Dear AkLA Members—

You’re going to be seeing a lot of press in the coming weeks about why you should become a member or renew your membership in the Alaska Library Association. I remember frequently asking myself why I should be a member over the last 20 years. I found my home in libraries, first in Jamaica in the Peace Corps and then in Kotzebue. Somewhere along the line I became aware of AkLA. I think I stumbled upon the organization. I don’t remember anyone telling me that joining AkLA would benefit me or my library.

I joined because I thought it was the right thing to do, that people in professions often joined associations. It was that vague for me. I really had no idea why I joined other than this vague notion that I needed to belong to this thing. I haven’t been a member for that long or for that many years, mostly because I couldn’t see the value in it. I was working hard in my library in Kotzebue, sort of hidden away, minding my own business, feeling like I didn’t need anyone’s help to get this job done. At some point I realized I was part of a much larger thing going on and help would be nice! As AkLA rolls out this membership drive, please consider becoming, no, please become a member.

Read the Three Reasons Why Becoming a Member of the Alaska Library Association Is Good For You and Your Library. These aren’t vague notions about the Association. These are concrete things that AkLA does for you and your library with your membership dues.
Three Reasons Why Becoming a Member of the Alaska Library Association is Good For You and Your Library

1. Your dues go toward scholarships and awards that help to grow librarians around the state. The AkLA Scholarship sends future professional librarians off to school with $4000 extra in their pockets. The AkLA Conference Attendee Award of $500 helps to fund a first-time attendee to Conference.

2. Your dues go toward lobbying for statewide library issues. The AkLA Lobbyist and the AkLA Advocacy Committee promote the importance of the Public Library Expansion and Renovation Grants, the expansion of the State Library Archives and Museum building in Juneau, OWL, Live Homework Help and the Public School Library Collection Development Grants to our legislators.

3. Your dues go toward organizing the annual AkLA Conference so we can provide you with high-quality, professional development opportunities.

So, now I’m President of AkLA and I get it! How I became President is another story that I might share at Conference in Anchorage. We’ll see. What I get now is that AkLA is an amazing organization filled with amazingly dedicated people who love their profession and work hard to ensure that libraries are vibrant, happening places in our communities. And the only way we can ensure this is with our membership dues. Join now! www.akla.org/join #
CORDOVA

One Thursday evening in late September was “Pizza Night” at the Cordova Public Library. This hugely popular event saw nearly 90 parents and children crowd into the library to learn the true secret of Old World-style pizza making from a staff-made video of “Brian the Pizza Man” Wildrick of Harborside Pizza. While Brian didn’t divulge all his trade secrets, he did suggest that when it comes to the crust, “it’s all in the wrist.” In addition to some genuine Harborside samples, the kids were treated with activities that included designing and building their own paper pizzas, as well as creating wearable buttons. Door prizes were awarded every ten minutes throughout the evening, which added excitement for the youthful crowd. The Cordova Public Library usually hosts two Family Nights per year.

Our patrons really appreciate having a special event with games, crafts and food. Our wonderful staff all pitch in to make these evenings run smoothly.

Miriam Dunbar, Director
Cordova Public Library
ANCHORAGE
AKLA-A MEETINGS

• November: Elections for Chapter board.

• December 11: Chapter meeting @ Pancho’s Restaurant @ 6:30 p.m. to plan and budget for 2014.

• The chapter also intends to have a meeting in January (details TBD) for a smooth transition for 2014.
The Fall Semester 2013 series of ASK UAS presented “How to Look at a Painting” to an audience of almost 30 people on Tuesday, September 24, at the UAS Ketchikan Campus Library.

Local artistic legends Mary Ida Henrikson and Dave Rubin shared how they look at paintings and brought some original paintings to demonstrate the techniques artists use to create an image and which critics use to deconstruct an image.

The artists presented hands-on examples and discussed color, line, texture, space, light and how those elements can be implied.

Rubin also talked about his upcoming show at the Alaska State Museum in Juneau this November. He brought with him one piece for its public debut which was a special treat for the audience. Rubin says, while creating for a show means that he doesn’t have to think, “Will it sell?” he does wonder if people will like it and understand what message he is sending. Mary told of how she discovered what she believes to be the secret of Mona Lisa’s smile, which she actually figured out by looking at the Mona Lisa. The audience especially enjoyed listening to the conversation the two artists had with each other.

ASK UAS events are free and open to the public. Presentations include:

- Thursday, October 24, 6:30 p.m. “The U.S. Banking System and Global Financial Stability” was presented by Ann Spehar, Assistant Professor of Economics.
- Wednesday, November 13, 6:30 p.m. “Immigration in Alaska and the Lower ’48, 1800s to Present” presented by Dr. John Radzilowski, Assistant Professor of History.
- Wednesday, December 4, 6:30 p.m. “The Astronomy of the Christmas Star” presented by Cecelia Coenen, retired astronomy teacher.

Kathy Bolling
University of Alaska Southeast

(Cont. on pg. 6)
Below is a link to our latest library sponsored event—the concert was a huge success. Our partnership with Fort Greely, Boeing and Fairbanks Concert Association has really taken off and people love it. This event also included a “warm-up” act. I taught the crowd a library cheer (reported as a “rap” by the paper... but really, it was taught to me as a CHEER!). I’ve been wanting to do it for a couple of years and was just too intimidated, so Anne Biberman, who is the Fairbanks Concert Association director, helped me out. It was really fun.

Joyce McCombs, Director
Delta Community Library

At Delta Community Library, the Preschool Story Hour participants were recently surprised by brilliant, primary colors. Each child had a brand new chair in which to enjoy his or her snack and craft time, thanks to a generous donation by Delta Medical Transport owner Anthony “Tony” White.

The Delta Community Library Director, Joyce McCombs, was “brimming” from ear to ear when she explained that White had inquired what the library needed. She mentioned that the kids could really use some new chairs for story hour. White didn’t hesitate. He told McCombs to select what she needed and he would take care of the cost. After a few lively songs, movement exercises and the story “Diary of a Spider,” the children quickly moved to the new and brightly colored chairs.

Delta Community Library Clerk Angie Barnard is a delightful and animated reader at the most recent Preschool Story Hour. To help her read “Diary of a Spider,” written by Doreen Cronin and illustrated by Harry Bliss, is Mr. Spider himself.

A large group of Preschool Story Hour participants scramble to sit in their brand new chairs. The chairs were a colorful donation by Delta Medical Transport owner Anthony “Tony” White.

For complete article: http://news.deltanewsweb.com/news/2013/10/30/preschool-story-hour-receives-colorful-donation/
AkLA has established a scholarship program to support the education of librarians for Alaska’s libraries.

The stated purpose is to provide financial assistance to worthy students pursuing a Graduate Degree in Library Science and to encourage graduates to return to Alaska to work in professional library positions.

Preference will be given to an individual meeting the federal definition of Alaska Native ethnicity. The amount available this year is $4,000. The recipient will be announced at the AkLA Conference, February 27-March 2, 2014; in Anchorage. 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 Degree program in Library and Information Science in 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.

Completed applications must be received by January 15 of the award year. The application is online at http://akla.org/scholarships/application-and-reference-forms/

If you have questions or need copies of the guidelines and application forms, contact:

AkLA Scholarship Committee
Alaska State Library, attn.: Julie Niederhauser
P.O. Box 110571, Juneau, AK 99811-0571   email: Julie.niederhauser@alaska.gov
ph: (907) 465-2916 or within Alaska, 1-888-820-2916. fax: (907) 465-2665   #

Julie Niederhauser
Public Library Coordinator
Alaska State Library
The AkLA Conference will be held at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage February 27 - March 2, 2014. The rate is $99 per night for single or double occupancy, plus 12% tax. Estimate a cost of $112 per night.

We have blocked rooms as follows:

- 25 rooms blocked for Wednesday February 26 (the night before the preconferences)
- 200 rooms blocked for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, February 27-28 and March 1

Any rooms that have not been reserved by January 30, 2014 will be released. This is Iditarod weekend in Anchorage, so those rooms will go fast. Make your reservations before January 30, 2014.

You will need to pay a deposit for one night’s lodging of $112 to hold your room reservation. This deposit can be canceled up to three days before your arrival date for a full refund.

Be sure to mention the Alaska Library Association when you make your reservations so you get this special conference rate. You can make hotel reservations by calling 276-6000 or 1-800-843-1950.

Patience Frederiksen
Alaska State Library

At the face-to-face E-council meeting in September it was determined that AkLA has fallen into a bit of a hole financially. Membership revenues are down and we’ve chewed into savings a bit.

There will be a big campaign to get membership numbers up but we also looked to trim costs in next year’s budget. After some discussion, it was decided to stop physically printing *Newspoke* and the library directory. However we still want to make available printable PDF versions of each publication which we can email and make available on the website. People can then download the PDF and print if they choose.

AkLA E-Council

Thanks to Phil and workers at the printers, Great Originals, for very efficient service over the years and for assistance to inexperienced editor in solving a variety of problems in getting *Newspoke* into correct on-line and print format.
Applications are now being accepted for 2014-2015 Big Read grants. The Big Read, managed by Arts Midwest, provides non-profit organizations nationwide with comprehensive resources to help inspire their communities to read and discuss a single book or poet’s body of work.

To continue providing a wide range of literature selections and voices, two new titles will be available for communities taking part in the 2014-2015 Big Read. The new additions are Dinaw Mengestu’s *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears* and Julie Otsuka’s *When the Emperor Was Divine*, bringing the Big Read library to 36 selections from American and world literature.

These two novels were chosen through a reading committee representing a range of voices from the field—including librarians, writers, booksellers, publishers, and previous Big Read grantees—who read and evaluated suggested titles based on criteria such as the universal appeal of themes, capacity to incite lively and deep discussion, and a focus on expanding the range of voices and stories currently represented in The Big Read library.

Organizations interested in applying for a 2014-2015 Big Read grant should visit The Big Read website for guidelines and application instructions. Eligible organizations may apply for a grant ranging from $2,500 to $20,000. All applications must be submitted electronically via eGrant on or before 4:00 p.m. CST on Tuesday, January 28, 2014.

High-quality, free-of-charge educational materials supplement each Big Read title, and are available for selected organizations and the public to access on neabigread.org. Reader’s Guides include author biographies, historical context for the book, and discussion questions.

Teacher’s Guides are developed with the National Council of Teachers of English and State Language Arts standards in mind, and include lesson plans, essay topics and classroom handouts.

For more information about The Big Read please visit neabigread.org. #
Few professions are as bedevilled by stereotypes as librarianship. Even in this digital age, when many librarians are busy rebranding themselves as “information scientists” and “knowledge managers,” an inaccurate image of the archetypal librarian persists in popular culture: a petite, humorless woman (always a woman) dressed in dowdy clothes, spectacles on her face, hair knotted in a bun, the radio of her Prius or Civic tuned to NPR, and a cat waiting for her at home.

One of the pleasures of Josh Hanagarne’s new memoir, “The World’s Strongest Librarian,” is the way it destroys this stereotype. Hanagarne, who works at the Salt Lake City Public Library, is six-feet-seven-inches tall and weighs two hundred and sixty pounds.

He was raised as a Mormon, has extreme Tourette’s Syndrome (or Tourette Syndrome, as he calls it), and in his spare time trains for strong man competitions.

Sent to Washington, D.C., for missionary service at the age of 18, Hanagarne suffered a crisis of faith that coincided with a severe manifestation of his condition. In a scene that would not be credible in a novel, Hanagarne punched himself in the face while walking down a street in the nation’s capital, holding a copy of the Book of Mormon in his other hand.

To help cope with the condition, Hanagarne gave it a name: Misty (short for Miss Tourette’s). He sought numerous treatments, visiting quacks and ingesting drugs—Klonopin, Risperid, Haldol, Clonidine—that dulled his mind. For a time, he even endured regular injections of botulism toxin, which paralyzed his vocal cords and muted his yelps and shouts. Though silenced, his Tourette’s manifested itself in other ways. The book repeatedly gives the reader a visceral sense of what Tourette’s feels like.

That self-injury began a disastrous period of weight loss and doubt. Losing control of his body and his faith, he was sent home early from his missionary assignment and entered a long period of depression. #

For complete review: http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/books/2013/05/a-strongman-in-the-library.html
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E-list
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CALENDAR
Library Education Scholarship applications must be received by
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Jan. 15 of the award year

(see Newspoke, Oct-Dec., 2013, pg. 8)
American Library Assn. Midwinter Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
Jan. 24-28, 2014
Big Read Grant Applications
Jan. 28, 2014
Alaska Library Association Annual Conference, Anchorage, AK
Feb. 27-Mar. 2, 2014
25th Polar Libraries Colloquy, Cambridge, UK
Jun 29-Jul 3, 2014