Preparation for a Bright Conference: Trent Reedy and Garth Stein

The last issue of Book Marks introduced our Wednesday night keynote speaker, librarian Jamie LaRue, who will be talking about five transformative trends in the library industry. This year’s conference in Rapid City will also feature talks from two authors.

Young Adult author Trent Reedy is speaking during Thursday's lunch. Trent's works include Divided We Fall, Stealing Air (a Junior Library Guild Selection), and Words in the Dust (ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults, 2012). Reedy grew up in Iowa and found a connection with storytelling at a young age. The author credits “hard work… and patience from many great teachers and librarians” for cultivating his literary talents (www.trentreedy.com/atrent.html).

After graduating from the University of Iowa with an English degree, Reedy, a member of the Iowa National Guard, was called up to fight in Afghanistan. This experience greatly influenced his burgeoning writing career—he had expected to write about idyllic Iowan childhoods but he was moved, instead, to write about the children that he saw growing up in Afghanistan. His most award winning novel, Words in the Dust, is the story of a girl who was born with a cleft palate who received life-changing surgery from a U.S. army doctor. USA today called the novel “strikingly beautiful”.

Reedy returned to the United States and taught English and later continued his education by earning an MFA in writing for children and young adults from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. He lives with his wife and dog in Washington state and continues to write books for young adults. Burning Nation, the second installment of his series, Divided We Fall, was recently made into an audiobook and is available on iTunes.

(Continued on p.4)
One thing I have learned in my year as president is that SDLA is a constantly evolving organization. This summer I have been working with various committee chairs and other board members to make sure that our bylaws and procedures represent the current practices and needs of our organization. The process has shown me how we have had to adapt over the years to stay up to date with technological advancements and also the needs and trends of South Dakota libraries and librarians. We are such an adaptable bunch.

As we move into the next year of SDLA leadership following conference, it is time to yet again evaluate the organization and where we are headed. The executive board will begin a new strategic planning process and will be seeking input from the entire membership, so please be prepared to respond with what you see as the priorities for the South Dakota Library Association in coming years. What are we doing right? What could we be doing better? What are we not doing but should? How can we improve and grow? These are the types of questions we all need to consider as we enter the planning process, and we will be asking them soon, so watch for those opportunities to play your part in improving the organization when the time comes.

And speaking of improvements, have you been to the SDLA website lately? You asked for something better, and we have responded with a new look and layout that we hope is much more appealing and user-friendly. Please play around with the new site and the features it offers. By expanding our profiles with updated information, photos and other options, we can develop our online SDLA community and begin using more of the features that the website software can offer. There is also a place where you can submit ideas for improvement, so don't hesitate to speak up. If you have any questions or problems with the site, you can contact me or Stephanie Brewer, our EST. Also, be on the lookout for opportunities to learn more about using the website at this year's conference.

These are just a few ways that SDLA is “Preparing for a Bright Future” in 2015. See you soon!
Dear SDLA members— I wanted to introduce myself in my first issue as the new editor of *Book Marks*. I am taking over the publication from Melissa Webber of Canistota.

My day job is at the McGovern Library on the campus of Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD where I am the Cataloging/Serials Librarian. I am looking forward to working with the SDLA board, SDLA members and library supporters to celebrate and communicate all that libraries do in South Dakota.

In compiling this first issue, I have found that the SD library community is eager to show off everything they do! Everyone has been very helpful and enthusiastic. Of course I wasn’t surprised— it’s the library way!

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**SDLA Elections**
- SDLA elections will be open from August 1 to September 1, 2015.
- Elections will be held electronically on the SDLA homepage. You may request a paper ballot from Stephanie Brewer, EST, at sdlaest@gmail.com

**YARP Nominees**
- 2015-16 Nominees are available for review on the SD State Library website. Voting starts during national Teen Read Week in October and continues until April 1st.

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**Professional Development Grants**

The Professional Development Grants Committee is currently accepting applications for several available grants. Two grants of up to $450 each are available to assist SDLA members who are already established in the area of librarianship with the costs of attending conferences, workshops, or other professional learning opportunities. Deadlines are March 15 and September 15. Two scholarships of up to $500 each are available to assist SDLA members with the costs of professional education in the field of librarianship. Deadline is May 15. Two SDLA Conference grants are available to defray costs of registration, travel, and hotel expenses, etc. Grants of up to $400 may be awarded. Deadline is 45 days prior to conference. Visit [www.sdlibraryassociation.org](http://www.sdlibraryassociation.org) for more information.
Preparation for a Bright Conference: Garth Stein

The final speaker at the 2015 SDLA conference is author and playwright, Garth Stein. His most recognizable work is *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, “a heart-wrenching but deeply funny and ultimately uplifting story of family, love, loyalty, and hope.” (http://www.garthstein.com/works) *The Art of Racing in the Rain* was on the NYT Best Seller List for three years and has been adapted into a young readers’ edition, *Enzo Races in the Rain*, and a play. Stein’s other works include the novels *How Evan Broke His Head and Other Secrets* and *Raven Stole the Moon*, the play *Brother Jones* and the film *When Your Head’s not a Head, It’s a Nut*.

In addition to his career as a novelist, Stein is the co-founder of Seattle7Writers, a nonprofit organization dedicated to literacy through supporting both writers and readers. The group provides funding and hosts programs to generate enthusiasm for reading. In 2010, Seattle7Writers gathered 36 writers and gave them six days to write a novel. The program was broadcast live on the Internet and the resulting novel, *Hotel Angeline: a Novel in 36 Voices*, is for sale as an e-book and paperback with all profits donated to literacy (http://www.garthstein.com/bio).

Stein’s most recent novel, *A Sudden Light*, is “a spellbinding, atmospheric work rich with unconventional characters, scenes of transcendent natural beauty, and unforgettable moments of emotional truth...” (http://www.garthstein.com/works/a-sudden-light/). *A Sudden Light* is available as an audio book and you can visit http://www.asuddenlight.com/ to explore the novel’s setting, the North Estate. Stein will also speak at SDHC Festival of Books in Deadwood.

Conference News

The Suzie Cappa Art center will host the dessert reception Thursday, September 24th from 7:30pm - 9:00pm. The center was founded in 2001 with a vision to provide a supportive space for artist of all abilities. Since the opening of their downtown Rapid City location in 2013, the center hosts 24 full time artists and 4 part time artists. During the dessert reception, conference attendees will get a chance to check out the great art and enjoy the desserts sponsored by Thomson Reuters.

Check out the center at http://www.suziecapaart.com/

Visit the SDLA website for a full list of presenters and activities!

Conference Registration

Please visit: http://www.sdlibraryassociation.org/event/2015Conference to register. You can pay securely online by credit card or mail in a check by choosing the "check/money order" payment option and an invoice will be generated. Be sure to log in to secure your member rate. For help registering please email Stephanie Brewer at sdlaeast@gmail.com or call 605-641-2079.

Call directly at 605-343-8550 prior to August 23, 2015, for $84.99 single/double occupancy rate and specify the Library Conference. The Best Western Ramkota is the Conference hotel and will host all activities.
Summer of 2015 has been a time of upheaval for the Devereaux Library, located on the campus of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. In late April the campus determined that the lower level of the library would be re-purposed as an academic department. The Industrial Engineering department will be housed in that space by summer of 2016.

In order for that to happen, the library must remove all traces of library materials, shelving, and furniture so that construction can begin on offices and possibly a small laboratory.

Once school dismissed for the summer the hard work began. Library staff are emptying ranges of books, moving the materials to other floors and tearing down the shelving. Stacks are extended in length wherever it is possible to add a section or two. Weeding was finished before school ended, but is an ongoing project. The students attending Summer Sessions have been very cooperative of the work happening around them.

The goal is to have the three remaining floors moved before school starts in August. There will still be shifting, shelf reading, and minor adjustments to make, but the hope is that there will be minimal impact on the students once they return.

Robert Wright, Nef Family Chair in Political Economy at Augustana College has authored a wide-ranging, readable, and fairly balanced examination of South Dakota business through the years. Heavily footnoted, this book gives an overview of economic activity in our state from 10,000 B.C.E. to the present day. Wright gives a good history on the first residents along with what the confluence of “Euroamericans” has meant to South Dakota. Later chapters discuss farming and ranching, followed by sections on marketing, tourism, banking and healthcare.

Wright wraps up the book with a chapter entitled “10 Challenges Ahead”, which includes the state’s image, environmental quality, and our treatment of Native Americans and new immigrants. Wright also challenges the reader to look at government’s efficiency balanced against the entrepreneurial spirit that seems to be a genuine part of the South Dakota identity.

I found this book to be informative, lively, and challenging. It is well-indexed, making it an especially useful addition for most South Dakota Libraries.

-Jan Brue Enright
Mikkelsen Library, Augustana College
San Francisco Hosts Historic American Library Association Conference

By Jeannette Davies,
Presentation College Director of Library Services

On the heels of the US Supreme Court’s ruling legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide, Roberta Kaplan was the darling of the American Library Association’s (ALA) 2015 conference, held in San Francisco. Kaplan was counsel in the landmark civil rights case United States v. Windsor, which discovered part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional.

Librarians from Kansas City to Zimbabwe gathered at the City by the Bay to hear authors pitch new books, discover the latest library technology, and attend ALA-sponsored programs such as Transgender People at the Library: Moving from “Them” to “Us,” E books Made Easy and a demonstration in 3D Printing. The wide variety of programs were designed especially for public, school, academic, and specialized librarians as well as educators.

Gloria Steinem, political activist, feminist and journalist, rounded out the cast of keynote speakers during ALA’s Auditorium Speaker Series. Steinem struck a chord with this South Dakota Librarian when she read an excerpt from her latest book My Life on the Road (October 2015 release). Steinem honed in on a time when she met Wilma Mankiller, the first woman to be named Cherokee Nation Principal Chief, on an Indian reservation in South Dakota.

Mankiller and Steinem became fast friends through the years and fought together on many issues, including American Indian and women’s rights, until Mankiller lost her fight with pancreatic cancer in 2010 and was laid to rest in Cherokee Nation Cultural Grounds in Tahlequah, OK.

Steinem also recalled her travels through Sturgis, South Dakota when she met a couple in their black motorcycle leathers. The woman asked Steinem if she was the Gloria Steinem of Ms. Magazine and they had an in-depth conversation. As they were talking, Steinem wondered why the man kept looking out the window. The motorcyclist said he had always wanted a motorcycle and was very proud to own one. He insisted Steinem look at his bike. To her surprise, outside stood an amazingly beautiful purple motorcycle. Steinem closed saying “every librarian should have their own purple motorcycle” and be proud of their work.

Robbie Robertson, inductee of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and member of The Band, along with Caldecott Honor Winner David Shannon, author of No David!, discussed the September 2015 release of their collaboration Hiawatha and the Peacemaker, to close out the conference during ALA’s Closing General Session.

The Native American theme continued during the conference as Robertson, who was born of Mohawk and Cayuga descent recalled how much he admired the story of Hiawatha and his peacemaker and had wanted to tell the story in his own voice for many years. Shannon was captivated when Robertson pitched him the book idea and together they created their own version of tale of Hiawatha—a strong, articulate Mohawk chosen to be the peacemaker translator.

Through visiting with other librarians, I discovered the existence of the American Indian and Native American Library Associations, which should be of interest to all South Dakota librarians who serve Native American populations.
The ALA conference afforded attendees the opportunity to meet authors, learn about new technology, attend sessions, and meet and share ideas and strategies with colleagues. It was a chance to make an investment in personal and professional development. I recommend volunteering as an ALA Ambassador or joining a round table discussion. These opportunities are revitalizing and provide valuable learning experiences.

Consider attending the SDLA Conference in Rapid City in October or January’s ALA Midwinter Conference in Boston.

Start stocking up on the sunscreen, watch the after-summer swimsuit sales, and gear up for next year’s annual ALA conference 2016 in Orlando, FL, June 23-28, 2016.

To learn more about ALA conferences see www.ala.org or contact SDLA ALA councilor, Vickie Mix.

Summer Program Pics

The Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library hosted its Summer Reading Program Kick-off Party, ‘Local Heroes’, on Monday, June 1st to a record turnout. Vermillion EMS, Police, and Fire Departments were on hand, with their cool vehicles for an exciting and informative exploratory session. The celebration of local heroes included face painting, popcorn & poptarts, mask-making and photo booths. Over 200 youth and adults were in attendance!

On Tuesday, June 30, 19 children ages preschool through 5th grade celebrated Super Heroes with the Every Hero has a Story Summer Reading Program hosted at the Faith Public/School Library. Participants read, created their own super hero costumes, had scavenger hunts, stories, arts and crafts and prizes. This program is sponsored by a grant from the South Dakota Humanities Council and the Robert O’Sheas American Auxiliary. Youth ended the program with a celebration of Super Hero Root-beer Floats with colored Super Hero swirl straws and Villain Cupcakes (Key Lime); completion certificates, hero paper medals and Cool Reading Sunglasses. Participants also received a reading log to encourage to keep reading through out the summer. When the reading log is completed, they can turn it in at the library for a prize.
Briggs Library at SDSU has welcomed four new staff members in recent months! From left to right are Jessica English, Digital Initiatives Coordinator; Michael Biondo, Institutional Repository Coordinator; Jill Dale, Financial Program Assistant; and Emmeline Elliott, Library Operations Manager.