

## ST-11

# Utah Representative Report

## January 2011

The ULA Conference Committee is finalizing the schedule of programs for the ULA 2011 Conference. It will be held May 11-13, 2011 in Layton. Luncheon speakers include "Gene Ambaum" and Bill Barnes, the authors of the Unshelved e-comic strip and Scott Douglas, coo-author of the book *Quiet Please, Dispatches from a Public Librarian*.

The Utah State Library is sponsoring a Trading Spaces Mentoring Program. Nineteen library staffers have been assigned to librarian mentors from various Utah libraries. Program enrollees and mentors generally are from public libraries, and a few academic librarians. The 2010 group will finish at the end of June, and another group is starting up this month.

The city of Saratoga Springs, located in Utah County, has created a Library Board in preparation for creating a public library to serve that community.

The Orem Public Library is one of 30 libraries to receive Louisa May Alcott grants for \$2,500 to support five programs based on Louisa May Alcott. The awards are granted by ALA and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Park City Library held a free author program on October 23<sup>rd</sup> in conjunction with the Utah Humanities Book Festival. Author Dominique Browning, who wrote "Slow Love, How I Lost My Job, Put on Pajamas & Found Happiness" and former editor of House & Garden and Phyllis Barber, the author of "Raw Edges" spoke and signed books.

The Tooele Transcript Bulletin published an article the week of Christmas about volunteers working at the Toole Public Library, the Animal Shelter and as volunteer firefighters. One library volunteer was spotlighted, Dannie Libby. Dannie recently moved to Utah from Seattle and began to volunteer within months of moving. The Library Directory, Jami Carter, stated that volunteerism has increased this year.

KSL.com published a story about school librarians entitled: "School librarians still play important role". The article addresses problems with children accessing inaccurate information from the internet without librarians and others to help them evaluate the data. The article concludes with the statement that school library advocates hope that the Utah State legislature will keep them in mind when drafting the education budget.

The Park City Public Library will host an Academy Awards contest. Library patrons will vote for which of the Academy Award nominees will win the various awards. Theater ticket gift cards will be given away to the two contestants with the most matches to the winners. The prizes will be awarded after the awards show, which takes place on February 28.

On January 20th the Salt Lake City Main Library will host a program entitled "Dangerous Passions: Legacies of America's Hostage Crises with Iran" by Dr. Roxane Farmanfarmaian, a visiting scholar at the University of Utah's Middle East Center. Dr. Farmanfarmaian was born in Salt Lake City but lived in Iran during the Revolution, as the publisher of a weekly news-magazine. She knew some of the American hostages personally. She will discuss the dilemma of being half American and half Iranian during this tumultuous time. The program will include an excerpt from a play named The Persian Quarter and a discussion about the relationship between American and Iran. The event is scheduled to be simulcast on radio stations KCPW radio, 88.3 FM and 105.3 FM. It will also be available online at kcpw.org. the program is sponsored by the Salt Lake City Library; the Salt Lake Acting Company; the Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah; the Middle East Center, University of Utah; and KCPW Radio.

