

# PANHANDLE SUN

December 2005 / January 2006

## *PLS Coordinator's Message*

### **“Reading is reading.”**

Sally Snyder, youth services coordinator for the Nebraska Library Commission used that phrase several times in a recent workshop about selecting materials for children and young adults. It sounds simple enough, but it could apply in many situations.

It might be a suggestion to a teacher who requires students to read a biography “at least 150 pages long,” when the student has found one she is really interested in that’s 100 pages long.

It might be the answer to a mother who won’t allow her son to check out graphic novels because they aren’t “real” books, even though her son comes into the library to read them every chance he gets.

It might be a recommendation to a librarian who has a teen book discussion group and wonders why only girls attend. Do the boys know that it’s okay to talk about non-fiction books they’ve read lately?

It might be an alternative to school mandated programs that require students to take tests on everything they read. Some kids have forgotten that it’s okay to read because it’s fun.

It might be a justification for teachers and parents to read aloud to children of all ages, even those who are perfectly capable of reading to themselves.

It might be an incentive for moms and dads to read to newborns who don’t even talk yet.

It might put oldsters at ease when they see youngsters glued to a computer screen reading e-mails or a blog or a wikipedia.

It might make us a bit more patient when our favorite second grader reads us the 20<sup>th</sup> knock knock joke.

It might help us book lovers remember our childhood love of comic books, Nancy Drew or whatever “trash” we couldn’t put down.

**Reading is reading.**

Cherie Longmuir



## Panhandle Library System Upcoming Events



### **December 5, 2005 Ted Kooser's Poetic World**

Broadcast Premiere on NET TV  
Time: 7:30 p.m. MT

### **December 26, 2005 PLS Closed – Christmas**

### **January 2, 2006 PLS Closed – New Years**

### **January 10, 2006 PLS Board Meeting**

Location: Bluffs Business Center,  
1517 Broadway, Main Floor  
Conference Room  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Contact: Panhandle Library System

### **January 11, 2006 Technology Training Workshops**

Funding provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's "Staying Connected" Grant

Presenter: Pam Scott

Location: Harms Advanced Technology Center, south of WNCC  
Morning Session 9:30 to 12:30

Computer trouble-shooting;  
updating/upgrading software.

Lunch 12:30 to 1:30

Afternoon Session 1:30 to 4:30

Evaluating web sites for research value; searching the web.

Sign up for the morning session, the afternoon session, or both. No charge

**Register by December 15, 2005**  
with the PLS office

### **January 24, 2006 Grant Writing Workshop**

North Platte Community College  
9:30-3:30 Central Time. \$15 includes lunch and 6 hours CE credit.  
See flyer in this newsletter.

### **February 3, 2006 College of DuPage: Soaring to Excellence**

"Always a River, Sometimes a Library"

Locations: Chadron State College,  
ESU 13 Scottsbluff, WNCC Sidney

Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon

PLS will have video tape to loan.

If attending the broadcast, register with the PLS office.

### **February 14, 2006 – Library Legislative Day, Lincoln**

### **February 21, 2006 PLS Summer Reading Program Workshop**

Location: Scottsbluff Public Library,  
1809 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Scottsbluff

Time: 9:30 to Noon & 1 to 3:00 p.m.

Register by February 14 with the PLS office

### **March 1, 2006 Creating a Web Page / Follett Users Workshops**

Location: WNCC-Sidney

Time: 9 a.m. – 12: Web Page Design

1 p.m. – 4: Follett Users Group

Register with the PLS office by Feb. 20

### **March 2, 2006 Creating a Web Page / Follett Users Workshops**

Location: WNCC-Alliance

Time: 9 a.m. – 12: Web Page Design

1 p.m. – 4: Follett Users Group

Register with the PLS office.

### **March 7, 2006 PLS Board Meeting**

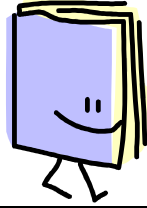
Location: TBA

Time: 10:00 a.m.

### **April 4 & 6, 2006 – Gates Rural Sustainability Workshop**

4<sup>th</sup>: Scottsbluff, Harms Center

6<sup>th</sup>: North Platte, Holiday Inn Express



## INSIDE OUR LIBRARIES

**Alliance** Library has a new service for its patrons. With new cards, library users can access their accounts anytime from any computer. They will be able to find out what materials they have checked out, the due dates, any fines and reserves. They can also check for an item in the card catalog and request it. This is all done using the barcode from the library card after logging in to [alliancebrary.org](http://alliancebrary.org).

**Bridgeport** Library celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. Connie Arellano presented a history of the library from its founding by a women's club in 1905. She displayed photos of the various places the library was housed over the years, plus other scenes representing the past in the Bridgeport area. The mayor read a proclamation declaring October 30<sup>th</sup> as Donna Nelson Day, in recognition of her 26 years of service in the library. The Library Board hosted refreshments and drawings for prizes. Visitors were impressed with the new library website and brochure. Bridgeport is looking ahead to providing an expanded/remodeled facility and new services.

**Arthur County** Junior/Senior High School has a new Follett automation system. Mary Ann Anderberg has been working toward this goal for a year, and feels her success is due in part to the help of other Panhandle Library System members. She reports that Norma Dannatt from Goodall Library and Elaine Lake at Garden County Schools both spent several hours helping her get the system set up.

Sharon Ulbrich at **Bayard** Library came up with an idea to make newcomers to her community aware of the library. When packages of "goodies" were being assembled by community members in October, Sharon provided heavy plastic bags illustrated with a Halloween theme and carrying the message "find scary tales in your library down the street!" The bags were distributed to new families, and included information about the library's hours and programs.

**Grant County** Library held their annual bake sale in November and earned more than \$1000 to be used for library materials. Vickie Retzlaff had to fit the baking between homework assignments, because she is enrolled in the LTA program. She also attended her first NLA/NEMA conference this fall, and was a participant at a breakfast meeting with Martha Choe of the Gates Foundation, where they discussed the challenges of sustaining technology in rural libraries.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

Floyd Smith of the West Nebraska Family Research and History Center passed along this web site for help in answering those genealogy questions: “**Librarians Serving Genealogists**” at <http://www.cas.usf.edu/lis/genealib>

Chris Plantz is weeding her collection of **large print books**. If you could use her extras, contact her at [chrisplantz@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisplantz@hotmail.com) or 308-327-2740. Alliance Library also has a large collection of duplicates – **popular titles** in good condition – that they will give to other libraries. When you’re in Alliance, bring a box and stop and look through the “doubles room.” Mitchell PL has a **record player and a 16mm projector** to give away. Contact Maryruth Reed at 308-623-2222 to give them a home.

PLS has tentatively scheduled the **children’s author** Judith Schachner to do a series of presentations in the Panhandle October 17-19, 2006. She will speak to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, plus do two evening programs for the public. For information about the author and her books, go to [www.judithbyronschachner.com](http://www.judithbyronschachner.com)

Jan Sears at Alliance Library is a certified quilt appraiser. Because of her experience in that field, she has added some additional credibility to our

collection development policies that deal with providing donors an estimated value for materials they give to the library. According to Jan, it is illegal to **appraise the value of books** if you are not a bonafide appraiser. You may note the number of volumes donated, but can not assign them a value.

Speaking of donations, a retired lawyer in Sidney donated his collection of **law books** to the public library. They have created a special section, acquired some new shelving, and will now promote this valuable resource. Sidney PL is also in the process of creating a **wireless** computer network.

The **Golden Sower Award** online **voting** site is now open for this year.

To link to the ballot:

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/nugget/voting/vote.htm>

All tallies are due by April 15.

A new **free** weekly electronic newsletter contains information that may be useful for library staff working with children.

**Children’s Bookshelf** contains author interviews, awards, best seller lists, and links to articles about children’s books.

It is created by the editors of **Publishers Weekly**. To subscribe go to:

[www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6253324.html](http://www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6253324.html)





## BITS AND PIECES

This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Harold and the Purple Crayon** by Crockett Johnson. It continues to inspire children to use their imaginations. In addition to the 7 Harold books, drawings for a book that was never published have been recently discovered and will be printed as Magic Beach.

**Janice Abbott**, who worked for 18 years as a library assistant at Alliance High School, passed away in October. Her position has been filled by **Donna Pierce**, who was formerly at Alliance PL. **Vicki Morlock** has joined the staff of Sidney PL as bookmobile and adult services librarian. **Jo Fisher** has resigned her position at Crawford PL.

Get ready! The 2006 “**One Book, One State**” program will feature One False Move, written by Nebraska author **Alex Kava**. The following year, the **Mari Sandoz** Society will lead the promotion of Crazy Horse, which will be of particular interest to western Nebraska readers. Nebraska librarians were instrumental in the success of the first “all Nebraska reads” program featuring **Willa Cather’s My Antonia**.

60% of Nebraska’s public libraries meet the Guidelines for Public Library Accreditation. Among them for the first time this year is **Rushville PL**, **Broadwater PL**, and **Hemingford PL**! These PLS libraries successfully renewed their accreditation: **Crawford**, **Goodall/Ogallala**, and **Morrill**.

Accredited libraries receive state aid funds and are eligible for grants administered through the Nebraska Library Commission.

The deadline for applications for **grants** through the Library Services and Technology Act (**LSTA**) is December 29. Digitization projects are a priority area, but applications may be submitted for other projects. Complete information is available at the NLC web site: [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us)

**Ted Kooser’s Poetic World** will be broadcast on NET television Monday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m.(MT), and repeated Saturday, Dec. 10 at 4pm (MT). This collaboration between the Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Center for the Book, and NET also resulted in a poster and DVD, which was sent to libraries and schools to use in their promotion of local poets, and as a way to raise awareness of the value of poetry in people’s lives.

Those of you in the Scottsbluff-Gering vicinity are invited to attend this year’s **jobalikes**. This is a time for anyone associated with any kind of library to get together for food, fun, and friendship. The first one was hosted by Kathy Terrell at Lincoln School in Gering on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>. The next one is scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup> at WNCC. Another will be held March 28 at Scottsbluff PL. They go from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

## **FROM OUR MEMBERS**

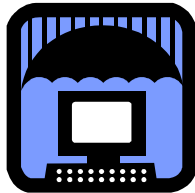
### **Collection Development WOW!**

“Do you allow your patrons to ‘chat’ on the internet?”; “What do you do with gifts that are not appropriate to your collection?” Fourteen librarians from our area spent three days (Oct. 26, Nov. 2, Nov. 9) wrestling with questions like these as they refreshed their collection development skills during the Nebraska Library Commission’s fall Basic Skills class in Collection Development. Scottsbluff Public Library hosted the class which was facilitated by Pam Scott, Continuing Education Director with the Nebraska Library Commission and Cherie Longmuir, Coordinator of the Panhandle Library System.

Pam and Cherie did a tremendous job of blending the resource material with the experiences of the class members. The discussion was lively in every subject area. The students discussed selection policies, community needs assessment, selection of library resources, acquisitions, weeding, intellectual freedom, collection assessment and book repair. This was a great group of experienced professionals dedicated to providing the materials their communities want and need.

In addition Pam and Cherie provided the students with a notebook jam packed with relevant background materials, guidelines for the selection, and selection tools that will be useful in maintaining a relevant viable collection. Print and online selection tools were provided as well as bibliographies of core medical and legal materials. Thank you to the Panhandle Library System Board for providing the scholarship funds to make it possible for me to attend this valuable class.

**Submitted by Sue Gosnell – WNCC Sidney Campus**



### **GATES FOUNDATION BREAKFAST MEETING**

When NLA/NEMA held their fall conference in Lincoln in September, I was invited by the Nebraska Library Commission to represent the Panhandle Library System in attending a breakfast meeting with conference keynote speaker, Martha Choe, Director of Global Libraries Program for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss “sustaining public access computing in public libraries in rural communities.” Six librarians, one from each region across Nebraska, were invited to attend.

The Gates Foundation expressed these views: “The free access to computers, the Internet, and training programs that public libraries offer in rural communities has a tremendous impact. Individuals are using library computers to take online courses, find employment, learn technology skills, and keep in touch with families. Unfortunately, rural libraries often face tremendous challenges in maintaining these services because of limited financial resources, lack of training opportunities for staff, and difficulties in obtaining technical support.” Those in attendance agreed. They also expressed gratitude to the Gates Foundation not only for supplying grants for equipment and training, but also for taking on the challenge to help libraries sustain public access computing.

I appreciated the opportunity to be one of the “outside voices” and to be involved in this discussion. The Foundation will support a number of programs over the next year, including research on library connectivity, advocacy efforts, and more training programs.

**Submitted by Vickie Retzlaff, Grant County Library in Hyannis**

## LIBRARY COMMUNITIES AND THEIR GUESTS

At the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Charleston Conference held the first of November in sunny South Carolina, Milton T. Wolf, Director of the Chadron State College Library, assembled three notable public servants to present and discuss **the importance of “community” in public institutions** and how to develop and encourage it.

The three speakers, (1) Dr. Robert Martin, formerly the Executive Director of the Institute for Museums and Library Services (IMLS) and advisor to President Bush, (2) Louise Blaylock, Chief Librarian at the Hartford Public Library and past recipient of Library Journal’s “Librarian of the Year” award, and (3) GladysAnn Wells, Arizona State Librarian and past president of COSLA, all agreed that librarians must stimulate their constituents and act as a catalyst in making the library a “place” for community expression.

Robert Martin exhorted librarians to enlist and **partner with other information institutions** in their communities and cross boundaries and borders that often exist among public and academic libraries. “Across the country, many libraries (and museums) are combining their staffs, skills, and, sometimes, their buildings to serve the information needs of their communities,” he said.

Louise Blaylock, implored the audience to “**get out from behind your desks**” and “walk the local beat” **to find out what your community wants** and needs. And, GladysAnn Wells reminded us that communities “change,” that they are not static demographic groups, that in less than ten years a community may change its coloration and needs. She suggested that **the most important aspect of community building is the ability to “listen.”** Some libraries no longer even consider their visitors as “patrons” or “clients” but as “guests.”

While services such as coffee cafes, computer access, and collaborative environments often lead the list of new enticements offered by libraries, it is the library as “place,” as “community,” as “information haven” that keep the “guests” returning.

**Submitted by Milton Wolf, library director of Chadron State College**



## CONTINUING EDUCATION – when will it ever end...

Two workshops were provided in two locations in November that got rave reviews from the 30 who attended. Here are some of the things we learned:

### **Youth Collection Development – presented by Sally Snyder**

- Even if you can't afford the time or the money to use the basic review journals like School Library Journal, Booklist, VOYA, Kliatt – you can borrow them from the Nebraska Library Commission or the System office and at least skim the “top 10” or “starred” lists.
- Books for youth don't have to be ordered with the same urgency as “best sellers” for adults; borrow books like CCBC Choices or Best Children's Books of the Year and order from only those books that have “risen to the top.”
- Focus on one or two areas to develop each year, and put all your resources there, so that you can make a noticeable difference.
- Use online resources such as “Books in Print,” free with NebraskaAccess, where you can browse in the “children's room” for award winners and titles with reviews in specific subject areas.
- Go to websites like YALSA, Nancy Keane, gems.brodart.com, Nebraska Library Commission (books in series, children/young adult literature links).
- Ask young people what they are interested in.
- Use contests, promotions, displays, elections, awards – fun things to involve kids.
- Ask other librarians what's “hot” in their collections. Here are some recommendations from those who attended the workshop:

Meg Cabot books

Lemony Snicket

Cirque du Freak

Pendragon

Shadow Children

Bone series (“safe” graphic novels)

Dear America

Hardy Boys (new graphic series)

Reading is Power series

Captain Underpants

Shredder Man

You Wouldn't Want to Be series

Hank the Cowdog

Eyewitness books

“See More” series – Simon Seymour

Authors Dave Pilkey, Bernard Cornwell, Harry Mazer





## Weeding – presented by Shirley Flack

“Less is More” – “When in doubt, toss it out!”

Those were the two parting shots that Shirley left us with, after sharing her weeding wisdom and years of experience keeping library collections relevant.

To demonstrate the impact she had, here is an email from one school librarian who attended:

*“The weeding workshop inspired me and the next day I went to my 800 section and weeded. I would scan in about 6 books at a time and then check their circ records. When I got through with my poetry section, I had crates full of stuff. I deleted them right away so I would not have second thoughts.”*

Here are some of Shirley’s pointers:

- Leave only the best on your shelves.
- Quality counts more than quantity.
- Be sure you have in place written policies, guidelines, and criteria for weeding.
- A book is to be used. If you promote it and it still does not circulate, its useful life is over.
- Only staff who take part in selection, should be involved in de-selection.
- You can find time to weed if you make it a priority.
- If it can’t be mended in 15 minutes, it may not be worth keeping.
- Replace worn copies of the “good stuff” with new copies.
- In schools, if obsolete materials are used by only one teacher (such as filmstrips), give those materials to that teacher.
- Don’t give away your “junk”; dispose of it.
- Non-print materials are not more “valuable” than books; their accessibility should not be restricted, and when worn or no longer useful, they should be discarded.
- A smaller, attractive collection will increase circulation.

Some attendees said they found the **SunLink** website useful, with its monthly areas of focus for weeding: [www.sunlink.ucf.edu/weed/](http://www.sunlink.ucf.edu/weed/)

For example, for November, the section to weed was 770’s: photography.

It was recommended that anything over 10 years old might be a candidate, because of the shift to digital and video technology. You don’t want to keep guides to outdated cameras. Career guides should be relevant and current. It might be okay to keep good older biographies about famous photographers. This site also includes an extensive list of new titles in photography to consider for purchase after you’ve cleared out the old ones.

The topic changes each month, which allows you to keep the size of the task manageable. That is an important key to effective weeding: it is an ongoing task. Make a plan and stick to it.



## WANTED !

**A library advocate who would be willing to serve on the Panhandle Library System Board** next year. The majority of the meetings are held in Scottsbluff six times a year. Board members are reimbursed for mileage. The positions that will be open for election in spring, 2006 (term starts in July) are in these categories:

1. a representative from any PLS public library
2. a representative from District A (Sioux, Dawes, Sheridan, Box Butte Counties)

The District representative does not have to be employed in a library. Anyone who is interested in supporting the mission of the PLS libraries is eligible.

The term is 3 years, with a maximum of 2 consecutive terms.

If you are interested in serving on the Board, or know someone who might be, please contact a member of the nominating committee:

Lillian Diedrichsen ([lilliand@panesu.org](mailto:lilliand@panesu.org))

Vickie Retzlaff ([grantcolibr@nebnet.net](mailto:grantcolibr@nebnet.net))

--- or the Panhandle Library System office: 308-632-1350 / 888-879-5303.



## AWARDS!

Congratulations to these outstanding members of the library profession who were recently recognized for their contributions. Be thinking of who you might nominate for these awards next year!

NLA Meritorious Service Award: **John Seyforth**

NLA Mari Sandoz Award: **Dr. Joseph Wydeven**

NLA Trustee Citation Award: **Gerald Bryant**

NLA Presidential Award for Excellence: The Diversity Committee (**Charlene Maxey-Harris, John Bernardi, Nancy Escamilla, Jodene Glaesemann, Shalini Miskelly, Gretchen Healy**)

PLS Excalibur Award: **Wendy Anderson**

C & U Distinguished Service Award: **Dana Boden**

SCYP Mad Hatter Service Award: **Kathy Schultz**

Para Section Paraprofessional of the Year: **Jenni Puchalla**

NMRT Mentor of the Year Award: **Dr. Becky Pasco**

S & I Distinguished Service Award: **Karen Stefero and Beth Goble**

NMRT/Houchen Beginning Professional of the Year: **Susan Skinner**

NEMA President's Award: **Dr. Marilyn Moore**

Distinguished Media Service Award: **Deborah Smith**

Sound Off for Media Award: **Julie Hehnke**

For more information about any of these awards, visit the Nebraska Library Association or the Nebraska Educational Media Association web sites.

### **Library Director Position Available**

Nadine DiBacco, who has been the driving force in developing programs and services at **Gering Public Library** for the last several years, is moving to Omaha with her husband. She will leave a big hole in the community, as she is also involved in many other cultural activities and organizations. We thank you, Nadine, for all you've done in leadership roles in PLS, especially in organizing many author tours. Good luck as you pursue new directions in your life!

Those who are interested in applying for the library director position or would like more information about qualifications and salary should contact City of Gering, P.O. Box 687, Gering 69341 or email [prichter@gering.org](mailto:prichter@gering.org).

### **New Materials to Borrow**

The Nebraska Library Commission has recently added several **videos** to its collection that support the 2006 summer reading program. Put them on your list to borrow!

Dogs and Cats; Arthur's New Puppy; Arthur's Pet Business; Arthur's Pet Follies; Farm Animals; Pepper and All the Legs

New **professional items** at NLC include: Staffing the Modern Library; Flannelboard Stories for Infants and Toddlers; Copyright Law for Librarians and Educators; Helping the Difficult Library Patron.

The PLS office has recently added: Middle and Junior High School Library Catalog (9<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2005); Connecting Young Adults and Libraries (Patrick Jones, et al – 3<sup>rd</sup> edition); What Do I Read Next (Genre Fiction), 2004; Recommended Reference Books for Small Libraries and Media Centers; From Outreach to Equity: Innovative Models of Library Policy and Practice; Readers' Advisory Service in the Public Library.

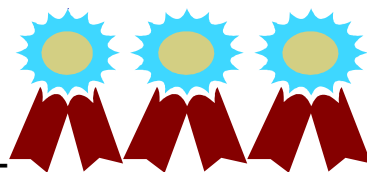
### **Fundraising Information**

Shop for the Library ([www.shopforthelibrary.com](http://www.shopforthelibrary.com)) is an online shopping mall designed to help any library. It features 700 merchants, including Target, Gap, Office Depot and Circuit City. Every purchase initiated through the Web site generates a commission for the library of the shopper's choice. There is no charge for the library to participate other than promoting it to your community. The Web site contains materials that can be used for a public awareness campaign. To sign up, contact [support@shopforthelibrary.net](mailto:support@shopforthelibrary.net).

Here are some guidelines for doing lotteries and raffles as fundraisers. This applies if you do not want to pay for a license and adhere to the many restrictions that go with it.

Non-profit organizations may have up to one lottery event per calendar month, but the profit cannot exceed \$1000. **Lotteries** involve participants paying for an opportunity to win in a random drawing of tickets. **Raffles** involve merchandise (not cash) given in a random drawing. You may have an unlimited number of raffles, but the profits cannot exceed \$5000 per calendar month. Additional requirements are that you use sequentially numbered tickets, and the proceeds must all go for charitable purposes.





## And the Winners Are -----

### **National Book Award for Young Readers:**

The Penderwicks by Jeanne Birdsall

#### **Runners up:**

Autobiography of My Dead Brother – Walter Dean Myers

Where I Want to Be – Adele Griffin

Inexcusable – Chris Lynch

Each Little Bird That Sings – Deborah Wiles

### **National Book Award for Adult Nonfiction:**

The Year of Magical Thinking – Joan Didion

### **National Book Award for Adult Fiction:**

Europe Central – William Vollmann

#### **Runners up:**

The March – E.L. Doctorow

Veronica – Mary Gaitskill

### **National Book Award for Poetry:**

Migration – W.S. Merwin

### **Teens Top Ten 2005** (sponsored by YALSA; voted on by teen readers)

1. Girls in Pants: The Third Summer of the Sisterhood – Ann Brashares
2. The Truth About Forever – Sarah Dessen
3. Looking for Alaska – John Green
4. My Sister's Keeper – Jodi Picoult
5. Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie – Jordan Sonnenblick
6. Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment – James Patterson
7. The Gansta Rap – Benjamin Zephania
8. Teen Idol – Meg Cabot
9. The Garden – Elise Aidinoff
10. How I Paid for College – Marc Acito

### **Survey of Nebraska Librarians**

#### **Top 5 Adult Books:**

1. To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
2. Secret Life of Bees – Sue Monk Kidd
3. My Antonia – Willa Cather
4. Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini
5. Lord of the Rings – J.R.R. Tolkien / Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte (tied)

## **Golden Sower Award Nominees for 2006-7:**

### **Kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Category**

Pinduli – Janell Cannon  
Major Taylor, Champion Cyclist – Lesa Cline-Ranxome  
Martin MacGregor's Snowman – Lisa Broadie Cook  
The Hungry Coat: A Tale From Turkey – Demi  
The Toughest Cowboy – John Frank  
A Packet of Seeds – Deborah Hopkinson  
My Lucky Day – Keiko Kasza  
Blueberries for the Queen – John Paterson  
Wild About Books – Judy Sierra  
Old Cricket – Lisa Wheeler

### **Grades 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Category**

Gregor the Overlander – Suzanne Collins  
White Star: A Dog on the Titanic – Mary Crisp  
The Million Dollar Strike – Dan Gutman  
The House on the Gulf – Margaret Peterson Haddix  
The Old Willis Place: a Ghost Story – Mary Downing Hahn  
Ida B...And Her Plans to Maximize Fun – Katherine Hannigan  
The Young Man and the Sea – Rodman Philbrick  
Secret Identity – Wendelin Van Draanen  
Locomotion – Jacqueline Woodson

### **Young Adult Category**

The Presence: A Ghost Story – Eve Bunting  
The Pack – Elisa Carbone  
Perfect – Natasha Friend  
The Truth About Sparrows – Marian Hale  
Baby Blue – Michelle Kwasney  
The Last of the Roundup Boys – Debra Seely  
Chief Sunrise, John McCraw and Me – Timothy Tocher  
Wishing Moon – Michael Tunnell  
So B. It. – Sarah Weeks

### **Survey of Nebraska Librarians**

#### **Top 5 Youth Books:**

1. Harry Potter – J.K. Rowling
2. Hatchet – Gary Paulsen
3. Little House on the Prairie – Laura Ingalls Wilder / Where the Red Fern Grows – Wilson Rawls (tied)
4. Charlotte's Web – E.B. White
5. Among the Hidden series – Margaret Peterson Haddix

## **HAVE YOU READ THE LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS LATELY???**

Oklahoma City: The Commission of the Metropolitan Library System voted 10-7 to move “easy, easy-reader, and tween” books containing “sensitive or controversial” themes to a special collection available only to “adults in authority.” State Rep. Sally Kern, who spearheaded a resolution in the Oklahoma House to encourage such restrictions, said she is forming a nonprofit group for library accountability. The titles to be re-shelved will be determined by a subcommittee charged with following “good judgment and community standards.”

Valparaiso, Florida: The city commission voted to allow the library director to return to her job after she had been suspended because she had not done enough to prevent boys from using library computers to access pornographic websites. The librarian defended herself by saying: “We continually enforce our policy by monitoring all computers. Any suspicious use is immediately checked by accessing the history of the patrons’ Web use. In addition, the staff monitors the patrons’ use by ‘walk-throughs’ of the computer areas.”

Marion County, Florida: A new policy requires books inappropriate for children 17 and under to be shelved in a restricted area. The county commission now has final authority over which books are restricted, having dissolved the library board. In addition, the library staff has been instructed to create a new card to prevent children from checking out sex-education books without parental permission.

Fayetteville, Arkansas: The school district has “relocated” three sex-education books at a parent’s request. The parent now has 70 books on her list, and has demanded that a parent board be established to oversee materials selection. She identified the problem books by searching on the words “sex” and “homosexuality” in the school-system’s internet accessible online catalog.

Guilderland, New York: The library board has rejected a proposal by a Board member to label teen books containing sexually explicit passages with an orange “PG” sticker. He had suggested that the staff read all teen books added to the collection and flag any containing sexual content. “We have an obligation to help the parents,” he said. “I’m a strong believer in intellectual freedom...and I’m hoping that this discussion is going to be helpful.”



**Panhandle Library System Board Meeting  
September 13, 2005  
Bluffs Business Center Upper Level Conference Room**

The Board of the Panhandle Library System met September 13, 2005 at the Bluffs Business Center Upper Level Conference Room. President Diane Downer called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Present were the following board members: Maryruth Reed, Ruth Walker, Jill Ellis, Lillian Diedrichsen, Diane Downer, Allison McBride, Vickie Retzlaff, Kathy Terrell, Dena Crews and Sue Gosnell. Cherie Longmuir and Debbie McCall from the system office and Pam Scott from the Nebraska Library Commission were in attendance.

Kids Explore was added to the agenda.

Kathy Terrell reported that everything was going well at the Gering Elementary libraries. Allison McBride from the Alliance High School Library reported on the Computer Lab needs. Lillian Diedrichsen reported that Alliance Plus was added to the Minatare School Libraries, and that it works well for cataloging.

Pam Scott from the Nebraska Library Commission gave the report from the Commission. NetLibrary Grant applications are online and will be taken until December 1, 2005. The NEBASE West Annual Meeting will be October 13, 2005. 2005 Continuing Education and Training Grant awards were announced and the amount totaled \$16,145.00. There are currently three LTA courses available this fall. They are Introduction to Library and Info Science, Library Administration, and Cataloging. Public Services and Collection Management will be available in the winter/spring session. On September 30th, 6 Nebraska public librarians will get to have breakfast and meet with Martha Choe of the Gates Foundation. Vickie Retzlaff from Grant County will be representing the PLS region. Bibliostat Collect will be available starting Oct. 15th. E-rate workshop will be November 1, 2005 at the Alliance Public Library.

Cherie Longmuir gave the Coordinator's report. Cherie reported on the pre-literacy program that was done in Gordon through a grant. Literacy Kits were created in see-through bags with fiction and non-fiction books and items that went with the theme to send home with the children. This was one of several items in the report.

Cherie Longmuir gave the budget report. She explained the line items so everyone is aware of where the money is spent.

Diane Downer has declined the chairmanship of the CE/Tech committee. Kathy Terrell and Allison McBride will be the co-chairmen for that committee. The Scholarship committee reported that the advocacy award will be for support staff or a volunteer. The Annual Meeting Committee reported that the July date worked well. It will be scheduled in July next year. There was discussion on the survey results. It was suggested to have the meeting in a central location. The shortened day was a positive change.

The Plan of Service that was worked on in May was presented. Maryruth Reed moved to accept the plan with the tightening of the wording. Dena Crews seconded the motion. The motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

The services of Waldron, Riggs, & Lloyd was discussed. Cherie Longmuir will check with Rod Wagner to see if the change from audit report to a compilation report meet the approval of the Attorney General for the audit.

The Board decided that PLS will not participate in Kids Explore.

The next meeting will be in Alliance on November 8, 2005.

The meeting was recessed at noon to continue in the afternoon with the committee meetings.

The meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m. for committee meetings. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

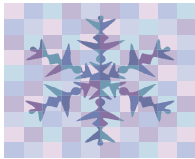
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## Your System Board Members:

Diane Downer, President  
Vickie Retzlaff, Vice President  
Ruth Walker, Secretary  
Jill Ellis, Treasurer  
Dena Crews  
Lillian Diedrichsen  
Sue Gosnell  
Allison McBride  
Maryruth Reed  
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Garden, Grant, Keith,  
Kimball, Morrill, Scotts  
Bluff, Sheridan and Sioux  
Counties

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