Award Winning Library Staff

The Wyoming Library Association (WLA) recently announced its 2013 awards, two of which were awarded to NCPL staff:

Fred Parsons was chosen as WLAs’ 2013 Unsung Hero, an award recognizing someone who works in a library and is essential to the organization. Fred has been a member of the NCPL team since 1999 and was nominated for his long-term “Can Do” spirit and tireless industry, to maintain NCPL’s facilities. Fred can do just about anything related to building maintenance, including carpentry, masonry and landscaping. One merely has to suggest something needs to be done and before we know it, Fred practically has it completed. In the words of one of his peers “He is a hero who never seeks attention, just getting the work done, and helping others is his motivation. He is a good man who definitely has earned this recognition.”

Betsy O’Neil was named WLAs’ 2013 Librarian of the Year. This award recognizes the significant accomplishments of a librarian who has improved library service to customers, contributed to the profession and to the library’s community.

In addition to coordinating and presenting programs, providing reference service and managing collection development, Betsy coordinates the volunteer program at NCPL. Betsy chairs the State’s Shared Purchases Committee, which evaluates and makes recommendations on materials and services available to all Wyoming residents. She sits on the Literacy Volunteers of Casper Board and works with the Small Business Administration to bring useful and pertinent workshops to our community. Betsy goes the extra mile to provide quality library service to Natrona County residents, and NCPL is grateful to have her on our team.

CHILDREN’S LIBRARY CHANGES

Changes will soon be coming to NCPL’s youth library. Over the next few months the juvenile nonfiction materials, currently on the 2nd floor, will be returned to the basement. By doing this, all children’s books will be located in the same place.

We are doing this because we have seen too many children leave without the books they wanted or needed to checkout. Busy parents frequently choose not to visit 2 separate floors to find books for their children. Those going unused are the nonfiction items needed for school projects and factual learning… the books that might launch a future science or history career.

The graph at right confirms what librarians have witnessed. After moving the children’s nonfiction books upstairs two years ago due to lack of proper space, checkouts have plummeted. In order to return the books to the basement, part of the children’s library will be disassembled to squeeze all the returning books into the small space. Even after removing the reading loft and half of the reference desk, it will be crowded in the downstairs children’s library.

But, that’s OK. We are more interested in children getting the books they want or need. Our primary goal is to put books in the hands of the children. We appreciate your patience as we do our best to do just that. When you visit the children’s department, you will clearly see that it is about one-fourth the size it should to be to serve Natrona County’s population.
New Offerings:

Here are a few of the 3,824 items added to your library since July:

**FICTION**
- *Never Go Back*, Lee Child
- *The Quest*, Nelson DeMille
- *A Seaside Christmas*, Sherryl Woods
- *Doctor Sleep*, Stephen King
- *Thankless In Death*, J.D. Robb

**NONFICTION**
- *Simple Dreams*, Linda Ronstadt
- *Enemies Within*, Matt Apuzzo
- *Smarter Than You Think*, Clive Thompson
- *Escaping Into Nature*, John Reiger
- *Scarcity*, Sendhil Mullainathan
- *Old Man River*, Paul Schneider

**MUSIC**
- *Overcomer*, Mandisa
- *Love in the Future*, John Legend
- *Hail to the King*, Avenged Sevenfold
- *We Are Tonight*, Billy Currington
- *Feels Like Home*, Sheryl Crow

**BOOKS ON CD**
- *Bleeding Edge*, Thomas Pynchon
- *Ripples on a Pond*, Joy Dettman
- *American Spirit*, Dan Kennedy
- *Evil Eye*, Joyce Carol Oates
- *The Explanation for Everything*, Lauren Grodstein

**MOVIES**
- *The Croods*
- *The Frozen Ground*
- *Iron Man 3*
- *The Kings of Summer*
- *This Is The End*

Great Books for Wyoming Kids

As the holiday season draws near, we often receive questions about which books are appropriate to give as gifts for children of various ages. NCPL librarians are always ready to provide reading suggestions based on your child’s interests. NCPL is also a great place to browse and checkout books you think your kids may enjoy before purchasing them.

One of our favorite resources for book suggestions is the annual Wyoming Youth Book Awards. These books are chosen by Wyoming kids, for Wyoming kids, and are broken up into various age groups. The Buckaroo Award is for children in grades K-3. The Indian Paintbrush Award is for grades 4-6 and the Soaring Eagle is chosen by teens in grades 7-12. Here are a few of this year’s nominees:

**BUCKAROO (grades K-3)**
- *Little Elephants*, by Graeme Base
- *One Cool Friend*, by Toni Buzzeo
- *Nighttime Ninja*, by Barbara Dacosta

**INDIAN PAINTBRUSH (grades 4-6)**
- *The One and Only Ivan*, by Katherine Applegate
- *Turtle in Paradise*, by Jennifer L. Holm
- *Bulu: African Wonder Dog*, by Dick Houston

**SOARING EAGLE (grades 7-12)**
- *If I Stay*, by Gayle Forman
- *Bzrk*, by Michael Grant

For the full list of this year’s Wyoming Youth Book Award nominees, ask a librarian or visit natronacountylibrary.org/new/kidbooks. On this page, you will find other award-winners such as the Newbery or Caldecott Medals, new books available at your library, and our “100 Books” list to read with children before Kindergarten.

Let the Library Come to You

NCPL provides service and materials to all members of our community, even those who find it difficult to get to the library. The bookmobile provides a full-service, mobile library. With 65 stops throughout Natrona County, the bookmobile provides reading, viewing, and listening material for people of all ages. Find a location near you by picking up a schedule at any NCPL branch, or on NCPL’s website.

Homebound individuals can be served through Books By Mail. This program is designed for those unable to visit NCPL due to short or long-term physical disabilities. Participants can receive library materials by mail, at no cost to them: postage is paid both ways.

When it is difficult to be “out and about,” remember that NCPL services are a joy you can still tap into. Learn more about services for seniors or those with limited mobility by calling 577-7323.
Making a Good Library Great: GIVING TO THE NCPL FOUNDATION

What is the difference between a good library and a great library? A great library is measured by its ability to go beyond basic services with the help of private funds to provide programs and collections of true distinction. With your help, our library can keep providing the quality programs and materials its patrons have come to expect – both today and in the future.

All endowment funds are placed in a permanent account to augment the library’s collections, provide expanded library programming and help operate the Foundation for years to come. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation or would like to learn more about the Foundation, please contact us at 237-4935, extension 104.

Board of Directors: Steve Degenfelder - President • Michael Merback • John Jorgensen • Jeanne Goldrick • Linda Nix
Mary Lynne Shickich • Richard Day • John Masterson • Jimmy Goolsby • Susan Stubson • Bill Nelson

Foundation Board members are available to discuss with you and your advisors the best planned giving opportunities.

Mail can be sent to: NCPL Foundation, 307 E. 2nd Street, Casper, WY 82601
Checks payable to: The Natrona County Public Library Foundation
All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

☐ I am enclosing a check for $ ____________

☐ Please contact me to arrange a meeting to discuss future financial support.

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ State ________________ Zip: ________________

Phone: ____________________________________________________________________________

Comments: __________________________________________________________________________
Holiday Shopping with the NCPL Foundation

The Foundation has published several books on local history topics which may be of interest for those on your Christmas list. These books are available to purchase at the main library in downtown Casper and all proceeds benefit the Foundation.

FOR ADULTS
The Sand Bar is the story of a colorful and wild area of Casper, Wyoming, still known as the Sand Bar. This area of town was at one time a boombtown in itself; a district where men and women outside the law congregated to create a haven for criminals. In the late 1960s, however, the City of Casper chose to redirect the use of the Sand Bar so that it then became a respectable adjunct to the city’s legitimate business district. This book reflects the Sand Bar’s history from Casper’s beginnings to the end of urban renewal, as well as the more recent suggestion that the area become a site for a new public library facility. This is a newly revised edition of the original 1981 book by Walter R. Jones.

FOR CHILDREN
Natrona County was established on April 8, 1890, but its history began long before. From mammoths and Indians, to homesteading, to oil exploration and production, to the present day, Natrona County: The Place We Call Home gives an overview of key elements of Natrona County’s history and its place within the wider world. Sections feature topics such as dams on the North Platte River and famous buildings. Originally written for third grade students and their teachers, this colorful, family-friendly book is an excellent overview of Natrona County’s History and is appropriate for readers of all ages. The book was developed by a committee of individuals and organizations dealing with local history.

A Special Thank You
The NCPL Foundation wishes to extend a very special “Thank You” to the following individuals for their recent donations:
Edward & Shirley Chase
Thomas Clemmons
Steve & Cheryl Degenfelder
Howard & Nina Ewart
Cathy Jo George
Walter & Mary Hein
Graham & Sheila Kimble
Ann Smith
Gary & Barbara Ann Winter
Access Wyoming
Friends of NCPL
Kathleen Hemry Trust
Verdad Foundation

Have you remembered the Public Library Foundation in your will?

New @ NCPL!
NCPL users logged 76,872 sessions on library computers last fiscal year. This well-used section of the library got a boost in October, with an additional 10 terminals added just outside the Tech Center. The new stations, available even while computer classes are in session, are already being put to good use.
The Friends of the Library have been reaching outside the library walls to provide books to those who might not otherwise have access to them. NCPL receives a high volume of donated books. Copies in good condition are often added to the library collection or used to replace worn-out books from the library shelves. Others are sold at the Friends of the Library book sales to raise funds for library programs.

Some donated books have been sent to senior living facilities, Wyoming prisons and detention centers where books were needed.

In addition, the Friends have been taking donations of new yarn at their book sales to donate to the Wyoming Women’s Center in Lusk. We recently received a letter from the ladies of WWC, thanking the Friends for their donations:

“We, the ladies of the Wyoming Women’s Center, would like to thank you very much for the donations of books and yarn that you have sent us. The yarn, in particular, gives many of us a productive activity to spend our time on…

Project Love is the name we have given to the activity of crocheting projects that are donated to various organizations throughout the state. This is an opportunity to understand the importance and the feeling of joy to give back to our communities. In turn when we leave this facility, we can be a productive part of society.”

Thanks to all who have donated books or yarn to the Friends in order to make our library, our county, and our state a better place. To learn more about the Friends of the Library or download a membership application, please visit natronacountylibrary.org/friends, or call 235-0234. Book donations are accepted year-round at the main library in downtown Casper. All donated yarn must be in NEW condition. Thank you!

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**Upcoming EVENTS**

**NOVEMBER**

- 4 - “Slaughterhouse Five” Book Discussion, 6:30 PM
- 6 - Business Matchmaking: Federal Contract Opportunities, 1:30-4 PM
- 6 - “Singing the Gold Old Songs Again”, 7 PM
- 7 - Genealogy: Using Heritage Quest, 2-4 PM
- 9 - Thanksgiving Cards Workshop, 1 PM
- 11 - Veterans Day Holiday
- 12 - Genealogy: Using Census Records, 5-7 PM
- 14 - “Tales From the Cottonwood” Author Talk with Don Merback, 6 PM
- 16 - Quarter Quell (Grades 7-12), 1-5 PM
- 19 - Indie Film Series, 6:30 PM
- 26 - Genealogy: Using Newspapers Online, 2-4 PM
- 26 - Family Night: Team Scrabble, 6:30 PM
- 28-29 - Thanksgiving Holiday

**DECEMBER**

- 1-15 - Food for Fines
- 5 - Genealogy: Using BLM Land Records, 2 PM
- 6 - Hanging of the Greens (Grades 7-12), 4:30 PM
- 7 - Friends “Bag Day” Book Sale, 10 AM - 5 PM
- 7 - Christmas Cards Workshop, 1 PM
- 9 - “The Great Gatsby” Book Discussion, 6:30 PM
- 13 - Buying and Selling Online, 10 AM
- 21 - Last Storytime for 2013, 10:30 AM
- 24-25 - Christmas Holiday
- 30 - Intro to Library eBooks, 2 PM
- 30 - Tween Mondays Resume, 4 PM

**JANUARY**

- 1 - New Year’s Holiday
- 7 - Storytimes Resume, 10:30 AM
- 8 - After School @ the Library Resume, 4 PM
- 20 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- 23 - Wyoming Free Tax Service (WFTS), Noon - 5 PM
- 24 - WFTS, 10 AM - 2 PM
- 30 - WFTS, Noon - 5 PM
- 31 - WFTS, 10 AM - 2 PM

**“Bag Day” Book Sale**

The Friends of the Library will hold a used book sale Saturday, December 7 from 10 am - 5 pm. This one-day “Bag Day” sale will allow customers to purchase books that can fit comfortably in the bag for a flat rate. Plastic bags provided by the Friends will cost $2, or pay $3 to fill your own book bag.
Local Hero: Shelly Padilla

Shelly Padilla was voted this quarter’s Local Hero by NCPL staff. Shelly retired from NCPL last fall after 20 years of service but was willing to come back and lead the RFID labeling of NCPL’s 220,000 items. Shelly made this overwhelming project look easy. Thank you, Shelly, for all you do to support the library and our community.

Tax Return Assistance

Wyoming Free Tax Service will once again provide free tax return filing each Thursday (Noon-5 pm) and Friday (10 am-2 pm) beginning January 23. IRS certified volunteers will provide free assistance on a first-come, first-served basis for seniors, students and low income families. Participants will need photo ID, prior year’s tax return and all W-2 or 1099 forms for 2013.

Text Alerts from NCPL

Did you know you can receive a text message to remind you when your checked out items are due? Alerts are sent when items are almost due, overdue, or holds are ready for pickup. Visit “My Account” on the NCPL webpage to sign up, or ask a librarian the next time you visit.

Natrona County
Public Library
307 East Second Street
Casper, WY 82601

Return Service Requested