



# Straight *talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

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## Are Your Web Pages User Friendly?

Our library web pages advertise our expertise, our technology skills and being "with it" in today's world. Our web sites shine with book reviews, reading promotions, research advice and citation help which all reflect our beliefs about learning.

Motivated by the great success of online booksellers in providing results tailored to an individual's interests, search engines are experimenting with personalized and localized searches based on a searcher's habits, interests, and zip code. Each search engine has a different approach. Ask Jeeves places reference facts at the top of the page. Clusty has the user identify what is relevant from a group of topics. The A9 toolbar, My Yahoo! Search and

other subscription services offer a selection of tools they believe the user wants.

And where do our web pages fit in? Personalization and localization occur naturally in our libraries. Our web pages should reflect this focus. Our users expect walk-up-and-use technology that is easy to use, but we know despite our best efforts, navigation can be clunky and confusing.

Users would feel more comfortable if the words appearing on the library's website described their task or need. For example, let's take a look at the term 'database'. Database is library terminology for an organized collection of information online. Wouldn't a user find the term 'find articles' more user-friendly? Terms such as "Help", "Search", and Interlibrary Loan" could be replaced with "Ask Us!", "Find It!" and "Get It!"

Your web site could be further improved by a recent usability study by the Poynter Institute, the Estlow Center for Journalism and New Media, and

Eyetoools. They studied the eye movements of forty-six people as they viewed news Web sites and multimedia features. These researchers noted that readers enter a Web site in the upper left-hand quadrant, stop and focus, then travel into the upper right-hand quadrant. Then they continue toward the bottom left, scan the bottom, and end by moving upward along the right edge.

Ask yourself how you might use the study's findings to design your web pages toward your customers. For example, if you are providing search access to important resources on a library Web page, you might reposition heavily used search tools on the upper left-hand quarter of the Web page.

Or, if your users are skimmers who avoid Web pages containing long paragraphs, and you want your users to read every word of advice regarding search engines before they select one, design a web page that supports that strategy. Bold the name of each search engine like heading and position it on (continued on page 4)

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### Congratulations Basic Skills Graduates!



Congratulations to: Maggie Huetig, Laurel Community Center, Deanna Reardon, St. Edwards Public Library, Pat Wilson, Clarks Public Library, and Elaine Tobias, Pilger Public Library, for completing their last Basic Skills class.



The Basic Skills: Public Services class hard at work.

The next class in the Basic Skills series will be Collection Development and will be held in November.



## The Ten Commandments of Getting Along With People

- 1. Learn to hold your tongue.** Always say less than you think. Cultivate a low persuasive voice. How you say it often counts more than what you say.
- 2. Make promises sparingly and keep them faithfully** now matter what it costs.
- 3. Never let an opportunity pass to say a kind and encouraging word** to or about somebody. Praise good work, regardless of who did it. If criticism is needed, criticize helpfully, never spitefully.
- 4. Be interested in others:** their pursuits, their work, their homes and families. Make merry with those who rejoice, with those who weep, mourn. Let everyone you meet, however, humble, feel that you regard him as a person of importance.
- 5. Be cheerful.** Don't burden or depress those around you by dwelling on your minor aches and pains and small disappointments. Remember that everyone is carrying some kind of a load.
- 6. Discuss but don't argue.** It is the mark of a superior mind to be able to disagree without being disagreeable.
- 7. Discourage gossip.** It is a waste of valuable time and can be extremely destructive. Let your virtues, if you have any, speak for themselves. Refuse to talk of another's vices.
- 8. Be careful of another's feelings.** Wit and humor, at the other person's expense, are rarely worth it and may hurt when least expected.
- 9. Pay no attention to ill-natured remarks about you.** Remember the person who carried the message may not be the most accurate reporter in the world. Simply live so that nobody will believe them.
- 10. Don't be too anxious about the credit due to you.** Do your best and be patient. Forget about yourself and let others remember. Success is much sweeter that way.  
(Taken from Aging Arkansas, October 2004)

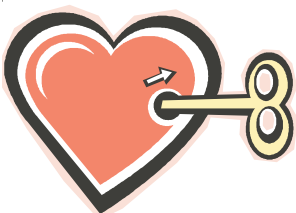


## USDA EII Grants Available

USDA Rural Development Economic Impact Initiative (EII) grants are available for rural communities with extreme unemployment and severe economic depression. Grant uses include assisting in developing essential public community services. Typical facilities include: health care, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, fire trucks, jails, child care centers, airports, **libraries**, city halls and schools.

Eligibility is limited to associations, nonprofit corporations, public bodies and federally recognized Indian tribes serving rural areas. Grant assistance may be available for up to 75 percent of project costs. Scale is developed to predetermine grant funding limitations based on populations and income.

**Requests must be submitted to the National Office by July 1, 2005.** For more information, contact Denise Brosius-Meeks at 402-437-5559.



**Libraries: Heart & Soul of Communities**  
NLA Fall Conference 2005 program schedule at a glance is now available. Go to: <http://www.nla-nema2005.info/> and start planning to attend now!



the same line and type size as your advice. Craft the first few words of each blurb about the search tool and describe its value. The Eyetrack study reports that this design encourages reading rather than skimming.

Since the user's eyes will move to the right, position more search advice on the right-hand side of the page, directly below where they would expect to find help (for example, "Ask A Librarian"). This signals that there are back-up options for the unsuccessful user.

The purpose of your user-friendly design is to encourage behaviors that will help your customers. So, if you want your reader to skim, you would use a large typeface because it encourages skimming.

Print reading behaviors are different from their online counterparts. For example, newspaper publishers affirm that print readers rarely follow news below the fold. The Eyetrack study suggests that if headings and blurbs extend beyond the first screen, the reader will scroll below the fold -- as long as there isn't a picture or graphic which suggests the page ends.

Explore the multimedia demonstrations at Eyetrack III ([www.poynterextra.org/eyetrack2004](http://www.poynterextra.org/eyetrack2004)) for more information. Then take a good hard look at your web page and design it for your users.

(taken from "Focus on the

User" by Debbie Abilock, Knowledge Quest, Jan/Feb 2005)

## Quotable Facts About America's Libraries

### Academic

- \* Academic librarians answer 97 million reference questions each year – almost three times the attendance at college football games.
- \* College libraries receive less than three cents of every dollar spent on higher education.
- \* If the cost of gas had risen as fast as the cost of academic library periodicals since 1990, it would cost \$3.00 a gallon to put fuel in your car.

### Public

- \* There are more public libraries than McDonald's in the U.S. – a total of 16,220, including branches.
- \* Americans spend more than three times as much on salty snacks as they do on public libraries.
- \* Americans check out an average of more than six books a year. They spend \$25.25 a year for the public library – much less than the average cost of one hardcover book.
- \* Public libraries are the number one point of online access for people without Internet connections at home, school or work.
- \* 95% of public libraries provide public access to the Internet.

### School

- \* Research shows the highest achieving students attend schools with good library media centers.
- \* Americans spend seven times as much money on home video games (\$7 billion) as they do on school library materials for their children (\$1 billion).
- \* School library media centers spend an average of \$7 per child for books – less than half the average cost of one hardcover school library book.
- \* Students visit school library media centers almost 1.5 billion times during the school year – about one-and-a-half times the visits to state and national parks.

### Did you know?

- \* 62% of adults in the U.S. have public library cards.
- \* Americans go to school, public and academic libraries more than twice as often as they go to the movies.
- \* Reference librarians in the nation's public and academic libraries answer more than seven million questions weekly. Standing single file, the line of questioners would stretch from Boston to San Francisco.

(continued on page 5)



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Dear Doctor Tech:

Yesterday a friend told me that there are a lot of free fonts out there on the Internet that I can use to spice up my documents. Is this true? Where can I go to get fonts to liven up my paperwork.

Signed,

Virginia

Dear Virginia,

Yes, there are free fonts out there for you to use. There are several sites on the Internet that make new and different fonts available free of charge. You can use these fonts to get away from the "same old" fonts that we all have been using for years. Set your words on fire or make them dance. It's all up to you with thousands of free fonts for you to choose from. Be sure to follow the download and installation instructions from each site to get the fonts installed correctly. And make sure you have permission to install additional fonts if it is required at your library. Here are just a few of the sites out there with free fonts:

- [www.1001freefonts.com/](http://www.1001freefonts.com/)
- [www.fontfreak.com/index2.htm](http://www.fontfreak.com/index2.htm)
- [www.downloadfreefonts.com/fontfiles/afonts.htm](http://www.downloadfreefonts.com/fontfiles/afonts.htm)
- [www.1001fonts.com/](http://www.1001fonts.com/)

\* A 2002 poll conducted for the American Library Association found that 91% of respondents expect libraries to be needed in the future, despite the increased availability of information via the Internet.

Sources: ALA Office for Research & Statistics  
 ALA Washington Office  
 Library Research Service, Colorado State Library  
 All facts compiled in 2002

### S & I Award Nominations Sought

The NLA Special & Institutional Section invites you to nominate a colleague or library for the S & I Promotional Award this year. The Award recognizes outstanding achievements in marketing / promotion of services to Nebraska's special and institutional libraries. Winners may be either special libraries or employees of special libraries. You do not need to be a member of S&I to submit a nomination and nominees need not be a member of the Section or a member of NLA. Self-nominations are welcome.

For more information on the award, past winners, and a nomination form, go to: <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/SANDI/specialaward.html>. Nominations are due August 1, 2005 and can be sent to Ceri Daniels at [cdaniels@cline-law.com](mailto:cdaniels@cline-law.com).





**NEW  
@  
NLS**

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

**Marketing Your Library,** Video, 20 minutes, Library Video Network, 200.

Learn how to market your library's services to your community. From learning about your target audiences to crafting a mission statement, this video shows you how to create a marketing plan.

**"Building a Graphic Novel Collection"** by Melissa Neace, Library Media Connection, April/May 2005.

This annotated list is a starting point for those folks who wish to start a graphic novel collection and don't know where to begin. This list includes a mix of titles that have very high recognition to both male and female customers.

**"Why Boards Don't Govern"** by Jan Masaoka and Mike Allison, Grassroots Fundraising Journal, May/June 2005.

Non-profit boards are charged with dual roles: support and governance. Most of the time they function in the support mode. Masaoka and Allison discuss why boards don't govern in a way that will avert

crises and give solutions on how to strengthen your board.

**"Let The Games Begin!"** by Debra Lau Whelan, School Library Journal, April 2005.

**"Meet the Gamers!"** by Kurt Squire and Constance Steinkuehler, Library Journal, April 15, 2005.

Both articles discuss how game-based learning is about to hit schools and libraries in a big way. Both adults and children will demand access to information in the ways and with the tools they enjoy using.



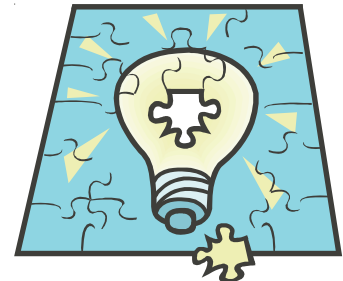
**Nominations Sought For  
Mad Hatter Award**

For the youth services librarian who serves beyond the call of duty, The School, Children, and Young People's (SCYP) Section of the Nebraska Library Association has a special award – The Mad Hatter Youth Service Award. The Mad Hatter is given annually to a librarian who has made outstanding contributions to the field of library service to youth.

Nominations can be made by librarians, administrators, principals, or members of the

Nebraska Library Association. A special registration form, available on the Mad Hatter website must accompany the nomination. Nominations are due to Kay Paulsen, Lux Middle School, 7800 High St., Lincoln, NE 58606 by **August 1, 2005.**

There are many hard working librarians and media specialists who are deserving of this award. Please consider nominating a youth services librarian in your area. Nomination forms are available at: [www.nebraskalibraries.org/SCYP/MadHatter.html](http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/SCYP/MadHatter.html).



**LIBRARY TOOLBAR**

Google and Yahoo offer toolbars that users can download for one-stop searches. Harris County Public Library (HCPL) in Houston, Texas went one step further and customized the toolbar for the library. The toolbar allows users to access the library catalog, Teen sites and even renew books. The HCPL version was customized from software available from [www.besttoolbars.net](http://www.besttoolbars.net). To view or download the HCPL version, go to [www.hcpl.net](http://www.hcpl.net).



On April 20th, at the **Hruska Memorial Public Library**, Ruth Nichols gave a presentation on her father, metal sculptor and master welder, Floyd Nichols. With no formal art training he produced intricate figurines, over 2000 knives for WWII and created the soldier and sailor that are at the entrance of the David City Park.

The **Neligh Public Library** hosted a special program on Thursday, May 5. Terry Ahlstedt will present his research entitled, *You Take the Low Land and I'll Take the High Land: Land Settlement in Antelope County, Nebraska 1868-1891*. Local history buffs found Terry's insight into the early settling, homesteading, and plating of Antelope County very interesting.

**Stromsburg Public Library** recently displayed 12 paintings by R.A. Zuckeman, who shared an artist-librarian's insights into the world of libraries and books. Some subjects covered by the paintings include a summer reading puppet show, the lions in front of the New York Public Library, bookstalls along the Seine in Paris, and people poling by boat in a Louisiana bayou to get to a bookmobile.

On April 12, folks at **Norfolk Public Library** experienced the "Wondrous Journey" of David Jacobs as he described his travels to 28 countries from Australia and Southeast Asia to the Middle East and Africa. Mr. Jacobs, from Fremont, NE, spent 22 1/2 months traveling

around the world, living on \$10 to \$15 a day.

During National Library Week (April 10-16), the **Battle Creek Public Library** hosted a drawing for the extra paperbacks of "My Antonia".

The preliminary program schedule for the **Nebraska Library Association** annual conference can be viewed at <http://www.nla-nema2005.info>. Check it out and see what programs you'll want to attend.

Expansion is the key word at **Niobrara Public Library**. According to Linda Leader, Director, the library is looking at expanding into a backroom being vacated by the fire department.

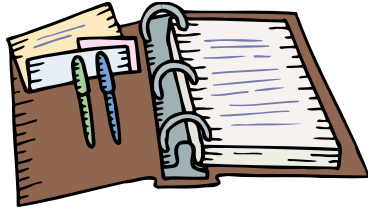
"The library can hardly wait until the remodeling project is finished," Diane Limoges, **Eastern Township Library**, Director, in Crofton reported. Once the basement is renovated, the library will move its children department downstairs.

"It'll be a fair to remember." says **Central City Public Library** director Lynn Manhart. The library is sponsoring a Medieval Festival as part of this year's summer reading program. Minstrels, magicians and pirates, pony rides and demonstrations are just a few of the activities at the festival. The festival is on July 3, from 1-7pm at North Park in Central City.

## 20 Jobs for Summer Youth Volunteers

1. Straighten up the children's area—push in chairs, put books and toys away, and straighten the magazines.
2. Prepare crafts.
3. Clean books.
4. Shelve books.
5. Put the books on the sorting shelves in order.
6. Search for storytime or other program books.
7. Set up the storytime program area.
8. Help with programs—assist with puppet shows, take care of nametags, tickets, etc. at storytimes, give children stamps, or help with crafts.
9. Sign up children for the Summer Reading Program.
10. Decorate the children's area or meeting room.
11. Sticker books—Caldecott, Bluebonnet, Newbery, AR, etc.
12. Put theft detection strips in books.
13. Barcode books.
14. Check gift books to see if they are owned by the library.
15. Make thank-you cards for special presenters or donors.
16. Suggest materials to order.
17. Cut out AccuCut/Ellison shapes.
18. Read aloud to children in the children's area.
19. Listen to children reading.
20. Put book packets together for check out to childcare centers.





## Check Your Calendar

May 12 - **"Where's the Bucks?"** NLA Public Library Section / TUFS Joint Spring Meeting in York.

May 13 - **Nebraska Library Commission Meeting** at the Nebraska Library Commission from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm.

May 14 - **Turning the Pages of Romance** conference at Holiday Inn Downtown, Lincoln. Jo Beverly guest author For more information, contact Rebecca at: romance@mail.lcl.lib.ne.us.

May 18 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Gardner Public Library in Wakefield at 10 am.

May 26 - **Mayhem in the Midlands Mystery Conference** at Sheraton Hotel, Omaha. For more information, contact Sally Fellows at: sallyfellows1@cox.net.

May 27 - **Nebraska Libraries: It's A Small World After All** - NLA C&U Section/Technical Services Round Table Joint Spring Meeting at Doane College.

May 30 - **Memorial Day Holiday**. Office closed.

June 2 - **Northeast Library System Annual Meeting / Institute** at Wayne State College, Wayne.

June 9-12 - **Nebraska Storytelling Festival** at Westside High School in Omaha. For more information, go to: [www.nebraskastoryarts.org](http://www.nebraskastoryarts.org).

June 11-12 - **Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival** at McCook Community College. For information, go to : <http://www.buffalocommons.org>.

June 13 - **Bricks 'n Boards: Resources for Change in Existing Libraries & New** at Concordia College, Seward, NE. For more information, contact Kathy at NLS, 1-800-578-1014.

June 15 - **Database Roadshow** at North Education Center, Central Community College, Columbus. To register, contact Jeanette Powell at 1-800-307-2665.

July 3 - **Central City Public Library's Medieval Festival**

from 1-7 pm, North Park.

July 4 - **Fourth of July** holiday. Office closed.

July 20 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Lutheran High Northeast in Norfolk at 10 am.

July 25-29 - **Nebraska Library Leadership Institute**, St. Benedict Center, Schuyler.



## Nebraska Storytelling Festival

The Nebraska Storytelling Festival is June 9-12 at Westside High School in Omaha. The festival has been accepted for Librarian Continuing Education Credits by the State of Nebraska. For more information, go to: [http://www.nebraskastoryarts.org/fest\\_info.html](http://www.nebraskastoryarts.org/fest_info.html)

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### Golden Sower Awards for 2004-2005 Announced

The Golden Sower Committee has announced the award winners and honor books for each category. Visit the Golden Sower web page: <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/golden/sower.htm> for more information on the Golden Sower award.

#### K-3 List:

Award Winner: *Togo*, written and illustrated by Robert J. Blake  
Honor Books: *Clarence the Copy Cat* by Patricia Lakin, illustrated by

John Manders

*Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School* written and illustrated by Mark Teague

#### 4-6 List:

Award Winner: *Loser* by Jerry Spinelli  
Honor Books: *The Ghost Sitter* by Peni R. Griffin  
*The Summer of Riley* by Eve Bunting

#### Young Adult:

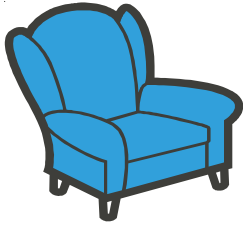
Award Winner: *Mississippi Trial, 1955* by Chris Crowe  
Honor Books: *Ashes of Roses* by Mary Jane Auch  
*Things Not Seen* by Andrew Clements



### Older Americans: Who Are They?

- \* 36.3 million: The number of people 65 and over in the United States on July 1, 2004.
- \* 147%: Projected percentage increase in the 65-and-over population between 2000 and 2050.
- \* 77% : Proportion of people ages 65 to 69 who graduated from high school.
- \*4.6 million: Number of people age 65 and over who are still employed — this amounts to 13 percent of all people in this age group.
- \*65%: Percentage of registered voters ages 65 to 74 who voted in the 2002 Congressional election.
- 10.2%: Poverty rate for people 65 and over in 2003.
- \*44%: Percent of women age 65 and over who are widowed, greater than the 41 percent who are married and living with their spouses. Women age 65 and older are three times more likely to be widowed than their male counterparts.
- \*12.4 million: Number of people 65 and over who engage in exercise walking, by far the most popular sports activity for this age group.
- \*81%: Proportion of householders age 65 and over who own their homes.
- \*9.7 million: Estimated number of people age 65 and over who are military veterans.
- \*64,658: Estimated number of centenarians in the United States on August 1, 2004.

(Taken from Facts for Features, U.S. Census Bureau)



# The Reviewer's Chair

## Shooter

By Walter Dean Myers

Statement of Fact: 17-year-old white male found dead in the aftermath of a shooting incident at Madison High School in Harrison County.

Conclusion: Death by self-inflicted wound.

This is a very timely book because of the recent school shooting in Minnesota.

Cameron is a black student who sometimes feels "outside" and powerless. Carla is a girl that hasn't "found" herself yet, so she makes the wrong decisions too often. Then there is Leonard who always feels he is nothing and accepts his place as an outsider.

"Shooter" is a thoughtful book that should be read by "in" students, students that are bullied and threatened at school. Parents would profit by reading "Shooter" too. They might understand their teenager and friends better.

A good read for ages 12 through adult. I highly recommend it for both school and public libraries.

-Joan Chilvers, Pierce, Nebraska

## The Great Gracie Chase: Stop That Dog!

By Cynthia Rylant

There once was a small brown and white dog that liked a quiet house. She liked being by her fish and her cat. One day painters arrived at her house and made so much noise, that Gracie barked at them. The painters put her outside and the yard gate was open, so Gracie decided to run away.

Read this adventure story to find out what happens while Gracie is running away from home. Its happy ending will relieve the children's stress level.

The pictures are probably colored pencil and add to the book.

With a reading level for Preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, I recommend this book for both school and public libraries.

-Carol Tramp, Wynot Public School

## Blind Sighted

By Peter Moore

Kirk is sixteen and a misfit. He is smart but because he doesn't care about school, is doing poorly. He is put in a different English class where friendship comes his way. Glenn, a guitar player, and his girlfriend befriend Kirk. They hook him up with his first girlfriend Lauren. He gets a job reading to a 28-year-old blind woman and they really seem to hit it off. Things seem to be finally going his way until Kirk's alcoholic mom announces that she and her on again, off again boyfriend have decided that they should move to California and open a restaurant. Kirk refuses to go and then his problems begin.

There is a great story line showing how teens tend to have a narrow out look and what can happen when you try to fight inevitable change.

The reading level is 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade, but the



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[www.corrections.state.ne.us/csi](http://www.corrections.state.ne.us/csi)



subject level is 6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Though a well written story, it is puzzling that a book with a story line for young adults would be placed on the Accelerated reader list as 3.7 reading level. Use caution when placing in your library.

-Diane Limoges, Eastern Township Library, Crofton

### **Ashes of Roses**

By Mary Jane Auch

Author, Mary Jane Auch has used extensive research to weave a "how it might have happened" story around a family immigrating to America. The story begins as the Nolan family head for Ellis Island after a two week sailing journey from Cork, Ireland. Auch brings to life the struggle of being processed at Ellis Island and the heartache of being turn away. The Nolan family is separated as Da and baby Joseph make the return trip and ma, 16-year old Rose, and 12-year old Maureen and little Bridget struggle to find Uncle Patrick in the big city of New York. As living in a cramped apartment with unfriendly relatives, trying to find work in a place that takes advantage of the naïve, and homesickness take their toll, ma and the girls are soon on the docks waiting for the return trip. Rose wants to stay in America and at the last minute declares to her ma that she is staying and just that fast Maureen states she too is staying. Ma insists that the girls

return to Uncle Patrick's, but once the ship takes off Rose and Maureen are off looking for jobs and a place to live. After a bad start in a sweatshop, Rose lands a job at the Triangle Waist Company sewing and before the first pay period Maureen is also working there despite Roses argument that Maureen should be in school. As the girls adjust to life in the city, new friends and new adventure such as going to the movie, that fateful day of March 25, 1911 comes and their lives are marked forever.

Auch has a vivid description of the Triangle fire that took the lives of 146 people in a nine story building with locked doors. The story written for 7<sup>th</sup> grade on up will capture the reader's interest with the first few paragraph and continue until the last page is read. I was left wishing story would continue. A+ goes on this book which would be a great addition to public and school libraries.

Pat Thompson WSC

### **Troll Fell**

By Katherine Langrish

Peer, a young boy, has just lost his father. His two unsavory uncles come to take him home with them along with all his father's earthly possessions. As mean as you could imagine, they precede to make Peer work and make he

feel little. Close to the uncles' mill home is a secret Kingdom of Trolls and the gold that the uncles want to obtain. Peer is mystified by the visit and talk to Trolls, Granny Green-Teeth, and other equally scary creatures. This story takes us to the depths of Troll Fell and the hill with the top raising to allow entrance. Be prepared to be scared.

This book is skillfully written. The story is woven and keeps the reader's interest. I would be hesitant to hand this book to a student to read. It is so well written that it is difficult to discern the difference in fantasy and reality. I have no objection to Harry Potter because I felt fantasy was easy to figure out. This book will scare students' socks off. There are ideas here to give nightmares. For adult reading, I see nothing wrong with the content of the book, but I don't believe students should be made to read this book.

With a reading level for upper junior high and high school, I recommend this book to public libraries.

-Karma Ragland, Atkinson, Nebraska





**Blood Gold**

By Michael Cadnum

In an effort to save the honor of a girl at home in Philadelphia, 18-year-old William Dwinelle sets off for the gold fields of California, via Panama, in search of his friend's deserting suitor. Along the way gains a worldly education. After finding the "gold miner" suitor deal, Will begins to work at the claim, but also continues his skill as a repairman of metal and wood.

This story is similar to Gary Paulsen's book of the same era in history, but with a more adult flavor. This is a compelling story and good writing. Violence, language, alcohol and tobacco use, and sexual innuendos are a part of the story.

With a reading level for old teens and adults, I recommend this book to both school and public libraries.

-Janet Davis, Atkinson, Nebraska

**The Old Blue Buggy**

By Fran Swift

A mother purchases a blue buggy when her child is born. The two spend hours together using the buggy for many things. The illustrations help capture the essence of the story and are very interesting. This will appeal to very young children to middle elementary students.

I would consider this book to be an excellent choice for a children's collect in a school or public library.

-Sharon Kinnan, Oakdale, Nebraska

**The Great Googlestein Museum Mystery**

By Jean Van Leeuwen

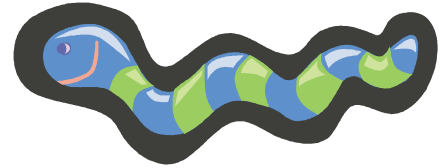
Three mice are living in the toy section of a New York department store. They leave their safe haven in the toy section and venture out into the streets of New York, eventually making their way into the Guggenheim museum. Marvin, the leader of the threesome, has visions of being a great skateboarder, and Fats, by accident, becomes an artist. Through a variety of adventures to Central Park and back to the museum, an art show is held displaying Fats' art pieces.

This was a fun piece of fiction by Jean Van Leeuwen. It's certainly implausible that a mouse could create pieces of art and then have them displayed in a private art show, but the author was convincing and at times I found myself thinking of the three mice as real people. It was creative and entertaining. At times I found myself thinking of Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh. This is just much more light hearted and humorous. Good choice for fun, humorous, fiction.

With a reading level for 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade, I

recommend this book to both school and public libraries.

-Deb Daehnke, Wayne State College



**Penguin Young Readers Group Contest**

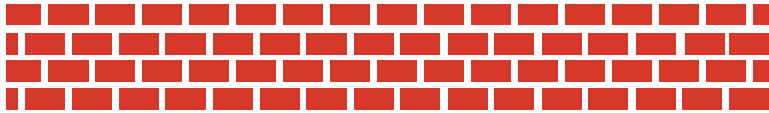
If you are looking for a way to get the youth in your community involved in the library, this may be the answer. The contest is for youth ages 12-18. They must submit their entries through a qualifying school or library. Each contestant writes a short story of 1,500 words or less that is a prequel, sequel, or alternate ending to Laurie Halse Anderson's novel, Prom.

Go to [www.btol.com/pdfs/prom\\_sellsheet.pdf](http://www.btol.com/pdfs/prom_sellsheet.pdf) to print out the contest rules. The grand prize winning author will have their story posted on Ms. Anderson's Web site and Baker&Taylor's Web site and receive \$500 worth of Penguin Books, or they can use the money to hire a DJ for their school prom. The library or school that submits the winning entry gets to host an author visit from Laurie Halse Anderson and \$500 worth of her books to be signed and given away during her visit.

The contest runs from March 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005, so there's plenty of time to feature Prom in your library and publicize the contest in your community.

# Bricks and Boards:

## Resources for Change in Existing Libraries and New



**Monday, June 13, 2005**

**8:30 am—4:30 pm**

**Concordia University**

**Thom Leadership Education Center**

**800 N. Columbia Ave.**

**Seward, Nebraska**

*Sponsored by  
Eastern, Meridian,  
Northeast,  
Panhandle,  
Republican Valley and  
Southeast  
Library Systems*



**8:30 - 9 a.m.:** Exhibits & Coffee

Exhibits available for browsing/consulting throughout the day.

**9 a.m.-12 p.m.:** Richard Hall, California State Library - Libris Design

Libris Design is a highly specialized software system that incorporates years of library facility planning expertise into a database designed to help library planners produce high quality building programs and project cost estimates for new, remodeled or expanded library facilities. The program saves time and money by providing a tool that effectively communicates the library facility requirements in a comprehensive and organized way. (Financially supported by Nebraska Library Commission)

**12 - 12:45 p.m.:** Lunch

**12:45 - 1 p.m.:** Exhibits

**1-2 p.m.:** Michael Brendle, BrendleAPV - Future of Library Design: Building Adaptable Spaces

Explores library design of the future, for new construction as well as cost effective, flexible renovations of older facilities. A variety of design ideas & future trends will be discussed & presented in an easy-to-understand way, with examples.

**2 - 2:15 p.m.:** Exhibits/Break

**2:15 - 3:15 p.m.:** Four Sessions-**please choose and circle one**

Kent Munster, Clark Enersen Partners - Getting Started on a Building Project

Stephen Granger, Davis Design & Denny Sharp, FEH & Associates - The Charette Process

An interactive process where onsite architects take community input and hand-sketch designs based on that input. The goal is to discover what ideas work within the community parameters before formal design work begins.

John Seyfarth, Sump Memorial Library - Integrating Technology

Michael Teetor, Nebraska Public Power District - Lighting Design & Energy Audits

**3:15 - 3:30 p.m.:** Exhibits/Break

**3:30 - 4:30 p.m.:** Four Sessions-**please choose and circle one**

Carol Speicher, Resource Conservation & Development - Building Community Support

Mike Benck, BCDM Architects - Alternative Delivery Methods

The benefits and costs of various alternative project delivery methods that are available in library facility design & construction today, including the impact on your role as the owner. This is an opportunity to explore the world of construction management, design-assist, design-build & traditional design-bid-build methodologies.

Jodene Glaesemann and Julie Simpson, LCL - Merchandizing & Displaying Materials

Nebraska Law Enforcement Personnel - Safety/Security

**4:30 p.m.:** Tour of Seward Memorial Library

Cost: \$25 1 person  
\$20 each if 2 people  
\$15 each if 3+ people

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

LIBRARY: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send registration form (circle sessions attending) & fees (includes coffee break, lunch and packet) by **June 6, 2005** to: Eastern Library System, 11929 Elm St., Suite 12A, Omaha, NE 68144.

Please make checks payable to **Nebraska Regional Library Systems.**

6 CE hours



.....Just in for your Summer Reading Program

## Cat Litter Cake Recipe

Serves 24

(only for the brave... or slightly insane...)

### Cake Ingredients

1 box spice or German Chocolate cake mix  
1 box of white cake mix  
1 package white sandwich cookies  
1 large package vanilla instant pudding mix  
A few drops green food coloring  
12 small Tootsie Rolls

### Serving Dishes & Utensils

1 NEW cat-litter box  
1 NEW cat-litter box liner  
1 NEW pooper scooper



Prepare and bake cake mixes, according to directions, in any size pan.

Prepare pudding and chill.

Crumble cookies in small batches in blender or food processor.

Add a few drops of green food coloring to 1 cup of cookie crumbs. Mix with a fork or shake in a jar. Set aside.

When cakes have cooled to room temperature, crumble them into a large bowl. Toss with half of the remaining cookie crumbs and enough pudding mixture to make the mixture moist but not soggy. Place liner in litter box and pour in mixture.

Unwrap 3 Tootsie Rolls and heat in a microwave until soft and pliable. Shape the blunt ends into slightly curved points. Repeat with three more rolls. Bury rolls decoratively in the cake mixture.

Sprinkle remaining white cookie crumbs over the mixture, then scatter green crumbs lightly over top.

Heat 5 more Tootsie Rolls until almost melted. Scrape them on top of the cake and sprinkle with crumbs from the litter box. Heat the remaining Tootsie Roll until pliable and hang it over the edge of the box.

Place box on a sheet of newspaper and serve with scooper. Enjoy!

Note: Since the layer of cookies (with the chlorophyll green specks, covers the top, you could really use any flavor or flavors or cakes underneath. Last but not least, you can also opt not to crumble the cakes, but rather layer them in the pan with the layers of pudding in between (much like you would layer a trifle into a trifle dish), sprinkle the top layer of pudding with a heavy layer of crumbled cookies. Same effect, different texture entirely to the dessert.

## NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 11TH ANNUAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL

A wonderful way to spend a summer day FOR LITERATURE LOVERS OF ALL AGES!

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2005 / 9:00 A. M. - 4:00 P. M.  
NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE / LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER  
801 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, NE

This year's Festival has been funded by the Norfolk Library Foundation,  
the City of Norfolk, & the SCYP division of the Nebraska Library Association.



### FEATURING AWARD-WINNING AUTHORS:

#### **\*CANDACE FLEMING\***

2006 Golden Sower Award nominee for **BOXES FOR KATJE**

Also author of **BEN FRANKLIN'S ALMANAC—WHEN AGNES CAWS—GABRIELLA'S SONG—A BIG CHEESE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE—MUNCHA! MUNCHA! MUNCHA!** and more...

#### **\*MARION DANE BAUER\***

2006 Golden Sower Award nominee for **RUNT**

Also author of **ON MY HONOR—THE DOUBLE-DIGIT CLUB—LAND OF THE BUFFALO BONES—AN EARLY WINTER—WHY DO KITTENS PURR?—IF YOU WERE BORN A KITTEN** and more...

#### **\*NEAL SHUSTERMAN\***

2006 Golden Sower Award nominee for **FULL TILT**

Also author of **THE SCHWA WAS HERE—THE DARK SIDE OF NOWHERE—DOWNSIDERS—SCORPION-SHARDS—SPEEDING BULLET—WHAT DADDY DID—THE EYES OF KID MIDAS** and more...

ALSO

- 2005-2006 Golden Sower Previews by Karen Drevo & Marci Retzlaff
- Book Display & Discount Sales by Norfolk Public Library Foundation of titles by Fleming, Bauer, & Shusterman
- Book Display & Sales by Sheridan County Publishing Company of Gordon, NE of books by & about the Sandoz family as well as rare & unusual histories & memoirs of the Sandhills
- Sales of Golden Sower Items
- Autograph Session/Book Signing with Candace Fleming, Marion Dane Bauer & Neal Shusterman
- Door Prizes
- Five Continuing Education Hours from the Nebraska Library Commission for School & Public Librarians
- Two Professional Growth Points for Teachers/Staff employed by Norfolk Public Schools

**TICKETS:** Youth (Age 18 & under): \$5.00/advance or \$7.00/door Adults: \$15.00/advance or \$20.00/door

Free admittance to current members of the SCYP division of the Nebraska Library Association  
Advance tickets are available at Norfolk Public Library OR by mail order. To order tickets by mail, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with full payment (make checks payable to "Norfolk Library Foundation—Literature Festival") to:

Literature Festival  
Norfolk Public Library  
308 Prospect Avenue  
Norfolk, NE 68701

For more information, contact Karen Drevo at the above address or by:  
Phone: 402/844-2100\*\*\*Fax: 402/844-2102\*\*\*e-mail: kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us

**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.**

**"Trouble is only opportunity in work clothes."  
~~Henry J. Kaiser**

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



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