

Superiorland Spotlight - Fall/Winter 2019

The Superiorland Spotlight features librarians, library staff, trustees, friends groups, community members, and all that love and support Upper and Northern Lower Michigan Libraries.

August 2019 - Volunteers for the Ballet to Blues Fundraiser. Over 50 artists and performers participated in a fundraiser to support Superiorland Library Cooperative libraries and \$1,100 was raised. Volunteers included the Borealis Dancers (Jessica Holman, Negaunee PL), Tamama Dancers (Maggie Barch, Peter White PL), Queen City Dancers, Saucy Rovers (Leo Siren, Ontonagon Twp. Library), Jeremy Morelock, electric guitar (Superiorland Library Cooperative), Sam Bartlett, piano (Brett Bartlett, Peter White Public Library), Mark Hamari and the Union Suits, Lara Nie (mezzo-soprano), Andrew LaCombe (cello), Janis Peterson (violin), Sail on Singers, Michael and Erica Waite, and many more. The money was used to fund SLC programming mini-grants for Crystal Falls District Community Library, Devereaux Memorial Library, Forsyth Twp. Library, Roscommon Area District Library, and St. Ignace Public Library.



Pictured above (left to right) : Back Row: Union Suits and Mark Hamari; Front Row: Lara Nie, Shawn Andary, Jessica Holman, Shawn Andary, Corrine Rockow, Mary Craik, Patience McCarthy, and Michael Waite sing “It’s a Wonderful World.”

September 2019 - The first ever **Upper Peninsula Librarian of the Year** award was presented to **Megan Buck, Director of the Dickinson County Library (DCL)**. Megan has set the bar very high for all future recipients of this award. As Director of DCL, Megan has enhanced programming and improved outreach efforts to area schools and the community. Each year,

DCL staff visit schools in the spring to provide programming and register students for summer reading. Library services are developed in response to the needs of the community. Megan also finds additional time to share her talents more widely. She is currently the Chair of Superiorland Library Cooperative's Advisory Board of Librarians (ABL), and in this role, she serves as a liaison between the Cooperative's Library Directors and the Board of Trustees. Under her leadership, communication has greatly improved between the Library Directors and the Board, and there is a real sense of purpose and partnership at our meetings. In addition to the ABL group, Megan is the Vice Chair of the UP Region of Cooperation (UPRLC) Executive Council, and she serves on Superiorland Library Cooperative's Professional Development Committee as well as the 2019 UPRLC Conference Planning Committee. This year Megan collaborated with other Executive Council members to launch a mentoring program titled "Unexpected Partnerships: Refreshing, Leading, and Celebrating our colleagues as we navigate librarianship in rural Michigan." We are all thrilled that Megan is part of our group and so appreciative of all of her contributions and efforts. The UPRLC Executive Council is going to make UP Librarian of the Year an annual recognition.



October 2019 - Donna Adams, Trustee of the Forsyth Twp. Library, was awarded the **MLA 2019 Heart of a Champion Award.** MLA's press release states, "as Board President for the



Forsyth Township Public Library in Gwinn, Adams has worked tirelessly to promote her library. From cooking for a fundraiser, publishing a cookbook, creating and building cabinetry, finding free shelving from a university across the state and coordinating volunteers to pick up, transport, deliver and assemble the shelving (during a snow storm!), to organizing a library millage campaign that was instrumental to funding a new library building, Adams leads the way with grace and a humble spirit. Adams's diligence, leadership and service to her library and community truly epitomizes the Heart of a Champion."

November/December 2019 - Public Library Staff in the UP and Northern LP making a difference. I would very much like to recognize all of our public library directors and staff for your hard work and dedication throughout the year. Hopefully, you all know that you are making a real difference in your communities for the better. Libraries support patrons at all ages and stages of life. They have something for everyone and provide a safe and welcoming space for all. Thank you so much for all that you do. It is a real privilege to know and work with you all. Happy New Year and cheers to 2020!

"A LIBRARY IN THE MIDDLE OF A COMMUNITY IS A CROSS BETWEEN AN EMERGENCY EXIT, A LIFE RAFT, AND A FESTIVAL. THEY ARE CATHEDRALS OF THE MIND; HOSPITALS OF THE SOUL; THEME PARKS OF THE IMAGINATION."

CATLIN MORAN