

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

July 2010

### Theron Keys Retirement

I want to personally congratulate Theron Keys, Maintenance Mechanic for the Boise Public Library, on his retirement after nearly 11 years of service. Theron has been responsible for the maintenance of the Main Library and has assisted in developing the repair and maintenance plan that keeps our library open. I wish Theron all the best in his retirement.

### Fourth of July Parade

Over 15 library staff volunteers represented the Library in the annual Independence Day parade, participating as a walking brigade, and wearing blue polo shirts with the LIBRARY! brand embroidered in white. I want to thank these staff volunteers for participating and boosting the Library's visibility in this community event. This year's "We the People" Liberty Day Parade was held on July 3 at 10:00 a.m. in downtown Boise.

### Fiscal Year 2011 City Council Budget Workshop

The City Council approved the Board of Trustees' (April 7, 2010) and Mayor Bieter's recommendation to reduce the Library's operating budget by \$362,020 for the next fiscal year. Included in the cost containment are four vacant positions that may remain frozen until 2013, \$86,000 in minor equipment purchases and miscellaneous operating expenses, and \$28,500 in major equipment purchases. Also included in the Library's cost containment was a deferral of the east Boise branch project until construction funds can be secured. The Library plans no service reductions or reduction in public hours due to the adjustments. Denise McNeley will be reviewing the budget outcomes in specific detail at the board meeting. A spreadsheet of the budget changes is included in the supporting document section of the packet.

### LYNX! Consortium Agreement

The LYNX! Consortium agreement revision was conceptually approved by all LYNX! directors at the June 4 directors meeting. The agreement includes the open access formula revisions agreed to last year as an interim approach, which calculates the reimbursement on per household use versus circulation transactions. The agreement also includes courier reimbursement, ILS (Integrated Library System) reimbursement, tier levels of membership and membership standards. Board members and the Boise City Council will review the agreement in August or September after all other libraries have received formal approval from decision makers. The directors also agreed to maintain the 5 limit holds threshold for the next year due to budget constraints affecting member libraries. The directors will review and evaluate the limit in June 2011.

### Idaho Library Legislative Task Force

The Task Force met on June 17 to review potential legislation in the next session of the Idaho Legislature related to public library Internet filtering. The legislature passed a

mandatory filtering legislation for public schools that takes effect on July 1 and has expressed interest in passing similar legislation for public libraries. The Task Force was invited to provide comment regarding such legislation and will be reviewing filtering issues with some legislators this summer. The Task Force prefers that no Internet filtering legislation be enacted for public libraries, since filtering blocks access to information, is unreliable, and presents staff and legal issues regarding filtering controls. I have been asked to meet with legislative leadership to review Internet filtering issues and intellectual freedom values related to public libraries.

#### Leadership Boise Alumni Focus Group

The Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce invited me to participate in a Leadership Boise Alumni Focus Group on June 10 to assist in developing an organization composed of Leadership Boise Alumni. I did express an interest in serving as a member of the organization and hope to help develop organizational structure for the new organization which would include community service activities and networking activities. The Library has actively promoted staff involvement in Leadership Boise since 1999; Leadership Boise serves as a valuable community outreach tool for the Library and facilitates our connection with the business community.

#### Author J. A. Jance to Visit Main Library

Boise Public Library and The Rediscovered Bookshop are pleased to host an author visit and book signing this month with best-selling author J. A. Jance. She will be in Boise to promote her newest book, *Queen of the Night*, published by Harper-Collins. The after-hours program is scheduled for Friday, July 30, at 7:00 p.m. Jance is the bestselling author of the J. P. Beaumont series, the Joanna Brady series, the Ali Reynolds series, and three stand-alone thrillers featuring the Walker family. *Queen of the Night* is the fourth in the Walker series, and is scheduled for release in late July.

#### New Online Calendar, Website Changes

The Library has switched to a new online calendar service offered by Trumba Corp. The new service offers benefits to both customers and staff, and fits seamlessly into the website. Customers can filter events by location, age and/or event type; search for programs by keyword; choose from three calendar views; subscribe to the calendar, add an event to their own electronic calendar, be notified of changes, forward an event to friends, be reminded by email or text message, have event information emailed or texted to them, and download event details. Event entry is much easier for staff. We can add photos to highlight key events, and use widgets to include calendar elements on web pages throughout the site. The widgets will allow us to reduce the number of programming pages on the website, as well as associated maintenance.

#### *ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT:*

#### A Busy Year for Cole & Ustick

Tuesday, June 15 was another banner day at the Library! at Cole & Ustick. That day 1,650 visitors passed through the doors and 59 people attended the morning storytime. After almost a year, the community is still excited about their new library facility and

happily using its resources. The Cole & Ustick staff will be celebrating the branch's one-year anniversary on June 30 with festivities including face painting and music.

#### Jewelry-Making at Collister

The Library! at Collister hosted a teen jewelry-making program with Miss Courageous (commonly seen at the Boise Saturday Market) on Thursday, June 3. Her jewelry is made with old Scrabble tiles. More than 20 teen girls attended the program and left with jewelry!

#### New Teen Programs at the Main Library

Teen programs at the Main Library are on the upswing. The new teen librarian in Youth Services has done some great new programs this summer, including a cell phone photo shoot-out, a book discussion and an art project. Attendance is modest, but the number of teens coming to the programs is increasing each week.

#### Online Card Applications

Staff members in Circulation at the Main Library have introduced a new online card application for use by the public. This new application will provide customers who would like to use it with an opportunity to avoid a paper form and enter their card application directly into the computer for verification by library staff, leading to savings in paper and in time for both staff and the public. This application will soon be made available to customers remotely and in the Library's branch locations.

#### Programs at Hillcrest

The Library! at Hillcrest has engaged kids at the Grace Jordan Community Center and at Great Beginnings Child Care in summer reading. Both groups visited the branch, received new library cards, and checked out materials. City partners from the Boise Watershed entertained the kids with great programs on the water cycle. Hillcrest's June program for kids of many ages drew 75 or more to make sand art, churn ice cream, and tie-dye. Staff and volunteers from Hillcrest also joined other Boise Public Library representatives to meet and greet over 100 people at World Refugee Day.

#### Changes in Youth Services

Youth Services made some exciting changes to the physical space in the children's room in June. Thanks to a very generous donation from the Friends of the Library staff was able to purchase new slat wall displayers for the ends of many of the shelves. This change creates new space for displays of books, brochures, and posters. Be sure to stop by and see it.