



Straight*talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

Paws, Claws, Scales & Tales - Summer Reading Program Workshops 2006



It hardly seems possible that it's time to plan Summer Reading Programs while many of us are recovering from the Christmas holidays. In eight short weeks, Northeast Library System will be holding two Summer Reading workshops for your convenience.

The first workshop will take place on March 7th at the Holiday Inn Express, 920 South 20th Street in Norfolk. The morning will begin with Sally Snyder from the Nebraska Library Commission giving you ideas of great juvenile reads.

Patti Sinclair, editor of the 2006 Summer Reading Program Manual, will offer ideas, examples, and enthusiasm to help you plan your summer library program based on "Paws, Claws, Scales & Tales". Patti Sinclair is a former children's librarian and former editor of Children's Magazine Guide. She is also the author of *E for Environment*, an Annotated Bibliography of Children's Books with Environmental Themes. She resides in Madison, WI.

Registration will begin at 9:00 am with introductions and announcements following at 9:30. This year's workshop costs \$15 per person and registrations are due by March 1. Please bring sharp scissors, glue, tape and a few markers to the workshop. For more information, see the registration form on page 15.



The second workshop will take place on March 10th as part of the Youth Services Retreat sponsored by the Meridian Library System, Republican Valley Library System and Northeast Library System. This two day retreat on March 9th and 10th will be held at the Leadership Center in Aurora, Nebraska. Spanish Storytimes, Teen Programs That Work, Model Pre-School Storytimes, and Beyond Harry Potter: Book Discussions for Grades 4-6 will be presented the first day and the Summer Reading Program Workshop is scheduled for the second day. Patti Sinclair will present ideas, tips and tricks for this year's theme. You do not have to attend both days. Workshops begin on 1pm the first day and 9am the second day. Registration costs \$20 for the 9th only, \$20 for the 10th only, and \$30 for both days. Registrations are due February 28th and to be mailed to the Meridian Library System. See the enclosed flyer for more information.

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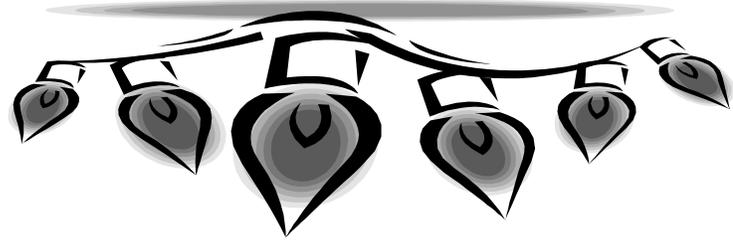
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New Year's Resolutions for 2006

1. I resolve to greet every patron with enthusiasm as they visit the library.
2. I resolve to offer interlibrary loan to any patron who needs additional or different information than the library can provide.
3. I resolve to offer programs for children, young adults, and adults in or through the library.
4. I resolve to reach out to people in our communities who do not or cannot utilize the library.
5. I resolve to keep the library collection vital through careful collection development and consistent weeding.
6. I resolve to write or update library policies.
7. I resolve to make our library a better place by learning new skills and ideas through continuing education opportunities.
8. I resolve to contact our legislators to help them understand how important quality libraries are to Nebraska.
9. I resolve to work with our community to make the library the center of information, entertainment and economic development.
10. I resolve to encourage my community to work with other communities to make northeast Nebraska the best it can be.

As we look back on 2005, let's consider what's great about the libraries in the Northeast Library System. Our librarians are more than willing to go the extra mile to provide information and service to their patrons. They are willing to share ideas and information with other librarians and NELS. They have no fear of asking questions when they need to. They know working together is the best way to increase the quality of all libraries. NELS libraries have interesting collections, exciting programs, and pleasant surroundings for their patrons. How can 2006 not be the best year yet?

Technology Plan Checklist

It's that time of year again to evaluate your technology plan for those of us who are receiving E-rate funds for Internet access. The checklist can assist you in organizing your plan and for evaluating it to make sure that you haven't left out anything important!

A good technology plan:

- 1) Is based on broad participation and ownership by the library, its board, patrons, and others in the community consuming the library's technology services.
- 2) Is consistent with the perspective of the long-range plan already established by the library.
- 3) Has long-term goals (up to three years) and realistic short-term goals (six months to one year).
- 4) Includes assessment of the current status of library staff knowledge, skills and abilities.
- 5) Includes assessment of current facilities, hardware, and software.
- 6) Includes not only assessment of hardware and software, but also assesses items such as connectivity, materials, policies, and procedures.
- 7) Has the support of the board, the administration, and any funding bodies.
- 8) Recognizes the full spectrum of user needs and expectations and allows for differences.
- 9) Has a staff development/training plan to build levels of expertise.
- 10) Recognizes changes in staffing patterns and budget allocations necessary to implement new technologies.
- 11) Considers what it will take to maintain the equipment and other technology products.
- 12) Recognizes a life cycle for hardware and software and anticipates updates and replacement.
- 13) Has an explicit and well-defined evaluation component.
- 14) Provides for periodic review of needs and plans, while allowing for revisions.



Disaster Planning Workshops Coming Soon!

The Nebraska Library Commission will be sponsoring two Disaster Planning: Response and Recovery workshops in May of 2006. The two day workshops will be held in Lincoln and Scottsbluff.

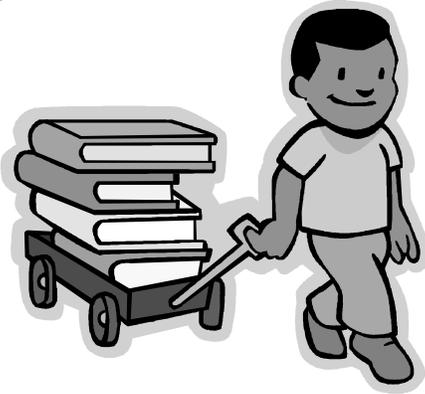
These two day classes will help you to understand the importance of library disaster response and recovery planning, be aware of steps to take in developing disaster plans and risk assessment, and become familiar with various disaster recovery activities.

The workshops are being taught by Tom Claeson, Program Director for New Initiatives at the OCLC Regional Network, PALINET. Tom was most recently the Manager of Education & Planning, Digital Collection & Preservation Services Division at OCLC.

The Lincoln session will be held May 1 & 2 at the Lincoln Firefighters Hall on Victory Lane near Sun Valley Parkway. The Scottsbluff session will be held May 4 & 5 at the Harms Technology Center across the street from Western Nebraska Community College.

The cost to attend the workshop is \$20.00. This amount covers both days registration, refreshments and lunch. Subsidies for travel and lodging will also be provided by the Nebraska Library Commission. More details on this process, as well as online registration will be available soon.

For more information on Disaster Planning in libraries, visit Web Junction's Community Center, click on Features, then Focuses.



Jane Yolen To Attend Language Arts Festival at WSC

Renowned author Jane Yolen is the guest speaker for the 2nd annual Language Arts Festival. On March 30th, Ms. Yolen will speak with WSC education and creative writing students. Ms. Yolen will spend Friday and Saturday meeting with elementary and secondary students discussing with them what it means to be a writer and working with some students individually. Authors Robert Reed and Randa Garden plus artists John and Denise Garner will also be attending the festival.

The festival is designed to celebrate the achievements of Nebraska students in the English Language arts by providing opportunities to attend presentations, performances and interactive workshops; providing a venue where students can present exhibits, original dramas, and videos; and evaluating and rewarding students' achievements in the language arts.

Writing Contest for Grades 7-12

Students in grades 7-12 are invited to submit original short stories or poems to a Writing Contest. The deadline for these submissions is February 17, 2006. Written works must be submitted as electronic copies. Students who submit entries are not required to attend the Festival. The best submissions for each grade level will be published in an Anthology and students whose work is included in the Anthology will receive a free copy.

The best story and poem from each grade - 7-12 - will receive a cash prize. The recipient of the first place story prize for grade 12 will receive a \$500 scholarship to Wayne State College.

Friday, March 31, will be devoted to competitions and workshops for students grades 7-12, culminating in an awards banquet at 4:30 pm.

On-Site Competitions for Grades 7-12

Students will be invited to submit entries in various categories - such as exhibits, performances of original dramas, and videos. These will be presented and evaluated at Wayne State College on Friday, March 31.

Young Author's Conference Grades 2-6

On Saturday, April 1, the Young Author's Conference will occur. There will be activities for students in grades two through six and an awards banquet at noon with a presentation by Jane Yolen. The writings of grades two through six will be published in an anthology.

Complete guidelines for competitions are available at the Language Arts Festival web site at: <http://languagefestival.wsc.edu> or by contacting Dr. Stan Gardner, Library Director, Wayne State College, Wayne, NE 68787 402-375-7257 or, 800-311-3990 (leave a message to contact you) or by email at: StGardn1@wsc.edu



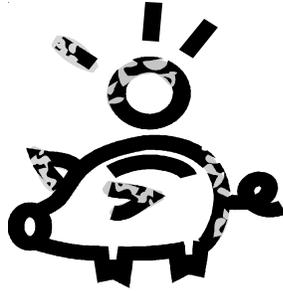


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Mailing Address:
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Nebraska Humanities Council Grants Available

Any non-profit group is eligible to apply for a grant from the NHC. The council encourages cooperative projects that help ensure broad community interest. Applications must demonstrate that the humanities are central to the project. All projects must include humanities resource

people. Usually, the humanist is a college or university professor in a humanities discipline. When non-academic humanists are chosen for projects, the applicants must provide sufficient background information to show that they will capably represent the humanities.

Although projects are usually aimed at the adult public, any age group may be served. Projects need a creative publicity plan to encourage public participation. All projects must also include a means of evaluation by audience participants or an outside reviewer. At least half of the total project costs must be provided by the applicant in local cost-share, either cash or in-kind.

Major Grants

Major are \$1,500 or more, and there are two major grant cycles a year. Applications must be postmarked by March 1 or Aug. 1. Notification is normally given within two months. It is recommended that the sponsoring group discuss the project with NHC staff before submission.

Mini Grants

Mini Grants are up to \$1,500, and there are six grant cycles a year. Applications must be postmarked by Jan. 1, March 1, May 1, July 1, Sept. 1 or Nov. 1. Notification is normally given within one month. Staff is available for consultation and will review grant applications before the due date.

Free Books for Read Across America Day

The Literacy Empowerment Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, invites your school, or other literacy project to apply for FREE books for Read Across America Day. During the past year, LEF has distributed over 3,000,000 books to schools all across the country for Read Across America and other literacy projects.

Resources are limited to a first-come, first-served basis. Orders must be received by February 8, 2006. Visit <http://LEFbooks.org> for more information.





Check Your Calendar

January 6 - **Nebraska Library Commission Meeting** at the Nebraska Library Commission, Lincoln, at 9:30am.

January 18, 2006 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Orchard Public Library at 10 am.

February 1 - **Blizzard of Fun @your library - NLS Winter Workshop** at the Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk.

February 3 - **College of DuPage: Always a River, Sometimes a Library:** Rick Anderson Reexamines Library Practice and Patron Service from 11 a.m. – 12:30.

February 14 - **NLA Legislative Day** at the Capitol in Lincoln and Cornhusker Hotel at 8:30am.

March 2 - **Read Across America Day.** For more information, visit www.nea.gov/readacross

March 7 - **Summer Reading Workshop** at the Holiday Inn Express, Norfolk.

March 9 & 10 - **Youth Services Retreat** at the Aurora Leadership Center.

March 10 - **"Library Management Hot Topics"** College of DuPage Teleconference, 11:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

March 15 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Central Community College - Platte Campus Library at 10am.

March 15 - **NLA Paraprofessional Spring Meeting.** More information coming soon.

March 31 & April 1 - **Language Arts Festival** at Wayne State College. For more information, contact Dr. Stan Gardner at 402-375-7259.

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Legislative Day is set for **February 14, 2006.** The luncheon will be held at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. The program will emphasize library services to youth, recognizing youth for their involvement with a local public or school library. For information about nominating a student for recognition see the NLA Web site, www.nebraskalibraries.org.

Students and Nebraska legislators will be asked to pose with their favorite books for Celebrity READTM posters. For more information about this event and to register see page 14.



FREE POSTERS PROMOTE TALKING BOOKS

Any Nebraska library is able to request free posters from the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service. Two posters are available. One is entitled "A Good Book Is Worth Sharing;" the other, "Spice Up Your Life." These may be viewed at www.loc.gov/nls/mediaservices/posterimage.html.

Each is 8.5 x 11 inches for mounting on a bulletin board. The posters contain contact information to direct queries to the Talking Book and Braille Service.

At this point there are no restrictions on the number of posters that can be sent to any one library. Send requests to talkingbook@nlc.state.ne.us; or call 1-800-742-7691. Application forms for free talking book service are also available.



On November 17 the **Little Priest Tribal College Library / Winnebago Public Library** was the first Native American Library to join the Federal Depository Library Program to receive primarily electronic government documents.

Mary Drummond, trustee of the **Clarkson Public Library**, was honored for her long-term dedication on November 13 during the Children's Book Week program.

Lions, Tigers and Bears, Oh My! Over a hundred different teddy bears of all types and sizes were donated to the **Winside Public Library**. The library plans to sell them in the near future.

Plans for the new **Shelby Public Library** were recently unveiled. The 6,972 square foot building includes an expanded children's reading area and an adult lounge area with a corner fireplace in one corner. The plans also include a community room with an adjoining galley kitchen.

New computers have arrived at the **Hruska Memorial Public Library** in David City. Thanks to a donation from the Rotary Club, the public has two new computers to enjoy.

A handsome, six-foot tall, red velvet clad Santa welcomes patrons at the **Neligh Public Library**. Children and adults alike have enjoyed being greeted by the jolly old elf.

Two filled Christmas stockings were hung with care at the **Stromsburg Public Library**. Patrons who checked out library materials had the option of entering his or her name in the drawing. The drawings were held on December 20 when two lucky patrons took home a stocking.

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission met and awarded Technology Innovation Grants for Economic Revitalization (TIGER) mini grants to the **Hartington Public Library, Atkinson Public Library** and the **Wayne Public Library**.

The **O'Neill Public Library** hosted a Winter Movie Day on December 28th.. The event included movies, popcorn, and hot chocolate and enjoyed by everyone.



NEW @ NLS

Please call the system office at 1-800-578-1014 to check out one of the following items:

Libraries, The Universe & Everything: Google & Your Patron, College of DuPage video conference, 1 hour, 30 min., 2005.

This teleconference explores the library worker's role in connecting users to high quality information in the age of "Googlization."

Disaster Planning: A How-To-Do-It Manual for Librarians with Planning Templates on CD-ROM by Deborah Halstead, Neal-Schuman, 2005.

The authors take you step-by-step through the basics: creating a working disaster team and identifying the proper relief agencies for your library.

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Teens Vote for Favorite Young Adult Book

Teen readers across the country voted "Girls In Pants: The Third Summer of the Sisterhood," as their favorite book to take the #1 spot on the annual Teens' Top Ten (TTT), sponsored by The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), the fastest growing division of the American Library Association (ALA). The vote took place during Teen Read Week, October 16-22, 2005, and gave teens an opportunity to voice their choice of the best new young adult books.

TTT is a part of YALSA's Young Adult (YA) Galley Project, which facilitates access to advance copies of young adult books to national teen book discussion groups.

These groups evaluated books that were published from January 2004 through October 2005, and created a list of 78 nominations for the best new books for young adults. Teen voters across the country then cast ballots for their three favorites, creating 2005 Teens' Top Ten booklist of the best new books for young adults.

Teens were encouraged to vote for their favorite young adult books during Teen Read Week, from the official nomination list posted online at the Teens' Top Ten site. Over 2400 online ballots were cast and the results, combined with the results of a separate vote of the TTT groups, determined the final ranking of the 10 top books of the year, as selected by teen readers.

With Ann Brashares' third Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants novel topping the list, the 2005 Teens' Top Ten includes:

1. ***Girls In Pants: The Third Summer of the Sisterhood*** by Ann Brashares (Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2005).
2. ***The Truth about Forever*** by Sarah Dessen (Viking, 2004).
3. ***Looking For Alaska*** by John Green (Dutton, 2005).
4. ***My Sister's Keeper*** by Jodi Picoult (Atria Books, 2004).
5. ***Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie*** by Jordan Sonnenblick (Scholastic Press, 2004).
6. ***Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment*** by James Patterson (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers).
7. ***The Gangsta Rap*** by Benjamin Zephaniah (Bloomsbury, 2004).
8. ***Teen Idol*** by Meg Cabot (HarperCollins, 2004).
9. ***The Garden*** by Elise Aidinoff (Harper Tempest, 2004).
10. ***How I Paid for College: A Novel of Sex, Theft, Friendship & Musical Theater*** by Marc Acito (Broadway Books, 2004).

For more information on the TTT project, visit YALSA's Teens's Top Ten site at: www.ala.org/teenstopten.





Consumer Health Services Top Ten

At the recent Consumer Health Symposium held in North Platte on November 10th, Roxanne Cox from the McGoogan Library of Medicine presented her top ten consumer health web sites. In addition to listing websites, Roxanne used this definition for health information literacy: *The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.*

Recommended web sites are:

1. MEDLINEPlus English/Spanish - medlineplus.gov
2. Lab Tests Online - www.labtestsonline.org
3. Cancer.gov - www.cancer.gov
4. Alternative Medicine Foundation - www.amfoundation.org
5. Mayo Clinic - www.mayoclinic.com
6. Centers for Disease Control - www.cdc.gov
7. National Center for Health Statistics/FastStats - www.cdc.org
8. NOAH (New York Online Access to Health) - www.noah-health.org
9. MEDEM: and information partnership of over 45 medical societies - www.medem.com
10. Healthfinder - www.healthfinder.org

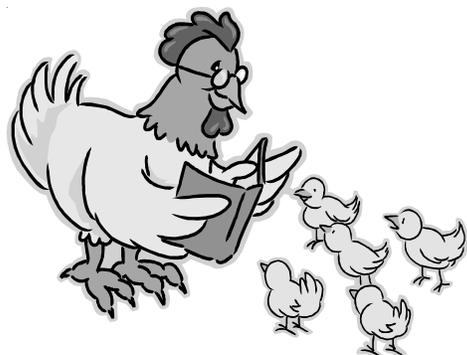
Marty Magee, the Education and Nebraska Liaison for the National Network/Libraries of Medicine presented at the Symposium and recommended these web sites:

1. FamilyDoctor.org - www.familydoctor.org
2. NIH Senior Health - nihseniorhealth.gov
3. Clinical Trials - clinicaltrials.gov - the National Library of Medicine's searchable database of clinical trials in which consumers may wish to participate.
4. DIRLINE - dirline.nlm.nih.gov - online directory of health organizations
5. ToxTown - toxtown.nlm.nih.gov - NLM's web resource for consumers to understand toxins in their environment.
6. Evaluation Resources - www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/evaluatinghealthinformation.html - 10 things to know about evaluating medical resources on the web.
7. Healthinfoquest - nlm.gov/healthinfoquest - pathfinders to common consumer health questions

Don't forget CHIRS (Consumer Health Information Resource Service)! This cooperative effort between Nebraska's public libraries and the McGoogan Library of Medicine (UNMC) provides information to Nebraska resident's health and medical questions. You can now access CHIRS online at: www.unmc.edu/library/consumer.



Don't forget to sign up for the System's Winter Workshop on February 1st at the Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk! In addition to workshops, both Duane Munson from Munson Books and Dennis Drevo from Unique Books will be displaying their latest items! Registration forms can be found in the November issue of Straight Talk or on the Northeast Library System's web site: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast/> or call the office at 1-800-578-1014.



Famous Women Booklist

Women's History Month or March is coming up fast. Check your collection against the list below to see how you check out for good reads about famous women.

America's Champion Swimmer: Gertrude Ederle

Ages: 4 - 8 yrs.

By David A Adler, Illustrated by Tony Widener

Winner of three Olympic medals, holder of 29 U.S. and world records, "Trudy" Ederle was the first woman to swim the English Channel, beating the men's record by almost two hours. Her feat won her a

tickertape parade up Broadway and President Calvin Coolidge dubbed her "America's Best Girl."

Ruth Law Thrills a Nation

Ages: 4 - 8 yrs.

By Don Brown

On the morning of November 19, 1916, Ruth Law wore two woolen suits, two leather suits...and a skirt...as she set out on her journey to fly from Chicago to New York in a single day.

Thank You, Sarah: The Woman Who Saved Thanksgiving

Ages: 4 - 8 yrs.

By Laurie Halse Anderson, Illustrated by Matt Faulkner

Sarah Hale, best known as the author of "Mary Had a Little Lamb," spent 38 years badgering five different presidents before Thanksgiving was finally declared a national holiday.

Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa

Ages: 4 - 8 yrs.

By Andrea Davis Pinkney, Illustrated by Brian Pinkney

Ella Fitzgerald, the First Lady of Song, is remembered in a text which evokes "the ping-pong rhythms that gave bebop its sound." Scratchboard illustrations in Art Deco tints swirl from page to page like scenes on a stage.

The Pirate Queen

Ages: 4 - 8 yrs. By Emily Arnold McCully

Caldecott Award winner Emily McCully takes on an unusual subject in this picture book thriller. Part truth, part legend, Grania O'Malley, daughter of a sea-faring family in the time of Queen Elizabeth I, gave birth aboard a pirate ship, married her second husband to obtain a castle (her fifth), narrowly escaped hanging, and faced down the most powerful woman in England.

Frida

Ages: 4 - 10 yrs.

By Jonah Winter, Illustrated by Ana Juan

Born Magdalena Carmen Frida Kahlo at the turn of the century, her paintings were like no one else's: mysterious, symbolic, frightening, joyous, and lush with the colors of her native Mexico.

Mother To Tigers

Ages: 5 - 8 yrs.

George Ella Lyon, Illustrated by Peter Catalanotto

Helen Frances Theresa Delaney Martini, the Bronx Zoo's first woman zookeeper raised tiger cubs in her apartment until she persuaded the Zoo to build an animal nursery. During the course of her career, she also raised yapoks, marmosets, gorillas, chimpanzees, deer and ring-tailed lemurs in addition to lions, tigers, jaguars and a black leopard.



Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman

Ages: 6 - 10 yrs.

By Kathleen Krull, Illustrated by David Diaz

Kathleen Krull's story of Wilma Rudolph's transformation, from a child stricken with polio to a sprinter at the Rome Olympics, has power and grace in direct ratio to the real woman. The reader is caught and held transfixed from Krull's first sentence ("No one expected such a tiny girl to have a first birthday") and David Diaz's first sinewy picture, of Wilma's large family (she had nineteen older brothers and sisters) crowded into the frame with her pink birthday cake.

When Marian Sang

Ages: 6 - 10 yrs.

By Pam Muñoz Ryan

This handsome oversize book tells admirably the life-story of the celebrated black singer Marian Anderson (1897-1993). Author Ryan manages to cover the highlights of Anderson's long career in a spare and sober text that never lapses into kiddy talk but treats the book's heroine and its audience - children - with the respect they deserve.

Digging for Bird Dinosaurs: An Expedition to Madagascar

Ages: 9 - 12 yrs.

By Nic Bishop

This photo essay follows paleontologist Cathy Forester to Madagascar and into a fossil-rich quarry. Allowing young women to picture themselves not only as scientists but also as adventurers is only one aspect of this fascinating look at how the scientific method helps to unravel ancient mysteries.

Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman

Ages: 9 - 12 yrs.

By Louise Borden, Illustrated by Teresa Flavin

From a one-room cabin in the cotton fields of Texas, Bessie Coleman struggled to realize her dreams. At the age of 29, she did just that by becoming the first African American woman to earn an international pilot's license.

Osceola: Memories of a Sharecroppers Daughter

Ages: 9 - 12 yrs.

Edited by Alan Govenar, Illustrated by Shane W. Evans

In this unstudied oral history, Osceola Mays tells how she adopted her first name from an "Indian man traveling through" town and what life was like for a sharecropper's daughter in the early 20th century: a mixture of fear and family, despair and hope, ignorance and education.

Hana's Suitcase: A True Story

Ages: 9 - 12 yrs.

By Karen Levine

There are two heroines in this true story: a little girl named Hana Brady who bravely packed her suitcase for the trip to Auschwitz in May of 1942 and a young woman in Japan who refused, more than half century later, to end her search for its owner with only Hana's name and the word "waisenkind" (orphan) to guide her.

A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie

Ages: 10 & Up

By Michelle Y. Green, Mamie Johnson (Introduction)

This five-foot-two, ninety-eight pound young woman's strong right arm led her all the way to three years of professional baseball play with the Negro League's Indianapolis Clowns. Her struggles against the injustices of racism and sexism are told as matter-of-fact asides to her joy in playing baseball.



The Reviewer's Chair

Hazel Nutt, Mad Scientist

By David Elliot

Dr. Hazel Nutt is a mad scientist with a two headed assistant. Dr. Nutt is "mad" because someone ate her sandwich! This is a funny book with lots of nutty experiments. Especially the one where she crossed an Egyptian mummy with a fifty pound candy bar. Too bad he melted. A fun book.

Recommended for ages 6-8 in both public and school libraries. ~~Joan Chilvers, Pierce, NE

Pictures in the Dark

By Patricia McCord

Carlie, 16 and Sarah, 12, sisters abused by their mother, play a game with each other in the dark after the lights are out. They are not allowed to make noise, so they draw pictures of their hopes, dreams, and the life they have now. Morning reveals their pictures and sometimes they have a good laugh about them. The sisters try everything they can think of to try to have a normal life. The story is very realistic in its description of an abusive parent, and the enabling spouse. The spineless father who seems oblivious to what is clearly

going on right in front of his nose, the increasingly abusive mother, alcohol abuse, and the intimidated girls are realistic characters and situations.

The resolution of the family's problem is hardly believable, however. I am concerned that young people who read this will start to believe that their abusers will somehow be magically transformed into a caring parent. It would be highly unusual, even noteworthy, if an abuser could transform themselves. This is the stuff of fantasy! A much more realistic scenario would be that the children were removed from the home and saved from the parent.

Recommended for grades 6 and up in both public and school libraries. ~~Gretchen Healy, Little Priest Tribal College

Painters of Lexieville

By Sharon Darrow

The Lexie family is down on their luck.

There are no jobs and little chance of moving out of Lexieville. Pert is caught in this terrible nightmare with dreams of getting away. She is terrified of the advances of an uncle. Her family finally gets a job with the help of a welfare worker. Life is a hurdle to climb, but little by little Pert overcomes obstacles.

This book is recommended for Junior high and up in both public and school libraries. I thought the story of this book was good. It made you want to keep reading. There were

places that I wished it weren't so brutally honest, but on the whole I enjoyed the book. ~~Karma Ragland, Red Cloud, NE

Billywise

By Judith Nicholls

This story is done in rhyme and is about a baby white owl that is afraid to fly. His brother, his sister, his mother and even other animals of the forest tell him not to be afraid. But Billywise is afraid, what if he falls, what if he fails, what is he to do? Read this wonderful story that will find a place on your shelf as a well-loved book. The pictures are exquisite and are done in delicate watercolor.

This book is recommended for grades Kindergarten to 3rd. ~~Carol Tramp, Wynot Public School

Heartbeat

By Sharon Creech

12-year-old Anne and her running mate Max love to run, but for very different reasons. Anne runs for the pure joy of it while Max runs to escape a life he hates. Anne's life as she knows it starts to change in many ways, her mom is pregnant and Anne will have to share her room with the baby when it arrives, while Anne's Grandfather is becoming more forgetful by the day. Will Anne take the changes in stride?

Recommended for 4th through 6th grades. There is a great story line here, but good luck getting the average reader to give this book, with its free-



verse form of writing, a chance.~~Diane Limoges, Eastern Township Library

In the Piney Woods

By Roni Schotter

A grandfather and a granddaughter bond with each other through their experiences with nature. This book does a fine job of portraying intergenerational relationships in a loving and meaningful way. Readers will enjoy the illustrations and learn valuable lessons about nature as a metaphor for life. This is a stirring and emotional story about a grandfather and granddaughters relationship. The story addresses themes such as life, death and family relationships.~~Linda Hughes, West Point, NE

Looking After Little Ellie

By Dosh and Mike Archer

This is a charming story of six mice that agree to look after a baby elephant. It's quite a big adventure! The simple illustrations have texturing that makes kids ages 1 through preschool take a second look! This would be a nice addition to any collection. This is especially good book for teaching little ones all about the care of babies. The mouse/elephant perspective will make preschooler really chuckle!~~Heather Reid, Parent, Omaha, NE

Goosed

By Bill Wallace

When a new chocolate lab puppy arrives and disrupts T.P. the dog's life with his family, he is not pleased and often shows his displeasure. However, through a course of events, including saving the puppy's life, T.P. comes to accept this new bundle of trouble.

This book is recommended for grades 1-3 in any library. This was just plain fun to read. Short, simple, but yet a fun story. And even though it's written from T.P. the dog's perspective, I believe that children could relate to something unexpected happening in their family.~~Deb Daehnke, Wayne State College



Google Library Newsletter Available

Librarians and Google share a mission: to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful. Google invites librarians to sign up now for a newsletter. This newsletter will be launched in the next few months and will go out four times a year -- just for librarians. Subscribe now at: www.google.com/services/librarian_center.html to receive Google tips, news of new features and other information. Also, if you teach Google, you can find lesson plans, presentations and handouts to use.

One Book, One Nebraska

The 2006 "One Book One Nebraska" program is rolling. The book selection is Alex Kava's One False Move. There will be statewide book discussions and activities similar to what was done with My Antonia last year. Since Alex Kava lives in Omaha, she will be doing some personal appearances in various locations during the year. The 2006 One Book One Nebraska steering committee is: Becky Baker (Seward); Karen Frank (Greenwood); Sandy Elton (Lincoln); Lisa Olivigni (Crete); Kris Rogge (Johnson); Jenni Puchalla and Brenda Ealey (SELS – Lincoln). The 2006 One Book One Nebraska will be partnering with Southeast Library System, Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Regional Library Systems, Nebraska Library Association and Nebraska Library Commission and other organizations on the project. More details concerning resources, programs and activities, a One Book One Nebraska website will be coming out soon. Stay tuned!





Sign Up Now for NLA's Legislative Day

Registration Form NLA Legislative Day - February 14, 2006

8:30-9:30am Coffee & Doughnuts in Room 1023, State Capitol, 1445 K Street, Lincoln. Start the day off with refreshments and a visit with your senator and staff. Please invite him or her!

9:30am Briefing in Capitol, Room 1524. You will receive information on current legislation and library issues from Ken Winston, NLA's lobbyist and Rod Wagner, director of the Nebraska Library Commission. After the briefing, you will have time to meet with your senator, senator's staff and visit the legislative chamber while it is in session.

Noon Lunch at the Cornhusker Hotel, 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln. Take your senator out for a great lunch. Please offer to pay for your senator's lunch and escort him/her to the luncheon. If the senator is unable to attend, invite his/her legislative aide. Plan to bring a local city official and your library board or library supporters with you as well.

1:30pm NLA Legislative Seminar at the Nebraska Library Commission, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln. A speaker from ALA's Washington office is scheduled.

____ \$15 for my participation

____ \$15 for the Senator's Lunch

____ \$15 for each additional city official

____ Additional contribution for other participants \$ ____

Name: _____

Library: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

State Senator: _____

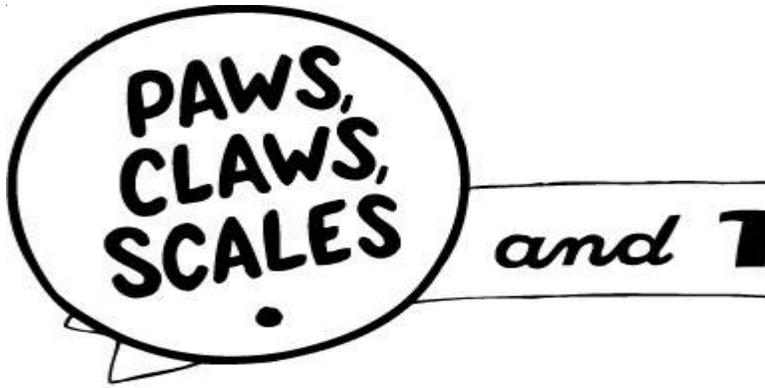
City Official: _____

Library Trustee: _____

Make checks payable to: Nebraska Library Association (please respond by February 3rd)

Mail to: NLA Legislative Committee
Michael Lacroix
Reinert/Alumni Memorial Library
Creighton University
Omaha, NE 68178

6 CE hours available for public librarians and trustees!



Summer Reading Workshop 2006

Tuesday, March 7th

9:00am - 3:30pm

Holiday Inn Express, 920 South 20th Street, Norfolk (near Hastings & Hobby Lobby)

9:00-9:30 Registration, Refreshments

9:30-9:45 Welcome, Introductions, Announcements

9:45-10:45 Great Summer Reads by Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission

10:45-11:00 - Break

11:00 -12:00 Patti Sinclair

12:00-1:00 - LUNCH

1:00-2:15 - Patti Sinclair

2:15-2:30 - Break

2:30-3:15 - Patti Sinclair

3:15-3:30 Door Prizes, Wrap-up, Evaluations



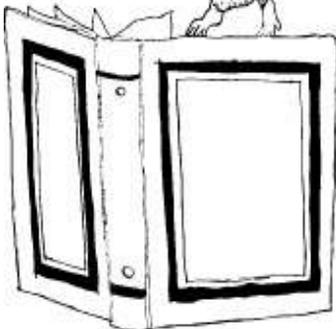
Name: _____

Phone: _____

Library/School: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please send a check for \$15 per person, made out to the Northeast Library System, 3038 33rd Avenue, Columbus, NE 68601. Registrations due: March 1st. Please call 1-800-578-1014 if you have questions. Please bring sharp scissors, glue, tape and a few markers to the workshop.



**The Northeast Library System serves the following counties:
Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Butler, Cedar, Colfax, Dakota,
Dixon, Holt, Knox, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Polk,
Stanton, Thurston, Wayne and Wheeler.**

**Always listen to the experts. They'll tell you what can't be done and why.
Then do it.
~ Robert Heinlein**

Check out our web site at: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast/nesys.html>



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