



MINNESOTA LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

Advocating for Minnesota's
libraries, librarians and
library staff

Roundup

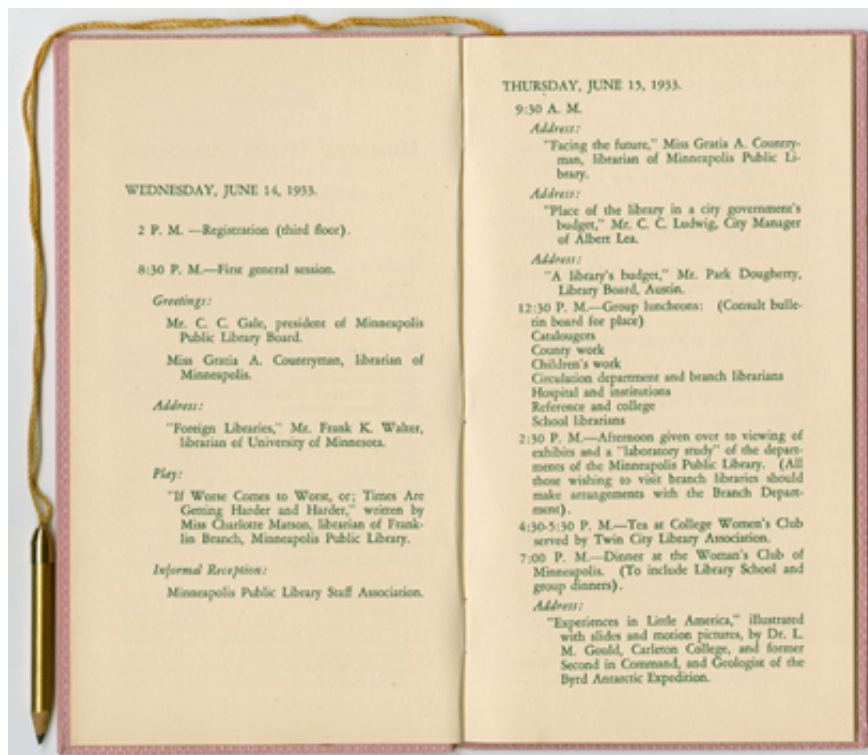
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Want to be a part of MLA history...

Did you know that MLA members have a proud history of sharing their talents with colleagues at Minnesota Library Association Conferences?

As recorded in this dainty conference program, the play "Worse Comes to Worst, or; Times Are Getting Harder and Harder," written by Miss Charlotte Matson of the Franklin Branch Library in Minneapolis, was performed in the opening session of the 41st annual conference in 1933.



June 14-17, 1933 Minneapolis MLA Conference Program. Image used with permission, courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

In 1968, the “Big Bag Variety Show,” followed by a “Beer Blast with Band (German)” was a highlight of the 73rd annual conference in Rochester.

In 1994 some among us participated in the highly dramatic musical parody, “West Branch Story.” Can you identify them?



These are the Inks, a rough and tumble gang of printists. Image used with permission, courtesy of Lynn Bertalmio. Our thanks to her!

At the 2015 MLA Conference in St. Paul, Jody Wurl and Beth Goodrich read from one of 17 radio scripts produced by MLA publicity committee in 1938 as part of an initiative to raise awareness and appreciation by advocating for Minnesota’s libraries across the state.

ANNOUNCER: There's an old proverb which says it is a wise man who realizes how little he knows; and all Fact-Finder fans know it is an even wiser man who calls upon his public library for help in exploring the great fields of knowledge lying untouched before him. The Minnesota Library Association brings this program to you every Thursday at this time over KSTP to assist you in making the library a part of your daily life. Accept this invitation to send in the questions you want answered to Fact-Finders. As many as possible will be answered over the air:

December 8, 1938 Minnesota Library Association Radio Program: Fact Finders XI. Image used with permission, courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

To celebrate MLA’s 125th year, we are considering continuing the tradition of variety shows,

musicals and parodies performed by MLA members as a conference happy hour entertainment. Start thinking about what you'd like to perform (with or without a group). More details will follow in a future Round-up!

Trivia: What role did the Head Rapper Jerry Young play at the 75th MLA Conference in 1970? Hint: this session was followed by a "Diamond Jubilee Dinner and Revue" and "Around the World in 90 Minutes: Informal Travelogue by James Wells, Washington County Librarian." Tune in next time for the January RoundUp to find out. Or use your finely honed librarian skills to seek out the answer!

Tomes on Tap in January

I hope that you all will consider joining us for the January Tomes on Tap Book Discussion! Tomes on Tap is an informal book club for library staff that meets once every three months at restaurants in and around the Twin Cities. Details are listed below.

January Tomes on Tap

When: January 16th, 2016 @ 6:30 PM

Where: The Happy Gnome

498 Selby Ave. St. Paul MN 55102

<http://thehappygnome.com/>

Book: Furiously Happy by Jenny Lawson

RSVP to host: Rebecca Hranj (Rebecca.hranj@gmail.com)

Member Spotlight

The Roundup will occasionally feature one of our members and highlight the great work that is being done at libraries around the state. If you would like to share your story fill out our form [here](#). You can also nominate a colleague to be featured [here](#).

Name Jenny McElroy

Organization Minnesota Historical Society's Gale Family Library

Position Reference Specialist

Introduce yourself Hi! I've been working in Reference for the MN Historical Society since 2010. I really love my job, at least partially because it allows me to combine my passions for history and research with my archival, library, and technical skills. In addition to being a member of MLA, I'm active in the ALA's RUSA-History Section as the Secretary of the Executive Committee and the Chair of the Local History Committee. I'm also the current chair of the Metronet Board.

Outside of my professional life I would say that I'm a Midwesterner at heart, but I've happily

lived in New England and the South, as well. I love trivia and trivial facts of all kinds, possess too many books for the shelf-space in my house, and have been a die-hard Kansas City Royals fan for my whole life.

What do you like most about working in libraries? I love that I get to be a part of researchers' work, even if sometimes it is a very small part. I've helped a huge range of people research all kinds of questions and issues, and I absolutely love that "ah-ha!" moment when their pieces of information start to click together.

Why did you join MLA? What do you like most about being a member? I joined MLA last year so that I could have more connections with local librarians of all kinds. I'm excited to continue to learn more about what others are doing here in Minnesota and to find ways to collaborate with other librarians and libraries.

So far, the highlight of my membership has been attending my first annual conference in 2015. It was a really great opportunity to learn, meet new people, and see how the organization works!

What's a library program or service you're excited about? My library jumped on the social media bandwagon this fall and it has allowed us to start sharing so many cool/fun things, and to show depth and breadth of our very special collection. Most exciting to me--because I love food history and the history of everyday things--we just started an experimental "Gale Family Library Test Kitchen" series on our Facebook page, which features recipes from our extensive Minnesota cookbook collection.

What question or issue should the Minnesota library community address next? Breaking down some of the silo walls that exist between library types! Each Minnesota library obviously has a different focus or area of expertise (locality, demographics, type of information needs met best, etc.), but there are many things that are transferable between library types. With a little more connectivity, we can all be better--and more concrete--resources for each other.

Nominate your colleagues for the MLA Member Spotlight!

Each month the Roundup features one of our members and highlights the great work that is being done at libraries around the state. Please nominate MLA members that should be featured in the monthly Roundup Member Spotlight. Submit a [nomination form](#).

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