

May/June

2008

Eastern Express

The Newsletter of the Eastern Library System

“The American Dream”

by Karla Shafer, Director of the Hooper Public Library

The Hooper Public Library was excited to receive word of being the only Nebraska winner of the American Library Association’s Dollar General sponsored literacy grant initiative called “The American Dream Starts @ your library.” Thirty-four libraries in eighteen states received one-time grants of \$5,000 each. Each library will promote adult English language literacy with the funding, in order to improve service to people who need to feel welcome as they assimilate into their communities.



Monday, April 21st, the American Library Association, released the previously embargoed information about the grant winners. The ALA told Karla Shafer, Director of the Hooper Public Library, her winning the grant will get the most attention from the media regarding this “American Dream” grant, since it is the smallest library among the library winners ranging in size to those from large urban areas (like the Milwaukee Public Library, Chandler Arizona Public Library and the Douglas County Library in Castle Rock, Colorado).

“Since libraries are where people turn for equal access to information, I want Spanish speaking people who are struggling with learning English, to understand our Hooper library is a great resource and theirs to enjoy. This grant will make possible the materials and software for English to become a part of their new “American Dream” experience, and the fulfillment of that dream can start at our library. I am so excited to be a partner in the adventure of English language literacy.”

For a list of “The American Dream Starts @ your library” grant winners see: <http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/The American Dream Starts %40 your library.cfm>

Editor’s Note: Dollar General has a longstanding tradition of supporting literacy and education. In 2007, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation awarded more than \$5.7 million in grants to 407 non-profit organizations. A Dollar General grant enabled the Eastern Library System to start our Book Bag project. Speaking of.....we have added titles to our collection. Please go to our webpage and scroll down to the lower right-hand side to look at the new additions—www.elsne.org.

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The *Eastern Express* is available online 6 times per year.

- Jan/Feb
- Mar/Apr
- May/June
- Aug/Sept
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ELS Website
<http://www.elsne.org>

Be sure to check out the ELS website often. You will find workshops and events plus all of the equipment and materials we have available for loan plus information and opportunities you don't want to miss.

**Be sure to attend the:
 ELS Annual Meeting
 June 20, 2008
 Bellevue University
 (registration form in this issue and on the
 Website)**



Silent Auction of 28 decorated birdhouses at the Annual Meeting. Bids can also be made on the website.

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System News

Gretna Public Library

[by Jennifer Jazyanka, director]

Your Return on Investment at the Gretna PL

Recently, the Assistant Library Director and I gave a brief presentation to the Gretna Chamber of Commerce. We presented several interesting facts and statistics regarding the Gretna Public Library's increased attendance and usage, as well as highlighted some of the business resources and tools available for business professionals. I thought it important to spend quite a bit of time going over the concept of "Return on Investment," or how the library, from a financial perspective, both saves money for Gretna families and provides added value to the Gretna community.

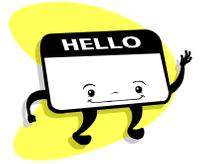
During the library's last fiscal year, just over 70,000 library materials were checked out and used by the public--this includes children's books, adult books, videos, audio books and other special items. If families had to pay retail and out of pocket for each of the 70,000 items, it would have cost a collective \$1.3 million dollars (well over the library's annual budget), rather than the small fee it costs each family to support their community library.

I also presented information about how much money was saved because the library has and offers FREE computer access for the public. It costs \$1.00 for every five minutes to rent a computer at Kinko's, and so I calculated how much money would have been spent just on computer rental fees---over \$17,000 just last year. Also, based on the number of children's and adult programs that we offered last year (and the participation numbers), we saved the community over \$20,000 on entrance and participation fees as we offer all these programs to the public for FREE.

The improved quality of life the public library provides for its community is probably one of the most important factors. It seems pretty clear that one of the most enticing qualities of Gretna (that is attracting families to move here) is the wonderful school system. High quality public library service is also an important feature a community must be able to brag about in order to attract growth as well as to help everyone in the community continue and realize their life-long learning goals. Having a library card in your wallet is a smart thing you can do to save on out of pocket expenses, as the library is a great deal ! Come on in and see what new materials and services we have to offer you.

PLA Conference Article

[by Denise Lawver, Wahoo Public Library Director]



On March 26 I set off on an adventure to my first Public Library Association convention being held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. My good-natured husband agreed to be my driver to the Twin Cities; however, 3 days before we left he contracted the nasty flu bug! I ended up doing most of the driving but he did manage to get us to the hotel in Minneapolis.

After some difficulty finding the convention center downtown, we arrived, found the registration booth and had a great time wandering through the over 800 vendor booths! The free hors d'oeuvres helped keep my husband occupied while I was busy helping myself to all of the free books and many catalogs.

The next morning I left my husband to his own devices and I boarded a shuttle to the Convention Center. Considering the size of the Convention Center, once you figured out the lay-out it was fairly easy to navigate, unlike the winding sky-walks connecting the center to the downtown.

Some of the sessions I attended were "Think outside the barn@ your library", this session was geared towards smaller rural libraries that need to market their services to patrons who may not be aware of all that the library has to offer. Another session was entitled "Protect, Project and Present!; Essential Tips for Supervisors, Speakers and Storytellers. This session was very helpful for public speaking in that the presenter showed us ways to protect and project our voices for a strong, engaging presentation. The afternoon session I chose had to do with the Patriot Act and law enforcement requests. Working in a small library, I don't usually think that the police are going to show up and raid my computers, however in this day and age we need to be prepared just in case. The presenters explained the differences between a subpoena, search warrant, and National Security Letter, they also discussed how to develop policies and train staff for these situations. My last session on Thursday dealt with Workforce and Economic Development partnerships and how the library can deliver value-added programs for job seekers and entrepreneurs.

Friday another shuttle to the Convention Center where I decided to spend a little money in the ALA gift shop and continue my quest to visit every booth on the convention floor. It took the 3 days that I attended to visit all of the vendor booths.

(continued on next page)

One of my favorite Friday sessions was “The Best in Mystery Authors Revealed!” The speakers were authors Linwood Barclay, C.J. Box, Laura Lippman, T. Jefferson Parker and Karen Rose. This wonderful panel gave us some insight as to how they began their writing careers, how they create their works, and an advance peak into future plots. All who stayed after this session ended received free copies of the author’s current works.

I must admit I coerced (without too much trouble) the Republican Valley Administrator; Sherry Houston to skip another chicken lunch and explore with me some of the downtown shopping that Minneapolis has to offer. We had a great time winding our way through the skywalks to Neiman Marcus, had a great lunch at a little deli and made it back to the Convention Center for a late afternoon session!

Friday evening came to a close with a reception for all of the attendees, where we enjoyed great food, drinks, and dancing. I am proud to say the Nebraska delegation were the first ones on the dance floor and they ruled!!

My only regret is that the convention program had so many great offerings coinciding at the same time; it was hard to decide which talk table or program session to attend. If you get the chance to go to a national conference—go for it, you won’t be sorry. Many thanks to the Eastern Library System for the mini-grants they provide to its members for just this purpose.

Jan Kruse, Fremont Public Schools is retiring. [from Jan]

I always wanted to be a librarian but started my career as a high school English teacher in Blue Island, Illinois. 23 years ago I found out about the Library Media Program at UNO and became one of the many second career persons trained and guided by Verne Haselwood.

I began my library career as a K – 12 Media Specialist for Wahoo Public Schools. I have been a K – 5 Media Specialist for Fremont Public Schools since 1990.

My career in the library world has been highlighted by the many wonderful women I’ve had as mentors, colleagues and friends. Of course, the

wonder of books has been very powerful for me. I also embrace the technology which provides the best tools to do so many library tasks.

In retirement, I look forward to social time with those wonderful women mentors, colleagues and friends. I have a passion for “back room” library work and have already volunteered my time to several of those women. I plan to volunteer at Keene Memorial Library and, of course, I’ll be doing even more browsing and reading there.

I am very involved with Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity and will increase my efforts there. Travel and time with family will be a large part of my future.

Best Wishes Jan

News from NEMA President-Elect, Robin Schrack, Gretna Public Schools

“Hi Everyone! As your President-Elect, I wanted to share some personal information with you. I recently accepted a position as the media specialist for Gardner-Edgerton High School in Gardner, Kansas. This is located just south of Olathe on I-35. It will be much closer to my family, which is so important to me. However, I wanted you to know that I am dedicated to NEMA and will fulfill my commitments to this organization and its members. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

rschrack@esu3.org.

Good Luck Robin

If you have a working microfilm copier available and you don’t need it any longer please contact Karen Mier, Baright Public Library. She would be glad to take it off your hands.

402-935-5375 kmier@cityofralston.com



Statewide Community Resources At Your Fingertips Via 2-1-1

Want to know where to go in your community for human services? The answer is just a mouse click away at www.ne211.org. This Web site has information about programs in your community -- and across the state -- that provide such services as *homeless shelters, transitional housing, health care, financial assistance, food banks, mental health care and counseling, crisis lines, utility assistance, substance abuse programs, recreation programs, mentoring programs, community services, volunteering, disaster relief*, and much more!

At the ne211.org site, you may search for resources in a number of ways:

- Type in a keyword, such as “emergency housing”
- Browse the categories of human services and select the one that best fits
- Use one of our “quick” searches
- Look for an agency or program with the alphabetical search

Limit your search results by a miles radius from a zip code (for keyword, category, alphabetical, and “quick” searches)

For example, a keyword search for “library” returns over 50 results, including public libraries and agency-based resource centers. An ne211.org user can find out if a particular public library offers story time, GED classes in Spanish, public Internet access, or other services. Common keyword searches made on ne211.org relate to housing, health care, financial assistance, food, and mental health care.

Rather talk to someone on the phone? The ne211.org Web site is a companion to 2-1-1, the three-digit phone service. Residents of 38 Nebraska counties and eight counties in southwest Iowa can dial 2-1-1. Just dial 2-1-1 on your phone to connect to a live, certified information and referral specialist. Interpretation assistance for more than 150 languages is offered to those calling the 2-1-1 call center.

Both the Web site and the call center are free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Grant Opportunity

The American Library Association and the Fetzer Institute, as part of its Campaign for Love & Forgiveness, announce applications for “Let’s Talk About It: Love and Forgiveness,” a theme-based reading and discussion program for public libraries. Applications will be accepted until July 15, 2008. Participating libraries will promote and present a five-part literary discussion series led by a local scholar and based on one of three themes. Successful applicants will receive training for the library project at a national workshop, program and promotional materials, and a \$2500 grant to support program costs, scholar honoraria and travel to the workshop. Themes include:

- Love and Forgiveness in the Presence of the Enemy
- Love, Forgiveness, and Wisdom
- Love and Forgiveness in the Light of Death

To download an application and complete guidelines, go to www.ala.org/publicprograms.

Grants Available from the Nebraska Library Commission

- Go to www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/grant.html for more information and applications.

Continuing Education and Training Grants - provides CE and training for Nebraska library personnel. The grants are available May 5 and due August 4. The recipients will be announced on September 5.

Internship Grants - provides a stipend for students to intern at a library and work with the staff on a variety of projects and activities. The deadline this year is August 1.

Library Improvement Grants - These grants are awarded to libraries to improve library and information services to Nebraskans. They become available on October 1 and are due on December 29. The recipients will be announced on March 20, 2009.

Youth Grants for Excellence - Grants are for innovative projects to serve children. Public children and youth librarians are eligible to apply as well as schools who collaborate with public libraries. The dates have not been set for these grants.

EXCALIBUR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC LIBRARIAN

The Public Library Section of the Nebraska Library Association accepts nominations for the Excalibur Award for Outstanding Public Librarian. This award honors the career accomplishments of a public librarian who has demonstrated an outstanding record of service to his/her local library and to the library profession. The following categories suggest areas in which the nominee may have rendered significant service. Preference will be given to those nominees who have achieved excellence in more than one of these areas:

- Development of outstanding service in field(s) of expertise, e.g. reference, children's, technical, administrative.
- Involvement in statewide library service.
- Record of library leadership in local community, regional area or in the Nebraska Library Association.
- Encouragement of community/institutional support for the library.

The nominee must be a member of the Public Library Section of the Nebraska Library Association. Send a statement of nomination with a description of the nominee's contributions to any Excalibur Nomination Committee member. Supporting letters of nomination and other materials may also be submitted with nomination. **Deadline for nominations is August 1.**

Person Nominated _____

Library and Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Nominated By _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Send nomination forms by August 1 to:

2008 Excalibur Award Committee:

Diane Downer

ddowner@geringlibrary.org

(308) 436-7433

Gering Public Library

1055 P Street

Gering, NE 69341



Resources For Youth Services Librarians & Media Specialists

Graphic Novels According to the Experts Bill and Gene

When Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum were here for the *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Library* Spring Colloquium sponsored by the Eastern and Southeast Library Systems, they graciously offered to do a workshop on graphic novels too.

Close to 30 youth services librarians and media specialists attended the event held at the Lincoln City Libraries' Easley Branch. Knowing very little about graphic novels, I was in for a surprise — and a treat. Not only did they explain the history of comic books (first ones were taken from comics in the newspapers at the turn of the 20th century) but they discussed trends in the graphic novel trade, one's not to buy, and good ones for different age groups. I was impressed about the people attending knowledge of graphic novel and came away knowing that selection of this format in libraries is in good hands. I also came away with a much greater understanding and appreciation of graphic novels as literature. KT

For a list of titles on how to understand graphic novels and recommended list for different ages, visit <www.overduemedia.com/graphicnovels>

Graphic Novels RULE! by Michele Gorman [School Library Journal, March, 2008] This article on the latest and greatest comics for young kids contains 25 outstanding new graphic novels that are "guaranteed to attract a new generation of young readers." Let the system office know if you would like a copy of the article.



Hipster Raggedy Ann

[School Library Journal, March, 2008] Librarians who grew up playing with Raggedy Ann may be heartened to know that a recent media deal will introduce the character to a whole new generation. Simon and Schuster Publishing and Starz Media, the production and distribution company, are collaborating on a new ani-

mated Raggedy Adventures television series. The series, based on the Simon and Schuster books, will offer an undated look to the Raggedy characters that is designed to appeal to today's young readers.

Father's Day is Coming

[LibrarySparks, May/June, 2008]

Get ready for Father's Day with some books about dads. Visit Peachtree Publishing at www.peachtree-online.com/pdfs/HeyDaddy.pdf for a teacher's guide to *Hey Daddy! Animal Fathers and Their Babies* by Mary Batten. It includes a number of cross-curricular pre- and post-reading activities.

Puppet Tales Newsletter from Mister Anderson's Company

This is a free newsletter you will want to subscribe to. Go to: <http://www.misterandersons.com/puppettales/index.html> and download an issue.



With each issue of *Puppet Tales* you can click and print a new collection of great ideas, tips and tricks to enrich your storytelling. There are programs and products to add to your Story Time. Gather the issues together in a binder for a great reference all year long.

CLICK

The Children's Librarians Information and Coffee Klatch will meet on August 1st at the Gretna Public Library. We will be doing flannel board demonstrations. Besides bringing one story to share, bring a list of all the flannel board stories in your collection you are willing to share. Nancy has volunteered to compile a catalog of the sets for the ELS children's librarians to "inter-library loan."

In April our CLICK meeting featured Alice Boeckman, youth services librarian at Bellevue. She enthralled us with songs and ditties and scads of information on how to incorporate music in your story times. If you could not attend and would like a copy of her handout, call the system office.

Youth Services Retreat
September 11-12

Creating Nebraska Memories the Easy Way

by Shannon White, Nebraska Library Commission

Is your library, local historical society, museum, or other local cultural heritage organization mulling over ways to get your historical photos, documents, slides or other items onto the web so more than just those who visit your physical space can see what you have to offer? Has your institution considered adding your materials to the Nebraska Memories project? (<http://www.memories.ne.gov>)

We know that our cultural heritage institutions have little time or money to spend on digitization projects so we are offering options to libraries, museums and historical societies around the state to help them get their precious items on the web at no charge through the Library Commission's Nebraska Memories project.

The Commission recently received a grant from Nebraska's State Records Board allowing us to purchase equipment to create a mobile scanning center. This mobile scanning center can help us quickly get your items into the Nebraska Memories project, providing instant access to digitized images of Nebraska's history and culture in a collective, searchable database on the web.

The only thing you need to do is pick out the items you would like to add to the project and have some basic information about these items on hand. We will work with you at the beginning of the project to find out what items you have that would be a good fit for Nebraska Memories.

So you may wonder how this works? First, contact us by phone or email so we can discuss the items you want to add to the project. We may even come to your library or museum to see your collection. One of our staff will then visit your library with the mobile scanning center and scan your images for you. There is no charge for this service. We can start with up to 50 items and discuss doing more as the project progresses.

We will then work with you to fill out EZMetadata forms either on paper or online so we have some basic descriptive data about your historical materials. This would include any information you have about the item such as a date, creator or location. Our staff will use this basic information about each item and create the cataloging or metadata record describing your item.

If you have some treasures, whether it be a few or a hundred, that you would like to add to the Nebraska Memories site, please consider letting us do the scanning and cataloging work for you. Please contact either Shannon White swhite@nlc.state.ne.us or Beth Goble bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us at 800-307-2665 to get started.



For more information visit the Information for Nebraska Memories Participants page and find out more about the project <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskamemories/>

Would you like to share a special memory of the library, either a recent one or from some other time in your life? Do you have memories of your first trip to the library, your first trip to the library alone, your first trip with your children or grandchildren? Maybe you remember a special place in the library that you always went to first. And, of course, a special librarian you remember and can still see in your mind's eye. Please share your short (100 words or less) memory story with nrmeier@alltel.net. I won't promise you a prize but I

Featured Memory

[as seen on the Nebraska Library Commission Webpage]

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/nlcarchives/nelibrariescenturies.html>

The Nebraska Library Commission was created in 1901. One of the primary goals of the Commission was to encourage the growth and spread of public libraries in the state. To this end, The Traveling Library concept was implemented. Towns were encouraged to apply for the loan of a traveling library. Loup City was the first mobile library sent out by the Commission.

Worth Checking Out

Professional Collection Addition

College of DuPage, Soaring to Excellence: *People Watching With a Purpose: Meeting Needs*

Before They Need It / DVD. Speakers Ann P. Bishop and Nancy Kranich focus on social trends, generational trends, demographic trends, and so on. How many times have you planned and prepared a program or service based on what you thought was a “community need?” And how many of these didn’t quite work out like you thought? Libraries—public, school and academic—are re-visioning their roles in communities, moving beyond the rapidly outdated paradigm of creating services for patrons and students and instead partnering with community members to build meaningful experiences: whether those happen within the library’s walls, on a digital network, or in cultural or political spaces. Please call the system office to interlibrary this item.

20 Things to Watch For

According to Stephen Abram

Abram, 2008 president of the Special Libraries Association and Vice-President Innovation for SirsiDynix, one of Library Journal’s “Mover and Shakers,” has a list of trends every librarian should be pay attention to. He says that his list isn’t geeky as he tends to prefer to watch what’s happening in the user end of things. Included on his list are things trends like tagging, eLearning and e-Books and e-book devices, and GPS. Abram thinks these trends will have a big impact on enterprises, libraries, information and librarians in the next five years. To view the complete list, Google *Information Outlook March 2008 Issue*.

Gethuman Database

What one of us has not spent minutes if not hours when phoning a company for information or a complaint, or tried in vain to reach a real honest-to-goodness human being? Try using the web site <gethuman.com>. This database features key word and subject searching with categories that include automotive, credit, government, pharmacy with such companies as diverse as AAA, Gateway Computers, Humana, and Kmart, etc. In addition to an 800 num-



ber, there are TIPS that gives tips on getting to an real live person, not a recording. Often times it is as simple as pressing a number or a sequence of numbers.

Health Fair Display

Did you know the McGoogan Library of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center, has a display you can use at no charge to use at your library or a health fair in your community? Use the display to highlight your health information service to your community. Request the display by filling out the form on this page: <<http://appl.unmc.edu/forms/library/displayform.cfm>>. Contact Teresa Hartman at 402-559-7075 or email her - thartman@unmc.edu if you have questions or need more information.

Wii is Coming

The Nebraska Regional Library Systems have been awarded a 2008 Library Improvement Grant from the Nebraska Library Commission. Each system will soon have a Wii gaming system and games for use by Nebraska libraries.

Use the gaming system to draw kids of all ages to the library for a tournament, to use after school, or for a special event. Senior citizens are enjoying game playing not only because they are fun but because gaming is a challenge, and they are also physically active while playing.

Playing video games goes beyond building literacy skills (you must read the directions)—it helps to develop spatial reasoning. Research had determined that there is a definite correlation between playing video games and being adept at laparoscopic and robotic surgery.

Try it before purchasing gaming equipment for your library. ELS already has the Wii and is in the process of buying some additional games and accessories so it will some be available for loan.

*The secret of getting ahead
is to get started.....*

Sally Berger

Libraries to receive "The Gift that Heals"

Cherie Lytle, Chair
Donate Life Nebraska Media Relations



April is National Donate Life Month, and to highlight the *Donate Life Nebraska* campaign to increase donor registration and awareness, the Nebraska Organ & Tissue Donor Coalition will donate a copy of a new book, "***The Gift That Heals***," to every public library in Nebraska, nearly 300 books in all.

The book's author, Reg Green, a British journalist and donor father who lives in California, was in Omaha for a news conference to help announce the book donation at 10 a.m. Monday, April 14 at the Omaha Public Library, Abrahams Branch, 5111 N. 90th Street. He will also be spoke and signed books at The Bookworm, 7802 Pacific Street, on Monday, April 14 at 6 p.m.

Green was approached by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) with the idea of writing a book about organ and tissue donation which would share personal stories covering almost every facet of the donation/transplant process—the experiences of donor families, living donors, transplant candidates and recipients, donation and transplant professionals.

"The goal of this book is to give readers a feel for the wide range of emotions and experiences that are inherent in this fascinating, life-saving procedure," said Walter Graham, executive director of UNOS, who conceived the idea for the book. "At the same time, we want readers to be inspired to support organ and tissue donation—especially by declaring their intention to be donors themselves."

There continues to be an extreme shortage in the number of available organs and tissues for transplant. A significant factor in the shortage is the gap between the number of Americans who are in favor of organ, eye and tissue donation and the number of potential donors who have effectively documented a donation decision.

Research from the national organization, Donate Life America, shows that nine out of 10 Americans support organ and tissue donation, but only about 34 percent know how to make a legal commitment to become a donor. Closing this gap will have an immediate lifesaving and life-enhancing benefit to those awaiting transplants.

The message in Green's book complements the goal of The Nebraska Organ & Tissue Donor Coalition (NOTDC), according to Vickie Brady, chairperson of the Board of Directors of the non-profit, all volunteer organization.

"Our goal is to narrow the gap by encouraging Nebraskans to find out the facts about organ and tissue donation, and then take action to document their decisions," she said. "***The Gift That Heals***' not only provides excellent information, but does so in the context of 42 inspirational real life stories of courage, hope and renewed health. I cannot imagine anyone could read this book and not be inspired to donate life."

The stories range from that of a severely wounded police officer who can now participate in favorite sports thanks to a bone donor, to another which tells of a woman whose diseased lungs could no longer function without oxygen and who, since transplantation, has climbed Half Dome in Yosemite National Park. The stories also relate the selflessness of families who donated organs and tissues of loved ones so that others might live, including the author's own family story.

In addition to the books, NOTDC will also provide libraries with Donate Life posters, bookmarks and pamphlets about how to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor so that Nebraskans will have ready access to accurate donor information.

"We are grateful to the Nebraska libraries for their help in this endeavor," Brady said.

"I'm delighted that the libraries of Nebraska are setting a standard for the rest of the United States. The shortage of donated organs will only be solved when people understand how many lives can be saved by a simple decision to say 'yes.' And what better place is there for that understanding to come from than the public library," shared Green.

Green is also the author of "*The Nicholas Effect: A Boy's Gift to the World*," the personal account of the Green's family vacation in Italy that turned tragic when Reg and Maggie's seven-year-old son, Nicholas, was shot in an attempted robbery by highway bandits. When Reg and Maggie made the decision to donate their son's organs and corneas, they changed the lives of seven Italians who were waiting for transplants and the hearts of people all over the world.



"Nicholas had the future taken away from him," said Green, so it seemed natural to Reg and Maggie "to give the future to someone else."

Nicholas' story was the basis of the 1998 made for TV movie, *Nicholas' Gift* that starred Jamie Lee Curtis and Alan Bates. Green has become one of the most prominent advocates for organ, eye and tissue donation in the world.

The book donation is the latest project in the ongoing *Donate Life Nebraska* multi-media campaign to heighten awareness and encourage Nebraskans to sign up on the Nebraska Donor Registry.

Each person who registers as a donor could potentially save eight lives through organ donation and improve the lives of up to 50 others through cornea and tissue donation. Nationally, more than 98,000 people are waiting for organ transplants. In Nebraska, about 460 people are on the waiting list.

Nebraskans have responded positively to the *Donate Life Nebraska* message. As of April 2007, 43 percent of licensed drivers in Nebraska were registered donors. As of December 31, 2007, that number had increased to 48.6 percent.

"We attribute much of this to the fact that they can indicate their wish on their driver's license," said Beverly Neth, Director of the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles. "This information is automatically added to the state's official donor registry. So if you have a red heart and the word "donor" on your driver's license, you are a registered donor. The increase says a lot about the people of Nebraska—when they become aware of a need, they respond generously."

Over 98 percent of those who have registered as a donor in Nebraska have signed up at the Department of Motor Vehicles when getting or renewing a driver's license or state identification card. Individuals can also indicate their wish to be a donor by signing up directly with the Nebraska Donor registry at www.nedonation.org. Postage-paid registration cards are also available through Nebraska Organ Recovery System by calling 877-633-1800 (in Omaha, call 733-1800).

For more information on organ, eye and tissue donation, call 1-800-718-LIFE or (402) 559-3788.

To read excerpts from "The Gift That Heals," go to <http://www.unos.org/SharedContentDocuments/GiftThatHealsExcerpts.pdf>

We've Come a Long Way Baby



1943 Guide to Hiring Women

[the following is an excerpt from the July 1943 issue of *Transportation Magazine* for male supervisors of women in the work force during World War II]

1. Pick young married women. They usually have more of a sense of responsibility than their unmarried sisters, they're less likely to be flirtatious and need the work.
2. When you have to use older women, try to get ones who have worked outside the home at some time in their lives. Older women who have never contacted the public have a hard time adapting themselves and are inclined to be cantankerous and fussy.
3. General experience indicates that "husky" girls are more even tempered and efficient than their underweight sisters.
4. Retain a physician to give each woman you hire a special physical examination to reveal any female weaknesses which would make her mentally or physically unfit for the job.
5. Stress at the outset the importance of time. The fact that a minute or two lost here and there makes serious inroads on schedules.
6. Give the female employee a definite day-long schedule of duties so that they will keep busy without bothering the management for instructions every few minutes.
7. Whenever possible, let the inside employee change from one job to another at some time during the day. Women are inclined to be less nervous and happier with change.
8. Give every girl an adequate number of rest periods during the day. They are more efficient if they can keep hair tidied and apply fresh lipstick.
9. Be tactful when issuing instructions or making criticisms. Women are sensitive and harsh words can break their spirit and cut off efficiency.
10. Be reasonably considerate about using strong language around women. Even though a girl's husband or father may swear vociferously, she'll grow to dislike a place of business where she hears too much of this.
11. Get enough size variety in operator's uniforms so that each girl can have a proper fit. This point can't be stressed too much in keeping women happy.



From Sam McMullen, a Retiring ELS Board Member

Editor’s Note: Sam replied to a few questions I asked.

What did being a member of the ELS Board mean to you both professionally and personally?

“It was an honor to be asked to be a board member. I have met the best people who work in and with the system.”

What do you feel your primary responsibility and/or goals were as a member of the ELS Board?

“It was to make the best decisions for the Burt county libraries. To make sure they were aware of all the services and support that they were entitled to. To be part of one of the best systems in the state of Nebraska.”

What do you see will be the important issues that future ELS boards will need to deal with?

“The continued need to keep people informed and interested in the library in their community. We will need to keep up with technology and it is imperative that our youth are involved with the library and their community, as they are our future.”

Play to Win Books for Nebraska's Children

Read Aloud Nebraska, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the importance of reading aloud, encourages all Nebraskans to take time every day from now until June 15 to be part of the Cheerios Book Donation Challenge sponsored by First Book. At stake is 20,000 children's books written by John Lithgow that will be awarded free of charge to each of the five top states. Read Aloud Nebraska will distribute any books won to Nebraska community and nonprofit programs serving low-income families.

As an organization with many ties to your local community, your library or school can do much to promote this worthwhile cause. Some children in your community or school may even receive free books if Nebraska qualifies. A few promotional ideas can be found at www.readaloudnebraska.org to get you started thinking about ways to participate, plus you all are very good at coming up with creative ideas on your own. We would love to hear what you do locally to promote widespread voting.

Last year participants could only go online once a day, and by naming their favorite book they could vote for one state. Nebraska finished second (to Oklahoma) in the competition and unfortunately the only reward then was for first place. This year the challenge is structured a bit differently. Participants now must choose the correct multiple choice answers to trivia questions that are based on children's books. For each correct answer players get to vote for a state and the top five vote-getters will receive the free books. The contest is online at www2.firstbook.org/johnlithgow and you may play as often and as long as you wish to earn votes.

Thank you for your ongoing work bringing children and books together!

For more information about Read Aloud Nebraska, visit www.readaloudnebraska.org or if you have questions, email info@readaloudnebraska.org. For more information about First Book, visit www.firstbook.org.

Wouldn't this little "Tiki Time" birdhouse look good in your library or on your desk? The silent auction on this and many other birdhouses begins soon.



Leadership is NOT for the Birds

Eastern Library System Annual Meeting

June 20, 2008

Bellevue University

Hitchcock Humanities Center

8:30-Registration, Exhibits, Coffee

9:30-Welcome

9:50-10:30—Key Note Speaker - “You and Your Library: Leadership and Legacy”

Dr. Becky Pasco, Assoc. Professor, Library
Science Education, UNO

10:30-11:00-Break, Exhibits

11:00-11:55- _____ “Library Assessment: Demonstrating Library Value”

Angela Griggs, Millard Public Schools
Francine Canfield, Baright Public Library, Ralston
Nora Hillyer & Marvel Maring - Criss Library, UNO

OR

_____ “Performance Evaluations: Reduce Stress, Improve
Communications,” Mary Sweaney, Assistant Director
of Human Relations, UNO

12:00-12:45-Lunch

12:45-1:30-ELS Business Meeting

1:30-2:25- _____ “Creative Problem Solving: Techniques that Work,”

Robin Bernstein - Lozier Library, Bellevue University

OR

_____ “Going Up to the Balcony: The Organizational Dance and Creative Leadership”
Audrey De Frank - Criss Library, UNO



3:00-Silent Auction of Bird Houses Ends

5 hours of Continuing Education

** Please indicate which programs you will be attending

Cost—\$20 Make check to ELS and mail to:

Eastern Library System
11929 Elm Street, Suite 12
Omaha, NE 68144

Deadline for registration June 13th

Exhibitors

- Go Local
- CHIRS
- NE Organ and Tissue Coalition
- Davidson Titles
- Confluence Bookstore
- Soul Desires Bookstore

Silent Auction

28 delightfully and artistically decorated Bird Houses will be available for your bid. Donations go to support ELS programs and services

Scholarships are available for first time attendees. To apply go to the ELS webpage www.elsne.org and click on Scholarship Policy and Application

Name _____

Library/
School _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Picture Page

Book Making/Book Repair Workshop



Marvel Maring, UNO



Casey Kralik, Bellevue University



CLICK Meeting

Alice Boekmann, Bellevue Public Library teaching a song with rhythm sticks.

Spring Fling



↑ Wonderful gift baskets that were raffled

← Nancy Meyer and Sam McMullen selling raffle tickets

Upcoming Events

May 16 - DIRECT (Public Library Directors) Meeting, Bennington Public Library, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

May 22 - Statewide Open Source ILS Symposium. Bellevue University, 8:30 am—4 pm. Contact Jennifer Powell, Nebraska Library Commission, 800-307-2665 or jpowell@nlc.state.ne.us

May 26 - Memorial Day—ELS Office Closed

June 20 - Eastern Library System Annual Meeting, Bellevue University (flyer in this issue and on the webpage)

Check out the Nebraska Library Commission's web page calendar <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libcal/libcal.html> for a schedule of events.

For more information on any of these events, call the System Office.