I’m pleased to announce the results of our recent election of AkLA Board members. Winners are:

Sara Saxton, President-Elect
(907) 376-5913

Robert Barr, Treasurer
robert_barr@juneau.lib.ak.us

Amy Carney, Secretary
library.alaska.gov/dev/owl_staff.html

Mary Jo Joiner, PNLA Representative
mjoiner@kenai.com

87 members voted in this election. Thanks for your participation and see you all at Conference!

Karen Jensen
Rasmuson Library
University of Alaska Fairbanks
kliensen@alaska.edu
CORDOVA

Cordova Public Library was one of the lucky recipients of 5,000 LEGO's from LEGO Charity.

LEGOs were already something we had available to our young patrons at our library, so we knew there was a lot of interest in them. We decided to hold “LEGO Thursdays” after school for three weeks in December.

The first week we handed out the packaged LEGO's along with a bowl in which to dump the small blocks. We encouraged participants to trade pieces if they desired, and we also had extra LEGO's in a large tub. We did not show the large boat base or the multi-level base, as we figured it would be hard to share with the over 30 children.

They happily built for about an hour, and then we had them return all the LEGO's to the big tub. To ensure that everyone helped in the clean-up effort, we had a stop sign by the exit that said “STOP, Did you clean up your LEGO's?” This seemed to do the trick.

For the second LEGO Thursday, we created three teams by drawing names out of a hat. The first team was given the boat base, the second team received the multi-level base, and the third was given a large flat base and large LEGO blocks that looked like airplane wings.

Each team was instructed to build a large LEGO creation together, with the idea of cooperation, and helping the younger children. After 10 minutes, we took a picture of each LEGO masterpiece, with team members explaining the unique features.

Then each team destructed its creation, and we passed the big LEGO bases to the next team. They repeated the team construction on the new bases, with lots of excitement. We once again took pictures, and then traded the bases one more time. The teams worked well together, and were enthusiastic about building a large LEGO structure.

For the last week, we passed out cards from “Junior Pictionary” and told the children to pick an idea from the card, but to keep it a secret. After 10 minutes, each child held up his creation and the other children had to guess what it was. After all the guesses were done, with much laughter over wrong guesses, each child got a new card. We repeated the guessing, and then children could either get a new card, or just build whatever they wanted.

Once again, an hour of blissful building occurred, and clean-up went smoothly. We now have all of the LEGO's available in two tubs, and children have continued to create wonderful structures. Thank you to LEGO Charity and the Alaska State Library for giving us these great building toys.

(Cont. on pg. 3)
THE HISTORY OF LEGOS

The Lego Group began in the carpentry workshop of Ole Kirk Christiansen, in Billund, Denmark. In 1916, Christiansen purchased a woodworking shop in Billund which had been in business since 1895.

The shop mostly helped construct houses and furniture, and had a small staff of apprentices. The workshop burned down in 1924 when a fire ignited some wood shavings.

Ole Kirk constructed a larger workshop, and worked towards expanding his business even further. When the Great Depression hit, Ole Kirk had fewer customers and had to focus on smaller projects. He began producing miniature versions of his products as design aids. It was these miniature models of steamers and ironing boards that inspired him to begin producing toys.

In 1932, Ole Kirk’s shop started making wooden toys such as piggy banks, pull toys, cars and trucks and houses. The business was not profitable because of the Great Depression.

Farmers in the area sometimes traded food in exchange for his toys; Ole Kirk continued producing practical furniture in addition to toys to stay in business.

In the mid-1930s, the yo-yo toy fad gave him a brief period of increased activity until it suddenly collapsed. To reduce waste, Ole Kirk used the leftover yo-yo parts as wheels for toy trucks. His son Godtfred began working for him, taking an active role in the company.

In 1934, Ole Kirk held a contest among his staff to name the company, offering a bottle of homemade wine as a prize. Christiansen was considering two names himself, “Legio” (with the implication of a “Legion of toys”) and “Lego”, a self-made contraction from the Danish phrase leg godt, meaning “play well.”

Later the Lego Group discovered that “Lego” can be loosely interpreted as “I put together” or “I assemble” in Latin. Ole Kirk selected his own name, Lego, and the company began using it on its products.

for complete article: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Lego
New Poetry Collection Explores Two Distant Worlds

(Winston-Salem, NC) — Press 53 is proud to announce the publication of *Frozen Latitudes*, a new collection of poetry from New Jersey poet Therése Halscheid. *Frozen Latitudes* is the latest book to be published as a Tom Lombardo Poetry Selection.
Publication date: November 1, 2014.

Poetry Editor Tom Lombardo says, “In this incredibly cold and warm collection, Therése Halscheid melds two journeys into a metaphoric chronicle of daily struggles against impossible odds where lives are at the very edge of survival. Ms. Halscheid’s *Frozen Latitudes* is rooted in two specific latitudes. One is a literal location in the far northern Arctic land where she lived among clans of Alaska, and the other is the rugged terrain of home while caring for a father with dementia.”

*Patience Frederiksen*
*Alaska State Library*

There’sе Halscheid

In this new book of poems, *Frozen Latitudes*, she focuses on her father, Charles, who survived for thirty years after his brain was severely damaged during heart surgery. He remained at home for most of that time under the care of the author and her mother. Woven among these pages are journey poems of Alaska and other locales, which share the interchangeability of nature and human nature.

Therése’s previous poetry collections include *Powertalk, Without Home, Uncommon Geography*—which won a finalist award for the Paterson Poetry Book Prize—and *Greatest Hits*, a chapbook award from Pudding House Publications.

Her poetry and essays have won awards and have appeared in such journals as *The Gettysburg Review, Tampa Review, Sou’wester, Crab Orchard Review*, among many others.

She received her MA from Rowan and MFA from Rutgers University, and currently teaches for Atlantic Cape Community College, NJ. Through cultural exchange programs she has traveled widely, and taught in England and Russia. Through the Alaskan Arts Council, she had the privilege of working with an Inupiaq Eskimo tribe on White Mountain, as well as a residency in Homer.
Not accepted: paid advertising; material intended to “sell; make a profit” rather than to “inform.” Submissions viewed as advertisements, unless item is of particular interest to Alaska, Alaskan patrons, libraries, or is submitted by an AkLA member.

Accepted: Alaskana—books, book reviews, or articles relating to, or of interest to, Alaskan librarians and/or their patrons. Informative material related to libraries and librarianship, especially in regard to Alaska.

Most anything submitted by AkLA members—reasonably tasteful, of appropriate length, “decently” well-written; author is willing to submit to possible editorial changes. This may include length, perhaps spellings, downsizing of convoluted sentences... (Editor will make every effort to let the author know of, and pre-approve, any significant changes before the material is published in *Newspoke*.)

Other—determined on an individual basis by “the committee” (defined as a group of at least three people, composed of AkLA members).

If the *Newspoke* editor, or the individual submitting, has questions or concerns about any submission, the matter will be sent on to the *Newspoke* Committee. ★
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* Newspoke, Loretta Andress    aflma@gci.net
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CALENDAR
PNLA Annual Conference, Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, WA    Aug. 5-7, 2015
Ak Historical Society/Museums Alaska annual meeting, Cordova, AK    Sep. 30-Oct. 3, 2015
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Boston, MA    Jan. 8-12, 2016