

# BOOK REPORT

## Hooray for MLA by Bob Newhouse

As newly elected president of the Manhattan Library Association (MLA) for 2016, I believe sharing the positive impact of the MLA is a great way to begin a new year.

MLA has a rich historical background, dating from 1900 when it was formed to support construction of a Carnegie public library in Manhattan. The original building still stands at Fifth and Poyntz Avenue and is now home to the Office of the County Attorney. The organization has come a long way since those beginning years when fundraising was accomplished through rummage sales, book sales, community suppers and sponsorship of plays, concerts and lectures. Though we still cling to portions of those approaches, MLA now focuses primarily on:

- Annual Book Sale: this has become a signature event at the end of February/early March
- The establishment of Rosie's Corner: located on the first floor where patrons can access donated and used books all year
- Annual Membership Drive: community members may join MLA at any time, but are encouraged to join or renew during the drive in February

In return for this community support, MLA provides library programming support and helps purchase furnishings and materials for adults, young adults, and children. As a result of this financial support, patrons enjoy a vibrant and active library that is dedicated to providing up-to-date services for the Manhattan community.

While current procedures, programming events and fundraising efforts are going strong, the beginning of a new year is always a good time to reflect and look ahead. It's a good time to ask our current members their thoughts and ideas for MLA.

What do you think the role of our library association should be as technologies change? What initiatives should we tackle that could be in place five years from now? Ten years from now? How can MLA assist YOU better? What are some ways the association needs to adapt so that it can remain important in the lives of its members and address these future needs?

These are thought-provoking issues. Please feel free to share your thoughts with me at [rcn@ksu.edu](mailto:rcn@ksu.edu) or with any MLA Board member. We look forward to serving you in 2016.

See you at the library!  
Bob Newhouse  
MLA President



### MLA Board Members

President: Bob Newhouse  
Secretary: Andi Washburn  
Treasurer: Sandy Nelson  
Book Sale Chair: Roger Brannan  
Book Sale Vice-Chair: Doug Schoning  
Membership Chair: Heather Augustine  
Publicity Chair: Carol Oukrop  
Rosie's Corner Chair: Wilma Schmeller  
Rosie's Corner Vice Chair: Carol O'Neill  
TALK Program Chair: Michaeline Chance-Reay  
Member-at-Large: Keri Mills  
Member-at-Large: LuAnn Hoover  
Member-at-Large: Elizabeth Rush  
Member-at-Large: Kay Stith  
Board of Trustees Rep.: Carolyn Elliot  
MPL Staff Rep.: Linda Knupp  
MPL Staff Rep.: Danielle Schapaugh

## Welcoming New Board Members by Carol Oukrop



Four members have been added to the MLA Board. They are LuAnn Hoover, Keri Mills, Elizabeth Rush and Kay Stith. All are currently serving as members-at-large.

Hoover retired in May 2015 from Kansas State University, where she taught for 38 years in the College of Human Ecology as an instructor in Early Childhood Education. She is from Winfield and has been married to Dave Hoover for 40 years. He also is retired.

Hoover's hobbies include quilting, gardening, playing tennis, reading and attending the grandsons' school and athletic events. She has been a patron of the Manhattan Public Library since the early 1970's, and feels honored to give back to the library by serving on the board.

Keri Mills grew up in Bartlesville, OK, and has lived in Manhattan for 12 years. Until August 2015, she worked at the Manhattan Public Library. She started out in the Children's Department, then worked in Adult Services, and finished as the Young Adult Librarian.

Mills' current main interests are planning remodeling of their house and training a new puppy. She also enjoys reading, cooking, watching football and skiing whenever she has a chance. She's excited to serve on the MLA board. "Even though I am currently not working at the library, I believe the services it provides to our community are very important, and I am happy I can still be a small part of that," she said.

Liz Rush grew up in Toledo, Ohio. She moved to the Cleveland area when she married and lived there for many years. She was a registered nurse, and worked part-time for her husband, who was a physician.

Rush moved to Manhattan four years ago, after the death of her husband. Her major interests are books, gardening and grandchildren. She has been interested in books and authors her entire life. "I love Manhattan and the Manhattan Library," she said. "I am delighted to join the board." Rush has been volunteering two days a week at Book Sort for three years.

The fourth new member, Kay Stith, brings 43 years of public school teaching experience to the board. She also did some teaching at the college level, but her preference is high school. She still substitutes occasionally.

Stith grew up on a farm near South Haven, on the Oklahoma border. She completed her MLS degree at Emporia State in 1976. She started her career at Marion High School teaching English, also teaching in Osborne, MO, and Maize and Dodge City. She worked primarily as a high school librarian. She ended her career in Manhattan, serving as director of Libraries and Informational Technology.

Stith's current major interests include family – especially grandchildren, genealogy and reading. She is a member of the DAR. She's active in her church, where she has developed a children's library.

We are proud to have these dedicated volunteers on the MLA Board. If you would be interested in joining the board in the future, please email the library at [pr@mhklibrary.org](mailto:pr@mhklibrary.org) and direct your message to Heather Augustine, MLA Membership Chair.

## The Good Books Club/Talk About Literature in Kansas by Susan Withee

This year's theme is Native American Mysteries and will feature books that are rich in varied geographic locales and atmosphere, Native American cultures and spiritual traditions, and the changing social, ethnic, and political face of America.

Book group meetings are on the last Thursday of each month – February 25, March 31, and April 28 – and will start at 7:00 p.m. in the library's 2nd floor Groesbeck Room.

The book choice for February 25 is fast-paced mystery thriller *Dance for the Dead* by Thomas Perry. A member of the Seneca Wolf clan of upper New York State, clever, beautiful, and fearless sleuth Jane Whitefield runs her own witness protection service, making victims vanish. Relying in part on ancestral traditions of mysticism and woodland lore, she conjures up new identities for people with nowhere left to run. When an eight-year-old boy, heir to a fortune, is stalked by the same killers who murdered his parents, Jane takes readers on a wild ride of switched identities and super killers, facing dangerous obstacles that will put her powers and her life to a terrifying test. Discussion leader for February is Erin Poupirt, a member of the Kaw Nation and an independent scholar.

On March 31, we'll read and discuss *The Shaman Sings* by James D. Doss. Ute Tribal Police investigator Charlie Moon and Granite Creek, Colorado, Police Chief Scott Parrish join forces when confronted with the brutal murder of an ambitious and unscrupulous female university researcher.

## Looking Back to the Future by Linda Knupp

The beginning of the new year is a time to reflect and a time to reaffirm resolutions.

Last January, we were celebrating the public dedication of the new children's room. A year later, the room is still a fresh delight for young library patrons.

On any given day you may find preschoolers pretending the playhouse is their bakery, dressing up in the fairy tale corner, learning the alphabet in the early literacy area, or exploring the globe to locate exotic places. School-aged children particularly enjoy the additional computers and the bright seating where they can find a comfortable place to read, study, or visit with friends.

The Storytime Room has plenty of space for interactive story times and activities, such as the recent yoga story times. I particularly enjoy seeing children sitting on the fat pillows on the window seat, engrossed in good books.

Aged Ute shaman Daisy Perika draws on native spirituality to guide the investigation, including visions and foreboding dreams that, inexplicably, are shared by other characters. Combining Ute prophesy, scientific investigation, and Mexican fatalism, the author switches points of view and exposes complex motivations as these characters track and find the killer before he strikes again. Our March discussion will be led by Deborah Peterson, an instructor of Chinese language and East Asian civilization at KU.


The final book in our series, on April 28, will be *Dance Hall of the Dead* by Tony Hillerman, one of his series of complex, colorful, and compelling Southwestern mysteries starring Lt. Joe Leaphorn of the Navaho tribal police. Two young Native-American boys have disappeared into thin air, leaving a pool of blood behind. Lt. Joe Leaphorn is called to the case, but his investigation is complicated by an important archaeological dig underway and by roadblocks created by the unique laws and sacred religious rites of the Zuni people. Hillerman is a master of recreating the exotic atmosphere of Zuni and Navajo culture and ceremonies overlaid by the splendor of the natural setting of Southwestern Native American lands. Discussion leader for the April meeting will be Mickey Chance-Reay, an author and historian who taught at Kansas State University.

Please join our intrepid and enthusiastic band of avid readers for these discussions this winter and spring. This series is sponsored by the Manhattan Library Association and the Kansas Humanities Council.

In 2015, the library also completed a strategic planning process with the help of community leaders from various groups, including business, healthcare, education, the arts, and other areas that represent Manhattan. The group met to identify local needs and the role of the library in serving those needs.

The feedback from the group was invaluable and helped establish new goals for service. The Library Board, Friends, Foundation and staff are working together to achieve these benchmarks.

The library's mission is to connect the community to a world of ideas and information, by inspiring readers of all ages, bringing technologies' benefits to everyone, and welcoming everyone to the library, on site and online. The Manhattan Library Association is a key partner, supporting programs and services to help ensure that every citizen is connected to library services they need and enjoy.

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## Annual Book Sale by Bob Newhouse

The Manhattan Library Association will hold its annual book sale beginning **Friday, February 26, with a special preview from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**, open to MLA members only. Memberships, starting at just \$10, will be available at the door. Be sure to encourage all your friends and family to attend and get first pick of the thousands of books, DVDs, CDs, and more for sale at unbelievable prices.

The book sale will be open to the public on **Saturday, February 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, and on **Sunday, February 28, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.**

The book sale wouldn't be possible without the support of volunteers who help sort books, set up for the sale, work, and clean up afterward. It's always a fun time, full of laughs and silly hats, so if you would be interested in helping out this year, just let us know!

To volunteer, please contact the library by calling (785) 776-4741 ext. 100. Or, when you fill out your renewal form, check the box indicating your interest.

Special thanks to the members of KSU's Rotaract, the Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, and JobCorps for all their help, and to the members of MLA who volunteer year-round. The sale wouldn't be possible without your dedication.



Manhattan Library Association

### Manhattan Public Library

629 Poyntz Avenue  
(corner of Juliette and Poyntz)  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502  
[www.MHKlibrary.org](http://www.MHKlibrary.org)  
Telephone 785-776-4741

#### LIBRARY HOURS:

**Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**