

**Suzanne Hunt**

Carver County Library System, Chanhassen Branch

Suzanne Hunt, MLIS, has been a librarian for twelve years. She was previously a research assistant for a Pre-K–12 supplemental educational materials company.

**Jeanne DeMars**

Traverse des Sioux Regional Library System

I have a bachelor's degree in music education (yes, I am a former band director and piano teacher), and a master's degree in library science from St. Cloud State University. I've been a librarian in schools, academic, and public libraries, as well as a multi-type coordinator. For ten years, I worked at the PALS office, providing training and support for the system. I've been at TdS for almost 8 years, where I am responsible for the automation system and related activities. Weeding is a "mission" to me.

**Beth Staats**

Reference Librarian Minitex Reference Services

Beth has been a Reference Librarian with Minitex for the past 10 years. She has been training librarians and media specialists in the use of ELM and other reference databases since getting her Masters Degree in Library and Information Studies from UW-Madison

**Anne Beschnett**

Assistant Librarian and Research Associate

University of Minnesota Health Sciences Libraries & College of St. Catherine Library and Information Science Program

Ms. Beschnett has worked at the HSL for the past three years. During this time, she has developed and taught library sponsored workshops and classes as well as provided individualized reference consultations within the Biomedical Library. Ms. Beschnett has also contributed to the My Health Minnesota → Go Local Project. Her involvement included data evaluation and entry along with promotion of the service to librarians throughout Minnesota.

**Michelle Brasure**

National Library of Medicine Informationist Fellow

Ms. Brasure's educational background includes a Master's of Science in Public Health and a Ph.D. in Public Health from the Health Policy and Administration Department of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Ms. Brasure's work experience includes four years as a Research Associate at the Rural Health Research Center at the University

of Minnesota and seven years as a Research Scientist at the Minnesota Department of Health Center for Health Promotion. While working in these positions, she gained significant experience in research study design and analysis, health promotion intervention planning and evaluation, and dissemination of research and evaluation results. Ms. Brasure's two-year fellowship consists of education and training in library and information science and an information-related outreach and evaluation project.

**Steve Van Buren**

University Archivist, Head of Special Collections

Selected Experience:

- Over 100 presentations on archives and special collections topics, ranging from brief panel discussions to day long workshops.
- University Archivist and Head of the Special Collections Department at Hilton M. Briggs Library on the campus of South Dakota State University from 2/4/2002 to present.
- Reference Librarian and Interim Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at Hilton M. Briggs Library on the campus of South Dakota State University from 8/1/2001 to 1/31/2002.
- Reference Librarian at Hilton M. Briggs Library on the campus of South Dakota State University from 7/19/1999 to 8/1/2002.
- Extensive (20+ years) supervision and management experience in library, archival, clinical and educational positions, all including public service duties and oversight.

**Julie Zuehlke**

Editor of *Definitive Woman Magazine* in Alexandria, MN

Ms. Zuehlke is a professional writer, editor, and publicist. Previously taught college full-time (22 years) in journalism, public relations, advertising, feature writing, business communication, leadership, organizational communication and development, and strategic action planning. Conducts seminars and workshops in related topics, facilitates strategic action planning sessions, and consults for organizational development.

**Carol P. Johnson**

Director St. Catherine University Libraries

Ms. Johnson has been a member of the Minnesota Certification Oversight Committee since Certification's start in Minnesota. She is a member of the Advisory Committee, LSSCP Project ALA/APA (2007 to present). She has been the director of the St. Catherine University Libraries since 1993.

**Rebecca Patton**

Public Library Consultant Arrowhead Library System

Rebecca has been involved with the MN Certification Program since in started in 1997. She has had over 20 years of library experience in both school and public libraries in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota. She believes that continuing education is important for staff to provide better service for the customers.

**Lori Crocker**

Children's Librarian, Redwood Falls Public Library

Lori graduated with an elementary education BS from St. Cloud State and in the midst of finishing her Masters in Library Science. She worked in libraries since high school but played librarian for the kids in her neighborhood for years before that. Lori has been doing both children and teen services at Redwood Falls Public Library since 2007

**Portia Martinson**

Motivational Speaker

"As a mother of 3 loving children; as a wife, and as a teacher of over 20 years in inter-city, suburban, rural, and alternative schools; my life has overflowed with memorable moments. Share my triumphs, joys, disappointments, and experiences through humor and stories; in the quest for a more satisfying life. ~'Life is measured not in moments of time, but in timeless moments.'~"

This city native of Evansville, Indiana (with family roots in Kentucky and Tennessee) was transplanted to the country life of the eastern South Dakota prairies. The differences that surround us also enrich us.

Since 1990 Portia has presented motivational and inspirational programs promoting paths to good relationships in the personal and professional life of businesses, schools, clubs, associations, and churches throughout the upper Midwest. Storytelling with a southern dialect often highlights these programs

**Mary Wilson**

Circulation Supervisor Chanhassen Library – Carver County

I received my BA in teaching from St. Cloud State and my MA – Community and Adult Education from U of St. Thomas. I've been in my present position as Circulation Supervisor for Chanhassen Library for the past 2 years. Prior to that, I was Director of Staff Development and Training for Carver County. And prior to that, I was Director of Community Education for a school district. I do not have a library background but have worked in the public sector and supervised staff my whole career.

**Nick Dimassis**

Assistant Director East Central Regional Library

Nick has worked in both academic and public libraries. He has taught both Day 1 and Day 2 of the MN Voluntary Certification program. He is currently MLA Legislative Chair Elect.

**Mollie Pherson**

Regional Librarian SELCO Regional Library System

Mollie currently coordinates the Hot Reads for Cold Nights program and other continuing education workshops, creates the SELCO/SELS newsletter and program PR materials and she serves as an advocate for libraries. In the past, she worked as SELCO Project Librarian, managing five LSTA grant projects. She is a member of the Minnesota Library Association (MLA), Public Library Association (PLA), and American Library Association (ALA). She received her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois in 2007

**Peg Werner**

Director Viking Library System

The Viking Library System is located in Fergus Falls, MN. Peg has been the Viking Library System Director since 1992 and before that was the Director of the Sioux Center Public Library in Sioux Center, Iowa. She holds a B.S. degree in Theatre and English from Northwestern College and an MLS from Emporia State University. Peg has served on numerous statewide committees and has conducted a variety of workshops for librarians, library staff, and trustees.

**Mary Ann Van Cura**

Library Development & Continuing Education Coordinator  
Minnesota State Library Services

**Doug Johnson**

Director of Media and Technology Mankato Area Public Schools

Doug's teaching experience has included work in grades K-12. He is the author of four books, columns in Library Media Connection and the Education World website, the Blue Skunk Blog, and his articles have appeared in over forty books and periodicals. Doug has worked with over 130 organizations around the world and has held leadership

positions in state and national organizations, including ISTE and AASL.

**Melissa Weinand**

Media Specialist Waconia High School

Melissa obtained her Elementary Education and Masters in Library Science both from Mankato State University and later added a K-12 Reading license from Hamline University. Melissa has been a Media Specialist for fourteen years working with students and staff in grades k-12. Fall of 2009 will begin Melissa's ninth year as Media Specialist at the Waconia High School. When not at school Melissa can be found with her four children.

**Rachelle Weinand**

Media Specialist North Branch Middle School

Rachelle received her degree in Elementary Education from Southwest Minnesota State University. After spending 5 years in the classroom, she went back to college to get her media degree. She graduated from St. Cloud State University with a masters degree in Information Media. She has been the media specialist at North Branch Middle School for the past ten years. She also has a reading license from Hamline University and is the East Central Regional Library selection representative for the Minnesota Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award. She has presented at the fall MEMO conference the past 2 years. As the mother of two boys, she has a special interest in young adult literature for boys.

**Beth Gray**

Media Clerk North Branch Middle School

Beth has been the media clerk at North Branch Middle School for the past 8 years. In that time, she has attended a wide variety of workshops and conferences to expand her knowledge in the library/media field. She has spent a great deal of time becoming familiar with young adult literature by doing extensive reading. She enjoys the challenge of turning not readers into readers by finding that one book that opens the door to reading. She has a personal interest in reading biographies, historical fiction, and chick-lit. She has presented at the fall MEMO conference the past two years

**Rachel Gray**

Information Services Librarian SELCO Library System

**Jennifer Hootman**

Reference Librarian Minitex Reference Services

Jennifer is a reference librarian for Minitex and coordinator of Reference Services. Her work includes providing services such as reference referral, instruction, and support for the Electronic Library for Minnesota collection of databases. She also serves on the WebJunction Minnesota Planning Team. She is quite enthusiastic about her opportunities in working with librarians from all library types in Minnesota on resource instruction and professional development needs.

**Paul Dahl**

Director R.N. BARR Library Department of Health

Paul has been employed as the Library Director at the Barr Library of the Minnesota Department of Health since December 2005. Prior employment experience included being a Librarian in the Colonial Library of the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine for five years, working as a part-time Reference Librarian at the University Center Rochester/Rochester Community and Technical College for 10 months, and serving as the Coordinator of Library and Media Services at Allen College and Allen Memorial Hospital (Waterloo, Iowa) for 3 years. He graduated with a Masters from the University of Iowa in 1996. He has had other assorted employment experiences providing a staple of insights into both positive and negative leadership practices

**Jacki Betsworth**

Office Manager DeWitt Wallace Library Macalester College

Jacki is a relative newcomer to the library professional world but a long-time supporter of libraries. She has served on the Executive Board of the Minnesota Library Association's Support Staff and Paraprofessionals Section (SSPiN) and is a current board member of the Minnesota Library Foundation. She was the recipient of MLA's 2007 Una Lamb Outstanding Paraprofessional Award.

In addition to budget and other administrative duties for her library, Jacki is actively involved in creation and support of print and web publications for the library. She has shared her experience with publication software in several conference venues, including MNIUG, MLA, and Library Technology Conferences 2008 and 2009. She sometimes wonders how a degree in music led her to this career.

## **Kevin Strauss**

Children's Author and School Speaker

Award-winning Author and Storyteller Kevin Strauss has been using stories to entertain, educate and inspire children and adults for more than a decade. Based in Rochester, Minnesota, Kevin travels across the Midwest to perform at schools, libraries, preschools and community events.

Kevin is the author of three books, including **Tales with Tails: Storytelling the Wonders of the Natural World** (Libraries Unlimited, 2006), winner of the prestigious national 2008 Storytelling World Award. His other books include the full-color children's books **Loon and Moon** (Raven Productions, 2005) and **The Song of the Wolf** (Quixote Press). He is also the storytelling star on two CDs and two upcoming DVDs. The CDs include **The Mountain Wolf's Gift** (Naturestory Productions, 2003) and **U Tell a Tale** (National Institute on Media and the Family, 2007). You can purchase many of Kevin's publications at [www.naturestory.com](http://www.naturestory.com).

After completing a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Biology/Creative Writing at Beloit College in Wisconsin and a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Northern Illinois University, Kevin taught at several nature centers, including a stint as Executive Director at the innovative Prairie Ecology Bus Center in Lakefield, Minnesota, where the "center" is a mobile classroom nature center on a bus. But in 1998, Kevin decided that rather than being a naturalist who tells stories, he wanted to be a storyteller full time and he's done that ever since.

When not performing, Kevin likes to spend time hiking, canoeing and camping with his family and making up new stories to tell to his daughter. For Kevin, there is no sweeter sound than the words, "Tell me a story."