INNOVATION IN TECHNOLOGY – JOHN ILIFF AWARD

This is the speech written by Jean Armour Polly and read by the Public Library Association president to introduce the first annual PLA Polaris Innovation in Technology John Iliff Award. Jean is an old friend of John’s. She and John were the first co-moderators of PUBLIB so many years ago. Jean is the one who conceived of the idea of this award, found the sponsor, and shepherded it throughout the journey to make sure that it became a reality.  

Julie Moore, formerly Julie Iliff

The Polaris Innovation in Technology John Iliff Award recognizes an individual library worker, librarian, or public library that has used technology and innovative thinking as a tool to improve services to public library users. The award provides a $1,000 honorarium, a plaque, and a bouquet of roses for the workplace.

Sponsored by Polaris Library Systems, this new award is named for, and recognizes the innovative spirit and extraordinary enthusiasm of, the late John Iliff.

John was well known throughout the U.S. as a technology pioneer, having co-founded PUBLIB, the first Internet electronic discussion list for public librarians, back in 1992—which was even before the World Wide Web was invented.

He loved to tinker with emerging technologies, exploring and experimenting to see which ones would be most useful to libraries. But he didn’t stop there. John was generous with his experience and knowledge and loved to share what he’d learned. He had a real knack for being able to explain a complicated subject to a novice audience. John made everyone feel special, empowering each individual with his trademark attitude of, “You can do this, too!”

His gifts made him an engaging and sought-after speaker whose enthusiasm for technology and its use in public libraries was truly inspiring to many, many librarians. In fact, his passion for teaching others about technology has led some to describe John as “a force of nature.”

John was a remarkable individual

(Cont. on pg. 3)
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mary Jo Joiner

Dear AkLA members,

I just returned from a short vacation on Kodiak. While there, I was able to tour their public library with Joe D’Elia and preview the location of our 2009 conference. I can’t wait to go back and share the experience with all of you. It’s not too early to remind you that conference 2009 will have a schedule different from that which we are all used to. This conference will begin on Friday, March 13, with Pre-conference and end on Monday, March 16. Please get the word out about this change to those planning to attend.

While waiting for my flight from Anchorage to Kodiak, I ran into Stacey Glaser from Kotzebue. What a small world this can be… in Alaska less than three years and running into librarians I know in airports.

Our wonderful Secretary, Joyce McCombs from Delta Community Library, was on the Kenai and stopped in to visit with me this summer too. It’s so terrific to have these peer relationships and to touch base with each other.

On behalf of our association I wrote to thank Governor Palin for signing SB119, “An Act relating to grant programs to support libraries.” I was also able to thank her in person when she appeared locally and reiterate our appreciation. Governor Palin told me that she was impressed by how grateful librarians across the state have been.

Last year Jane Fuerstenau had just returned from ALA when she wrote her letter for this issue of Newspeak. She noted that AkLA is a chapter of ALA and that “Alaskan librarians need to see that ALA isn’t some separate entity out there that we as librarians have the choice to

(Cont. on pg. 3)
(Letter from President - Cont. from pg. 2)

either acknowledge or ignore.”

When I budgeted for conference attendance for FY2008, I could not have anticipated that I would be President of AkLA, and I was unable to attend ALA in Anaheim. As President of AkLA, it would have been nice to represent our chapter at the national conference. I’d like to see AkLA consider sending the current President of the Association to ALA so that Alaska is recognized when they announce the chapter presidents who are present. It might also be an incentive for more people to consider running for this office.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Joiner

(Illiff Award - Cont. from pg.1)

who will be missed by not only his family (many of whom are here today) but by all of those in libraryland whose lives he touched in so many ways.

You might be wondering why the bouquet of roses will be sent to the winner’s workplace. John was a believer in blooming where you’re planted. The flowers celebrate the nurturing workplace environment that makes innovation possible.

The purpose of this new award is to encourage innovative user-oriented thinking and practical solutions using technologies old and new. Although he was quick to adopt new technologies, John was also famous for using available resources to spin straw into gold.

The award is to be given to a library worker, librarian, or public library that has used innovative thinking and new or old technologies to improve service to public library users.

And the first winner was Durham Public Library for thinking of using a wiki to transparently engage the community in its strategic planning process, and also using the wiki for accountability as the plan plays out. The awards committee got lots of great applications but we chose this one because doing the wiki is something every library could do—it uses PB Wiki (free) as its platform—and it is definitely “pull yourself up by your own bootstraps, spin straw into gold stuff.”

A lot of the other nominees had spent thousands of dollars on technology—they are worthy of this too because some are trailblazers, but this one was so simple and charming and John-like. I hope some of the others will self-nominate again next year—it was close!!!

(Cont. on pg. 4)
(Iliff Award - Cont. from pg. 3)

Photos courtesy of Julie Moore

Skip Auld with his crew from Durham, N. C.

The John Iliff Award plaque

Julie Moore, Skip Auld, Jean Armour Polly

Skip Auld receiving the John Iliff Award

Julie, Moore, Skip Auld, and his colleagues from Durham, N. C.
JOHN KENNETH ILIFF

“The most amazing person I have ever known.”

John Kenneth Iliff was the most amazing person I have ever known. The first thing that I would want people to know about him is that he was a very good and decent man. No matter where John worked, whether it was on the assembly line at GM, or as a social worker, or as a librarian, he always tried to make life better for others. He was caring and compassionate. John was a brilliant man. He always did a stellar job, no matter what he did—yet he was always very humble about the work he did. He was a man of integrity. He was courageous—passionately speaking out on issues even when it was not the popular thing to do.

I was blessed to be part of his life’s journey and to sit at the crossroads of his personal and professional lives. We both attended, and graduated from, the University of South Florida School of Library and Information Science, and graduated the same year. I watched him work as a student at the USF SLIS. The first physical things that I was struck by were his shock of beautiful long, curly, reddish-brown hair, his big, dark-brown eyes that could see right through you when he was trying to make his point, and his infectious smile.

In library school, I specifically recall John enthusiastically talking about this thing that became the Internet. For most of us, we had no idea what he was talking about, it was so far beyond us. (Yes, hard as it is to believe, when we went to school, the Internet was not yet developed and available to everyone.) I also recall fellow students scoffing at the idea of the Internet...their argument being: why would we need that when we have things like fax, voicemail, and pagers?

As ridiculous as that argument seems now, John did have many detractors to his thoughts about the Internet (including powerful library directors) in the beginning. He passionately defended his position. Now, those other technologies still exist, but it is already difficult to even imagine the world without the Internet. John saw with clarity how important the Internet was as a tool to provide information freely and efficiently to library patrons. John caught that big wave, and rode it to the end of his life. He was a technology pioneer in this Internet Age, testing many possibilities. John was one of the earliest librarians to adopt the Internet.

As a fellow student, I was constantly struck by John’s intelligence, humor, and humility. He always had his hand up...even when the rest of the class wanted to go home! His need for more information was insatiable.

We worked as colleagues in the Tampa Bay Area for many years.

(Cont. on pg. 6)
John worked at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and then for a longer period at the Pinellas Park Public Library. His heart was really with public libraries. He cherished the democratic idea that a wealth of information could be supplied to all patrons, no matter how rich or poor they were. Throughout his career, he mainly came from the Public Services side of the house, although he got very wrapped up in systems work in order to form the technology to fit what he needed for his patrons.

I am a born cataloger, and I have always worked in Technical Services. I worked at Saint Leo College and later at Stetson University, College of Law. Once in awhile we collaborated on projects; our paths continued to cross on occasion. John was always tinkering with technology. The Internet in the early days was not pretty; it was text-based. John knew that the concept was important to libraries. He forged ahead, training librarians about gophers, the WELL*, and other cutting-edge technologies along the way. He had the ability to hone in on a problem and find a creative solution. John often worked with librarians who did not have tons of money, and he was quite well known for his ability to spin straw into gold.

John accomplished so much for our profession in his life. Just to name a few accomplishments …

- He was a primary force behind Florida’s Suncoast Freenet in the early 1990s.
- He was instrumental in implementing Internet access for public libraries in Florida. (I saw him rather as a missionary of the Internet in public libraries; he introduced this idea not only in Florida, but in other states as well.)
- In 1992, John founded and co-moderated PUBLIB with colleague Jean Armour Polly. PUBLIB was one of the first discussion lists for librarians and is still in use today.
- John was highly sought after as a speaker and presenter for workshops, conference presentations, online courses, and podcasts throughout the United States. Part of his popularity in giving such presentations was his huge amount of knowledge; the other part was his personality. He was so charming and humorous. He had a way of making each person feel as if he were talking directly to them—even when he was speaking to 100 people. He was very personable.
- John was well published. He wrote some chapters in The Internet Unleashed (Sams Publishing). That was one of the first works to explain the Internet to an audience of not-necessarily

* The WELL is a cherished and acclaimed destination for conversation and discussion. For twenty years it has captivated intelligent, creative people. It is widely known as the primordial ooze where the online community movement was born...
http://www.well.com/aboutwell.html

(Cont. from pg. 5)

(Cont. on pg. 7)
technology wizards.

- “John was a vocal, passionate, and articulate advocate for intellectual freedom and a leader in the movement to reform the USA PATRIOT Act—activities that in 2003 led to his selection by the Alaska Civil Liberties Union as a co-recipient of the Liberty Award.” – ALA Memorial Resolution for John Iliff

- “John’s early and vigorous advocacy for Internet services in public libraries helped democratize this new medium and make computer and Internet access available to everyone, regardless of income.” – ALA Memorial Resolution for John Iliff.

John and I got married in Alaska. John worked as the Web Librarian at the University of Alaska Anchorage. I worked as the Cataloger at ARLIS (Alaska Resources Library and Information Services). Our son, Sammy, was born in Anchorage, Alaska.

The years married to John were surely the best years of my life. Those fleeting years were as close to perfect as my life has ever been. When John and I got together, it was like magic. He was a wonderful colleague, friend, husband, and love to me. He loved to go hiking and to be in nature. He also loved music of all types. John was musically talented, playing a variety of horns as he was growing up. We had a keyboard, and John played it a lot.

We had Sammy. John was a doting and loving father. He enjoyed taking naps on the couch with Sammy sleeping on his chest and walking around doing chores around the house with Sammy in the Bjorn carrier, even though Sammy was intent on pulling out John’s chest hairs! John was a very hands-on father. He got a lot of joy out of the usual baby chores—giving baths, feeding, rocking, singing, and even diaper duty. He liked to take Sammy on field trips and show him big new things in the world. He talked to Sammy constantly, providing him with constant entertainment.

He had an enormous amount of energy that he poured into librarianship, even with a new baby. He was often working at his computer into the wee hours of the night—spinning his straw into gold. He always had the best interest of his patrons at heart, and was one of the hardest working people I’ve ever met. Because of his own hardships in obtaining higher education, he knew how difficult it was for so many of his patrons. He said that he always thought of the poorest of the students who were trying to make it through school against all odds.

He wanted to make sure that every cent that went into paying his salary was well-spent. He took integrity to a new level!

(Cont. on pg. 8)
There was one incident when I had stopped in at UAA to turn in a travel form. He got upset with me for making a photocopy—and he insisted we pay for it. He wanted only to “give” to the students/taxpayers—he never wanted to take anything away.

While at UAA, I will never forget looking forward to a family vacation with John—but he had to hunker down and put this tenure dossier together. He used his entire vacation time to put his notebook together, because he didn’t feel it was ethical to be doing so on the students’/taxpayers’ dime. (Of course, all of his other colleagues were putting their notebooks together at work—it was encouraged.) But he was being a God worker.

That brings to mind a story that John told me: When he worked at GM as a very young man, he told me that part of his job was mopping at the end of the shift. There was some obstacle he mopped around. One particular day, he was exhausted and he did not want to lift this obstacle and mop underneath it, so he mopped around it. It was good enough, and nobody could tell. An elderly co-worker noticed what he was doing and said, “You’re being a people worker, not a God worker. To be a God worker, you put everything you have into whatever you do and take pride in it. You do it to please God—and in doing so, you will usually please people, too.” Ashamed to have gotten caught, he moved the obstacle and mopped underneath—and from that day on, he said that he resolved to be a “God worker.” That was a good lesson to learn at an early age, and that work ethic stayed with him. It is this resolve that pushed him with such vigor to move mountains throughout his life.

Since John and I were both librarians, we often had speaking engagements at the same conferences. I was always struck by how much faster he got his presentations together than I could. John was very focused. I often got to hear his first passes on his speeches—usually with Sammy on my lap. I could give him feedback on what worked and what needed a little more explanation.

His talks always came off well; he was gifted in speaking to people. I think he inherited this from his father, who was a popular minister. People from the congregation talked about how moving his sermons were and how it felt like he was talking just to them. I think that John inherited this gift from his father. But John was spreading the gospel of the Internet and keeping information free in this democratic society.

I also saw his personal side. After a presentation, John always asked, “How did I do, really?” He needed trusted feedback. Also, he quickly disappeared after his talks. He needed down time to recuperate. While he was very natural with people and great at giving speeches, it also required a lot of energy to be “on” like that. He was actually rather shy, and he was so humble. He found it difficult to accept the waves of compliments and notoriety that were so well deserved.

John was gifted as an early adopter of technology. He had the ability to tell which technologies were worth watching. During one of my last phone conversations with him, he was very excited about a book deal he had on podcasting—when librarians had not really thought much about podcasting applications for libraries yet.
The Polar Libraries Colloquy is pleased to announce the winners of the William Mills Prize for Non-Fiction Polar Books. Top prize went to *Encyclopedia of the Antarctic*, edited by Beau Riffenburgh, with an Honorary Mention prize awarded to Ann Fienup-Riordan for her book *Yuungnaqiallerput / The Way We Genuinely Live : Masterworks of Yup’ik Science and Survival*. The honors were announced at an awards ceremony on Monday, June 2, 2008 in Edmonton, Alberta, at the group’s biennial conference.

In his introduction to *Encyclopedia of the Antarctic*, Dr. Riffenburgh states that the goal of the two-volume encyclopedia was to “produce a comprehensive, multi-volume work that would cover the entire scope of Antarctic knowledge.” To meet that goal, the set approaches Antarctica from many different angles with entries covering topics such as Antarctic history, exploration, treaties, culture, scientific research, biology, geology, oceanography, climatology, and many other scientific disciplines.

Also included are more recent issues such as human impact, eco-tourism, politics, and the research being conducted at various Antarctic field stations. This expansive coverage was made possible by the 319 specialists who were invited to contribute articles in their areas of expertise.

Topics are covered in 495 articles, each ranging from approximately 500 to 6,000 words in length. Each volume begins with an alphabetical listing of the entries for the entire set, from “Adaptation and Evolution” to “Zooplankton and Krill,” followed by a thematic list of entries with headings such as Birds, Conservation and Human Impact, and Solar-Terrestrial Physics and Astronomy.

Individual articles are concluded by a list of suggested further reading and tempting cross-references to related entries. A detailed index of the set is included in the back of each volume. Other features include the complete text of the Antarctic Treaty, text of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, a chronology of Antarctic exploration, and a list of scientific research stations as well as maps, photos, and other illustrations.

As one selection committee member commented: “The *Encyclopedia* was an enormous undertaking, corralling so many scholars and asking them to write concisely about myriad subjects. I know what a job that was for the editors. Beyond the mechanics, the *Encyclopedias—Arctic and Antarctica*—are a fundamental resource for Polar inquiry and should be widely used.” This year’s award winner is a nice complement to *Encyclopedia of the Arctic*, edited by Mark

(Cont. on pg. 10)
Nuttall which won the William Mills Prize in 2006. Encyclopedia of the Antarctic editor Dr. Beau Riffenburgh is an Associate with the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, England, where he previously served as Editor of the journal Polar Record for 14 years.

Choosing only one title for the William Mills Prize was a difficult decision this year, and the committee felt strongly about finding a way to recognize another outstanding title: Yuungnaqpiiallerput / The Way We Genuinely Live, by Ann Fienup-Riordan, a Research Associate with the Smithsonian Institute’s Arctic Studies Center in Anchorage, Alaska.

Yuungnaqpiiallerput presents Yup’ik elders’ stories, observations, and cultural traditions about, as well as the scientific principles behind, the tools that the Yup’ik people have developed to successfully and respectfully live in the harsh environment of southwest Alaska. Committee members particularly liked the book for “the nice interplay among archival materials, museum artifacts, and personal knowledge illustrating science in the daily lives of Yup’ik people.”

The richly illustrated book was published as a companion to a museum exhibit of the same name which was curated by Fienup-Riordan. Both Yuungnaqpiiallerput and the exhibit were collaborative projects among Fienup-Riordan, the Anchorage Museum, the Calista Elders Council, and numerous Yup’ik elders. The exhibit, which premiered in Bethel, is currently on display in Anchorage and will travel to Fairbanks, Juneau, and Washington, D.C.

The Polar Libraries Colloquy is an international organization of librarians and others interested in the collection, preservation, and dissemination of polar information. The William Mills Prize is awarded every two years for the best Arctic or Antarctic nonfiction books published throughout the world and is named in honor of William Mills, a polar librarian and author and a founding member of the Polar Libraries Colloquy. The winning titles were selected by a group of six Polar Libraries Colloquy members from the United States and Canada. For more complete information about the award and the organization, please visit the Polar Libraries Colloquy website at: http://arcticcentre.ulapland.fi/polarweb/plc/mills.asp.

Jude Baldwin
Fairbanks North Star Borough Libraries

One thing that John often told me, “It’s all in the timing. You have to leave with them wanting more of you.” Well, he sure did that—on so many levels. His family members, his colleagues, his friends...we all are left wanting so much more of him. He is missed by all of us.

Julie Renee Moore
Sammy Iliff’s mom
Catalog Librarian
California State University, Fresno
July 14, 2008
**BOOK BUZZ**

**BY PATIENCE FREDERIKSEN**

*Enter Three Witches*, by **Caroline B. Cooney**, 2007. Combining Shakespeare’s Macbeth with historic facts from 16th century historian Holinshed, Cooney tells the story of the rise and fall of the Scottish King through the voices of several minor, made-up characters. Lady Mary of Sheil has been sent by her father, the Thane of Cawdor, to Inverness to be fostered by Lord and Lady Macbeth. She witnesses the encounter with the witches of Banquo and Macbeth. When her father is hanged as a traitor, she is unsure of her own future. Ildred, bitter and unattractive, has been farmed out as a companion to Lady Macbeth by her ruined noble family. Swinn, a thieving servant, is in charge of the kitchen and likes to encourage the servants’ fear of witches and curses. These people, as well as many others observe, interact, and have their lives changed as the story follows Shakespeare’s play. I became so involved in the descriptions of Scotland and castles and the lives of these people, that, even though I well knew the outcome, I found the story riveting. *(Sandra Strandmann, Juneau Public Libraries)*

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*The Art of Racing in the Rain*, by **Garth Stein**, 2008. Ever wonder what your dog is thinking? In *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, the philosophy of championship race car driving is applied to the everyday setbacks, tragedies, and joys of human life as observed in the musings of the family dog, Enzo. Set in Seattle, those familiar with the city may find themselves reading descriptions about some of their favorite big city hang-outs. This is a funny, warm-hearted, uplifting story, and a must read for any dog lover. *(Beth Odsen, Alaska State Court Law Library)*

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*My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist’s Personal Journey*, by **Jill Bolte Taylor**, 2008. Dr. Taylor, a neuroanatomist associated with the Harvard Brain Bank, suffered a hemorrhagic stroke at age 37. The stroke affected the left hemisphere of her brain, leaving her an infant in a woman’s body, faced with eight years of recovery. Taylor reflects on her struggle to recover, yet rejoices in the discovery of the right hemisphere of her brain, the “observer,” her peaceful haven through this ordeal, her Nirvana. This discovery helped her escape the bombardment of cognitive thought and “running mental loops” of her left brain. The combined revelations changed her outlook and the way she approaches her life. *(Rose Welton, Alaska State Library)*

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*Out Stealing Horses*, by **Per Peterson**, 2005. The summary in the Anchorage catalog reads:

*(Cont. on pg. 12)*
“After a meeting with his only neighbor, sixty-seven-year-old Trond is forced to reflect upon a long-ago incident that marks the beginning of a series of losses for Trond and his childhood friend, Jon.” This summary makes it sound dry and uninteresting, which it is not. Excellent writing, thoughtful storytelling. (Karen Keller, Anchorage Public Library)

My current favorite book is: Shopping for Porcupine: A Life in Arctic Alaska, by Seth Kantner, 2008. This is Kantner’s memoir of growing up and living in the Alaskan Bush. His stories are fascinating and his observations about people, wildlife, and traditional ways are told with a gently humorous, kind of sideways slant that made me think about it all in ways I never have before. His photographs throughout the book are wonderful. I read this book on a recent trip Outside. It made me homesick for Alaska and very glad that I live here. (Debbie Gravel, Ketchikan Public Library)

You: On A Diet: The Owner’s Manual for Waist Management, by Mehmet Oz and Michael Roizen, 2006. I have a particular interest in nutrition, and have found that most “diet” books pander to the lowest common denominator. Not this one! Oz and Roizen explain how the body actually works, how it processes food and where body fat comes from. The style can be a bit “cute” at times, similar to the Dummies/Idiots books, but I did not find it overly so. This book is a worthy read even for those not struggling with their weight; it gives the real answers to how our bodies process food. (Amanda Randles, Talkeetna Public Library)

All the Pretty Horses (1992), The Crossing (1994), and Cities of the Plain (1998) compose Cormac McCarthy’s Borders Trilogy, which is definitely on my favorites list. McCarthy is one of very few authors that keep me reading until late at night and the first author I recommend to any adult. The series takes place in southwest Arizona, Texas, and the neighboring states of Mexico. The main characters are just boys left on their own in the years after the Second World War. There are no heroes in these books, just kids getting as mean and dangerous as anyone. And there are some disturbing paragraphs: McCarthy does not sugar-coat for anybody or anything. McCarthy has written seven other novels, including Blood Meridian, that even I have a difficult time reading because of its graphic and violent content. (Dale Brandt, Kegoayah Kozga Library, Nome)

If you are interested in Tibet, the Inspector Shan Tao Yun series of mysteries by Eliot Pattison is fascinating. Skull Mantra is the first in the series, followed by Water Touching Stone, Bone Mountain, Beautiful Ghosts, and Prayer of the Dragon. A new book is due to come out. Although billed as a mystery, the historical and geographic revelations are fascinating! This is a very timely series about the Chinese interest and influence on Tibet. (Candace Kopperud, Palmer Public Library)

(Cont. on pg. 13)
Service Included: Four-Star Secrets of an Eavesdropping Waiter, by Phoebe Damrosch, 2007. Ever wondered what your servers were thinking as you enjoyed the ambience, the wine, the service, and the food at an upscale restaurant? This fast read details the months the author and her coworkers spent on training as they got ready to open Thomas Keller’s New York city restaurant named Per Se, the excitement of watching out for and serving the New York Times’ food reviewer, and the staggering varieties and combinations of foods and wines on the menu. I love to read about trade secrets and unexpected details, such as Per Se’s prohibition on flowers that give off scents which could interfere with the food experience at hand. The author also inserts interesting tips about fine dining, such as: If you are going to ask that nearly every ingredient in a meal be changed, then maybe you should consider ordering something else and please, do not ask your server to bring you a cigarette after the meal. A fun read in the food pornography category!

A WORTHY GADGET?

“Best of all is books on demand—delivered in seconds to the kitchen table on Sunday as I read the weekly book reviews. How great is that? With Amazon charging $9.99 a title, often a third the price of a new hardcover, the $359 device pays for itself after you buy about 25 books.”

Josh Quittner
TIME, July 17, 2008

www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1823955,00.html

Knowledge is free at the library. Just bring your own container.

–Unknown
MAT-SU HEALTH FOUNDATION
BABY LAP SIT GRANT

The Mat-Su Health Foundation is sponsoring a Baby Lap Sit Program at four of the Mat-Su Valley libraries. After a pilot project at the Palmer Public Library last spring, a Baby Lap Sit Program was designed for a parent or caregiver and a baby aged 4-18 months.

This program uses board books, CDs, musical instruments and developmental information. All these materials will be modeled and shared with the parent/caregiver and a baby. To insure that quality time is given to each parent and baby, the sessions will be limited to 15 adults and their 15 babies.

Community resource staff from the Cooperative Extension Service and the State of Alaska Public Health Department will be on hand once each session to share their expertise during this 20 minute program followed by a 40 minute share and care opportunity.

Big Lake, Palmer, Sutton, and Wasilla Public Libraries will be the beneficiaries of this first grant. A five week selection of books and materials will circulate between the four libraries for two sessions in the fall and 2 sessions in the spring. It is hoped that the grant can be expanded next year to include the other three libraries in the borough.

ANCHORAGE

KATE GORDON’S “RUSSIAN LIBRARIES UP-CLOSE” REPRINTED BY ALA

Kate (Consortium Library, UAA) has given permission to Kerri Price, of ALA’s new website “I Love Libraries,” to reprint her article, which first appeared in the April/June 2008 issue of News spoke. The site, located at http://www.ilovelibraries.org/, has as its goal “to educate the general public about today’s libraries and encourage them to become library advocates.”

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CORDOVA

A poor salmon return means lots of free time for cannery workers in Cordova and the library is THE place to be, especially on those rainy, gray days. At the Cordova Public Library the staff maintains a wide selection of board games, puzzles, chess, and checkers as well as books. This season’s cannery crews are mostly from the Czech Republic, Turkey, Kazakhstan, and Mexico.

One very talented cannery worker comes in and takes over the classic Etch-A-Sketch and puts all the rest of us to shame with his fabulous art work.

Cathy Sherman
City of Cordova Museum/Library

General guidelines to publication in Newspoke, Alaska Library Association newsletter:

**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 librarian-ship, especially in regard to Alaska.

Most anything submitted by AkLA members—reasonably “tasteful and well-written,” of an appropriate length (much leeway here); author is willing to submit to possible editorial changes. This may include perhaps length, 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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CALENDAR
Seventh Northwest ILL and Resource Sharing Conference, Portland, OR  Sep. 18-19, 2008
American Library Association (Midwinter Meeting), Denver, CO  Jan. 23-28, 2009
American Library Association (Annual Conf.), Chicago, IL  July 9–15, 2009