
U E L M A

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President's Message - - Cindy Mitchell

A Clean Sweep

One of my favorite reality shows is a British gem called "Life Laundry" where a personal organizer comes in and not only helps you clean out a couple rooms in your house, but also helps you analyze why you are storing all of this baggage – literally and figuratively. Last year, when the school year started, I convinced my principal to let me hire a professional organizer to come in help me clean through all of the many cubbies, closets, bags, boxes and drawers that you find in a library. My building is only 18 years old and has only had three librarians and I was still amazed at all of the "bits and bobs" that we dragged out into the light of day. And most of it was probably mine in the first place. While she didn't spend any time getting to the underlying reasons why I am such a packrat (and I am grateful for that), we did throw out many garbage bags full of things that no one has used in years and cleared many shelves and drawers that could now be used for more immediate needs.

Dejunking the workroom and office spaces made it easier for me to tackle the ruthless process of evaluating equipment, videos and the entire book collection. Thanks to wonderfully collection analysis tools from my automation system provider, I was able to see what sections in the library were being used the most or the least, and I could also instantly see the age of the books in any part of the library. It's rather sad when your current events section is composed mostly of books over 10 years old! It was rather painful to pack up all of the boxes of dusty tomes. And it is also a little daunting to see the large number of books that need to be replaced. But I turned the whole project into a school wide exercise. But that's a story for another day.

One thing that organizer taught me is that you can never rest on your laurels. I may think that I have the hottest fiction collection in the country, but that doesn't matter if I don't have what my teachers and students need right now. The shelves in my non-fiction area may be full, but unless they are the books that teachers and students need for research or the kind of book that the students will check out for leisure reading, then all they become are expensive place holders. To fill

those shelves with the absolute best books for my school I will need to spend more time collaborating with teachers and talking to students – and that is one of the best parts of the job.

I have become committed to constantly evaluating and reevaluating what role each book, video, magazine, tool and piece of paper in the library plays and whether its time is done. There is no space for fluff in the stacks or in the back office. It's not enough for the shelves to look full – they also need to be used. The same goes for all of those shelves in the office spaces that hardly anyone sees. Please don't think that I am perfect – I just have less junk to spread around and a lot more room for the many projects I am constantly working on.

Now is probably not the best time to start a wholesale cleaning of your entire library, but I challenge you to give one drawer, one shelf, one filing cabinet a good once over before you leave. Ask yourself when you last used those items. If you look at them really hard, I bet you can eliminate more than half of what is there. If you do this each day or even once a week, then by the time school is out for the summer, you will already see a big change.

And the same goes for UELMA. Using the answers that so many of you supplied to our questionnaire, the board will spend time this summer looking through UELMA's clos-

ets and boxes and evaluate what our organization needs to serve you better. If you have any specific concerns or suggestions, please email me right away.

Now prepare yourself for a stellar end to the school year and get ready to start the new year off with a new attitude!

See ya soon!

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Here's an Idea.....

Encourage your teachers to or invite a legislator yourself to speak in your library as part of the American Legislators Back to School Program. A great way to make students aware of the political process and to show legislators the importance of the library. Check out the following website for scheduling information.

<http://le.utah.gov/lrgc/backtoschool.htm>

The 2006 UELMA Annual Conference is now history, but it is not too late to again acknowledge the good people who worked so hard to make it a successful event. In addition to the general Conference Planning Committee which consisted of dedicated UELMA board members, several subcommittees donated much time and effort. A heartfelt thank you goes to Cindy Adams, Bob Bingham, Marilyn Collins, Susan Forsgren, Elayne Finlinson, Rebecca Hatch, Pat Weyburn, and Wendy Orme who served on the Schedule Subcommittee and in numerous other ways. Debbie Checketts, Ruth Criger, Valarie Qualls, and Carole Zesiger combined their talents to assist in the arrangement of displays. An unprecedented effort resulted in a memorable conference packed with entertaining and insightful sessions.

I can truthfully say that I am thankful for the opportunity I have had the past three years to serve the members of UELMA and, by extension, the students of Utah. It is a pleasure to actively participate in an organization that continues to mature professionally year after year. I *have* enjoyed the journey thanks to you, my colleagues!

A Joyful Service —Fawn Morgan

Parting Thoughts

Posted on the door outside the library at my school is a sign which reads,

*You
Are Now Entering
Mrs. Morgan's Classroom.
Inside You Will Find
Fascinating Stories
And
Amazing Facts*

I want students to know that I consider the library to be my classroom where I teach students how to develop skills in finding and using information. The information will likely be found in stories which may be factual or fanciful. I want to help them unlock information in all formats including text, still and moving images, or sound. I want them to wonder in amazement like the young lady I recently overheard as she read an article about the assassination of JFK, "Wow! I never heard this story before!" Just like you, I want them to feel a bit of the awe I feel when I walk into a library. That's the wonder and joy of the job responsibility we share as school librarians.

The 2007 Fall UELMA Regional Conferences are planned for all school library and media center personnel

Regional Conferences To be September

and their administrators. They will be held **Wednesday, September 27th** at the College of Eastern Utah Student Center in **Price**, and **Thursday, September 28th**, at the Sharwin Smith Center on the Southern Utah University Campus in **Cedar City**. A conference fee of \$22 covers lunch, conference materials and a half-year membership to UELMA. As always, the conference will feature a keynote speaker, excellent workshops, break-out sessions, professional training, and a preview of some of the newest best reading picks for high school and elementary students. Attendees will also have an opportunity to look at the newest offerings by library vendors and interact with conference presenters and counterparts. Watch for registration brochures which will be delivered to schools through your service center and the UELMA Newsletter. They should arrive just as school begins. UELMA's Regional Conferences are guaranteed to be conferences you won't want to miss!

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Special Ward Tim R. Cosgrove



This special award was presented recognizing Cosgrove's support as a member of the legislature. He was highly instrumental in obtaining the grant received recently for all state libraries. Thanks!

Paraprofessional of the Year
Linda Burns
Wilson Elementary
Logan District



Library Media Teacher of the Year
Susan Huff
Riverton High School
Jordan District



Administrator of the Year
Georgia Block
Beehive Elementary
Granite District



Conference Evaluation Report

1. **Did the conference meet your needs including format and time schedule?** 97% of you agreed that the conference was successful in meeting your needs and expectations. There are concerns each year about the day that we hold the conference, but with the exception of this year, we try to coordinate with the UCET conference to make attendance more feasible. We also have to consider the cost to our organization, which has influenced where and when we can hold the conference.
2. **The sessions attended were meaningful and useful.** 94% of you expressed appreciation for the variety of sessions offered at this year's conference. The binders with pre-prepared hand-outs seems to work well for our type of conference where everything is offered in one day and you want to get to as many sessions as possible. We understand that you are rushed at times. You especially enjoyed the author sessions and the specific requests for the types of sessions you would like to see in the future will be instrumental in planning next year's conference. We understand the need to make a few changes in room and equipment assignments, and we want you, as members, to know that we appreciate all your recommendations for improvement.
3. **Business luncheon and keynote speaker met my expectations.** An overwhelming 97% of you felt that the keynote speaker and business luncheon were beneficial. Rafe Martin and Shannon Hale were awesome! You did request that we try to give the keynote speaker more time and shorten the business at lunch time. We were pleased with your positive response in our attempts to split the association business between the morning session and the lunch session. It is necessary for the board to take care of essential association business and we had hoped that this new schedule would be better for members.
4. **Vendor exhibits were beneficial.** 88% of members expressed appreciation for the professional vendors that prepare exhibits for our conference. You suggested that we provide members with a little more time to visit our vendors. It was also suggested that we offer more Utah author titles and other popular titles that can be purchased at the conference. The prizes given away to members were very appreciated and it was a positive gesture to introduce the vendors to members at the beginning of the day. Members like the individual time that vendors spend addressing their needs.
5. **Location, facilities, hotel and parking** 94% of members agree that the facilities are clean, pleasant and well located. It *has been a challenge to find a facility that will accommodate all our requests for a conference of this size. We understand that it is a drive for some members and hope that the information provided makes the trip worthwhile. The maps this year were not accurate and we will make sure that next year MapQuest has the correct exit numbers and we have that information posted on the UELMA website.

T.A. Barron grew up in Colorado ranch country, traveled widely as a Rhodes Scholar, managed a successful venture capital business in New York, and then changed careers to become a full-time writer and conservationist. His passion for the wonders of nature, his deep concern for humanity and our fragile planet, and his belief in the heroic potential of every person, radiate through his books; many of which are international bestsellers.

Author T. A. Barron to Keynote in 2007

From the attic of his Colorado home, Barron writes powerful, poetic, and inspiring books enjoyed by children and adults alike. His highly acclaimed work has garnered the Nautilus Award, given to books that promote a better world, many statewide book awards, as well as honors from the American Library Association and the International Reading Association. In the words of author Madeleine L'Engle, T.A. Barron's books are "a rare gift to be treasured for a lifetime"; Robert Redford declared that "T.A. Barron's appreciation for nature shines through his extraordinary work"; and *Book Sense* labeled his books "the best of the best that is being written in children's literature."

Barron's novels include: the new trilogy *The Great Tree of Avalon* (a *New York Times* best seller); *The Lost Years of Merlin* epic (currently being developed into a feature film); and *The Ancient One* (the story of a brave girl and a great redwood tree that is also a time tunnel). He has authored illustrated children's books such as *High as a Hawk*, and photo-essay nature books about Colorado's magnificent wilderness. His non-fiction book, *The Hero's Trail*, describes how any person from any background can help humanity and our planet.

T.A. Barron also founded a national award to honor outstanding young people. The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes (which he named after his mother) recognizes extraordinary, public-spirited young people from all backgrounds, in the hope that their examples will inspire others.

In addition, Barron has served on many national boards, including the Princeton University board of trustees, where he helped to found the Princeton Environmental Institute, and The Wilderness Society, which recently honored him with its highest citizen award for conservation work. Barron often speaks at conventions, book events, universities, and community gatherings. But his favorite pastime remains hiking on mountain trails with his wife, Currie, and their children. For more information about this talented author, visit his website at <http://www.tabarron.com>

Winners of the 2006 Beehive Book Awards

- Picture Book: *Some Dogs Do* by Alborough
- Novel: *Dragon Rider* by Funke
- Informational: *Actual Size* by Jenkins
- Poetry: *Rolling in the Aisles*
- Young Adult Novel: *Airborn* by Opper



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2007 UELMA

Conference

Will be held
March 1, 2007
at the
Davis Conference
Center.
Plan now to attend!

In This Issue...

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From the State Office —Georgia Loutensock

I have received inquiries regarding the one-time Legislative appropriation to school libraries. To date I do not have any specific dollar amounts to pass on. The law is written that 25% of the monies (\$500,000) will be divided equally among all public schools and 75% (\$1.5 million) is to be divided equally among all public schools based on the average daily membership. That comes down to a base amount of \$500 per public school and \$3 dollars per student.

I would like to suggest that each school earmark the money for a particular part of the collection and that records be kept of the books purchased. Please start putting together your order now so that when the monies become available the funds can be expended without delay. Keep up the good work and happy reading!

Ammon, Richard. - *Conestoga Wagons* Holiday House, c2000., RL 5.1, 32p Explains how Conestoga wagons were built and driven as well as their historical significance and importance to the early American economy

Arnold, Tedd. - *Even More Parts : idioms from head to toe* -- Dial Books for Young Readers, c2004., RL 1.7, 30p A young boy is worried about what will happen to his body when he hears such expressions as "I'm tongue-tied," "don't give me any of your lip," and "I put my foot in my mouth."

Curriculum in Context By Cindy Mitchell Picture Books for Middle and High School Classes

Bryant, Jennifer. - *Georgia's Bones* -- Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2005., RL 2.8, 29p Tells the story of artist Georgia O'Keeffe's lifelong interest in shapes, from her childhood on a Wisconsin farm, to her adult life in New York City and New Mexico.

Burns, Marilyn, 1941- - *The Greedy Triangle* -- Scholastic, c1994., RL 4.7, 36p Dissatisfied with its shape, a triangle keeps asking the local shapeshifter to add more lines and angles until it doesn't know which side is up

Capatti, Berenice. - *Klimt and his cat* -- Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2005., RL 4.3, 38 p. The life and work of the famous Viennese painter Gustav Klimt is explored by his favorite cat.

Cheney, Lynne V. - *When Washington crossed the Delaware : a wintertime story for young patriots* -- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2004., RL 4.3, 32p Tells the story of how General George Washington led his exhausted, defeated troops across the Delaware on Christmas night 1776 to attack the Hessians and the British at Trenton and Princeton, turning the tide of the Revolution in favor of the Americans.