



Straight*talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

MARCH 2009 - Published by the Northeast Library System
Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor



Is Your Community Viable?

According to Census Bureau statistics rural population peaked sometime in the 1920s and has been slowly declining ever since. Currently, while three-quarters of the country is considered rural, only 20% of the population lives in a rural area. As people move to urban and suburban areas our small towns lose businesses, institutions, and organizations.

Will your small community survive the next 50 years? Will it grow and develop or will it dwindle away? The Heartland Center for Leadership Development in Lincoln, Nebraska has found that strong rural communities share the following characteristics.

1. Evidence of community pride.
2. Emphasis on quality in business & community life.
3. Willingness to invest in the future.
4. Participatory approach to community decision making.
5. Cooperative community spirit.
6. Realistic appraisal of future opportunities.
7. Awareness of competitive positioning.
8. Knowledge of the physical environment.
9. Active economic development program.
10. Deliberate transition of power to a younger generation of leaders.
11. Acceptance of women in leadership roles.
12. Strong belief in and support for education.



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13. Problem-solving approach to providing health care.
14. Strong multi-generational family orientation.
15. Strong presence of traditional institutions that are integral to community life.
16. Attention to sound and well-maintained infrastructure.
17. Careful use of fiscal resources.
18. Sophisticated use of information resources.
19. Willingness to seek help from the outside.

Why Should You Attend the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute?

Every two years, the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute is held at St. Benedict's near Schuyler and as I travel throughout north-east Nebraska, the same questions arise about the institute. I am always asked, "Why should I attend?"

How about to increase your listening skills? One thing that attendees have listed as a skill that improved after attending the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute was how to be a better listener.

Great leaders are great listeners. Extraordinary men and women solicit feedback, listen to opinions, and act on that intelligence. Listening skills have always been important in the workplace, but are even more so when dealing with young employees. Recently researchers at Hudson, a staffing and executive search firm, conducted a survey of 2,000 employees across multiple generations.

The differences they found were striking. One-quarter of "Generation X" employees (born between 1965 and 1979) considered it very important to get feedback from their boss at least once a week, if not every day, while only 11% of "traditionalists" (born between 1928 and 1945) desired that level of communication. Clearly, times have changed and so have employee attitudes. Today's employee wants to be asked for feedback and he wants to be heard.

The **Northeast Library System has scholarship funds available** for those folks who are interested in attending. Please contact the System Office and talk to Kathy for an application form.



NLA Public Library and Trustee Section (PLTS) 2009 Spring Meetings

The 2009 Spring Meetings are being brought to you by the Public Library and Trustee Section (PLTS) of the Nebraska Library Association. Our host libraries this year are the Wahoo Public Library (May 1st), the Bridgeport Public Library (May 6th), and the Lexington Public Library (May 7th). Please join us May 1st, 6th, or 7th from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration form is below.

• Agenda

- Legalities of Public Library Policies and Procedures - Adam Prochaska, Attorney at Law, Lincoln (by Skype at Lexington and Bridgeport) - 10:00 - 11:00 AM
- Dealing with Mentally Ill Persons and Patrons - Wanda Butts, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion - 11:00 AM - Noon
- Lunch - Noon - 1:00 PM
- Open Source Integrated Library Systems Statewide Project - Greg Mickells, Deputy Director, Lincoln City Libraries - 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
- Using Skype in the Library as a Communications Tool - John Seyfarth, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion - 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Please make copies as necessary and send your registration to:

Richard Miller
Nebraska Library Commission
The Atrium, 1200 N St., Suite 120
Lincoln NE 68508-2023

Questions?- contact Richard Miller at rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us or (800) 307-2665.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 25, 2009

-----cut here-----

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ LIBRARY _____

E-MAIL: _____ VEGETARIAN LUNCH? Yes No

Please check the day that you will be coming:

- Friday, May 1st, Wahoo Public Library, 637 North Maple St., Wahoo, NE
- Wednesday May 6th, Bridgeport Public Library, 722 Main St., Bridgeport, NE
- Thursday May 7th, Lexington Public Library, 907 N Washington St., Lexington, NE

Registration Fee: \$15 payable to NLA Public Library and Trustee Section

Registration Deadline is April 25, 2009



Candy Reading Reminders

To celebrate National Library Week, Banned Book Week or any other library celebration, hand out to your customers a special treat and remind them just how wonderful reading is. Type little notes on the computer, then cut them into strips and attach the strips to a small piece of candy or other treat.

Examples of sayings include:

"Be a Smartie, Read a Book" attached to a Smartie candy.

"Don't Be a Dud, Read a Book" attached to a small box of Milk Duds.

"Don't Be a Sucker, Read a Book" attached to a lollipop.

"Books Can Rock Your World" attached to rock candy.

"Books are Number 1 and Pencils Are Number 2" attached to a pencil.

"Reading is a mint of fun" attached to a mint.

"You're a Lifesaver!" attached to a small package of lifesavers.

"Have a Nutrageous time at the Library!" attached to a Nutrageous candy bar.

"Don't be an Airhead, Read a Book" attached to Airheads candy.

"A Sweet Token of Appreciation" attached to any candy bar.

CAPSTONE HEINEMANN LIBRARY COMPASS POINT	ROURKE PUBLISHING CO. LERNER PUBLISHING CO. FACTS ON FILE
COMPLETE LINE OF LIBRARY BOOKS L.B.S.S.	
Duane Munson	
2315 29TH STREET, BOX 624, COLUMBUS, NE 68601 TELEPHONE 402-564-3073 FAX 402-564-9730 CELL PHONE 402-910-0772	
ECONO-CLAD CHILD'S WORLD REFERENCE BOOKS	MARSHALL/CAVENDISH SALEM PRESS COMPTON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA



Straight-Talk is published ten times per year by the Northeast Library System. Contact Kathy Ellerton or Sheila Cermak at the Northeast Library System Office from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. C.S.T. at 1-800-578-1014 (402)- 564-1586 (Voice) (402)-276-0583 (Cell) (402)-564-7977 (FAX).

Mailing Address:
 Northeast Library System
 3038 33rd Avenue
 Columbus, NE 68601.

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Preservation Assistance Grants, Deadline 5/14/2009

Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions help small and mid-sized institutions, such as libraries, museums, historical societies, archival repositories, town and county records offices, and colleges, improve their ability to preserve and care for their humanities collections. Awards of up to \$6000 support preservation related collection assessments, consultations, workshops and training, and institutional and collaborative disaster and emergency planning. Grants cover consultant fees, workshop registration fees, related travel and per diem expenses, and the costs of purchasing and shipping preservation supplies and equipment.

All applications to the NEH must be submitted through Grants.gov. See the application guidelines for details.

The 2009 guidelines for Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions are available at <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pag.html>. You will also find sample project descriptions, sample narratives, and a list of frequently asked questions. The deadline for applications is May 14, 2009.

Small and mid-sized institutions that have never received an NEH grant are especially encouraged to apply.

Pew Report on Twitter and Status Updating

The Pew Internet & American Life Project has published a new report on Twitter and other applications which enable users to update their status online.

Key Findings:

- * As of December 2008, 11% of online American adults had used Twitter or other status update service.
- * Nearly one in five (19%) online adults ages 18 and 24 have ever used Twitter and its ilk, as have 20% of online adults 25 to 34.

"As with many technologies, enthusiastic users have used Twitter for more than just answering the question, "What are you doing?" Twitter has been used to help organize and disseminate information during major events like the 2008 California wildfires, the recent American elections, the Mumbai massacre and even the January 2009 crash of US Airways flight 1549 into the Hudson River. Janis Krum, a passenger on a ferry that rushed to the scene, took a photo of the plane with a cell phone and sent it out via his Twitter feed.⁴ Twitter and other status updates have also been used for many other purposes including the airing of complaints against companies, sharing ideas, forwarding interesting material, documenting events, conversing and flirting."



CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

Mar 18 - **NLA Paraprofessional 2009 Spring Meeting.**

Video conference begins at 10am.

Mar 18 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Howells Public Library at 10am.

Mar 24 - **Summer Reading Program** Workshop at Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

April 3 - College of DuPage Teleconference: Library Challenges & Opportunities: **Diversity Beyond the Obvious** begins at 11am.

April 7 - **Basic Skills: Public Services class** to be held at the Norfolk Public Library at 10 am.

April 16 - College of DuPage Teleconference: Soaring to Excellence: **An Ounce of Prevention: Health Reference Basics** begins at 11am.

April 21-**Basic Skills: Public Services class** to be held at the Norfolk Public Library at 10 am.

April 28 - **Basic Skills: Public**

Services class to be held at the Norfolk Public Library at 10 am.

May 1 - **NLA Public Library Section Spring Meeting** at Wahoo Public Library at 9:30am.

April 30 - **Glennor Shirley Correctional Libraries Workshop** at Milo Bail Student Center, UNO, Omaha from 9am - 4pm. See flyer on page 12 for more information.

May 1 - **Glennor Shirley Correctional Libraries Workshop** at Milo Bail Student Center, UNO, Omaha from 9am-12pm. See flyer on page 12 for more information.

May 15 - **NLA C&U Spring Meeting.** Sara Martin, Associate Dean for Technical Services & Library Systems, Univ of Detroit will speak. For more info, see the NLA web site.

May 15 - **Nebraska Library Commission Meeting** at the Nebraska Library Commission in Lincoln at 9:30am.



NEW @ NLS

If you wish to read one of the following articles or check out a book or DVD, please contact Shelia at 1-800-578-1014.

Reference Sources for Small & Medium Sized Libraries by Jack O'Gorman, ALA Pub, 2008.

The new seventh edition addresses the revolution in reference publishing. It includes the best of the best and most affordable resources, web sites, CD ROMS, and electronic databases, as well as print.

"Looking Downtown: How Nonprofits Can Partner with Local Governments" by Mike Roque, Grassroots Fundraising Journal, March/April 2009, pp. 4-8.

Author Mike Roque offers five practical tips on how to put your local group in a position to partner with your local, state and federal government. He emphasizes that the number one rule about working with government, like fundraising and movement building, is that it's all about relationships.

NORTHEAST NEWS

It's 'Murder at the Mardi Gras', a murder mystery performed at the Cedar County Theater as a fundraiser for the **Hartington Public Library**. Curtains rise on March 28th at 6:45pm for the event.

The groundbreaking event will be taking place this spring for the new **Shelby Community Library**. This will be a combined public/school facility with a separate entrance for the public.

Do you enjoy Celtic music? If you do, then plan to make tracks to the **Neligh Public Library** on March 18 to listen to Jerry Barlow perform. If you miss Jerry at Neligh, he will be at the **Norfolk Public Library** on March 17th to perform.

Author Pamela Carter Joern will be visiting the **Columbus Public Library** on Sunday, March 15th. Her book, 'The Plain Sense of Things' was published in 2008. The book was selected as a Midwest Booksellers Association Connections Pick. This collection of connected stories chronicles three generations of a Nebraska family from 1930-1980 as they deal with personal hardship and historical changes.

The **Lied Randolph Public Library** received a Libri Foundation grant. This grant is for children's books and everyone is excited about all the new books they will receive.

Come hear about the 'Orphan Train' at the **Wayne Public Library** on March 15th. The Nebraska Humanities program is part of Wayne's Q125 celebration.

Interesting Websites

Computer Tutorials Based on Pictures: Collection of free, easy-to follow illustrated tutorials for software and computer subjects such as Microsoft Office, Dreamweaver, Photoshop Elements, HTML and CSS, My SQL, PHP, and Perl. Originally developed as part of a U.S. Department of Education study to help people with learning disabilities to learn computerskills. From Visibooks.
URL: <http://inpics.net>

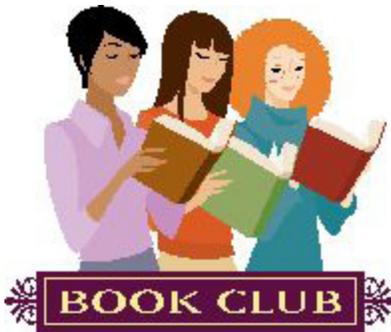
NewsHour Extra: Poetry: This News-Hour with Jim Lehrer special for children provides a collection of material on poetry. Features contemporary poet profiles (with biographies, poems, and video clips), reports on poetry slams and performance poetry, submitted poems by students from around the world, poetry lesson plans, and links to related sites.
URL: <http://www.pbs.org/news-hour/extra/poetry/>

The Mississippi: River of Song

Companion to "a Smithsonian Institution series for public television ... that explores the richness and vitality of American music at the close of the twentieth century." The site features information about music in different regions along the Mississippi and biographies and audio and video clips for musicians in genres such as blues, Cajun, bluegrass, gospel, folk, hip hop, jazz, rock, and ethnic and traditional music.
<http://www.pbs.org/riverofsong>



Julia Cook discusses her book Scooper with Kate Ostenrude, **Neligh Public Library**; Julie Osnes, **Wayne Public Library** and Carol Armbruster, **Stanton Public Library**.



Book Club Icebreakers

Extreme Makeover

Update a character or two from any book, especially if the action is set in an earlier era. Place the character in today's culture—and invent a life.

Example: Lydia Bennett (*Pride & Prejudice*) reads *Cosmo* (never *Vogue*; what's *Atlantic Monthly?*), hits the clubs at night, and wears cheap Manolo Blahnik knock-offs. Big hair. Thinks "*Sex and the City*" is serious drama and is always on the lookout for Mr. Big.

Example: Jay Gatsby (*The Great Gatsby*) twice-a-week elocution lessons (the rain in Spain). Fastidious—flosses morning and night, wears Armani. Listens to rap in private, but forces himself to attend the opera, alone. Was a big player in Enron but managed to avoid indictment...so far.

Alphabet Soup

Working around the room, each member names a character, event, place, or object from the book—the first letter of which starts with A, the next word starts with B, the next word C and so forth through Z. Variation: use the last letter of the previous word as the starting letter for the next word—a bit harder.

Extend the End

Jane Austen did it in *Pride and Prejudice*—she wrote an epilogue telling us how Elizabeth and Darcy fared after the story's last line. Take any novel (the current one) or several you've read over the the past year and write an epilogue. What happens to those characters, say 1 year, 5 years, 10 years out? Divide up into teams, or go solo. Read the results outloud. Be as funny...romantic...or as serious as you want.

Grab Bag of Props

Fill a large shopping bag or box with objects from novels. Everyone pulls one out and guesses which novel (and author), which character, and at which point in the story (if relevant) the prop is used. Points are scored accordingly. Obvious examples: stuffed tiger for *Life of Pi*; camera for *Memory Keeper's Daughter*; sling shot for *Kite Runner*; a book by Russian author Nikolai Gogol for *The Namesake* (even better...an old overcoat!), and so on.

Hollywood Bowl

Cast a book as a movie. Pass around a bowl with folded slips of paper containing titles of recent book selections. Each member (or team of 2) draws a title and casts the movie. Variation: Each member (or team of 2) writes his/her casting choice for the current selection on a piece of paper. Take turns reading out everyone's choices.

Literary Snowballs

This is actually a lot of fun. Divide into 2 teams on either side of the room. Hand everyone an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper on which to write a question from the book. Crumple the sheets into "snowballs" and, at a signal, throw them across the room to the other team. The team who correctly answers the most snowball questions wins. (The question writer on the other team must agree to the answer.) Scoring: 2 points for answering the question; 1 point for posing a question the other team can't answer.



Whose Line Is It Anyway?

Chose someone to read quotes by or about various characters — from the current book or past book selections. Members try to guess who said what and when. If you want, divide into teams and keep score. (This icebreaker takes a bit of prep.)

Pass The Hat

This game is best in groups of about 10 people or less.

Think up one or more questions per person (if the group is large have one question per person, if it's smaller have more). Cut the paper up so that each question is on its own little bit of paper, fold the papers up and put them in some sort of container.

Take it in turns to pull a question out of the hat and answer the question. Once somebody has answered his/her particular question, other people might want to share their own answers.

You'll probably want to set a time limit per question in order to keep things moving along - you don't have to announce this up front, just keep an eye on the time yourself and move things along if necessary.

Example Questions:

- * What was the first book you remember reading/being read?
- * What is your favorite book of all time?
- * Which book has left the most lasting impression on you?
- * Which book have you read most frequently?
- * What books are on your bedside table at the moment?
- * Name one book/author that you really can't stand?
- * What type of books do you like reading most?
- * If you were given \$30 to spend on a book today, what book would you buy?
- * Where's your favorite place to read?
- * Which character in a book do you think is most like you?
- * Which character in a book would you most like to be?
- * What book do you plan to read next?
- * Which literary character would you most like to have a 'significant relationship' with?

Important: The questions above assume that the group who are getting together already consider themselves relatively well read. However, if you're starting a group with people who may not think of themselves as "readers", you might want to consider more generic questions, such as favorite sport, favorite place to visit, person they most admire, etc. This game is intended to help people feel comfortable with each other, not embarrass them by asking questions they're not comfortable answering!

Pair Share

If you think that some members of your reading group might feel uncomfortable coming up with a quick answer to a question in front of a group of people that they don't know well (as in Pass The Hat), arrange people in pairs (if there's one person left over, make a group of 3) making sure that, whenever possible, each person is with somebody they don't know. Give each pair a short list of questions (say 5-6 questions from the list above) and 5-10 minutes to 'interview' each other. Have each person report back on what they found out about the other.



For four
mid-summer days

in the *peaceful beauty*
of a northeast Nebraska
landscape,

an extraordinary union
of *fresh ideas*

seasoned *experience*,
self-discovery,
& *sharing*

gives way to

boundless

vision . . .



Librarians of all types are
encouraged to apply for this
unique experience!

Mentors

Outstanding library and community leaders will be mentors at the 2009 Nebraska Library Leadership Institute, including practicing librarians from academic, special and public backgrounds. These leaders are knowledgeable about libraries and care about providing library service in Nebraska. They will share real-life experiences, successes, failures, joys, frustrations, wisdom, perspectives and advice. They will also facilitate discussions, give brief presentations on topics of special importance to them and schedule time to meet with participants to discuss career goals.

Mentors

- Nancy Busch
- Robin Clark
- Brenda Ealey
- Mary Kay Nelson
- Mary Reiman
- Kathy Tooker
- Rod Wagner

FACILITATORS

Together, Becky and John have facilitated leadership institutes in Utah, California, Alaska, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Nebraska and in Australia.

Becky Schreiber: For more than 25 years,

Becky has been helping organizations reinvent themselves in response to customer expectations. Becky has established herself as a consultant who understands the needs of libraries and has the experience to work effectively within those systems. She is known for thorough preparation, dynamic presentation, and responsiveness to her clients. Becky has an M.Ed. in Counseling from the American University and a B.S. from Hood College.

John Shannon: Consulting since 1973,

John's current focus is in helping his clients understand and develop their capacity to capitalize on the dynamic forces of change that are unleashed once an organization is in motion. He believes a key element in this process is the building of a critical mass of employees committed to the change; enormous gains are then possible. His clients rely on his intuitive process skills and conflict resolution. John has an M.S. in Applied Behavioral Sciences from Johns Hopkins University and a B.S. from the University of Dayton.



2009 NEBRASKA LIBRARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

JULY 20-24, 2009

ST. BENEDICT
CENTER
SCHUYLER, NE

Beginning at 1:00 p.m.
on the 20th
and ending after lunch
on the 24th

Following the success of the 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007 Nebraska Library Leadership Institutes, the Nebraska Regional Library Systems are pleased to offer the fifth Leadership Institute. It is a four-day institute for 30 librarians from across the state who will become our library leaders of tomorrow. During the coming years, incredible socio-economic, demographic and technological changes will continue to take place and our leaders must ensure that libraries continue to serve as a key element in the state's info-structure.

Purpose

The purpose of the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute 2009 is to provide future Nebraska library leaders a structured professional opportunity to:

- Examine in depth their own leadership styles.
- Gain knowledge and skills needed for effective leadership in a rapidly changing environment.
- Identify their professional and personal goals.
- Develop a network of professional peers with whom they will continue to work for years to come.
- Interact with a select group of outstanding library leaders who will serve as mentors.



Participants

The 30 selected participants will have demonstrated:

- Outstanding leadership potential.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Successful library employment experience.
- Initiative, commitment and reasonable risk-taking.

Requirements

All applicants must complete an application form.

Forms can be requested by contacting: your System office or Kathy Tooker, Eastern Library System Administrator, 11929 Elm St., Ste. 12, Omaha, NE 68144 800-627-7884, ktooker@alltel.net or online at any of the system webpages. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 17, 2009. The 30 Institute participants will be notified by May 31, 2009. The registration fee of \$200 from the 30 selected participants is due by June 30, 2009.

There is a limited amount of scholarship funding available; contact your system administrator for information.



**APRIL 30 &
MAY 1, 2009**

GLENNOR SHIRLEY

Library Coordinator
Correctional Education Libraries– Maryland

APRIL 30
9 A.M.-4 P.M.

MAY 1
9 A.M.-12 P.M.

**GALLERY ROOM IN MILO BAIL STUDENT CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-OMAHA
6001 DODGE ST. OMAHA**



Please join us for an exciting interactive workshop with Ms. Shirley. The day and a half workshop will:

- Provide a forum to discuss daily issues that confront prison libraries and librarians.
- Identify local and nationwide trends that have impact on corrections and libraries.
- Provide participants with a strategy/plan for each library or group of libraries in addressing challenges.
- Provide a resource list of websites, journal articles, and funding.
- Discuss gang activities and information on dealing with these issues.

Shirley currently oversees the service and programs for Maryland's 25,000 inmates across 14 prisons and eight prerelease institutions. In today's political climate, it's hard to convince politicians to provide funds for prison libraries, but Shirley takes a longer view:

"About 15,000 inmates go out every year," she says. It costs about \$27,000 per year to house a prisoner in Maryland. "I prefer my tax dollars to go toward programs that will help the prisoner become a taxpayer later on."*

Shirley is Chair of ALA, ASCLA, Library Services to Special Populations and a regular contributor to ALA/OLOS "Behind the Walls" column which has included addressing library service to disadvantaged user groups, and outreach to prisons and connecting inmates and the public library. In 2003 she was the recipient of the American Libraries Maresh Award for developing a CD ROM "Discovering the Internet @ Your Library" and the 2008 James Partridge Award for Outstanding African American Information Professional. You can find more information on Shirley and her efforts at: <http://prisonlibrarian.blogspot.com>.

While the workshop is certainly intended to assist librarians working in correctional facilities, the program is also recommended to one person, special, institutional, public and other libraries that serve the underserved - including offenders and ex-offenders reentering the community.

*Library Journal, 3/15/2003

**There is an opportunity to tour the Omaha Correctional Center (OCC) on May 1 from 5-6 p.m.
Please let us know if you'd like to tour.**

CE credits: 9 hrs.
 Registration deadline: April 24, 2009
 Please send registration to: SELS Library System, 5730 R St., Ste. C-1, Lincoln, NE 68505.
 Name _____
 Library _____
 Email _____

OCC Tour?	Yes	No
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Registration Cost is \$10 with lunch at the student center on your own.

This workshop is sponsored by a grant in conjunction with Southeast Library System, University of Nebraska-Omaha and the NE Dept. of Corrections, supported in part by state aid funding appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

**THE REVIEWER'S CHAIR****An Abundance of Katherines**

By John Green

This is a coming-of-age story for several young adults who 'step to the beat of a different drummer.' Colin is a child prodigy who worries that he won't 'matter' to the world; he wants his abilities to make a difference to others. His best, and only, friend is Hassan who is from an Arabic family. Hassan has yet to decide if he wants to go to college. The two start off on a road trip but end up spending most of the summer in a small Tennessee town where Colin works on a mathematical theorem to describe why he has been dumped by all the girls he has ever dated, all girls named Katherine.

Teen readers who are 'nerds', have values that differ from the norm, or who simply want to 'matter' in the world, could really relate to the characters in this book. I enjoyed watching the characters come to grips with their own beliefs and idiosyncrasies. I highly recommend this book.

~~Marilyn Mudge, WSC

Same Old Horse

By Stuart J. Murphy

This is a Math Start book that teaches young elementary kids about predicting with a fun story about a horse who is teased but ends up learning who his real friend is and how to appreciate himself.

It's a great book for math and a great book for teaching kids to value themselves and treat friends with kindness. It is recommended for any library collection.

-Heather Reid, homeschool parent/teacher, Omaha, NE

On Meadowview Street

By Henry Cole

Caroline and her family move to a new house in a new neighborhood where they have a yard that has to be mowed. The first time they mow the lawn they leave a small patch of wildflowers that Caroline thought was so pretty. Soon the patch begins to grow and eventually takes over the whole front yard. They keep adding to their flowers, a pond etc. The neighbors seeing how beautiful their yard is start making their own flower patches. This is a lovely book.

-Carol Tramp, Wynot Public School

Little Bitty Mousie

By Jim Aylesworth

This book tells the story of how a mouse has an adventure in a house. She is discovering

items that go in ABC order. For example, she first finds apples, then butter and so on.

This is a great book to reinforce ABC order and wonderful for kindergartners.

-Lara Morrow, Emmet Public School

The Earth Dragon Awakes: The San Francisco Earthquake of 1906

By Laurence Yep

Eight-year-old Henry Travis and his family live in a well-to-do section of Nob Hill in San Francisco in 1906. They have a Chinese houseboy who often brings his son, nine-year-old Chin, to work with him. Henry and Chin are friends and they both enjoy reading "penny dreadful" about cowboy heroes. They'd rather grow up to be gun-toting lawmen than to follow up their fathers' footsteps. Henry's father is a banker.

On the fateful morning of April 18, 1906, at 5:12, the great San Francisco earthquake flattens Chin's tenement home in Chinatown and damages the Travis home. Chin and his father have to dig themselves out of the rubble and make their way to Portsmouth Square, an open area where surviving Chinese are flocking. When a loose bull stampedes toward Chin, his father saves him and becomes a hero in Chin's eyes.

Meanwhile, Henry's father has rescued his family from their home and begins organizing



citizens to find and rescue people from the rubble of toppled houses. By mid-afternoon it is clear that the family must evacuate, as fires have grown around them and firefighters are now using dynamite to try to create a firebreak. The Travis' flee to the northern edge of San Francisco, where they eventually meet up with Chin and his father. Both families survive and choose to stay and rebuild their city. The boys decide that their fathers are greater heroes than the men described in their penny dreadfuls.

This book includes an afterward that gives factual background information about the great San Francisco earthquake, plus a reading list including websites. Six historical photos from the aftermath of the quake and fires are also included. While Yep is an award-winning author who is meticulous about keeping factual details in his books, I don't believe this is one of his better products. The fear and pathos of the time are squelched by the periodic interruption of chapters about the mechanics of earthquakes and urban fires. Jumping from the narration of one boy to the other from chapter to chapter also disrupts the flow of the story. It seems like Yep is trying to squeeze too many tales into the pages of this one book.

I recommend this book for both school and public libraries. Appropriate for 3-4th grade and might interest reluctant readers through the 6th grade
 ~~Mary Austin, Winnebago

Public Library

Mildred and Sam Go to School

By Sharleen Collicott

Mildred and Sam go to school with their children. They think school is too far away, but learn it isn't so far away after the children travel to several places as part of their schoolwork. Children could be successful with the transition into chapter books.

This book would be an excellent addition to any children's section in low elementary.
 ~~Sharon Kinnan, Oakdale, NE

Floating Circus

By Tracie Vaughn Zimmer

Owen Burke makes the choice to put his little brother Zach on a westbound train. He feels like he's bad luck for his cuter brother. Owen decides to live on the streets. He steals aboard a circus ship 'The River Palace'. He finds himself a new family for a time, a job and friends. Danger lurks too-storms, dangerous lions, about with the plague and finally his brother again.

Lots of kids want to run away and join the circus. Well, this boy did and got more than he bargains for. Very good adventure book with non-stop action, boys should love it. I recommend this book for school and public libraries and for 4-6th grade.
 ~~Elaine Tobias, Pilger Public

Library

A True and Faithful Narrative

By Katherine Sturtevant

The story is set in London in 1681. Meg, the 16 year old narrator, has spent her life reading and meeting authors and playwrights at her father's bookshop/publishing house. Meg's main ambition is to write tales of adventure. However, her father and stepmother do not encourage her writing in fear that she will never find a husband. Meg tries to decide whether to marry either of the two men who court her, taking into account both love and writing.

This book is not for the reluctant reader. Older perceptive readers will enjoy it. A true and faithful narrative has a well-developed story, rich historical detail, and a winning heroine. This book is the sequel to 'At the Sign of the Star'.
 -Holly Troup, Clearwater Public Library

When the Shadebush Blooms

By Carla Messinger and Susan Katz

This is a delightful learning book, narrated by a Native American telling of her childhood as she and her family hunted, planted, and harvested through the seasons. It depicts the importance of family, working as a unit, learning from the elders, and respecting nature.



I would recommend this book for ages 5-8, and any public or school library.

Special features of this book include: Left page shows how tasks were performed by Indian families several generations ago; the right page shows the same tasks being performed by a modern Indian family. Each left page side displays words and expressions in the old Indian language; right page has the English translation to the phrase or word.

This is a beautifully illustrated book, and an excellent resource for comparing the Native American's past and present ways of life.

~~Karyn Bijlsma

Duck and Cover

By Jackie Urbanovic

This easy read story is about Harold, an alligator, who is wrongly accused of eating a pet dog so he runs away from the zoo and seeks help from Irene and her pets. The illustrations are colorful, cute, and entertaining.

There is a message to the story of giving a helping hand which I liked, but when Irene and Max lie to a detective the book took a nose dive for me. I don't like the idea of letting young children think it is ok to lie to policemen and therefore I would not purchase this particular book. This book is written for preschool through 2nd grade.
~~Pat Thompson, WSC

May 1 is deadline for BECA grant program

Partnerships wanting to apply for the next round of available grants through the Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act (BECA) have until Noon, Friday, May 1 to submit applications.

The grants are designed to help economically disadvantaged rural areas build and sustain programs that generate and retain income in communities within those areas. Eligible applicants are those with at least two local units of government collaborating on a project with a maximum two-year completion deadline.

Eligible projects must address one or more of the following activities:

- provide education and technical help that energizes small business development and entrepreneurship;
- provide technical assistance that facilitates small business transfer;
- build community business capacity and leadership programs;
- generate opportunities that attract and retain youth and/or families;
- provide education about philanthropy and transfer of intergenerational wealth;
- provide education about building community endowments to support all activities;
- establish community initiatives that attract new residents; and
- provide marketing assistance (creation of web sites, printed or electronic materials, etc.) that recruit new residents from outside the state.

Applications must be received at either the Nebraska Department of Economic Development in Lincoln, or the Nebraska Rural Development Commission office in North Platte by Noon, May 1. Complete guidelines and the application form can be found at: <http://www.neded.org/content/view/374/555/>

For information, contact Linda Fettig at 308-380-4966, or linda.fettig@nebraska.gov





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So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable.
~~Christopher Reeve

Check out our web site at: <http://northeastlibrary.wetpaint.com>