

NAVIGATOR: COLORADO LIBRARIES AND THE WORLD

Issue 3

January 2016

INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE INTEREST GROUP / COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARIES

Librarians visit Nicaragua on the First CAL ILCE-IG Sponsored Library Tour



International Library and Cultural Exchange Interest Group

Eight librarians and one spouse were treated to a tour of Nicaraguan libraries this past November. ILCE-IG steering committee member Jane Mirandette led the tour, which also included Janet Lee, Nancy Bolt, and Barb Thorne (also steering committee members); Kathy Plath, retired school librarian from Pueblo, CO; Gene Hainer, Colorado State Library; Brenda Bailey-Hainer, American Theological Library Association; Sue Keefer, Otero Junior College (CO); Barbara Adesso, Flushing Branch of the Queens Library, NY; and Nancy's husband, Bob Hofmann. The tour, which took more than a year of planning, was the first CAL ILCE-IG sponsored trip abroad.

Jane, who started the first lending library in Nicaragua, had invited the group to take part in the celebration of that library's 14th anniversary. During the planning, it was decided to add more to the trip: tours of other libraries with a few adventures thrown in. Adventures included a trip to the Masaya Volcano, a cultural tour of Granada, zip-lining through the Cloud Forest, a trek to see a large Jesus statue overlooking the bay of San Juan del Sur, a sailboat trip with an optional swim to a beach, and several delightful dining experiences.

Library tours included Puedo Leer Library in Granada; a rural medical clinic with a newly-established reading room for children; a school and homeless shelter; the San Juan del Sur Library (SJDS); and several schools in outlying areas, which were visited by the Biblioteca Movil (a bookmobile—actually two pickups). Many of these libraries were started as a "library in a box;" a tub full of books, simple craft projects to go with the books, and check-out materials.

The emergence of the libraries led to other amenities as well, such as water systems for the schools installed by the Rotary Club enabling students to have a sink for hand-washing and a toilet with doors; this in turn led to the local health department conducting monthly visits in the schools for health education.

The SJDS Library became a sister library to the Poudre River Public Library District in Fort Collins in 2013. PRPLD staff set up the Koha ILS and the server is hosted at the PRPLD.

The culmination of the trip was helping with the anniversary celebration. There were games, crafts, awards, dancing, a community meal, and cake. Visitors included the ANIBIPA librarians, a national librarian group in Nicaragua and the Nicaraguan Minister of Education. For a more detailed account see: <http://wp.me/p3Laa1-b7>

-- Sue Keefer



Reading Del Tropico by Rubén Darío

Inside this issue:

IFLA in Cape Town, South Africa	2
Sister Library Updates	2-3
ILCE-IG at CALCON 2015	3
Focus on a Project: Laptops to Lesotho	4

Save the dates:

- ALA Midwinter Meeting, Boston, MA: Jan-12, 2016.
- PLA, Denver: April 5-9, 2016.
- ALA Annual, Orlando, FL: June 23-28, 2016
- IFLA. Columbus, OH August 11-18, 2016
- Colorado Association of Libraries (CALCON) October 22-24, 2016

Nancy Bolt attends the IFLA International Conference in Cape Town, South Africa



Nancy Bolt attended the World Library and Information Conference in Cape Town, South Africa. WLIC is sponsored by IFLA. The theme of this conference was *Dynamic Libraries: Access, Development, and Transformation*. IFLA is a large, international library organization with five divisions and 49 sections on every imaginable library topic – and they all sponsor programs at WLIC. The conference always celebrates the culture of the hosting country and Cape Town went all out with tours, music performances, plays, and exhibits of South African crafts.

At the Conference-wide level, the emphasis was on influencing non-library organizations. The United Nations is developing new Millennium Development Goals for Sustainable Development. There are 17 goals and IFLA would like libraries recognized as contributing to the achievement of these goals. The three that IFLA is focusing on are: 1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere; 2) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; and 3) Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls. There are others related to economic development and safe and sustainable human settlements that could also apply to libraries. At the conference, all of the 49 IFLA sections were asked to indicate how we could make the case for the role of libraries in the UN's new Goals.

Personally, I'm the Secretary of the Section on Library Services to People with special needs. We sponsored a program called *Do THEY have the right to information? Library Services to People Who are Homeless, Incarcerated, or with Mental Difficulties*. In the coming year, our section is focusing on preparing *Guidelines for Library Services for People Who Are Experiencing Homelessness*.

The exciting news for those of us from the United States is that Columbus, Ohio is the site of the next IFLA WLIC from August 11 – 18, 2016. This is a great opportunity for US librarians to attend this incredible conference. For more information about the conference, go to <http://www.ifla.org/annual-conference>. If you have any questions about IFLA and how to get involved, contact me at nancybolt@earthlink.net

- - Nancy Bolt

Sister Library Updates



Container of books shipped to Adama, Ethiopia.

Aurora Sister Cities/Aurora Public Library/Adama Ethiopia. A container of books was shipped to Adama, Ethiopia the last week of December, containing books that have been collected and evaluated over the past several months. A joint library subcommittee of ASCI and APL has been constituted and will have its first formal meeting late January. Librarians, ASCI committee members, and stakeholders from Aurora make up the steering committee.

Bénédicte Jarry, from Brest has provided ILCE-IG with a general date for the grand opening of the new Brest library. The opening will be in October 2016. Colorado librarians have been invited to visit Brest for the official opening. Stay tuned for more information.

(continued on pg 3)

ILCE-IG at CALCON 2015

ILCE-IG was very visible at the Colorado Association of Libraries 2015 annual conference in Loveland, CO. Jewelry sales were brisk throughout the conference at the International Library Projects booth in the exhibit hall. Nancy Bolt generously donates a portion of the proceeds of sales to fund the activities of the ILCE-IG. Of particular interest were the many beautiful items from her recent trip taking Emporia students to Bulgaria.



Speaking of Bulgaria, Janet Lee presented a poster on the experiences of Emporia students to Bulgaria. In addition to a variety of libraries and archives, eleven students had an opportunity to visit historical sites, Roman ruins, and churches. A highlight of the trip was baking bread and dancing traditional dances with Bulgarian “grannies.”

For the third year, ILCE-IG sponsored an international “adult beverage” reception with beverages from around the world. Each beverage represented a place of travel. We look forward to a repeat performance in 2016. Thanks to CAL President Dan Cordova for hosting the reception in the Presidential suite.



Sister Library Updates (continued from pg 2)

Great progress has also been made at the Axumite Heritage Foundation Library (Denver Sister Cities International, Axum Ethiopia). Six shipping containers of building supplies arrived from Dubai in mid-December. The supplies included floor tiles, aluminum supports, and windows. A special stone façade is being installed.

The Poudre River Public Library District provided laptops and training to the San Juan del Sur Biblioteca enabling the SJDS staff to take the Koha catalog on the road to its school libraries, thus reducing manual entry of circulation information.



Construction on the Axumite Heritage Foundation Library in Axum, Ethiopia.



Kathy Plath checks out a book to a student on recent trip to Nicaragua.

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Janet Lee, Chair, janet.lee35@gmail.com
Nancy Bolt, Board Liaison, nancybolt@earthlink.net
Barb Thome, Secretary, BarbThome@aol.com
Jane Mirandette, At large, janem101@aol.com
Kathy Plath, At large, plathkathy@gmail.com
Sue Keefer, At large, Sue.Keefer@ojc.edu
Steve Bennett, At large, steven.bennett@state.co.us

Colorado Association of Libraries
12011 Tejon St. Ste. 700
Westminster, CO 80234
Phone 303 463-6400
cal@cal-webs.org



Be Social: Like us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/ilceig>

Who We Are

The International Library and Cultural Exchange Interest Group (ILCE-IG) grew out of the American-Bulgarian Library Exchange Project (1996-2011), which sought to create connections and cooperation between American and Bulgarian libraries. The ILCE-IG has extended its scope to encourage projects that foster relationships between Colorado Libraries and those of other countries, to help build and maintain libraries in communities overseas, and to celebrate non-dominant cultures across Colorado.

We're on the web:
ilceig.wordpress.com/

Focus on a Project: Laptops to Lesotho

Bringing technology to schools in rural Lesotho, Africa was a goal of Idahoan, Janissa Balcolm. Janissa was a Peace Corp Volunteer in Lesotho in the early seventies. The country is approximately the size of Maryland and surrounded by South Africa. The terrain is rugged, there are few roads, and many villages are isolated and only accessible by foot or horseback.

Janissa created Laptops to Lesotho to raise funds and facilitate the distribution of One Laptop Per Child XO laptops to children in rural Lesotho. XO Laptops are designed and built specifically for children living in very remote areas in developing countries. It is the size of a small textbook and lighter than a lunch box. The laptop is brightly colored, extremely durable, and energy efficient. Electricity is not available so the laptops charge using individual solar panels.

Training the children and their teachers in the laptop's use is a priority. The teachers and trainers work together to provide relevant lessons for the students including teaching critical thinking and problem solving skills. Janissa hopes to bring the program to a third elementary school in Lesotho. To learn more about Laptops to Lesotho visit <http://www.laptopstolesotho.org/>

-- Kathy Plath



Teacher training



Principal Matlabe



Lessons on the XO laptop