titles our Wyoming Letters About Literature participants chose. Some are newer, some are classics, some might be surprises, but all touched the lives of at least one young reader.

Share the News!

Do you have colleagues that aren’t on the Outrider mailing list? Encourage them to sign up and catch all the library news.
Wyoming Library Association

WLA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration for the 2019 Wyoming Library Association Annual Conference is now open. The conference will be held at the Little America Hotel & Resort in Cheyenne from August 7-9.

PC Sweeney will be the conference’s keynote speaker. Sweeney is the political director of EveryLibrary, a national political action committee (PAC) for libraries. He’s the co-author of Winning Elections and Influencing Politicians for Library Funding from ALA Editions and a lecturer for San Jose State University iSchool. He’s worked in public and school libraries, and was a Library Journal 2015 Mover and Shaker.

His keynote will be the fun and inspirational session, “Make It Happen/Party Hard,” intended to motivate library staff to balance the stressful work of librarianship with celebrating successes in their communities. He’ll highlight the need for enthusiasm from staff at all levels to promote the work libraries do and discuss how that enthusiasm can build positive professional networks and relationships with communities for real tangible outcomes. Finally, he’ll explore the way emotional attractors affect library work and the level of success within communities.

Science and Health Pre-Conferences

The WLA conference will kick off with pre-conference sessions on Wednesday, August 7: Leap Into Science, Beyond an Apple a Day, and the School Library Summit (details on the Summit on page 5.). Registration for each pre-conference session is $20.

In the morning, the “Leap into Science” program is designed to build interest and skills in literacy and science for children ages 3-10 and their families in community settings like libraries, museums, and out-of-school time programs. Leap Into Science was developed by The Franklin Institute and the National Girls Collaborative Project.
For the afternoon, “Beyond an Apple a Day” with George Strawley from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine will cover the health information-seeking behavior of consumers and the role of the librarian in the provision of health information for the public.

Come learn about the evolution of consumer health, health literacy, and the e-patient. Participants will be equipped with knowledge of top consumer health sites, e-patient resources, and collection development core lists. Participants will discuss creative ideas for health information outreach. The class will wrap up with an opportunity to explore effective marketing approaches and develop an elevator speech.

Want More News?
Get the news as it happens: follow the Wyoming State Library on our blog, Facebook, and Twitter.

Ron Franscell is Featured Author
USA Today bestselling crime writer, novelist, and journalist Ron Franscell will be the featured luncheon speaker at the conference on Friday, August 9. Ron is a Wyoming native, author of 17 fiction and nonfiction books, and long-time journalist. His chilling true crime story of rape and murder in Casper — released in hardcover as Fall and in paperback as The Darkest Night — is still in print after more than 12 years. He returns to Wyoming in his new book, Alice & Gerald: A Homicidal Love Story which covers (and uncovers) the disturbing secrets of two murderers who evaded justice for almost 40 years. In 2001, Ron was awarded the SIRS/WLA Intellectual Freedom Award. Ron’s books will be available for purchase at the conference through Casper’s Wind City Books. Plan on getting your copies signed after the luncheon and during the Friday vendor break.

Register now!
Learn more and register for all events on the Wyoming Library Association website.
WLLI PLANS FIRST GRADUATE INSTITUTE IN GILLETTE

All Wyoming Library Leadership Institute graduates are invited to attend the first-ever Graduate Institute July 19-20, 2019, in Gillette. Reignite and increase your passion for leadership and collaborate with other grads to create the WLLI Future Plan. Jep Enck, Enck Resources, will lead the group through the planning process and fire up your leadership skills. Plans are in the works to live stream this event. Time is running out to sign up — deadline is June 22. Register here and use code WLLIGRAD. If you have any difficulty registering, contact Chris Van Burgh at chris.vanburgh@wyo.gov or (307) 777-3642, or contact Laura Grott at lauragrott@gmail.com.

School Libraries

LEARN AND CONNECT AT SCHOOL LIBRARY SUMMIT

The Wyoming Library Association Conference has a special pre-conference just for those working in school libraries. The School Library Summit will be held on August 7, 2019, at Cheyenne’s Little America Hotel.

This year marks the first year of the Summit, formerly the Information Power Summer Institute. There will be some great sessions, including one about the One Book Wyoming project, a breakout box activity, and more! It’s also a fantastic opportunity to network with other school librarians.

The cost to attend is $20. Register here at the link for the WLA conference.

Calendar

| June 1-30  | GLBT Book Month |
| July 1-31  | Graphic Novels in Libraries Month |
| July 8-13  | National Summer Learning Week |
| Aug. 7     | School Library Summit |
| Aug. 7-9   | WLA Annual Conference |
| Sept. 1-30 | Library Card Sign-up Month |
INNOVATIONS FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES

**Game Integrating Computational Thinking and Environmental Problem Solving**
The New York Hall of Science (NYSCI) pioneered Design–Make–Play, a novel approach to learning and engagement, drawing on deeper learning research and creating learning experiences that develop critical thinking, knowledge integration, innovation, and creativity skills.

**Assessments for Evaluating Historical Thinking**
The Olympics Protest is a new assessment from the Stanford History Education Group (SHEG) that gauges whether students can identify the historical event depicted in an iconic photograph and evaluate its historical significance. Successful students will draw on their knowledge of the past to identify American track athletes John Carlos and Tommie Smith raising their fists to protest racial injustice while on the medal stand at the 1968 Olympics and then explain how the event was historically significant.

**Documentary Illustrating Storytelling and Meaning Making with Children**
“Eric Carle, Picture Writer: The Art of the Picture Book” is a 32-minute portrait of Eric Carle, creator of more than 70 books for children, including the bestselling classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. In this documentary, Carle methodically layers a tissue paper collage of the caterpillar, pores over thumbnail sketches, and ruminates on drafts of his books.

Databases & Electronic Resources

**SUMMER READING UNDER THE STARS**

It’s the season for summer reading and our theme in 2019 is **Reading Under the Stars**! Let’s break out resources from Gale, NASA, STAR Net, PBS, and others to get kids reading under the stars — or at least huddled with a book under a blanket with a flashlight!

Libraries should have received their mini-marketing kit by email to promote these resources to patrons. If you would like to be
either added to or removed from our monthly email list for the kits, contact Susan Mark at susan.mark@wyo.gov or (307) 777-5915.

Also take a look at marketing materials from Gale promoting their Books & Authors database (available in GoWYLD.net). With Books & Authors, readers can explore Adult Fiction, Adult Non-Fiction, Young Adult, Pre-Teen, and Kids’ titles that will take them to the moon and back.

Do you have questions about the GoWYLD resources? Contact Chris Van Burgh, Wyoming State Library Database Instruction Librarian, at chris.vanburgh@wyo.gov or (307) 777-3642.

WEBINAR: SUMMER OF SPACE

Our latest archived webinar, “Summer of Space,” explores resources from Gale, Novelist, NASA, StarNet, and PBS Books to support your summer reading programming. Chris Van Burgh takes you on a tour of vendor-produced content from Gale and EBSCO, along with resources from organizations such as NASA and PBS that have created sites and sources for 2019’s Summer of Space.

WYDOT FEATURES GOWYLD.NET
DRIVING TESTS

WYDOT has featured a partnership with the Wyoming State Library on their YouTube channel. New drivers in Wyoming must pass both written and road tests before their license can be issued. WYDOT and the WSL have partnered with Driving Tests to provide online test preparation. Find it in GoWYLD.net.

Library Jobs

JOB OPENINGS

**Library Director**
Albany County Public Library, Laramie, WY
Reporting directly to the Board of Trustees, the Library Director is responsible for overseeing all aspects of Library operations to efficiently and effectively serve public needs. Albany County Public Library has three branch locations in Laramie, Rock River, and Centennial.

**Elementary School Librarian**
Teton County School District 1, Jackson, Kelly, and Moran, WY

**Librarian**
Central Wyoming College Library, Riverton, WY

**Makerspace Coordinator**
University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY

**Circulation Clerk I**
Converse County Library, Douglas, WY

See more Wyoming library employment opportunities on the WSL jobs board.
Trustees, Friends, & Foundations

CREATING A CALENDAR FOR TRUSTEES

From the Vermont Department of Libraries newsletter

Lara Keenan is the State Library Consultant, Governance and Management, for the Vermont Department of Libraries. In her trustee trainings, Lara talks about the importance of “succession planning” – i.e. planning for the future governance of your library, no matter who is on the board or who is the library director. One element of succession planning involves creating a yearly calendar for the trustees that:

• Lists what topics the trustees usually discuss each month of the year,
• Points out when the trustees need to start talking about certain items (the budget, for instance) to make sure those items meet deadlines, and
• Shows when the trustees can fit additional topics into their meeting schedule (ex: when they will review their bylaws, policies, etc.)

Having a detailed yearly calendar will help ensure that the trustees do not have to rely on institutional memory and can continue to move forward if a trustee needs to resign due to health or other reasons.

The Wyoming State Library offers support, resources, and consulting services to library trustees, including the online Wyoming Public Library Board Members’ Handbook. Contact the WSL’s Library Development Office for information and assistance.

DISCOUNTED RATE AVAILABLE FOR LJ DESIGN INSTITUTE

You can save when you sign up for the Library Journal Design Institute, to be held in Colorado Springs on September 13, thanks to a partnership between LJ and the Pikes Peak Library District. The Institute will dig deep with architects, librarians, and vendors to explore building, renovating, and retrofitting spaces both large and small that will redefine the relationship with users and engage community.

Wyoming librarians, board members, and others may take advantage of a special rate of $96, discounted from the full rate of $140. Sign up before June 21 to submit real-life design challenges with your registration. Use code JW20 when registering for the discounted rate.

HOW TO WRITE A SPONSORSHIP LETTER

Unlike a standard fundraising letter that asks for donations, contributions, volunteer time, auction items, or other gifts, a sponsorship letter has a slightly longer reach. It focuses on building a relationship with a potential donor...
and approaches them like a partner, including offering an incentive for their support. In this post, the Wild Apricot blog offers a helpful how-to on writing a good sponsorship letter, including two templates.

People News

Jennifer Beckstead, Teen Librarian at the Natrona County Library, graduated from the Leadership Casper Class of 2019. The in-depth program provides participants with a better understanding of community issues, resources and services provided in the Casper community. Jenn has worked as the Teen Librarian at the Natrona County Library since August 2005 and was recently promoted to Youth Services Manager, beginning in July 2019.

Natrona County Library Director Lisa Scroggins recently completed the Leadership Wyoming (LW) program. LW is a challenging nine-month educational program that prides itself on its rigor and provides participants insight to the industries, opportunities, and challenges of Wyoming, and offers the opportunity to network with leaders across the state.

After six years of service, Shannon Smith will be departing from the University of Wyoming Libraries. In her time at UW, Shannon has served in the capacity of Library Specialist with the Learning Resource Center. She will assume the role of Scholarly Communication Librarian with the Digital Initiatives department at Utah State University Libraries in August.

Training

SELF-PACED, ONLINE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Check out this sequence of four, self-paced courses on WebJunction from the Idaho Commission for Libraries, which cover everything from collection development basics to creating policies to maintaining and building your collection. The ABLE (Alternate Basic Library Education) courses can help you build your skills.

TEAMWORK DEPENDS ON SOFT SKILLS

How much do soft skills contribute to the effectiveness of a team? The answer: soft skills contribute tremendously to the smooth performance of a team. Library Worklife, a blog of the American Library Association Allied

What's Up?

If you have great happenings at your library, we’d like to know! Send news to Susan Mark at susan.mark@wyo.gov.
Professional Association (ALA-APA) offers this article on evaluating and developing soft skills in the workplace.

ALTERNATIVES TO ‘THERE ARE NO STUPID QUESTIONS’

When you say, “‘There are no stupid questions,” it can reinforce the word “stupid.” Is there a more positive way to let people know they can ask anything? Brianna Hoffman, WebJunction Project Coordinator, put a request for a better way to communicate to her network of library colleagues. Check out the crowdsourced suggestions and contribute your own.

Youth Services

NATIONAL SUMMER LEARNING WEEK CELEBRATED JULY 8-13

National Summer Learning Week is a celebration dedicated to advocacy and awareness around elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy every summer, and ensuring they return to school in the fall ready to succeed in the year. During this year’s celebration from July 8-13, each day will focus on a different theme — from STEM to the arts to nutrition and wellness. Check out the program toolkit.

FREE ‘BEST OF THE BEST’ MARKETING MATERIALS FROM YALSA

YALSA’s 2019 Best of the Best marketing materials include free downloadable bookmarks, logos, and more. Librarians are encouraged to use these free resources to help promote the year’s best young adult literature, including award winning (Alex, Edwards, Morris, Nonfiction, Odyssey, Printz) and selected list titles.

WHAT’S EARLY LITERACY FOR KIDS WHO CAN’T SEE?

“How do you translate training the eye to training the fingers? How do you address the different cognitive practices and activities needed by young children with low or no vision as they get ready for a life of independent access to information?” Check out this article on the ALSC Blog to learn how.

Grants & Awards

Great Stories Club series on Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT)

DEADLINE: July 15, 2019

The American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office is accepting applications for the Great Stories Club series on Truth, Racial
Healing & Transformation. The theme is “Growing Up Brave on the Margins.” Up to 35 libraries will receive 11 paperback copies each (10 to gift to participants; one for discussion leader/library collection) of up to four books on the reading list, a programming grant of up to $1,200, travel and accommodation expenses paid for attendance at a two-day orientation workshop, as well as additional resources.

**Humanities Collections and Reference Resources**

**DEADLINE: July 16, 2019**

Thousands of libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations across the country maintain important collections of books and manuscripts, photographs, sound recordings and moving images, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, art and material culture, and digital objects. This funding strengthens efforts to extend the life of such materials and make their intellectual content widely accessible, often through the use of digital technology. Awards are also made to create reference resources.

**Distribution to Underserved Communities Library Program**

**DEADLINE: Ongoing**

The D.U.C. Library Program has thousands of free art books available to public and school libraries in underserved communities. Participating libraries may order books from the D.U.C. catalog once annually. Branch libraries may participate independently or through their main library. All items received from the D.U.C. must be cataloged in the library’s holdings and made available to all patrons.

**News in Brief**

**PBS Books Has Launched Library Engagement Program**

PBS Books has launched its Library Engagement Program and invites libraries to sign up and take advantage of this free program. They’re offering the opportunity for free screenings of PBS programming, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE’s “Chasing the Moon” (before July 8), AMERICAN EXPERIENCE’s “Stonewall Riots,” monthly curated booklists, access to an archive of 650+ videos, social media accelerator, and information about livestreams related to books and the future of libraries.

**Library Journal Finds Library Circulation Down Slightly**

*Library Journal* recently released the results of its annual materials survey tracking circulation statistics in public libraries nationwide. Materials circulation in public libraries decreased by half a percent (0.5%) in 2018, falling, though slightly, for the first time since 1999. Two in five (40%) survey respondents reported that they saw their circulation decrease. Nearly three in five (57%) items circulated in 2018 were books, one in 10 (9%) were ebooks, and about a third (31%) were other media like audiobooks, DVD/Blu-ray,
music CDs, and streaming media. Book and ebook circulation both increased from 2017 to 2018, while netted media circulation decreased.

**New Online: The AP Washington Bureau, 1915-1930**
The Associated Press Washington Bureau News Dispatches from the tumultuous years between 1915 and 1930 are now online at the Library of Congress. The collection of news dispatches of the Washington, D.C., Bureau of the Associated Press spans the period 1915-1930 and consists of 375 volumes (387,082 images), housed in 254 boxes, the contents of which provide an unbroken chronology of world and national events as reported by the news agency.

**NNLM Resources for June Health Observances**
The National Network of Libraries of Medicine has released easy-to-use content to support health observances in June, including LGBT+ Pride and Men’s Health. Content includes slides for electronic displays, handouts for patrons and staff, and social media tools.

**In One Year, People Visited Public Libraries More Than a Billion Times**
The Public Libraries Survey report, released recently by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, provides an annual snapshot of public library use, financial health, staffing, and resources in FY 2016. “Libraries are offering more programs ranging from early childhood to workforce development,” said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew “It’s clear that people are using their libraries.”

**New MedlinePlus Video Series Explores Health Topics**
MedlinePlus has created a new series of videos in both English and Spanish to explain topics in health and medicine and to answer frequently asked questions about diseases, health conditions, and wellness issues. Each video page includes links to MedlinePlus health topic pages, where you can find more information about the subject, including symptoms, causes, treatment, and prevention.

**Aging at the Library: Resources for Working With Older Patrons**
From the fundamentals of helping someone use a computer and talking with them about privacy, to accessibility and troubleshooting, Jessamyn West covers how to work with older patrons on technology issues. Explore the keynote, PDF with notes, and PowerPoint from her “Aging at the Library” session at the 2019 New Hampshire Library Association conference for valuable information on serving your older patrons.

**Subscribe Today!**
If you’re not getting the *Outrider* in your email inbox every month, sign up on the WSL website so you never miss an issue!
Book Reviews

My Ranch, Too: A Wyoming Memoir
Mary Budd Flitner
Norman, OK : University of Oklahoma Press, [2018]

This evocative portrait of generations spent ranching in Wyoming sings with humor, love of family tradition, and heartbreak for the decisions every rancher must eventually confront. Even non-ranchers reading this book will recognize these fully-fleshed characters, and be able to imagine the driving rain and punishing heat of a trail drive. Flitner presents an honest picture of ranching: filled with contentment, warm conviviality and a satisfying sense of purpose, yet too often with backbreaking labor, strife among partners, and raging sorrow at the vagaries of nature. Her writing is illuminated with details of cherished friendships, quirky ranch hands and abiding love and respect for working dogs and horses. Shining through it all is a laudable dedication to responsible stewardship of the land. This beautiful book makes us all proud to be a small part of Wyoming history.

Tamara Lehner, Adult Programming Coordinator
Converse County Libraries

Dusk Along the Niobrara
John D. Nesbitt
Five Star Publishing, 2019

I mainly read non-fiction, so when I was asked to read and review Dusk Along the Niobrara, I was a tad dubious. I sat down and read it over a weekend and really enjoyed it. Although there were a couple of thin spots in the plot, it didn’t diminish my overall enjoyment of the book.

Told in the first person, the story line centers upon the arrival of cowboy drifter, Dunbar, who gets a job working alongside narrator Bard Montgomery. Dunbar eventually connects several area murders, one going back 15 years, and reveals the man responsible after a long summer and fall of ranch work.

The story develops slowly, leaving the reader wondering where all this is going, but eventually comes to a head when Dunbar brings forth a witness to the original murder.

Dusk Along the Niobrara is easy to read and I enjoyed the author’s descriptions of the eastern Wyoming landscape.

Leslie Colin Tribble, Tech Services Manager
Park County Library