



Straight *talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

April, 2008 - Published by the Northeast Library System
Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor



Pat Wagner Coming to Northeast Library System!

Pat Wagner, nationally known library consultant and trainer is coming to the Annual Meeting-Training Institute this June.

On the evening of June 4th, a Wednesday, Pat will conduct a session about Managing Conflict in Our Libraries. This session will be held at the Holiday Inn Express in Norfolk.

The following day, June 5th, Pat will present the keynote address at the Northeast Library System's Annual Meeting. She will discuss marketing techniques. This year's annual meeting will be held at the Duster's Restaurant banquet facilities in downtown Columbus.

Other presentations during the Annual Meeting are:

***Handling Upset Patrons**

by Jodene Glaesemann, Walt Branch Supervisor, Lincoln City Libraries.

It's a fact of life that the public library has to cope with the upset customer or local character. Jodene will show us how to recognize the upset patron and strategies on how to effectively respond.

***Intellectual Freedom Update** by Brenda Ealey, System Administrator, Southeast Library System.

Do you know the latest happenings on privacy and confidentiality in libraries? How about CIPA and sexual harassment? Join Brenda while she discusses these topics and other news regarding Intellectual Freedom.

***Pest Private Eye: A Role-Playing Game** with Clyde Ogg and Erin Bauer, Extension Educators, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Are you aware of the role-play-

ing game, Pest Private Eye and how it can be used to teach children about pests. Clyde and Erin will show us how to play the game and how it can be used in your library.

***Gaming@Your Library** with Joni Wilder, Washington Branch, Omaha Public Library.

Uncertain how to start gaming tournaments at your library? What games are the most popular? Joni will fill us all in on bringing gaming into your library.

***We Never Have Time To Talk: Talk Tables**

Once again, Talk Tables will be set up in special rooms for School Media Specialists, Public Librarians/Trustees and for Academic/Special Librarians to get together to just TALK.

***Give-Away Table**

Do you have items that your library can no longer use, but maybe someone else can?



In This Issue...

Annual Meeting.....p.1

Judy Moody Day.....p.2

20 Points on Supreme Customer Service.....p.3

Tech Gadgets & Gizmos..p.4

Audie Awards.....p.5

Texas PR Kit.....p.5

Check Your Calendar.....p.6

New @ NLS.....p.6

Northeast News.....p.7

NLS Outstanding Librarian or Trustee Nomination....p.8

NLA PLTA Spring Meeting Registration Form.....p.9

Reviewer's Chair....pp.10-12

NonFiction for Kids.....p.12

Board Meeting Minutes..p.13

Pat Wagner - Conflict Management, June 4th.....p.14

Annual Meeting Registration Form.....p.15



Bring it to the annual meeting. There will be a Give-Away Table set up near the Registration where people can drop off or pick up items as they wish.

*AccuCut Dies & Cutting Machines

All the system dies and cutting machine will be set up close to the Registration area. New dies include: ladybug, pencil creature, ants, sombrero, cowboy hat plus dies for this year's summer reading theme such as magnifying glass, beetle, spider, grasshopper, dragonfly, scorpion, and a bookworm bookmark. Paper will be provided.

*Parking

Parking is on the west side of Duster's and can be entered from 13th Street.

Registration form can be found on page 14-15 or on the system's web site at <http://northeastlibrary.wetpaint.com>.

Have a Judy Moody Day!

Host a Judy Moody Day event with the Candlewick Press event kit in spring 2008 and enter to win a visit from Judy Moody author Megan McDonald! This contest is open to schools and libraries in the fifty United States and Washington, DC, that host a Judy Moody Day event between March 11 and July 11, 2008. Winners will be announced on or about August 11, 2008. One grand prize winner will receive a visit from Megan McDonald in fall 2008 (between October 20 and November 24). Three runners-up will receive complete signed collections of the Judy Moody and Stink series.

For the official rules and other contest details—as well as more things “Moody”—please visit www.judymoody.com

CAPSTONE
HEINEMANN LIBRARY
COMPASS POINT

ROURKE PUBLISHING Co.
LERNER PUBLISHING Co.
FACTS ON FILE

COMPLETE LINE OF LIBRARY BOOKS L.B.S.S.

Duane Munson

2315 29TH STREET, BOX 624, COLUMBUS, NE 68601
TELEPHONE 402-564-3073
FAX 402-564-9730
CELL PHONE 402-910-0772

ECONO-CLAD
CHILD'S WORLD
REFERENCE BOOKS

MARSHALL/CAVENDISH
SALEM PRESS
COMPTON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA



20 Points on Supreme Customer Service

1. Get the patrons what they want, how they want it, on time and with a smile.
2. Having a good attitude is not optional: you can't turn it on for patrons and off for staff.
3. Treat each other well and you will find that treating patrons nicely becomes easier.
4. Follow the Golden Rule, always.
5. Everything you do in front of patrons means something (whether you mean it or not).
6. No department or person has a monopoly on the definition of customer service.
7. Poor customer service drives people away. No patrons, no library. No library, no job. No job, no food.
8. If you don't want to be there, it will show.
9. Be professional: take customer service seriously.
10. If you don't like helping people - all kinds of people - then don't enter a service profession.
11. Customer service is a process, not a goal.
12. Every interaction with a patron is an opportunity to convince someone that the library is indispensable.
13. Listen to your patrons, listen to each other.
14. Don't expect great customer service if you don't encourage it, promote it, reward it and thank staff for it.
15. Welcome patron suggestions sincerely.
16. Treat patron complaints as opportunities to get better. Don't take it personally, either.
17. Don't hide behind policies and procedures. Empower staff to make exceptions.
18. Ruthlessly seek out unintended, negative consequences and barriers to customer service.
19. Be active, get out of your seat, approach patrons.
20. Say "thank you" and "please"

*The customer should always hear yes -- even if you have to say no!

(Taken from "20 Points on Excellent Library Customer Service" by Steve Backs, Monroe County Public Library)



Love 'em or hate 'em, **Crocs** now come as a cell phone holder. Complete with vent holes, the cell Crocs are universally sized, and come in eight colors from black to cotton candy. The "heel strap" keeps your phone secure and an internal sleeve can stow cash or credit cards. Accessorise if you must with snap-on charms. Check it out at geeksugar.com.

Lego Universe, the first MMOG (massively multi player online game) is expected to debut in 2009. Promoted as a kid-safe environment, players can order a physical version of what they have designed within Lego Universe. The official site is: universe.lego.com.



With a twist of its body and a flap of its wings, the **I-Buddy** will alert you to an incoming IM message - and convey some of its windows. With a USB connection, the smart little guy "reads" emoticons and reacts - glows, shimmies or flaps - accordingly. Check it out at: www.firebox.com.

WildCharge is a wireless powering solution for mobile devices. Place your enabled phone or other device anywhere on the WildCharge pad and it will power up. The system can charge multiple devices at the same time. Check it out at: www.wildcharge.com.





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

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

Subscriptions to Northeast Library System **Straight-Talk** are \$10 per year (10 Issues).

To subscribe, send cash or check with mailing information to the System Office. Advertising: Businesses wishing to advertise in **Straight-Talk** should contact the System Office for current rate information.

ISSN 1064-9816
Copyright 2008
Volume 1, #4

65 Reasons To Love Your Library Toolkit

The Texas Library Association has a group of customizable graphics that are available for download for PR campaigns. Visit: <http://www.txla.org/html/reasons/index.htm>. They also offer a PR Toolkit at <http://www.txla.org/html/toolkit/index.htm>, a step-by-step guide to gaining community support

Audie Awards Finalists Announced

The 2008 finalists for the Audies® Awards, sponsored by the Audio Publishers Association (APA), have been announced.

In the Children's Audiobook Titles for Ages 12+ category, the finalists are:

Bloody Jack: Being an Account of the Curious Adventures of Mary 'Jacky' Farber, Ship's Boy by L.A. Meyer, narrated by Katherine Kellgren (Listen & Live Audio);

InterWorld by Neil Gaiman, narrated by Christopher Evan Welch (HarperAudio);

A Mango Shaped Space by Wendy Mass, narrated by Danielle Ferland (Recorded Books);

M Is for Magic written and narrated by Neil Gaiman (HarperAudio); Slam by Nick Hornby, narrated by Nicholas Hoult (Penguin Audio).

Children's Audiobook Titles for Ages 8-11 finalists include:

Clementine by Sara Pennypacker, narrated by Jessica Almasy (Recorded Books);

The Great Christmas Kidnapping Caper by Jean Van Leeuwen, narrated by Daniel Bostick (Full Cast Audio);

Rosa written and narrated by Nikki Giovanni (Weston Woods);

Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy, narrated by Rupert Degas (HarperAudio);

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt, narrated by Joel Johnstone (Scholastic Audio).

Finalists in the Children's Audiobook Titles for Ages Up to 8 category include:

In Aunt Giraffe's Green Garden written and narrated by Jack Prelutsky (HarperAudio);

Goodnight Hawaiian Moon by Dr. Carolan, narrated by Amy Hanaiali'i Gilliom (Banana Patch Press);

More About Paddington by Michael Bond, narrated by Stephen Fry (HarperAudio);

Ogre in a Toga written and narrated by Geoffrey McSkimming (Bolinda);

The One and Only Shrek! by William Steig, narrated by Meryl Streep and Stanley Tucci (Macmillan Audio).

You can listen to a sample of each finalist at www.theaudies.com and tell us who you think should win in each of the Audies' 30 categories.





CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

April 18 - Author **Ben Mikaelson** will present at St. Boniface Elementary in Elgin and Plainview Elementary Schools.

April 19 - **Midwest Technology Education Expo**, Civic Auditorium, Omaha.

April 25 - "**Spelunking or Serendipity: Discovery in the Catalog**", NLA TSRT (Technical Services Round Table) Spring Meeting, Leadership Center, Aurora.

May 2 - **NLA Diversity Committee Spring Meeting : "Serving Your Spanish Speaking Customers"** at Atrium Conference Center, Lincoln.

May 8 - **NLA Public Library & Trustee Section/ School Children's & Young People's Section Spring Meeting** at Grand Island Public Library at 9:30am.

May 9 - **Tools of Engagement: Attracting & Engaging Library Users**, Library Challenges & Opportunities 2008, College of DuPage, begins at 11am.

May 9 - "**Meeting the Library & Information Needs of**

Nebraska's Diverse Populations", NLA College & Univ. Section Spring Meeting, Bellevue University. Keynote speaker is Julie Todaro, president of ACRL.

May 21 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Royal Public Library at 10am.

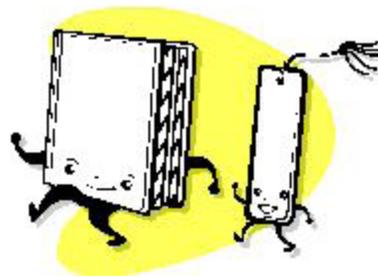
May 22 - **Statewide Open Source ILS Symposium** at College of St Mary, Omaha.

May 26 - Memorial Day. Office closed.

June 4 - "Conflict Management for Consenting Adults" with Pat Wagner, Holiday Inn Express, Norfolk.

June 5 - Northeast Library System Annual Meeting & Workshops, Dusters, Columbus. Keynote speaker: Pat Wagner.

June 9-10 **Nebraska Library Futures Conference**, at St Benedict Center near Schuyler.



NEW @ NLS

Acting Out: Six One-Act Plays! Six Newbery Stars! edited by Justin Chanda, 2008.

Six Newbery Award winning authors wrote an original one act play great for kids to act out. Plays include: The Raven

by Sharon Creech; The Dollop by Susan Cooper; The Bad Room by Patricia MacLachlan; The Billionaire and the Bird by Katherine Paterson; Effigy in the Outhouse by Richard Peck and Not Seeing is Believing by Avi.

More Teen Programs That Work by RoseMary Honnold, 2005.

Activities range from summer reading programs, games, contests, and crafts to more ambitious efforts including coffeehouse style poetry and open mike nights. There are themed library lock-ins and even programs that bring together young people and their parents. Program titles include "Misheard Lyrics," "A Body in the Book Drop," and "Back to School Count-Down". Feedback from actual program participants, sample surveys, promotional pieces, and photographs are included.

"Summer Reading 2.0" by Pat Miller, *LibrarySparks*, May/June 2008, pp.51-55.

When it comes to technology, do you consider yourself an immigrant (anyone not raised with computers) or a native (anyone who has only known a digital world)? Does your library meet the needs of today's tech natives graduating from school? The author lists her Summer Reading 2.0 list which ranges from books to blogs, wikis to web sites, plus the occasional stop at a Ning or online class. If your summer goal is to fully understand how Web 2.0 can be applied, check this article out!



Northeast News

Congratulations to the following libraries for being awarded a \$250 grant from the Northeast Library System: **Ponca Public Schools, Neligh Public Library, Hartington Public Library, Osmond Public Library, Clearwater Public Library, Stromsburg Public Library,** and **Hruska Memorial Public Library.** Grant funds will be used towards a variety of projects ranging from program speakers to revitalizing juvenile book collections.

The book *Rocket Boys* and the film *October Sky* have been selected for OneBook, One Siouland. Both titles portray a coming-of-age story during the international challenge of Sputnik in the 1950's. **South Sioux City Public Library** will be hosting, *Rocket Boy* Roy Lee Cooke on Saturday,, April 26.

Congratulations to the following recipients of We the People Bookshelf Grants: **Atkinson Public Library, Clearwater Public Library, Neligh Public Library, Lied Randolph Public Library** and **Ponca Carnegie Library.** Each year, NEH identifies a theme important to the nation's heritage and selects books that embody that theme for the We the People Bookshelf. The theme for the 2007-2008 Bookshelf is "Created Equal". Book titles are for all ages and range from *The Ugly Duckling* to *Lincoln's Virtues: An Ethical Biography.*

Stop by the **Niobrara Public Library** on May 8th for their

open house from 2-7pm and help them celebrate their new addition.

Displaced Dreams, the pictorial journey of 24 Nebraska women and men and/or organizations, were recently displayed at the **Fullerton Public Library** And **Central City Public Library.** This special display is sponsored by the Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women. For information about *Displaced Dreams* Program, call 402-844-7275.

Salad Between the Stacks, a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch was recently held on April 16th at the **Hruska Memorial Public Library.** Students from *Acquinas High School* provided musical selections during the lunch. Afterwards, students from the *David City High School* Speech Team presented selections from their recent state performances.

Identity Theft was the subject of a recent seminar at the **Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library.** Participants learned how identity theft occurs, how to prevent it and what to do when identity theft happens.

Lenny and Squiggy recently visited the **Lied Randolph Public Library.** Named after the two characters from "*Laverne & Shirley*", these two ball pythons grow to an average size of 3-4 feet with a few exceptions reaching 6 foot. They are also known as royal pythons based on the story that Cleopatra supposedly wore the snake around

her wrist.

Stop by to see **Genoa Public Library's** new windows. Sharon Jones, Library Director, says the news windows have cut their energy costs 25%!!

Norfolk Public Library is hosting a visit from author-adventurer, Glen Hanket, on Wednesday, May 7th, at 7:00 P.M. Glen is bicycling from Chicago to Broomfield, CO and will speak about the environment and the pursuit of dreams. Glen began his writing career penning travel articles for the *San Bernardino (CA) Sun.* He has authored two books of his travels: *Underwear by the Roadside* and *WOW! What a Ride!* He has also written over 25 bicycle guides for trails in Colorado and has ghost-written two books on financial planning. Glen will sell and autograph his books.



Celebrate Cinco de Mayo!



**NORTHEAST LIBRARY SYSTEM AWARD NOMINATION
For
Outstanding Librarian/School Media Specialist/Trustee Award**

I would like to nominate _____ for NLS's:

___ Outstanding Librarian/School Media Specialist

___ Outstanding Library Advocate

Nominee's Position: _____

Library: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Years of service in the library-related capacity: _____

Name of person making nomination: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Attach two letters of recommendation stating why this person deserves the award for:

Advocacy - for outstanding support and promotion of the library, its services and programs. This award is for a library board member, a volunteer, or another person who is or is not employed in a library.

Outstanding Librarian – for demonstrating initiative and contributions in the library or library profession. The Outstanding Librarian Award is for a library employee in a management position.

The nomination form and letters of recommendation are due by May 26, 2007. Awards will be announced at the Northeast Library System Annual Meeting on June 5th.

Send completed forms and letters to:

Continuing Education, Chairman
Northeast Library System
3038 33rd Avenue, Suite 13
Columbus, NE 68601



NLA Public Library and Trustee Section (PLTS) & School, Children's and Young People's Section (SCYP) 2008 Spring Meetings

The 2008 Spring Meetings are being brought to you by the Public Library and Trustee Section (PLTS) & the School, Children's and Young People's Section (SCYP) of the Nebraska Library Association. Our host libraries this year are Sidney Public Library, Grand Island Public Library and Sump Memorial Library in Papillion.

Please join us May 6th, 8th, or 9th from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Memberclicks: Learn how to utilize this wonderful tool that the Nebraska Library Association has purchased for our use. Keep in touch with colleagues throughout the state, publicize events at your library and search for other NLA members with similar interests and connections. Scott Childers, NLA webmaster extraordinaire, will teach us this new tool of the trade.

ROI – Return on Investment: What is your library worth to your community? Do you know how to calculate the dollars and cents (and sense!) value of your library? Spread the word to your customers, board members, elected officials and grant providers about the incredible investment your library offers the community. John Felton and Kit Keller from the Nebraska Library Commission will show you how.

Tweens & Teens – What Makes them Tick: And it's not ALL due to hormones! Join Jodene Glaesemann and Julee Hector from Lincoln City Libraries along with some of your local experts on an exploration of this particular set of library users. Tweens and Teens are the future of libraries. You'll find a way to love 'em (or at least understand them) and offer them what they need during this session.

Please send your registration to:
Richard Miller
Nebraska Library Commission
The Atrium
1200 N St., Suite 120
Lincoln NE 68508-2023

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 30, 2008 *

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

ZIP _____

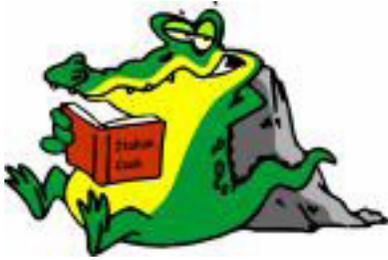
PHONE _____ LIBRARY _____

EMAIL: _____

Please check the day that you will be coming:

- ___ Tues. May 6 Sidney Public Library 1112 12th Avenue, Sidney, NE
- ___ Thurs. May 8 Grand Island Public Library 211 North Washington Street, Grand Island, NE
- ___ Fri. May 9 Sump Memorial Library, 222 North Jefferson, Papillion, NE

Registration Fee: \$15 payable to NLA Public Library and Trustee Section Morning snack and lunch provided with your registration.

**THE REVIEWER'S CHAIR****Hoot**

By Carl Hiaasen

While riding the bus to his new middle school in a small Florida community, Roy sees a strange, shoeless boy run by and wonders who he is. Trying to find out his identity takes Roy into an adventure involving many wacky characters, a pro environmental attempt to save small owls, and dealing with a witless but unrelenting bully.

This book is really a hoot, both literally and figuratively. It is laugh-out-loud fun. References made about putting small alligators in port-a-potties, mooning a bully, and a girl biting and deflating a bicycle tire with her teeth are just a few of the quirky story lines in the book. This would be a great book to give to a male middle school student needing a good book as an incentive to read. Some of the humor is mildly raucous but not overboard. I truly found myself laughing out loud many times.

I would definitely recommend this book for school and public libraries. This is one of the best young people's books I've read in a long time. I started laughing out loud after reading just a few pages and it kept me interested and laughing throughout

the book.
~~Deb Daehnke, WSC

Crossing the Wire

By Will Hobbs

Living in Mexico, Victor, a 15-year-old struggles to eek out a living for his mother, younger brother, sisters and himself after his father is killed while working in the States. As the price of corn declines Victor realizes that his family is not going to make it through the coming winter unless he can make enough money and the only place to make that kind of money is in the United States. Victor doesn't have the necessary "green card" to get himself across the border so he makes haphazard plans to cross the border on his own. Thus starts the beginning of Victor's attempts to find work in the States. The adventure includes jumping trains, riding in crowded hot vehicles, fleeing thieves & the Border Patrol, hungry & thirsty.

While this is a fictional story it brought to my mind the other side of the illegal immigration problem that the United States has with its neighbor, Mexico. The story is fairly fast paced. Written to capture the interest of 6th grade and up. The book by Hobbs, an award-winning author, would make a good addition to any school, public or private library.

~~Pat Thompson WSC

1, 2, I Love You

By Alice Schertle

This is an adorable counting book about a mother elephant and baby elephants adventures while they learn to count to 10 and back again.

The simple rhyming text as well as the simple but colorful illustrations will endear this book to any preschooler around. The text and type is simple enough for an emerging reader to be successful with. It is recommended for any children's library collection.

~~Heather Reid, Home school parent, Omaha, NE

It's Bedtime, Wibbly Pig!

By Mick Inkpen

This is a short story about a little pig and his bedtime routine. He keeps getting asked if he is ready for bed – but he keeps delaying it.

I enjoyed this book with my children and we talked about how they also take their time and delay bedtime. It is short and easy reading. I recommend this book for public libraries for any age under first grade.

~~Angie Vavra, Pierce, NE

When Heaven Fell

By Carolyn Marsden

Nine-year-old Binh is excited and confused when she learns that she has another aunt. Her Ba Ngoai (maternal grandmother) had a daughter by an American soldier during the Vietnam War who was sent to the United States as part of Operation Babylift. Now her aunt



is coming to Vietnam to visit her family. Binh knows that all Americans are rich and her aunt will give her poor family money and even take them back to America so they can live a better life. She and her family are all disappointed to learn that Aunt Di Hai will not be taking anyone home and is not rich. The culture gap is a strain but with Binh's help Di Hai is able to overcome the difference while teaching Binh a wonderful lesson.

This is a fun way to teach young readers a little about the Vietnam War and how it still affects our lives today.
Reading level: 4th through 6th grade
~~Diane Limoges, Eastern Township Library

The Perfect Cat-Sitter

By Ann Whitehead Nagda

Rana's family is going to India to visit a sick grandpa. Susan offers to take care of the cat plus the fish. As Rana shows Susan how to feed them she keeps adding on more jobs to be done. Whew! What has she gotten herself into? Several unexpected things happen as she is cat-sitting and she feels like a failure. How can she ever face Rana?

I would compare this book to Santa Paws by Nicholas Edwards and Meow Means Mischief by Ann Whitehead Nagda. This is a cute story that has pencil drawings. Susan keeps having problems taking care of

the cat. I think kids will love reading this early chapter book. I would recommend this book for any library for grades 3-5.
~~Karma Ragland, Red Cloud, NE

Away West

By Patricia C. McKissack

Everett Turner, a 14 year old boy no longer wants to help his older brother, Gus, with their small farm in the south. It would be much more exciting to join up with the buffalo soldiers unit in Arizona and New Mexico where his 18 year old brother Cole is a member. Both of his parents died young and even with Everett and Gus working as hard as they can, they can barely eek out a living let alone pay taxes on the property. Everett sneaks away in the middle of the night and hides on a ship that carries him to St. Louis, MO. He is found and has to work off his passage to get there. \$.25 and his father's military civil war medal are all that he brings with him.

Arriving in St. Louis, the fourth largest city in the US at that time he finds much corruption and bad people. Meeting Billy Blaze, a horse trainer, helps Everett find a place to stay and something to eat, and eventually a job. Planning to sign up to leave with a group of black homesteaders, who call themselves the "Awaywesters", his plans go astray when he finds they only want trained labor to go along to start a new town; and his brother Gus has come looking for him.

This was an enjoyable book that would appeal to both girls and boys. It would fit in the fiction department under the settling of the west-fiction, African Americans-fiction, or horses-fiction.
~~Carol Tramp, Wynot Public School

Pinkalicious

By Victoria and Elizabeth Kann

A little girl loves the color pink so she made cupcakes with pink frosting and ate them all day. That night she turned the color pink and loved being pink. The doctor told her to eat green food to return to normal, but instead she ate another pink cupcake. The next morning she woke up red. She hated the color red so she ate everything that was green food to return to normal. This is a cute little book for any K-3 young girl. Pink is always a girl's favorite color. The illustrations are very sharp and colorful. I recommend this book for school and public libraries.
~~Sarah Klinetobe, O'Neill, NE

Mercy Watson Goes for a Ride

By Kate DiCamillo

This is a silly story about Mercy Watson, a pig that enjoys his Saturday rides in the pink convertible belonging to his owner, Mr. Watson. More than that, this is a whimsical look at a pig who thinks he is human and really wants to drive the automobile. Nosy neighbors, Eugenia



and Baby Lincoln, dingy Mrs. Watson, and articulate Officer Tomilello add their own comical antics to this lighthearted short story about a pig that finally gets his chance behind the wheel of a car and learns that it isn't everything that he thought it would be.

Though written for a young audience, much of the humor in this book may be a little over the heads of its intended audience. However, just the thought of a pig wanting to learn to drive should prove to be appealing to third graders and younger children who will probably get the most enjoyment by having this book read to them. This book was written by the author of the popular juvenile novel, *Because of Winn Dixie*. I recommend this book for both school and public libraries for 3rd grade on up for reading and grade 3 and younger for listening.

~~MeMe Smith, Schuyler Public Library

Annie, Between the States
By L. M. Elliott

In the time of the Civil War, battle lines were never drawn as clearly as they were supposed to be. Annie's home and family finds itself on both sides of the line, and the conflict. The ideologies are never as clear as the propagandists on both sides would like us to believe. Annie, a girl of 14 in the opening pages, tries to grow up fast as she tends war wounded and supplies information to the gallant General Stuart and his

troops. Her courage fades in the face of imprisonment and interrogation. From within her own family, she faces rabid Confederate patriotism and Northern sympathies. She herself begins to see the injustice of slavery for the family's own slaves. Her family treats them very well, but they still want freedom. How she deals with all of these conflicts is the stuff of this book.

War really is hell, and not being sure which side is "right" is a very typical reaction of those caught in the middle. Typically, both sides are wrong—AND right. The issues are never clarified by war, and those who suffer most are the innocents. This book is a very good illustration of the ambiguities that present themselves to the combatants and non-combatants alike.

The book includes a bibliography and extensive author's note explaining what is fact and what is fiction. This book compares to "When I Was a Soldier," a non-fiction book about a young girl caught up in war as a soldier. Although this book is fiction, all the basic facts of the actions of armies, movements of troops, stories of the soldiers, are factual.

Reading level is 5.5 and up, but I would recommend a bit more maturity for the readers of this novel. This book is recommended for both school and public libraries.

Now and then you can hear the author talking through the

characters, but it is not a fatal flaw. A good read!!

~~ Gretchen Healy, Little Priest Tribal College/Winnebago Public Library



NonFiction For Kids

Interested in knowing what some of the best nonfiction writers for children are up to? If so, log on to I. N. K. (inkrethink.blogspot.com). The blog, which launched last February, is the place to go for Interesting Nonfiction for Kids. Postings by Sneed Collard III, Tanya Lee Stone, Loreen Leedy, Don Brown, Bob Raczka, and others discuss new books, old books, works in progress, the writing life, research, school visits, and a range of topics related to informational titles.





**Northeast Library System
Board Minutes
March 12, 2008**

The Northeast Board met at the Fullerton Public Library on March 12, 2008 and was hosted by the staff of the library. The meeting was called to order by President, Sharon Jones. Board members present were Sharon Jones, Ann Bachman, Michele Hastreiter, Jolene Klein, Chris Chilcoat, Elaine Tobias, Sally Stahlecker, Joyce Sullivan, Kay Schmid, Lynn Manhart, Dee Johnson, and Kate Ostenrude. Marilyn Quance was present as an alternate (MS: Johnson, Ostenrude; approved). System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton, Administrative Assistant, Shelia Cermak, were also present. The minutes were approved (MS: Johnson, Schmid; approved).

There was no correspondence to read.

Shelia Cermak gave the financial report. The system made a small profit from the Winter Workshop. Interest rates have been declining Shelia believes this will stabilize by summer (MS: Bachman, Hastreiter; approved by roll call vote).

REPORTS:

No Commissioner report.

No State Advisory Council Report.

No Nebraska Library Commission Report.

System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton reported on a wide range of activities she has completed in the past two months. She presented the board with a list of travel and activities. If you wish to know more about the system's activities and Kathy's report check out the web page <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast>. Kathy reported on a proposed merger of the commissions training calendar and the library calendar, so everyone would know what is going on in other libraries. Kathy again reminded everyone with ideas of teen books for system's book bags to contact her with the titles. This year's annual meeting will include an evening meeting in Norfolk and a day meeting in Columbus. We were encouraged to have trustees attend the evening sessions.\

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel – The Personnel Committee presented the revised Personnel Policy Manual.

Budget – The Budget Committee will meet to begin on the budget.

Nominating – Dee Johnson, Kate Ostenrude, and Lauren Loftgren were appointed to the nominating. Ann Bachman will be leaving the board at the end of the year. Sally Stahlecker and Jolene Klein have fulfilled one term on the board; they are allowed to serve for two terms.

Strategic Planning – no report

Continuing Education – no report

Technology Committee - no report

Grant Committee –Mardell Kohl and Judy Hagen were appointed to the selection committee. Kay Schmid asked to be excused because of conflict of interest.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

The annual meeting was discussed within the system administrator's report. Board members shared activities going on in their libraries.

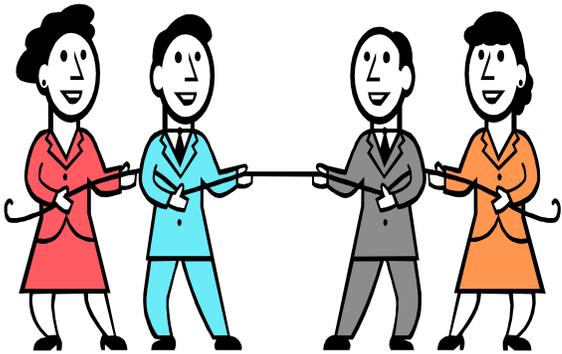
No Pat on the Back plaques were awarded.

A motion was made to accept the claims of the day (MS: Klein, Sullivan; approved by roll call vote).

Motion to adjourn (MS: Schmid, Hastreiter; approved).

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Ostenrude



**"Conflict Management for Consenting Adults"
with Pat Wagner**

June 4th

6-9pm

Holiday Inn Express, Norfolk

Nationally known library consultant Pat Wagner of Pattern Research, Denver, will conduct a session on managing conflict inside or outside of our libraries. Participants will be able to better manage workplace conflicts whether between library staff and library customers or among library staff and man-

agement, so that everyone treats each other well and the work gets done.

3.0 Continuing Education Credits Available

Cost to attend: \$15 per person. Seating is limited to 75 participants. Call now to register!

Name: _____

Library: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Registration deadline is: Friday, May 30

Please mail completed form along with check made out to:

Northeast Library System
3038 33rd Avenue, Suite 13
Columbus, NE 68601



**Library/Media Training Institute - June 5, 2008
Duster's Banquet Facilities
2804 13th Street, Columbus**

NAME _____ **TOWN** _____

LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER _____ **PHONE** _____

Please check & return entire form. All sessions take place at Duster's Banquet Facilities. I plan to attend the following:

		ATTEND	@	COST
9:00 - 11:30	Handling Upset Patrons OR	_____	\$5.00	_____
9:00-10:30	Intellectual Freedom Update	_____	\$5.00	_____
10:30-10:45	BREAK			
10:45-11:45	Pat Wagner: Marketing Techniques	_____	\$5.00	_____
12:00-1:15	Annual Meeting & Banquet (no charge, please let us know if you plan to attend)	_____	FREE	_____
1:30-3:30	Pest Private Eye OR	_____	\$5.00	_____
1:30-2:30	Gaming @ Your Library	_____	\$5.00	_____
2:30-2:45	BREAK			
2:45-3:25	We Never Have Time To Talk : Talk Tables Public Libraries/Trustees OR Talk Tables: School Media Specialists	_____	\$5.00	_____
		_____	\$5.00	_____

Total Cost to Attend the Above Sessions: _____

Institute takes place between college sessions. Let us know if you need a college map. All activities will be located at the Duster's Banquet Facilities. Questions? Call the System office at 1-800-578-1014.

Deadline for registrations and CHECKS is Friday, May 30. Please mail completed form along with check made out to: Northeast Library System, 3038 33rd Avenue, Suite 13, Columbus, NE 68601. Please keep a copy of this form for your records.

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.

"Nothing happens unless first we dream."
~~Carl Sandburg

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



**Northeast Library System
3038 33rd Avenue
Columbus, NE 68601**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbus, NE
PERMIT NO. 77**