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Hello WLA Members,

Welcome to the first edition of WLA's monthly eNewsletter, **Connect**. The purpose of the newsletter is twofold: to help publicize WLA activities and to encourage people throughout the state to share ideas and information about their library system libraries.

The first edition is being sent to all WLA members. Please share **Connect** with friends and coworkers who may be interested in learning about WLA and what libraries are up to throughout the state. Anyone may sign-up to receive **Connect** by emailing eNews@wla.org.

Connect will be a reflection of libraries throughout the state, both big and small. Please let us know what innovative or interesting developments are taking place at your library. We welcome article submissions and story ideas. Submission information is available at the bottom of this eNewsletter.

Book Buddies

Teens and second graders reading together in the library? Come on, that's not going to work. But Dawn Rutherford, Teen Services Coordinator at Sno-Isle Libraries, knew better. In 2006, when Dawn was a Teen Librarian at King County Library System, she helped develop a successful summer tutoring program called Book Buddies.



Events



The WLA Conference is just a little over five weeks away!

Have you registered yet?

This year's conference will offer more than 40 programs and will feature more than 50 companies exhibiting their new products and services.

[Read more and register](#)

Energizing Friends, Foundations, and Trustees: Yes to Libraries!

The WLFFTA board has been putting together an all-day preconference on April 6 in Yakima which is aimed at Library Board members, Foundation members, and Friends of the Library for the annual Washington Library Association conference. There will be a full slate of programs from which to choose. Programs include:

Inspired by the [SMART reading program](#), Dawn recruited teens to tutor first- and second-grade children in reading. "Lots of kids just haven't had the right reading experience to make them want to read," Dawn said. Book Buddies aims to help young children acquire confidence with reading while also satisfying many of the [Development Assets](#) for both children and teens.

Dawn has been running Book Buddies at Mountlake Terrace Library since 2008 when she first came to Sno-Isle Libraries. Since then, many other libraries in the Sno-Isle system have started successful Book Buddies programs. "I would encourage anyone to try it." Dawn said. "It's good for the teens and for the children." [read on...](#)

WLA Member Profile: Ro McKernan



The message I seem to be getting from the universe lately has been "So it goes" and "Take life one day at a time," which is hard for me because I tend to think ahead and run through possible scenarios more than I need to. ;-)

I lurch toward too much anxiety when I think about the economic climate in our state at the moment and what it means for academic library funding. Waiting for the "it's OK to exhale" email, thinking it might be awhile coming yet.

WLA Connect is pleased to present WLA member profiles, starting with relatively recent members. Our very first entry features Ro McKernan. Her interview responses speak for themselves! Meet Ro:

Q. How do you like your job as Instructional/Collection Development Librarian at the Whatcom Community College Library?

A. I love my job. Despite being extremely part-time, I've been able to participate in a number of professional opportunities that have stretched my skills (in a good way) including teaching some basic info-lit classes, working on a grant to aid our sophomores transition to juniors in the 4-yr system and contributing to the continuing development of our website.

[read on...](#)

WLA's Award Nominations Open

We are searching for this year's superstars.

Nominate one of your peers for one of WLA's prestigious awards.

[Download criteria and nomination forms](#)

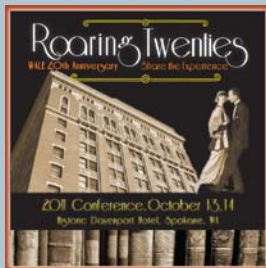


April 12 is Library Snapshot Day!

Is Your Library Participating?

Fill out our [Form Survey](#) to Participate.

Visit our [Library Snapshot Day Wiki](#) for more information.



Celebrate WALE's 20th Anniversary Conference

October 13-14, 2011

Davenport Hotel, Spokane

[Read more...](#)

One of the more interesting projects I'm working on at the moment is modifying our ESL collection to better serve our students. Right now everything has the exact same call number and you can only browse randomly if you are searching for a particular item. [read on...](#)

Continuing Education and Training

Welcome to the Continuing Education (CE) and Training section of Connect, the new WLA eNewsletter. My name is Kelli Bragg and I work as support staff for Sno-Isle libraries. I'm also an MLIS student and I'm passionate about getting information out about various CE and Training possibilities to as many people as possible. Since WLA member surveys show time and time again that CE opportunities top the list of what they want, and the WLA Marketing and Communications committee was looking for someone to write about CE/Traning, I believe I've found my niche!

My goal is to showcase CE & Training in the coming year with respect to a wide variety of interest groups. It's also to act in concert with the activities of the CE Committee, Kate Laughlin's CE column in *Alki* ("The Learning Curve"), Washington Library Trainers (WALT), and the Marketing and Communications Committee eNewsletter and blog. [read on...](#)

Pacific Northwest Library Association News: Upcoming Conference

Mark your calendar now for the 2011 PNLA Annual Conference at the Doubletree Hotel Spokane City Center in Spokane, WA, August 3-5, 2011.

This year's theme is "**Navigating the River of Change**" and bestselling author, J.A. Jance, will be the keynote speaker on Thursday morning. Wylie & The Wild West, musician and entertainer extraordinaire will be performing at Thursday's evening dinner. In addition, [Read on...](#)

Connecting With WLA Libraries

Open House in Ellensburg

The Ellensburg Public Library will be hosting an Open House for travelers to the WLA Conference Tuesday and Wednesday, April 5th and 6th.

Located at the crossroads of I-90 and Highway 82 in the



heart of Washington, the library is a perfect spot to take a break. Grab a cup of coffee and a goodie bag while enjoying a backroom and underground tour or engaging in congenial conversation with your peers. Drive safe and we will see you soon in Ellensburg!

Directions:

From exit 106 on I-90, drive into town and turn right on Ruby Street. The library is on the right past the second stop sign. From exit 109, drive north and take a right on Third, library is on the right in the third block.

Rainier Volunteer Library

Looking for a way to give back to your community? The Rainier Volunteer Library, located in Rainier, WA, a town of about 1,500 people in Thurston County, needs people passionate about reading, literacy and their community to keep the library going strong. The library, which opened in November 2009, is run entirely by volunteers, and provides materials to community members through donated items and a partnership with Timberland Regional Library. Currently, the library is open four days a week (Wednesday through Saturday), and while they already have about 30 volunteers, they are always looking for more people to help them sort books, lead story times and put on workshops and programs. Check out [*The Olympian's*](#) article for more information.

If you are interested in volunteering, please visit the library's [Web site](#).

Have an article you'd like to submit for WLA's Connect Newsletter? Send submissions to WLA's Marketing & Communications Chair, Brooke Fisher, eNews@wla.org

Was Connect forwarded to you from a WLA member?

To subscribe to Connect, email eNews@wla.org

