



Straighttalk

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

JULY, 2007 - Published by the Northeast Library System
Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

Outstanding Librarian of the Year!

Judy Marco, Central City Public Library's Children's Librarian was overwhelmed when recently awarded the Northeast Library System's 'Outstanding Librarian Award'.

Judy has provided exceptional service to Central City's children's program for the past seven years. Her creativity and energy knows no bounds. Her background as an English and Art teacher has been a source of ideas such

as: Table Settings By the Books, Ulti-Mutt Reading, Puttin' On The Glitz and many more. This summer Central City kids are attending Nate the Great Detective School, meet Nancy Drew and CSI with Scooby Doo and Hank the Cowdog.

When not planning the Summer Reading Program, Judy visits daycares, pre-schools, and schools to read to children and inform parents, teachers, and children of upcoming events on a monthly basis. She is active with the City Chamber and was recently awarded Commerce Volunteer of the Year.

The Northeast Library System began is pleased to recognize the talented people in our system. A candidate can be nominated for library advocacy or outstanding librarian. The advocacy Award is for a library board member, volunteer, or friend of the library who provides outstanding support and promotion of their library. The Outstanding Librarian Award is for demonstrating initiative and contributions to the library profession. Nominations are made in the spring and the award is presented at the Annual Meeting, if possible.



Microsoft 2007: A FAQ for Nonprofits

If you are considering upgrading your Microsoft Office software, take a moment to read this article at: <http://www.techsoup.org/learningcenter/software/page6173.cfm>.

Brian Satterfield has outlined what to expect from the new software and answers basic questions such as: What are the new features in Office 2007? What are the system requirements for Office 2007? Are Office 2007 files compatible with older versions of Office?

The office suite has a radically redesigned interface and your staff may need more time to become proficient with it.



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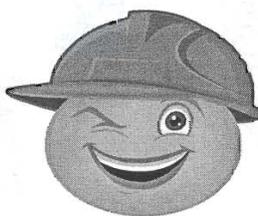
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Heads Up! Videos / DVDs Available for CE Hours for Library Board Certification

1. Bridging the Digital Divide in the Spanish Speaking Community, 2004. 25 min. Video.
2. Solving Difficult Situations, 2003. 28 min. Video.
3. Marketing Your Library, 2005. 20 min. Video.
4. Coping With Difficult People, 2005. 2 hrs. Video.
5. Always a River, Sometimes A Library, 2006. 86 min. Video. The subject of this video is customer service.
6. Recruitment & Orientation of Library Trustees, 2002. 30 min. Video or DVD.
7. Terrific After-School Programs for K-Grade 6, 2006. Video or DVD.
8. Joseph Janes Presentation, 2006. DVD. The presenter discusses technology in the library.
9. Writing Grants for Youth Projects, 2006. DVD.
10. An Evening with Jamie LaRue, 2006. DVD.
11. Patrick Jones, Working with Teens, 2005. 3 hrs. DVD.
12. Recognizing Fundraising Opportunities, 1998. 11 min. Video.
13. Libraries Create Success, 2005.11. min. Video.
14. Conducting the Reference Interview, 2004. 30 min. Video.
15. Making Copyright Work for Your Library, 2004. 2 hrs. Video.
16. RFID in Libraries, 2004.35 min. Video.
17. Be Prepared: Security and Your Library, 1994. 35 min. Video.
18. Writers on the Plains, 1997. 15 min. Video.

If you do not have a DVD player, the system office has a portable player that can be checked out along with a DVD.

Roads to Reading Initiative

Deadline: October 15 and March 15, annually.

The Bi-Annual Program donates books to literacy programs in small and rural low-income communities.

The initiative makes book donations to school, after-school, summer, community, day-care, and library reading and literacy programs. The applicant program must have at least a six-month history; have a tutoring component or a strong focus on remedial reading in a structured environment; hold meetings over a period of time; and be continually and consistently under the direct supervision of professionals, para-professionals, or volunteers.

To be eligible to apply, nonprofit organizations must have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status and an annual operating budget of less than \$95,000. (Schools and libraries are exempt from this budget requirement.) The community where the organization is located must be underserved and have a population of less than 50,000.

The program does not make donations for book-bag programs, gifts, giveaways, events, book clubs, or home-based literacy programs. School districts, lead agencies, or umbrella agencies are not eligible to apply. Each site within group agencies or districts must apply for the donations separately.

On average, a hundred to two hundred books appropriate for toddlers to young adult are awarded per grantee. Books are currently available in English only.

Visit the Roads to Reading Initiative web site for complete program information.
<http://pwirtr.org/biannual.html>

The Roads to Reading Initiative also has the following programs:

- The Book Bag
- Books for Kids
- Spanish Books for Kids

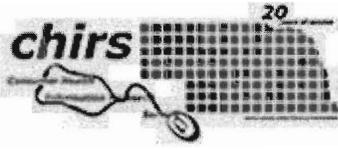


Retiring Board Members

At the June Annual Meeting, retiring board members were honored for their many dedicated hours to making our system a success. If you see them, please take a moment and thank them for all their hard work.

(From left to right) Linda Risinger, Orchard Public Library; Marilyn Quance, Wayne State College; Kathy Ellerton, NLS System Administrator; Luran Lofgren, Wayne Public Library; and Laurie Rehnstrom, Coleridge Community Schools.

New CHIRS Book List



100 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT CROHN'S DISEASE AND ULCERATIVE COLITIS :A LAHEY CLINIC GUIDE /Warner, Andrew S. Sudbury,Mass. : Jones and Bartlett Publishers, c2007.

PROFESSIONAL GUIDE TO SIGNS & SYMPTOMS /LIPPINCOTT WILLIAMS &WILKINS. Philadelphia, PA :Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, c2007.

VISION / Schachat, Andrew P.Baltimore, MD : Johns Hopkins Medicine ; New York, NY :Medletter Associates, c2006.

HYPERTENSION AND STROKE / Appel, Lawrence J.Baltimore, MD : Johns Hopkins Medicine, ; Redding, CT :Medletter Associates, c2006.

DIGESTIVE DISORDERS /Kantsevov, Sergey. New York,NY : Medletter Associates ;Baltimore, MD : Johns Hopkins Medicine, c2006.

DIABETES / Saudek,Christopher D. Baltimore, MD :Johns Hopkins Medicine ; New York, NY : Medletter Associates, c2006.

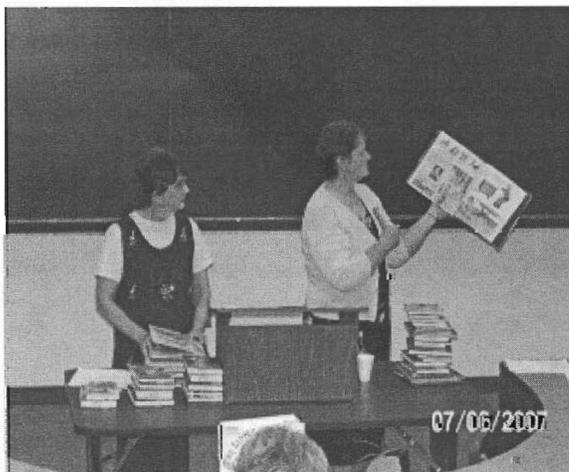
CORONARY HEART DISEASE / Gerstenblith, Gary. Baltimore, MD : Johns Hopkins Medicine ; Redding, CT :Medletter Associates, c2006.

BACK PAIN AND OSTEOPOROSIS / Kostuik, John P. Baltimore, MD : Johns Hopkins Medicine ; New York, NY : Medletter Associates, c2006.

ARTHRITIS / Flynn, John A., M.D. Baltimore, MD : Johns Hopkins Medicine ; Redding, CT : Medletter Associates, c2006.

DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY /Swartz, Karen L. Baltimore, MD : Johns Hopkins Medicine ; New York, NY : Medletter Associates, c2006.

100 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT SCHIZOPHRENIA :PAINFUL MINDS / DeLisi, Lynn E. Sudbury, MA : Jones and Bartlett Publishers, c2006.



Marilyn Liedorff, Wayne State College, presenting the 'New & Notable' items received at the Book Examination Center.



Straight-Talk is published ten times per year by the Northeast Library System. Contact Kathy Ellerton or Shelia 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).

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Columbus, NE 68601.

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Five Mystery Summer Sizzlers

Stalin's Ghost by Martin Cruz Smith

Hooked by Matt Richtel

Secret Servant by Daniel Silva

Beyond Reach by Karin Slaughter

Dead Connection by Alafair Burke



Kids! @ your library® Campaign Tool Kit Grows!

(CHICAGO) The Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, has added new resources to its Kids! @ your library® online tool kit at www.ala.org/kids.

The campaign's extensive tool kit, produced by librarians for librarians, contains free resources for promoting the library and its services to children and their families. The latest materials added to the kit include:

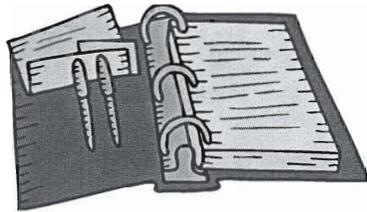
*Spanish-language resources. The So Much to See. So Much to Do. @ your library® logo is available in Spanish in black and white, color, high and low resolution versions. The list of Top Ten Things for Kids to Do @ your library® also has been translated into Spanish. Print-ready public service advertisements in various sizes, scripts for audio public service announcements and word search puzzles with library themes also are available in Spanish.

*A list of "Top Ten Ways to Use Bill Harley's "At Your Library" Song in Your Library and Community" provides examples of how libraries can use the upbeat song to grab attention—play the song when classes visit the library, incorporate the song's short version in morning announcements at school, or air the song during outreach events, such as county fairs, school career days, or family literacy nights.

*A story theater script—The Chicken and the Librarian—adapted by Dianne de Las Casas and used with her permission, can be downloaded and used for library/school/community events.

*Kids! @ your library® Best Practice Wiki at http://wikis.ala.org/alsc/index.php/Kids%21_%40_your_library_Best_Practices_Wiki. provides a free, open space where librarians can share how they have used campaign materials within their libraries and communities.

Take a moment to visit the Kids! @ your library® Campaign Web site at www.ala.org/kids and take advantage of the free materials, resources and ideas.



Check Your Calendar

July 18 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Ponca Public Library at 10am.

July 27 - **State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting** at Thompson Alumni Center, UNO.

July 28 - **13th Annual Norfolk Public Library Literature Festival** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk.

August 9 - **NEBASE Annual Meeting - East** at Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln.

August 16 - **Saving Nebraska's Treasures: Paper, Photographs, Books and other Paper - based Objects.** Contact Mary Jo Ryan at NLC for more information.

Sept 3 - **Labor Day Holiday.** Office closed.

Sept. 14 - **Nebraska Library Commission Meeting** at the Nebraska Library Commission, Lincoln.

Sept. 19 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Stromsburg Public Library at 10am.

Oct. 4-6 - **Plum Creek**

Children's Literacy Festival. For more information, go to: <http://www.cune.edu/plumcreek>

Oct. 24-26- "**Charting Paths to the Future**", NLA Annual Conference, Kearney Holiday Inn & Convention Center.



**NEW
@
NLS**

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

Measuring Your Library's Value by Donald S. Elliott, etc. ALA, 2007.

This book gives librarians the tools to conduct a credible cost-benefit analysis. Written in librarian-friendly terminology, chapters cover "Important Considerations Before Commissioning a Cost-Benefit Analysis Study", "Measuring Library Benefits: Identifying and Sampling Library Users", "Preparing the Survey Instruments", "Measuring Return to Taxpayer and Donor Investment in the Library", and much more. Step-by-step instructions, examples, charts, walk throughs of mathematical calculations and their principles, numerous appendices including sample survey forms, and much more round out this first-rate guide.

"How You Can Protect Public Access Computers and Their Users" by Phil Huang, *Computers in Libraries*, May 2007, pp. 16-20.

Phil Huang is the system coordinator for the California State University-Sonoma Library and works endlessly to keep the library's computers safe. His article describes the proactive approach to protecting your public access computers before expensive damage occurs. His suggestions include changing defaults, regular monitoring, patron's security education, doing physical inspections and more.

Recruitment and Orientation of Library Trustees with Robert Grover, Kansas Library Trustee Association, 2002. 30 min. Video or DVD.

This presentation discusses the purpose of public libraries, role of a trustee, how to recruit future library trustees, and what to include in an orientation program.

"CLASS: The Future of Adult Programming in the Public Library" by Lori Brack and Joe McKenzie, *Public Libraries*, May/June 2007, pp. 40-44.

Authors relate the experiences at Salina Public Library, KS after implementing a fee-based curriculum of lifelong learning classes for its adult patrons.



Northeast News

Author Roselyn Ogden Miller visited the **Orchard Public Library** to discuss her books, "Poor as Church Mice" and "Poor as Church Mice II" on Friday, June 29th. The author's books are about children who traveled to the Midwest on the Orphan Trains.

A generous patron of the **Hruska Memorial Library** in David City donated a set of Louis L'Amour books. The books have L'Amour's signature on the cover and are bound in brown simulated leather. The library placed them on a silent auction and proceeds will be used for programming.

The **Schuyler Public Library** invited Earl Bates to portray Will Rogers on July 2nd, 2007. Mr. Bates, a frequent performer at Lincoln's Rose Theater, portrayed Will Rogers and his views of our crazy world.

Columbus Public Library was portrayed in the video, "New World Pop-Up", in Gale's Love Your Library contest. One of five finalists, Dr. Jerry Jirka's video showed the library and staff as if they were in a pop-up book.

Elton Rokuskek of Tyndall, SD, visited the **Hartington Public Library** to sign his autobiography, "The Unknown Star". The book chronicles the experiences he has had as a result of being born with a large birthmark that covers the right side of his face.

Many people attended the opening reception for the Forever Free Exhibit on July 1 at the **Raymond A Whitwer Tilden Public Library**. Kenneth Winkle's program, "The Great Body of the Republic: Abraham Lincoln and the Great Plains'.

Best State Books

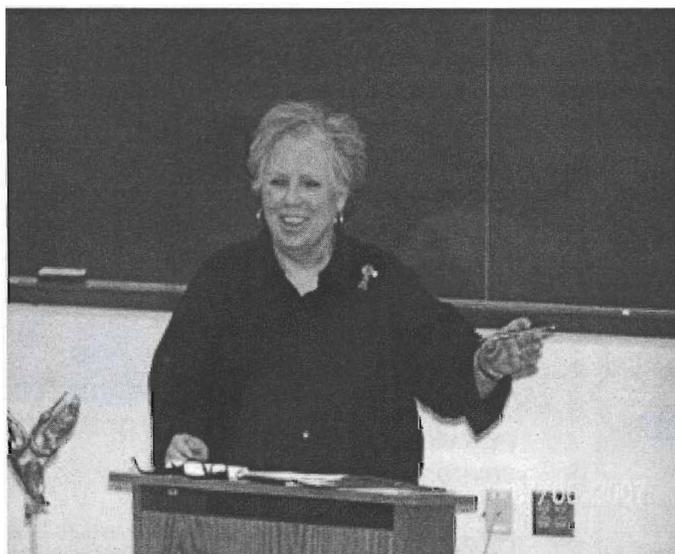
These series were recently rated as the best in Book Links, March 2007.

1. **From Sea to Shining Sea**, Children's Press. Individual titles, \$30.50.
2. **Hello, U.S.A.** Lerner. Individual titles, \$25.26.
3. **It's My State**. Benchmark. Individual titles, \$29.93.
4. **Land of Liberty**. Capstone. Individual titles, \$18.95.
5. **State Studies**. Heinemann. Individual titles, \$23.00.

Buying & Selling on eBay Class Available

Librarians interested in providing training on Buying & Selling on eBay to their constituents can contact the Northeast Nebraska RC&D in Plainview. The RC&D has worked with several libraries in the area coordinating this training. Usually a two-day/six hour session where participants learn how to set-up eBay and PayPal accounts, and learn the rules and tips on buying and selling.

The number to call in Plainview is 402-582-4866. If you have a computer lab the RC&D will do the advertising, arrange for an instructor (if needed) and do the registration work for you.



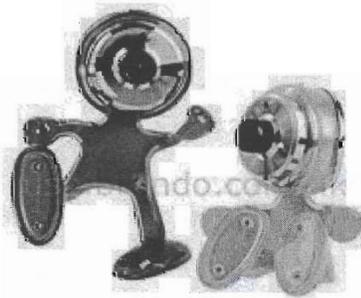
Barbara Chamness from the Center of Rural Affairs spoke about the Windmills of Nebraska Project at Annual Meeting/Institute.



Latest Gadgets & Gizmos....

Did you know that there's a potential comic book artist inside all of us? **Comeeko** (www.comeeko.com), a free Web-based program lets you create a comic strip out of your photos. Just select a comic layout, upload your pictures, and add background colors, borders, and the all important speech bubbles. Your comic character may sprout chest hair, tatoos, hats and other fun stuff.

Some things are just too cute to ignore. The **Happy-Kid Web Cam**, a playful little cyclops in purple or green, is completely bendable and just the thing to liven up your computer lab. It can sit, lie prone or even hang from your pc monitor. Just point the eye and press the button for image capturing or video conferencing. The USB Happy-Kid is plug and play with a resolution of 640x480 and is only \$19. Also available as Garfield, a soccer ball, Doreamon, a puppy and feet. For more information, visit: usb.brandoo.com.hk.



There's a new virtual environment in town called **Zwinky Nation**. IAC

Consumer Applications and Portals have launched a virtual space for its 4.7 million Zwinky users. Zwinky avatars are virtual personas that users create as their online alter egos. The new space, **Zwinktopia**, offers a social community for young teens, with 29 unique locations and dozens of games and activities. Users can shop, chat with friends, participate in events or simply hang out. With it's millions of users, IAC claims it's one of the largest virtual worlds at launch. Check it out at: www.zwinky.com.

Since its creation in 1779, "**Amazing Grace**" has become one of the best loved hymns in America. A

new Web site, created by the Library of Congress, documents the song's fascinating history, including more than 3,000 published recordings. See the first printing of "Amazing Grace" by Englishman John Newton, a former slave trader turned pastor who worked to abolish slavery. Hear interpretations by a Baptist choir, Same Cooke, a college marching band, Elvis and alt-rock band the Lemonheads. Visit: memory.loc.gov/cocoon/ihas/html/grace/grace-home.html.

Do you know what it means to seagull* or get a little shack-wacky**? These and other terms representing fringe

English are defined in the **Double-Tongued Word Wrester Dictionary**. The resource is compiled and edited by Grant Barrett (left), editor of *The Official Dictionary of Unofficial English* (McGraw-Hill, 2006) and cohost of the language-related radio show "A Way With Words."

www.doubletongued.org.

*v. to hang back and await an opportunity to benefit from desirable circumstances found or created by other people.
**adj. restless or irritable from staying indoors for a long period; stir crazy; afflicted with cabin fever.



Avid readers will take books in any form, even via cell phone. That's the premise of **Wappad**, a service that enables you to share works such as *Animal Farm*, *The Godfather* or a Simpson's quote collection all on mobile phones. The platform, which already boasts 100,000 users, is graduating from beta with a few new features: offline reading, Blackberry support, and additional languages.

To access the application, go to get.wappad.com on your phone's browser and follow the link to download. You traditionalists may scoff. But just wait 'til you're on line at the bank—with nothing to read.



HEADS UP! - NLA/NEMA Conference 2007

Outstanding pre-conference workshops as well as two days of stimulating conference sessions will highlight the annual conference of the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association. The NLA/NEMA Conference will be held October 24-26 at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in

Kearney.

Internationally respected children's book author and literacy consultant Mem Fox will present, "Dirt Roads or Highways? Two Different Directions to Literacy". The pre-conference workshop will explore the critical role reading aloud to children plays in their social, psychological, educational, and even physical development. Fox will also present, "Reading Aloud So People Stay Awake, Stay Active and Stay with You". The session will involve participants in developing read-aloud skills.

Also available as a pre-conference workshop will be "Image is Everything: Making Partners and Money for Your Library". Presented by Alexis Sarkisian of the LAMA Institute, the workshop will focus on providing librarians with the knowledge, tools, and skills they need to make and use partnerships in their marketing, fundraising, and development efforts.

John Seyfarth will present "Computer Hardware Confidence," a workshop providing a hands-on opportunity to build a computer from parts and install an operating system. This session will also help participants become familiar with typical troubleshooting and remove-and-replace tasks.

Pre-conference registration information is available on the [conference website](#), or you may register online for the Mem Fox sessions at [Read Aloud Nebraska](#).

A wide array of programming is planned for the two days of conference sessions. Thursday's opening speaker will be Harley Jane Kozak, an author/actress whose screen credits include Arachnophobia, The Favor, and Parenthood. Her books include Dating Dead Men and Dating is Murder.

Friday's keynote speaker will be Joel Sartore, a National Geographic photographer who was recently featured on the PBS documentary At Close Range. He is also the author of Nebraska: Under a Big Red Sky.

Mark your calendar now to participate in this exciting, energizing conference. For more information check the conference website: <http://www.2007nla-nema.info/>.



Luran Lofgren, Wayne Public Library Director, passes the gavel to the Northeast Library System Board's new president, Sharon Jones, Genoa Public Library Director. Congratulations on a job well done Luran!



The Reviewer's Chair

Up, Down and Around by Katherine Ayres

This is a rhyming narrative of two children who help to plant, water and harvest a vegetable garden and while they work they also learn how vegetables grow. Some growing up, others down and yet other twist around and around. Colorful ink & watercolor illustrations include many snails, caterpillars, birds, bugs, and worms add interest to this upbeat story, which would also be useful in the classroom with a unit on gardens or vegetables.

Written for Preschool – 2nd grade this is a neat science learning tool.

~~Pat Thompson WSC

Chase By Jessie Haas

Phin Chase was at the wrong place at the wrong time. He loved to go Mr. Engelbreit to read his books. He would go without sleep, just so he could read the books. But one morning, the men know as the "Sleepers" came to Mr. Engelbreit's cabin, where they shot and killed Mr. Engelbreit. Then the men turn the story around and claim it was Phin who had pulled the trigger. Phin is on the run, not knowing

who to trust or where to go. At every turn there is the big black horse that can smell him out and makes being on the run, really difficult.

This is a book for reluctant readers, fast moving and interesting. Definite purchase for libraries that are looking for a good book boys will want to read. Grades 4-6

~~Marilyn Quance, WSC

Tantalize by Cynthia Leitich Smith

Tantalize is a dark fantasy. The main character, Quincie Morris, is an orphan. She is helping her free-spirited uncle and his vampire wanna be girlfriend, run the family restaurant. They are trying to change the restaurant into a vampire theme. After their chef is brutally killed by what appears to be werewolves, Quincie has to train a new chef, Henry Johnson. Henry is friendly and doesn't seem to be good at acting like a vampire chef. Quincie loves her boyfriend, Kieren, who is half werewolf. She knows that he has to go away to join a pack to be able to survive in this world.

This story is full of mystery and has a surprise ending. It may be good for high school or adult level readers.

~~Claudette Wielechowski,
North Platte, NE



Quiet, Loud by Leslie Patricelli

This is a cute, simple board book about a toddler's perspective of the quiet and loud things in his world. The expressions on the character are sure to bring a smile to young one's faces.

The simple text makes this an "easy read" for even a pre-schooler. This is recommended for any collection.

~~Heather Reid, homeschool teacher, Omaha, NE

Dirk Bones and the Mystery of the Haunted House By Dough Cushman

A skeleton news reporter goes on an investigation to find out who or what is making strange noises. The noise takes the reporter on a creepy hunt. The reporter finds out what is making the noise and writes his article for the newspaper, and the rest of the town is grateful to be able to rest again.

This book is good for first grade readers and both school and public collection. This is a good beginner reader book. I would bring this book out around Halloween for the children to read.

~Sarah A. Klinetobe, O'Neill, NE

The Story of a Seagull and the Cat Who Taught Her to Fly

By Luis Sepulveda

A seagull, covered in oil from an oil slick and dying, makes her last flight to the balcony of



Zorba the Cat. Zorba promises the gull that he will care for the egg until it hatches, raise the chick and then teach it to fly.

This book is good for readers in grades 4-6. This is a wonderful tale about the character Zorba the Cat, that makes a promise and goes to extreme lengths to fulfill that promise. This is a nice lesson for today's children.
 ~~Deb Daehnke, Wayne State College

Naptime for Slippers

By Andrew Clements

Instead of taking a nap Slippers follows his nose to track down all the interesting smells he associates with his human family.

This is a good book for readers that are 3-8 years of age. This is a good book for any home collection. This story is sure to delight young listeners and readers. Children love their pets and will enjoy recounting the antics of their own pets. This book will proved a great way to get children to share their experiences.

~~Latricia Olson, Randolph Public School

Ruby Glooms Keys to Happiness

By Clam Lynch

This is a book of advice for Happiness. Written in the style of Lemoney Snicket's Series of Unfortunates, it tries to give advice in a negative way using dark, unhappy illustrations.

This book is not recommended for any library collection. I don't like this type of book. I think our young people see enough negativity without handing them another book with it on every page. I don't like black. I don't like the tone the book is written in.
 ~~Karma Ragland, Red Cloud, NE

Pearl and Wagner: Three Secrets

By Kate McMullen

Three friends tell each other some secrets and learn that some secrets are ok and some can hurt each other.

This book is recommended for readers between the ages of 6-8 and also any public library collection. This book contains bold pictures and nice large print. Cute stories about secrets and how kids find secrets so important.

~~Angie Vavra, Pierce, NE

Just for You to Know

By Cheryl Harness

In the summer before her first year in junior high, Carmen Carthcart's parents move their family of eight, once again, this time to the sleepy town of Independence, MO. If that isn't bad enough, Carmen finds out (in a drive-thru stop) that her mom is pregnant, again. The real story begins, though, when her mother dies in child-birth. As the oldest, Carmen is forced to take on the responsibilities of her mother, while

struggling to keep up in school. Her father retreats into himself and buries himself in work and alcohol, providing little help.

In a book that is both funny and sad, Harness does an excellent job of portraying the life of a young girl struggling to deal with the loss of a parent.
 ~~Amanda Limoges, Eastern Township Library

The Boy Who Cried Fabulous

By Leslea Newman

Roger was very curious about everything! And everything was Fabulous to him. He could never get anyplace on time because everything was soooooo Fabulous. His habit of being late made his teacher and his parents very angry. At last, his parents forbid him to say the word Fabulous. But that doesn't stop Roger from enjoying everything he sees.

This is a lighthearted book that you will like.

~~Joan Chilvers, Pierce, NE





Nebraska
Humanities
Council

Humanities Council Seeks Grant Proposals for New Program: The Good Life: Rural-Urban-Suburban

The face of Nebraska continues to change, and the Nebraska Humanities Council is making grants available for the purpose of understanding the demographic shift from rural to urban to suburban through public programs involving the humanities.

Identity and Sense of Place

What does it mean for a state's identity to change for a state whose symbols have been Cornhuskers and Beef State to also be the home of five Fortune 500 corporations and suburban sprawl? How do metropolitan dwellers perceive themselves in a state known for its agricultural heritage?

Rural culture

Some cities are complimentarily described as having a small town feel. How are values we associate with rural culture a connection to the land, appreciation for diligence and hard work, and a sense of community, friendliness and safety portable to contemporary, urban society? How have small towns been successful at incorporating the best of contemporary, urban society without sacrificing their rural qualities? The NHC encourages programs that explore what rural, suburban and urban Nebraska have in common and how these common themes can be used to link the three and strengthen our state.

Technology and Nebraska

The rapid advances today in communications technology, including the Internet, may increase the flexibility of where we can live in relation to where we work and where we learn. Many young people leave rural areas and small towns for educational and professional opportunities, leaving a growing proportion of aging residents who may feel isolated. How can technology and other resources encourage young people to choose the option of rural/small town life and reduce the sense of isolation? The NHC is interested in programs that explore the impact that technology will have on the connection between rural, urban and suburban Nebraska.

Resources and conflict

All communities share the need for access to resources as diverse as water, transportation, telecommunications, education, law enforcement, and health care. Increasing suburban sprawl requires a serious look at land-use planning to encourage wise use of resources, preserve the environment, reduce conflict and best serve all Nebraskans. The council encourages proposals for projects that will enhance public understanding and discussion of the underlying ethical, economic, social and political values shaping decisions we make to determine allocation of resources.

Proposals will be strengthened by:

- Using creative methods to bring groups together to facilitate understanding.
- Encouraging civic discussion of issues facing communities that will help shape public policy.
- Involving elected or appointed officials in public policy discussions.
- Planning for sustainability of the project beyond the period of the grant.
- Addressing an audience that has been underserved by humanities programming.

Application deadlines

Major Grants: March 1 and Aug. 1

Mini Grants (\$1,500 ceiling): Jan. 1, March 1, May 1, July 1, Sept. 1, Nov. 1

Grant policies and applications are available at www.nebraskahumanities.org. The NHC encourages interested parties to contact Program Officer Mary Yager for advice in developing a proposal at mary@nebraskahumanities.org or 402-474-2131.



**Northeast Library System
Board Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2007**

The Northeast Board met at Hruska Memorial Public Library on May 16, 2007 and was hosted by director and board member, Kay Schmid. The meeting was called to order by President, Loran Lofgren. Board members present were Ann Bachman, Sharon Jones, Dee Johnson, Marilyn Quance, Lauran Lofgren, Linda Risinger, Joyce Sullivan, Jolene Klein, Kate Ostenrude, Kay Schmid and Sally Stahlecker. Laurie Rehnstrom and Michele Hastreiter were not in attendance. Alternate Duane Munson for Laurie Rehnstrom was approved (MS: Risinger, Quance). System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton, Administrative Assistant, Shelia Cermak, and Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission, were present. Lucy Cooper, HMPL, joined the meeting later.

There were no additions to the agenda and a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2007 was made and approved (MS: Johnson, Sullivan).

Kathy Ellerton shared NELS correspondence and communications she received with the board.

Shelia Cermak gave the financial report; balance as of 5/7/7 is \$37,274.31. There are no certificates of deposit due at this time with the next one due on June 1, 2007. A motion was made to have the budget committee make a decision on the 6/1/2007 due CD based on best CD rate and a timeslot that balances our due dates on all certificates of deposit held by NELS (MS: Bachman, Johnson - approved by roll call vote).

REPORTS:

Commissioner-Pat Gross: no report

State Advisory Council-Gretchen Healy: no report

Nebraska Library Commission: Richard Miller gave a May/June report to the system board. CE & Training grant applications are now being accepted for grants to provide support for training of library staff &/or supporters with the goal of improving library services, consortia of public libraries, and certain state run institutions. Long range plan meetings are scheduled to gain input for the 2008-09 LSTA plan. Cataloging workshops, both classroom and online will be offered later this year. Michael Sauers will present 2 sessions per day in Scottsbluff on June 12 & 13. The sessions are titled "A New Way of Communicating" and "I Blog, You Blog, Weblog". Several database trials are going on – please take advantage of the trial period. "Thinking Outside the Borders" will be held in Lincoln October 22 – 26 with 15 librarians from each foreign and Nebraska libraries. The 13th Annual Norfolk Public Library Literature Festival will be held July 28 at Northeast Community College's Lifelong Learning Center. Nominations for The Nebraska Book Awards are due by June 30, 2007. One book One Nebraska chose Crazy Horse: the Strange Man of the Oglalas by Mari Sandoz for 2007. For additional information on these topics, please visit the Nebraska Library Commission website at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us>

System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton reported on a wide range of activities she has completed in the past two months. In addition, she has spent time traveling to library based events, meetings, and work sessions all over the Northeast Library System area. For more complete information, please contact the system office or visit the website at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel – no report

Budget – The committee met on April 24th to discuss and work on the 2007-2008 budget. In general,

this year's budget is on target. Increased fuel prices and postage rates were the topic of discussion and the budget committee made a recommendation to cut a little from other areas to help cover the anticipated increase to these line items.

Continuing Education – no report

Strategic Planning – no report

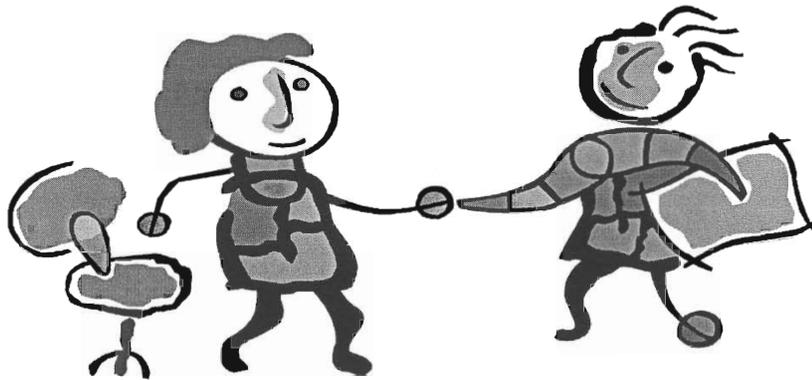
Technology – no report

Grants – the committee reported there were 15 requests for grants and 7 were funded; a total of \$4,236 was requested, with \$1,611 funded. System libraries that received grants were Meadow Grove, Atkinson, Raymond A Whitwer in Tilden, Norfolk Regional Center, West Catholic Elementary School, Wakefield Community Schools, and South Sioux City Public Library.

Board members shared activities going on in their libraries.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Dee Johnson



Welcome, New System Board Members

The following people were recently elected to the Northeast Library System Board:

Lynn Manhart, Central City Public Library

Elaine Tobias, Pilger Public Library

Sharon Jones, Genoa Public Library

Chris Chilcoat, Stanton Community Schools

Kathy Ageton, Lutheran High Northeast

These folks represent represent your communities at System Board Meetings. They appreciate hearing from you regarding library related issues. We want to thank all who agreed to run for Library System Board openings. Serving on the board is a commitment of both time and talent that is greatly appreciated.



NORTHEAST LIBRARY SYSTEM
ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 7, 2007

The Northeast Library System held its annual banquet and meeting Thursday, June 7 at Wayne State College. System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton, welcomed the group.

Board President, Lauran Lofgren called the meeting to order. Board members present were Lauran Lofgren, Kate Ostenrude, Ann Bachman, Laurie Rehnstrom, Michele Hastreiter, Sharon Jones, Linda Risinger, Sally Stahlecker, Marilyn Quance, Jolene Klein, and Dee Johnson. Joyce Sullivan & Kay Schmid were not in attendance.

Administrator: Kathy Ellerton shared that Playaway titles and a portable DVD player are available for checkout from the System office. She recognized four retiring board members and thanked them for their service to the NLS: Laurie Rehnstrom, Lauran Lofgren, Marilyn Quance, & Linda Risinger.

Nominating committee: New board members elected were: Population under 1,000 – Sharon Jones, Genoa Public Library & Elaine Tobias, Pilger Public Library. Populations under 10,000 – Lynn Manhart, Central City Public Library. Population over 10,000 – Kathy Ageton, Lutheran High School in Norfolk. School media specialist – Chris Chilcoat, Stanton Schools, and academic representative – Dee Johnson, Central Community College.

The committee announced the new System Board Officers: President, Sharon Jones, Vice-president, Ann Bachman, and Kate Ostenrude, Secretary.

Marilyn Quance updated the group and urged libraries to continue to borrow books from the examination center located at W.S.C. A great way to supplement the library's juvenile collection.

Announcements: The July System Board meeting will be held in Ponca.

Claims of the day: A motion was made to accept the claims of the day (MS: Quance, Ostenrude) Motion carried by roll-call vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee Johnson

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|---|------------------------|
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| CELL PHONE 402-910-0772 | |
| ECONO-CLAD | MARSHALL/CAVENDISH |
| CHILD'S WORLD | SALEM PRESS |
| REFERENCE BOOKS | COMPTON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA |

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.



"You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism."

~~Erma Bombeck

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



**Northeast Library System
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