The Alaska Center for the Book recently released the following statement on its Facebook group: We are proud to announce the creation of the Sue Sherif Literacy Award. This year, the Library of Congress Literacy Awards Program encouraged us to create a special award.

We've chosen to name that award for someone special—a longtime board member, herself a former CLIA recipient, who is retiring from the state library system. She has dedicated her career to readers of all ages in all parts of the state. Her passion for libraries, books and readers is an inspiration to many people throughout Alaska.

The first recipients of the Sue Sherif Literacy Award are members of a team that created interactive children's books in Cup'ik. Joseph Gorski is director of technology and federal programs for the Kashunamuit School District in Chevak. Dr. Bob Whicker is director of the Consortium for Digital Learning of the Association of Alaska School Boards.

They helped form a team which translated an interactive book series into the Chevak region's language. Finding books that are relevant, accessible and affordable to Alaska Native language speakers has been a longtime goal of Alaska Center for the Book, and we're delighted that this program is so successful.
SUE SHERIF RETIREMENT

As you all know, Sue Sherif retired from her position as Head of Library Development at the State Library on August 1. Many people have asked about events and gifts for Sue. Here is what Sue suggests:

* If you would like to send her a card or note after July 31, please use this: P.O. Box 82668, Fairbanks, AK 99708. Her email is ssherif@alaska.net.

* Sue would prefer not to receive any gifts, but if you want to do something for her, Sue suggests that you donate funds to the library of your choice. What better gift for the head of library development?

* If you would like to enjoy time with Sue, your best bet is to see her when she returns to Anchorage August 10 through September 1. She would enjoy getting together for lunch or going out for a snack.

• Patience Frederiksen
  Alaska State Library
  patience.frederiksen@alaska.gov

(Sherif - Cont. on pg. 3)
SUE SHERIF’S OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

On October 6, 2007, Sherri Douglas presented Sue Sherif (below, left) with the Alaska Center for the Book 2007 CLIA (Contributions to Literacy In Alaska) award for her outstanding and long-term work in promoting literacy. Sue has been an ardent supporter of literacy efforts in Fairbanks and in Anchorage. She has worked on literacy projects in both cities; has been an active member of Authors to Alaska, the Alaska Center for the Book, and First Book; has served on the Newbery Award Committee; has worked with the Alaska Ready to Read campaign; and has constantly promoted literacy and reading for children and adults through her active participation in the Alaska Library Association at both the local and state levels.
SUE SHERIF HONORED TWICE AT AKLA CONFERENCE

AkLA recognized Sue Sherif’s lifetime of library accomplishments at the 2013 conference in Valdez. She received the 2013 Audrey P. Kolb Public Library Service Award and was awarded honorary membership in the Association for her work supporting libraries of all types. From the nomination for the Kolb Award:

Sue’s career in libraries and in life is based on her devotion to the ideal of equity – fair and impartial treatment of all people. This thread is woven throughout the cloth of her professional library experiences and community activities.

Sue has tirelessly promoted children’s books, children’s librarians, and children’s services in libraries since starting work as a librarian in 1976. She has founded or been instrumental in many projects, including the Alaska Summer Reading Program, the Ready to Read Resource Center, Battle of the Books, and First Book of Alaska.

Sue has popularized children’s books by managing author visits, writing book reviews, and serving nationally on the Caldecott, Newbery, Batchelder, and Coretta Scott King book award committees.

Sue has supported literacy for all ages with her work as a literacy tutor in Fairbanks and with her service to the Literacy Council of Alaska, Alaska’s Early Childhood Literacy Initiative, and the Alaska Center for the Book. She has staffed reading promotion booths from Anchorage’s Reading Rendezvous to the Alaska pavilion at the National Book Festival in Washington, D.C.

More recently, Sue became interested in how cultural institutions can serve and represent Alaska Natives, especially in rural areas where librarians, archivists, and museum staff work in isolation. Her Alaska Native Libraries, Archives, and Museum Summit laid the groundwork for equitable training for and development of our memory-keeping institutions across the state.

Over the past few years, Sue has been immersed and enmeshed in providing equitable access to the internet for rural residents through the Online With Libraries (OWL) project. This multi-million dollar project has raised consciousness statewide of the problems rural Alaskans face when they live at the end of the last mile of connectivity.

Sue is a firm believer in the power of librarians. She has promoted this career choice by hosting summer interns from the First Alaskans Institute and by serving on innumerable statewide library committees.

I wanted to just say about Sue Sherif that she is a person who really enjoyed helping rural libraries, even as remote as mine, and really enjoyed the youth. I will miss her help and support!

Joyanne Hamilton
Innoko River School and Tribal Library
Shageluk, Alaska

Sue’s passion for equitable treatment of all has extended beyond library walls with her work helping people who experience mental illness and her service on the boards of the Fairbanks Alliance for the Mentally Ill and the Alaska Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

(Cont. on pg. 5)
and working groups for SLED, AkASL, AkLA, PNLA and ALA. Everyone in AkLA knows Sue because she is everywhere librarians are in Alaska.

Karen Crane, a former state librarian who supervised Sue in Fairbanks and at the State Library, wrote this: “What I can say is that Sue operates at the extraordinary so consistently that she makes it seem ordinary. Sue has always been a bright light in the Alaska library world.”

It is an honor to nominate Sue Sherif for the 2013 Audrey P. Kolb Library Service Award for her devotion to equitable treatment of all Alaskans and for her endless devotion to the positive impact that libraries and reading can have on us all.

Sue’s dedication and skill make her a priceless resource for libraries and for Alaska. I’m thankful and proud to have her at the Alaska State Library.

Friday Bulletin
April 26, 2013
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Karen Jensen

Spring has been busy for me as AkLA President. March and April featured a flurry of grant paperwork to sign, and an opportunity to testify at the Fairbanks Legislative Information Office before the State Senate Finance Committee on behalf of the public library construction grants. I also spoke in support of SLAM, and filled up two minutes quite easily!

I also heard several other librarians from around Alaska give great testimony, as did our local Fairbanks Borough Mayor, Luke Hopkins, who was enthusiastic in his support of the public library construction grants, with North Pole being a recent recipient. Unfortunately, the grants didn’t get funding this time around, but SLAM was fully funded, so that’s the good news. Maybe with SLAM a slam-dunk, we can focus future efforts on other priorities. Our new lobbyist, David Rogers, kept me informed along the way so that I knew what to do when.

And I got some talking points from librarians with construction projects in the offing, and from Sue Sherif, who really should run for public office, especially now that she is retiring. :) Thanks to everyone involved in these efforts.

At our May Executive Council meeting, we talked about all of the AkLA email lists and requests for lists by members. Since each list does require some effort on the part of the AkLA web team, we are going to work on a procedure for adding any new lists. In the meantime, check out the many lists currently in operation and see if there are some you wish to join. Some aren’t very active, but all it takes to start the conversation is a post from you!

http://akla.org/join/mailing-lists/

Executive Council is finally fully staffed after some turnover on the Board; that occurred just in the last month, with Robert Barr of Juneau taking over the Treasurer position, and Patty Linville of Seward (now retired!) signing on as Executive Officer.

They’ll be working on streamlining the work for both of those positions, and revisions of our Handbook and Alaska Library Directory will be happening soon. Those are two very important positions for our organization; without them it’s hard to get things done!

There’s room at the AkLA table for those who wish to participate at any level. At the time of this writing, we still have no Conference Coordinator for the 2016 Fairbanks conference. 2016 seems like years away, but time goes quickly, and the planning will need to begin soon. If you are interested, don’t hesitate to volunteer. There’s a need for participation in local chapters, on roundtables, and running for AkLA Board positions.

If you have any interest whatsoever, feel free to give me a call, and I’ll put you in touch with whomever has done it before, so that you’re not starting out cold. We need your ideas and energy to keep this organization running smoothly and make it a professional association that does what you need it to do.

Hope you are all having a wonderful summer!

Karen Jensen
AkLA President, 2014
AkLA 2015 Conference – Juneau
CHANNEL OUR VOICES
Advocacy in Libraries
Save the date!

Pre-Conference: Thursday, February 26, 2015
Conference: Friday, February 27, 2015 thru Sunday, March 1, 2015

Mail, Email or Fax:
Kate Enge / Shari Kitchin
AkLA 2015 Conference Registration Co-Chairs
Juneau Public Libraries
292 Marine Way
Juneau, AK 99801
Email: 2015akla@gmail.com
Fax: 907-586-3419

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HOW TO BUILD A TARDIS

One dreary winter afternoon one of our regular teen patrons, Penelope, walks into the Teen Underground decked out in a Dr. Who shirt and announces “Today is TARDIS Tuesday!”

I look over at her and ask “So, what makes it TARDIS Tuesday?”

“I don’t know; it just sounds good.”

Fives minutes later I told this to Stacia, our Adult Programming Librarian and avid nerd, and she said, “You should do something.”

“Like what?”

“Oh, build a TARDIS,” she quipped off-handedly.

“OK….” In my defense it sounded really cool, even though I had no idea what we were getting into.

That was enough to launch us on a three-month adventure—it doesn’t take much when you work with teens. As the good Doctor has said: “Hold tight and pretend it’s a plan!”

Step 1: Find someone good at building things…. For us it was Andy Hiester, retired engineer, who loves creating structures out of cardboard. You also need teens, lots of teens.

Step 2: Explain to your engineer/artist what a TARDIS is (this was the hardest part for me) and find plans (hint: the Internet was built by nerds). You’ll also need cardboard, lots of cardboard.

(Cont. on pg. 9)
Step 3: With thoughtful and gentle guidance from your engineer, glue, cut, and generally wish your cardboard into a somewhat familiar structure, and then into a somewhat TARDIS-like structure.

Step 4: You paint; blue paint. Yes, lots of blue paint.

Step 5: Poke, prod, adjust, and make sure you have a top!
Step 6: Then enjoy your TARDIS as much as any Time Lord….

Notes

• You will need to let the Adult Services staff play too….

• You also need to know that the BBC gives Disney a run for its money when it comes to copyright, so advertise cautiously….

• And before I forget, you may consider this: We built a living [cardboard] device that can travel through space and time, but doesn’t fit in our service elevator. Measure twice…measure twice.

(Cont. on pg. 11)
Charlotte Glover recently purchased Parnassus Books in Ketchikan. The great smile on her face told me that she’s enjoying this new phase of her life. She sends her greetings to librarians everywhere. Her contact info is 907-225-7690; parnassusak@gmail.com

Brita Rice
Daniel Cornwall

And if anyone else is so inspired, there are currently two independent bookstores for sale in Juneau—Hearthside Books and Rainy Retreat Books. I’ve been tempted by their clever advertising to take on the next big adventure.

Jonas Lamb
University of Alaska Southeast

FYI:
Hearthside Books has been purchased by Brenda Weaver, who assumed ownership in early July.

M. J. Grande
Juneau Public Libraries
Your library is invited to join the statewide celebration for Alaska Book Week 2014! This year, the week-long celebration of Alaskan authors and their books will run from October 4-11.

Organizations and communities are encouraged to create their own events to make the celebration statewide. The invitation below provides your library with ideas for programs, events, and displays. Visit the website (www.alaskabookweek.com) to see the events sponsored in 2013 by libraries and other organizations, and start thinking about some fun ways to participate.

For more information, please email Jathan Day, Alaska Book Week Coordinator, at akbookweek@gmail.com. Check the website or the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/alaskabookweek) for updates about new events.

ANCHORAGE

Your library is invited to join the statewide celebration for Alaska Book Week 2014! This

ABOUT ALASKA BOOK WEEK

Forty-nine writers launched Alaska Book Week in 2011 as a week-long celebration of Alaska’s authors and their books. It has now grown into a state-wide event run by a coalition of organizations, including the Alaska Center for the Book and 49 Writers. We welcome your participation in this annual event as a reader, a writer, a librarian, a bookseller, a teacher, or a publisher. It’s easy to become involved—just fill out the participation form at the Alaska Book Week website and our coordinator will contact you.

Ways in Which You Can Participate

• Create an Alaska book display
• Hold author events at your school, library, or bookstore
• Invite an author to your reading group during Alaska Book Week
• Read Alaska books to your class or during library story time, or pick an Alaskan author for your reading group in October
• Organize a community panel of Alaskan writers
• Distribute Alaska Book Week posters in your community
• Forward email announcements to your fellow book-lovers
• Post Alaska Book Week news and updates to your blog or include information in your newsletter

Stephanie Schott
Youth Services Librarian
Anchorage Public Library
The Oral History Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens’ Advisory Council (PWSRCAC) are proud to announce the completion of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Project Jukebox, available online at http://jukebox.uaf.edu/exxonvaldez. People who visit the site can access oral, visual, and written resources that offer a rich understanding of the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.

This project highlights conversations with 20 people talking about the oil spill, the impact the spill had on their lives and on the environment, the cleanup response, the long-term effects of the spill, and changes in the oil industry monitoring system.

On this 25th Anniversary of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, Project Jukebox has helped preserve stories from people that may not be well-known and have made them accessible to the public. The information discussed in these interviews will be of interest to local residents of Prince William Sound who were impacted by the spill, to Alaskans who want to know more about the event from the people who experienced it, and to people around the world hoping to prevent similar accidents in their coastal waters.

This project was supported by funding from the Alaska State Library, Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Alaska Resources Library and Information Services, and the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens’ Advisory Council.

For more information about this project, please contact: Leslie McCartney, Curator of Oral History, University of Alaska Fairbanks lmccartney@alaska.edu (907) 474-7737

Alicia Zorzetto, Digital Collections Librarian, Prince William Sound Regional Citizens’ Advisory Council alicia.zorzetto@pwsrac.org (907) 277-7222 ★

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CALENDAR

Alaska Book Week    Oct. 4-11, 2014
ALA 2015 Midwinter Meeting, Chicago, IL    Jan. 30-Feb. 3, 2015