



Straight *talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

Why Aren't People Using The Library? FIND OUT!!

How does a library trustee learn why his or her fellow community residents don't use the library?

A board of trustees should annually devote a certain amount of time to come up with new ways to ask non-patrons why they are not library patrons. The trustees should avoid approaches used in the recent past so they hopefully reach new segments of the population.

A few approaches include:

- ◆ Develop a speaker's bureau that's designed to use every group they speak to as a focus group. Have a very brief questionnaire prepared that can be handed out at the start of the program and give the group 5 to 10 minutes to fill it out so the questionnaires can be collected at the end of each meeting. The speaker should encourage group participation during his or her talk: get people to talk about how they use the library as well as why they don't use it.
- ◆ A trustee should carry an even briefer questionnaire, written on a self-addressed, stamped postcard so he or she can hand it out whenever possible and ask the people to mail it in as soon as they have time to fill it out. This would be ideal to hand out to sales clerks, waitresses or people a trustee might be introduced to at a social gathering.
- ◆ Simply ask "Why don't you use our library?" when you're at an informal public event where a group of people are nearby (in the stands at a little league game, at an outdoor festival, sitting at a table during a social reception or at a church social event).
- ◆ Trustees should staff library booths at community fairs or



Apply Now for NLA Scholarships!

Northeast Library System is again offering scholarships to attend the Nebraska Library Association/ Nebraska Educational Media Association Annual Conference held in Omaha at the Qwest Center on October 25 - 27. Scholarships are from \$100- \$250 to cover registration, motel, meals, and travel costs. Applicants must **not** have received a Northeast Library System Scholarship to attend a state-wide N.L.A./ N.E.M.A. Conference in the last **three** years. See page 10 for an application form.

This year's keynote speakers include Nancy Pearl, author of *Book Lust*. Her talk is titled "The Pleasures and Perils of a Life of Reading". Stephen Abram, Vice President, Innovation for SirsiDynix will speak about Web 2.0 and how it affects your library. Alex Kava will be leading a book discussion on her book "A Perfect Evil" and "An Necessary Evil". This year's speakers are very dynamic and not to be missed!



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festivals. Again, they should hand out surveys and simply talk to the people walking past the booth. They should ask the people if they are patrons. If they answer no, tell them you really want to know why to see if there is something the library should be doing that it is not being done.

If all the trustees take this role seriously the board should learn quite a bit why certain segments of the community don't walk through the library doors. Then it's up to the board members to begin responding to what they learned.

Such trustee-driven and trustee-implemented informal research lets the decision makers hear for themselves what the library needs to do to get more patrons. It's a lot better than contracting with a consultant to do some research into the reasons people aren't patrons. I think people often respond to a professionally done surveys with answers they think they are expected to provide.

(Reprinted from Rural Library Services Newsletter, Paulding County Carnegie Library, 205 S. Main St., Paulding, OH 4587889, Vol. 13, Issue #4; written by David Miller. Used with permission.)



This snapshot shows the windows in the west wall of the **Ponca Public Library** addition. The handicapped entrance will also be along that wall. The contractor plans to be done in September,

Apply for THE BIG READ

Approximately one hundred organizations of varying sizes in all fifty states will be selected during two grant cycles to participate in The Big Read in 2007. One-half of the grants will be awarded for programming in the first six months of 2007 and one-half for programming in the last six months. The first deadline is Sept. 12, 2006.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. It is designed to revitalize the role of literature in American popular culture and bring the transformative power of literature into the lives of its citizens. This program will engage libraries, literary organizations, colleges and universities, and arts organizations with other community and school partners across the country to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment.

To apply for The Big Read, applications must be submitted online through The Big Read electronic eGRANT system. A hard copy package of proposal materials must also be submitted. Grants generally range from \$10,000 to \$20,000, with a minimum grant of \$5,000. Organizations from smaller communities should ensure that the application reflects broad impact throughout the community. For further information, including grant guidelines and applications, see <http://www.neabigread.org/index.php>.



Nebraska Updated Correlations Available

The correlations of the Nebraska L.E.A.R.N.S. Standards for Reading/Writing,

Science, Social Studies/History and Technology with the Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning have been updated. This update was completed by members of the Nebraska Educational Media Association and the School Children's and Young People's Section of the Nebraska Library Association. The correlations can be accessed by going to the NEMA website: <http://nema.k12.ne.us>.

The correlations are also available on CD and will be distributed at NEMA professional development workshops and at the NEMA booth during the NLA/NEMA Conference in Omaha.



Scholarship Committee to Sponsor Silent Auction

The NLA Scholarship Committee will hold a silent auction at this year's annual NLA/NEMA conference. All proceeds from the auction will assist students who are attending graduate school or additional training to enhance their library skills.

The committee is requesting donations of new items that can be sold. If you have items, please contact Mary Gubbels of Omaha, home phone 402-592-8408 or work 402-597-2040; or Myrna Tewes of Lincoln, home phone 402-304-2878, so that delivery arrangements can be made. If you have questions about the auction, please contact Kathy Jacobs, Scholarship Committee Chair, at the South Sioux City Public Library, 402-494-7545 or e-mail: [kjacob@southsiouxcity.org](mailto:kjacobs@southsiouxcity.org).

Pipe Cleaner Animals

Need something quick and easy for kids to do these lazy, waning days of summer? Check out this web site: <http://www.marthastewart.com/page.jhtml?type=learn-cat&id=cat21426&navLevel=2&site=kids>. Martha has directions for a chameleon, squirrel, tiger, and deer and fawn. These animals are guaranteed fit comfortably in a pocket, won't make a peep, and never get fleas!



Check Out EngagedPatrons.org



The brainchild of librarian Glenn Peterson, EngagedPatrons (EP) provides interactive web services for public libraries that find technology challenging. It's free to qualifying libraries - those libraries with less than \$1 million in total income. Larger libraries can get the contact forms and RSS (Rich Site Summary, an XML format for syndicating Web content) for very small annual fees.

EP handles all the programming and coding, fitting the new services seamlessly into your library's web site. All you do is add content through a simple web interface. The services EP provides are:

Event Calendars: An awesome-looking searchable calendar of library events, with optional online registration, e-mailable listings, event RSS feeds, auto-deletion when the event is over and stable URLs for each event.

Blogs: An easily updatable and searchable web page of what's new at your library, complete with ready-made RSS feed, optional patron comments, autoarchiving, blog spam protection, and the ability for multiple staff members to post.

Contact Forms: A completely customizable web form to collect feedback from users.

RSS Feeds: Customized RSS feeds for frequently updated parts of your web site.

Custom Databases: Web-accessible databases for staff or patrons build from your library's unique files.

How do you get started? All services are hosted on EP's servers. You don't have to upload, download, install or plug in a thing!!! Simply select the type of service you're interested in, plug in your library's information, select your preferences, and within minutes you'll have a new web service up and running.

All EP services are designed to be displayed within the look and feel of the library's existing web site. To your library's users, it appears that they've never left the library's web site. If your library uses favicons (those little site-specific icons that appear in the address bar or favorites list) can use them in conjunction with EP services as well.



The new **Randolph Public Library** is under construction. You can see the old library peeking over the wall in the background.



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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Nebraska Library Leadership Institute Reflections

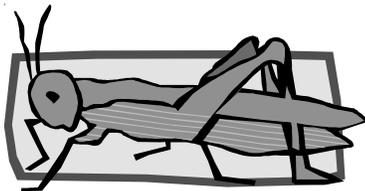
by Kathy Jacobs

As I reflect upon the 2005 Nebraska Library Leadership Institute, I find it difficult to capture my thoughts and experiences in one article. Throughout the last year, I have referred to my workshop materials many times and have corresponded with several of the participants. Continuing to network with individuals from the Institute keeps me fresh and energized.

One of the most daunting assignments I received came in the form of writing a vision statement that not only spoke for all members of the Institute but also spoke to members of our profession both today and in the future. The writers, several participants who were nominated by their small "home" groups, were given literally hundreds of ideas from Institute participants and asked to bring some semblance of order and meaning to them. It was, in essence, an assignment that allowed us to practice our leadership skills. We became the voice of the Institute participants.

During the course of writing the vision statement, we discussed, agreed, disagreed, compromised, wrote, edited, started over more than once, and the cycle continued until we had written and agreed upon ten very powerful statements. We presented the vision statement to the entire group on Friday. I was overwhelmed by the positive response of everyone, and I was proud of the work we had done.

I strongly recommend that, if given the opportunity, you apply for the Leadership Institute. The time you spend learning about yourself and your leadership style and being among some of Nebraska's foremost library leaders, will be with you always. You will put into practice much of what you learn and will be on your way to becoming a future Nebraska library leader.



NebraskAccess Now Chats! Do you?

The NebraskAccess team recently created accounts on several popular instant messaging (IM) services:

- AIM
- Google
- MSN
- Yahoo!

If you already have an IM account through one of these services, consider adding us to your buddy/friends list. Our IM screen name on all four services is NebraskAccess. Next time you have a question or comment about NebraskAccess, invite us to chat!

Of course, you can continue to contact us in all the ways you've used in the past: fill out and submit the Comments form on the NebraskAccess web site, email NebraskAccess, or call 1-800-307-2665.



Check Your Calendar

August 8 - **NEBASE Annual Meeting - East** meeting at the Cornhusker Hotel.

August 9 - **Really Good Library Group** Meeting at Gardner Public Library, Wakefield at 10am.

August 29 - **OCLC Cat Express Training** at Nebraska Library Commission from 9am - 12pm.

Sept 4 - **Labor Day Holiday** - System office closed.

Sept 14 - **Fall Colloquium - An Evening with Jamie LaRue** at The Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, from 5:30-9:30pm.

Sept. 14-16 - **Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival** at Concordia University, Seward. Visit the website: www.cune.edu for more information.

Sept. 20 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Albion Public Library at 10am.

Sept. 27 - **ESU/NLS School Media Specialists Workshop** at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC.

Oct. 25 - **NLA Pre-Conference: Excursion to Historic**

Brownville, Nebraska: Book Town USA. See enclosed flyer for more information.

26-27 - **NLA Annual Conference** at Qwest Center, Omaha.



NEW @ NLS

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

A Small But Powerful Guide to Winning Big Support for Your Rural Library, ALA, 2006.

This jam-packed leaflet is full of practical ideas for winning support in your community. The leaflet can be downloaded from: <http://www.ala.org/ala/olosbucket/supporttoolkit/toolkithome.htm>

"Ethics and Fundraising" by Kim Klein, *Grassroots Fundraising Journal*, July/August 2006, pp. 9-11.

This article reviews the three tools that can help you avoid feeling the need to deceive in any fundraising situation.

College Students' Perceptions of Libraries and Information Sources, OCLC, 2006.

This report looks at various concerns library use, awareness and use of library electronic resources, the Internet search engine, the library and the librarian Free vs. for-fee information and the "Library" brand questions from the point-of-view of college students and 14- to 17-year-olds.

Is a Combined School/ Public Library Right for Your Community? A Guide for Decision Makers, State Library of Iowa, 2006.

A guide to the legal and practical issues involved in creating a combined school and public library. A feasibility checklist and a series of questions regarding key issues such as administration, financing, facility access, collections, technology, services and staffing are available for discussion.

"The Care and Keeping of Friends Groups" by Nanci Milone Hill, *Public Libraries*, July/August 2006.

A series of essays offering insight in how to organize, grow and maintain a successful Friends group.





NORTHEAST NEWS

Get ready to break out your knives and butter for Neligh's Bread 'n Jam Bake-off to be held at the Historic Neligh Mill on Saturday, September 9th. Prizes include a new Electric Range, Bread Machines, and Kitchen Aid Mixers. **Neligh Public Library** is helping sponsor the event. Kate Ostenrude, library director, said organizing this festival is in direct response to attending the Gates Rural Library Sustainability workshop at the Public Library Conference in Boston earlier this year.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Odell and the **Clearwater Public Library Board** for an impressive job of grant writing. They've received grants from Kinder Morgan, Walmart and the Libri Foundation!

The **Walthill Public Library** was in the middle of the big celebration of Walthill's Centennial on July 19-23. In addition to the rodeo, events included a quilt show, car show, free Bar B-Que and street dance.

Tis the season for quasiquintennials! The **Gardner Public Library** held tours during the recent Q125 celebration in Wakefield.

And the folks in Clearwater celebrated their 125th anniversary with a concert by country star Billy Currington on July 23rd. The **Clearwater Public Library** folks were busy with assisting organizing the various events.

The hot spot in David City on July 22nd was the **Hruska Memorial Public Library**. The Friends were having their book sale and silent auction while the Foundation was selling root beer floats to help celebrate the Butler County Fair.

Congratulations to the **Genoa Public Library** for the establishment of their library foundation.

Sagebrush InfoCentre has been installed at the **Wakefield Community Schools** Library reported school media specialist, Jolene Klein.

Pucker up! is what the Summer Reading Program participants are telling Brad Hruska, Children's Librarian at the **Columbus Public Library**. Brad challenged the Summer Reading Kids that if they read over 160,000 pages he will kiss a pig!

A big Northeast welcome to **Osmond Public Library's** new director, Linda Gutz. The former director, Donna Kahny, resigned to spend more time with her family.

Also, another big Northeast welcome to Mary Johnson, the new library director at **Nebraska Indian Community College - Santee Campus**.

A sad farewell to Pat Wilson, director of the **Clarks Public Library**. Pat has retired and has moved to Burwell. Barbee Sweet is the new librarian and welcome!

It's with deep regrets that Lisa Ziegenbein has resigned as director of the **Creighton Public Library**. Congratulations to Lindsay Neuhaus who has accepted the position as director.

Delores Bahns of the **Madison Public Library** has recently stepped down as director. Congratulations to Kathy Stender who is the new library director.

Deb Robertson, director of the **Northeast Community College LRC** has resigned and is moving to Virginia! She has accepted the library director's position at Virginia Highlands Community College in Abingdon, Virginia.

Osceola Public Library has a new children's librarian. She is Macy Schott and is excited about doing the children's programming.

Bob Trautwin, Director of the **Columbus Public Library**, recently announced the purchase of a new Platte County Bookmobile. The \$108,000 vehicle visits schools and towns in rural Platte County.





Playhouse Disney Preschool Time Online Free to Libraries

Librarians play a crucial role in helping parents and their children meet the educational challenges that lie ahead. In support of nationwide preschool education initiatives, and to help librarians offer quality programming for their youngest patrons, Disney Online is offering Playhouse Disney Preschool Time Online free to libraries across the country. Please request your Preschool Time Online subscription by emailing: library@preschooltime.com. Please note there

is a limited number of subscriptions, which will be issued on a first come, first served basis. Offer expires 12/31/2007.

Preschool Time Online is a fun, interactive experience that adjusts to each child's skill level to keep preschoolers engaged and challenged. Every two weeks, new games and activities are introduced that help teach skills in important areas such as letter and number recognition, shape and color identification, and counting. Each Learning Adventure is grounded in stories with themes such as friendship or bravery.

Preschool Time Online focuses on eight skill areas designed to help build the foundation for future academic success, including Reading Readiness, Thinking Skills, Daily Living Skills, Social Skills, Imagination and Self-Expression, Motor Skills, and Computer Skills.

Preschool Time Online is recommended by early childhood education experts as a way of building kindergarten-readiness skills.

Parents are encouraged to interact with children as they engage in Preschool Time Online activities .

Preschool Time Online is not a substitute for offline play; studies suggest preschoolers develop a significant amount of their social and learning skills through creative offline play.

Parents should determine a well-rounded media plan for their children that meets their comfort level in regard to time spent with all types of media including computers and television.

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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



Demonstrating Your Library's Economic Impact

Looking for ways to show your community—and your funders—the difference your library makes? You might consider answering some of the following questions:

How much money did you save your patrons by loaning books, movies and other items? A. Number of items circulated multiplied by the average cost of the items.

Example: If your library circulated 25,000 items (books, movies, audiobooks) and you multiplied that by \$20 you've theoretically saved the people of your community \$500,000! **How much have they invested in you?***

Q. How many family entertainment dollars did you save the people of your community by offering programs? A. Program attendance for the year multiplied by the cost of the average movie ticket in your area.

Example: If your program attendance for the year equals 500 and you multiply that by the cost of a \$6.00 movie ticket you've saved \$3,000 of entertainment costs for the people of your community.

Q. How much money does your library save the people of your community by providing computers with Internet access for the public? A. Number of people who use your public access computers in a year multiplied by the cost of using the same equipment and connectivity through a local business.

Example: Kinko's Copy Center has begun offering access to computers with Internet connections and Microsoft Office Suite at \$12 an hour, use that figure and multiply it by the number of people who used your computers last year. A local cyber cafe charges 13 cents a minute for Internet access.

More Economic Impact figures to use to describe the value of your library:

Some of these answers can be gathered in-house, others you may need to do a survey to find out.

- How many people do you employ in the community?
- Do you offer free homework help? What would it cost someone to hire that type of help for their child?
- Value of goods and services you purchase within the community or county? Number of local businesses that you deal with?
- What is the value of the newspapers and magazines offered in your library and through Nebraska Access
- How many reference questions do you answer a year? What does a private researcher charge to answer questions?
- How many people use the library for business purposes? Number of businesses that are library patrons? Total circulation of business periodicals? Number of programs devoted to small business topics? What is the satisfaction level of people using the library for business reasons? What is the perceived importance of the library to non-users in the business community?
- Do you offer programs on personal financial planning? What did participants report back?
- Do you provide information on starting your own business?
- How many library patrons combine a stop at the library with a stop at local businesses?
- How many visitor information requests do you get?
- How many requests for information on local businesses and social services?

As you can see, promoting the value of your library in the community through economic statements can be quite effective. Speaking in terms of dollars and cents can have a big impact on people who might not register the value of library services otherwise.



Scholarship Application

The NORTHEAST LIBRARY SYSTEM will make available **7** scholarships of varying amounts to help defray costs for **librarians, trustees & school library media specialists** wishing to attend the joint Nebraska Library Association / Nebraska Educational Media Association conference to be held at the Quest Center in Omaha on October 25-27, 2006.

1. Applicants must **not** have received a Northeast Library System Scholarship to attend a state-wide N.L.A./N.E.M.A. Conference in the last **three** years.
2. Applicants must be currently employed in a Northeast Library System library or a trustee of a library board.
3. Scholarships will be awarded to no more than one person from each library or school district.
4. Applicants must attend at least one day of the Conference or Pre-Conference.
5. After the Conference, those awarded scholarships must submit a written summary (one page minimum) of Conference programs attended, prior to the next scheduled System Board meeting, November 15, 2006. Summaries will be shared with System Board members.

Continuing Education hours are available from the Nebraska Library Commission for attending the conference. Contact Kathy Ellerton at 1-800-578-1014 or Richard Miller at the Nebraska Library Commission at 1-800-307-2665 for more information.

If you qualify, don't hesitate to take advantage of this opportunity! Complete this form & mail it to the Northeast Library System office, 3038 33rd Street, Columbus, NE 68601 by September 15. Scholarship recipients will be notified prior to the pre-registration deadline.

NAME _____

LIBRARIAN _____ SCHOOL MEDIA SPECIALIST _____ TRUSTEE: _____

LIBRARY OR SCHOOL YOU REPRESENT _____

ADDRESS & PHONE: _____ E-MAIL _____

What sessions do you plan to attend? Conference schedule can be found at: <http://www.2006nla-nemaconference.info/>

How will the information help you at the library? _____

Is there another entity sponsoring your attendance at this conference **YES** **NO**
(Please circle the one that applies.)

How many days do you plan to attend this conference? Preconference only? One Day? Two Days?
(Please circle the one that applies.)

(Make a copy of this form for your records.)

ALA and Scholastic Library Publishing Announce 2007 National Library Week Grant

"Come together @ your library®" named official theme

(CHICAGO) Libraries across the United States are invited to apply for the \$5,000 Scholastic Library Publishing National Library Week Grant, which will be awarded to a single library for the best public awareness campaign incorporating the 2007 National Library Week theme, "Come together @ your library®."

The grant, in support of libraries, is sponsored by Scholastic Library Publishing, a division of Scholastic, the global children's publishing, education and media company, and is administered by the Public Awareness Committee of the American Library Association (ALA). This year's application deadline is **October 16, 2006**. National Library Week is April 15-21, 2007.

All proposals must use the "Come together @ your library" theme, which incorporates The Campaign for America's Libraries' "@ your library" brand, on any and all promotional and publicity material supporting National Library Week activities. Guidelines for using the brand are available on the campaign Web site at www.ala.org/@yourlibrary under the "download logos" section.

A grant application form and guidelines are available on The Campaign for America's Libraries Web site at www.ala.org/@yourlibrary/nlwgrant. * Information also is available from the ALA Public Information Office. Telephone: 800-545-2433, ext. 4020. E-mail: mhumphrey@ala.org.

The winner will be notified and announced at the 2007 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Seattle. Information on last year's winner, the Maricopa County Library District in Phoenix, Ariz., and the winning application can be viewed at www.ala.org/@yourlibrary/nlwgrant.

Members of the National Library Week subcommittee include Dee Yost, chair, Hastings College Perkins Library (Neb.); Elliot L. Appelbaum, Lexington (Ky.) Public Library; Dr. Gordon Newton Baker, Clayton State University (Ga.); Darlene Basone, school library consultant, Ohio; and Lisa Rice, Bowling Green (Ky.) Public Library.

For more information about The Campaign for America's Libraries, visit the [campaign's Web site](#). Scholastic Library Publishing, a division of Scholastic, creates a multitude of products, both in print and online, for the school and public library market under the imprints of Grolier®, Children's Press®, Franklin Watts®, and Grolier Online.® Scholastic Corporation (NASDAQ: SCHL) is the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books and a leader in educational technology. Scholastic creates quality educational and entertaining materials and products for use in school and at home, including children's books, magazines, technology-based products, teacher materials, television programming, film, videos and toys. The Company distributes its products and services through a variety of channels, including proprietary school-based book clubs, school-based book fairs, and school-based and direct-to-home continuity programs; retail stores, schools, libraries and television networks; and the Company's Internet site, www.scholastic.com.





The Reviewer's Chair

Walk Softly, Rachel

By Kate Banks

Rachel is a typical fourteen-year-old student.

However, she never really knew her brother who died when she was seven. As she befriends the son of a family close to her parents and discovers his problem, she also begins to learn details about her brother's life and death while reading his journal. The story is told in the present through Rachel's eyes and correlates her experiences with a journal that she is reading of her deceased brother.

I enjoyed the book and think it is relevant to middle school. It is recommended for both public and school libraries.

~~Deb Daehnke, WSC

Hooray for Ballet!

By Margaret Frith.

Going to see the ballet Swan Lake with her uncle, who is a ballet dancer in New York City, inspires Elizabeth to write a report for school on the history of ballet and what she learned during her experience.

This interesting non-fiction selection includes diagrams and photographs to illustrate the information being presented.

Public libraries and elementary school libraries may care to add it to their collection.

~~Claudette Wielechowski, North Platte, NE.

Ella the Elegant Elephant

By Carmela and Steven D'Amico

This is a story many school children will relate to. First Ella is scared to go to school and her Grandma sends her a special hat to help. She wears the hat to school and gets made fun of. Finally the class bully gets stuck up high and Ella and her hat save the day.

The illustrations are very colorful and help tell the story. This would be a great addition to any collection for school aged kids.

~~Heather Reid, parent, Omaha, NE

Dear Tooth Fairy

By Pamela Duncan Edwards

This book is about a girl who writes the tooth fairy and to her surprise the tooth fairy writes back. See what happens after letters switch hands.

This book would be cute for story time. Recommended for 1st-2nd grade in either school or public libraries.

~~Angie Vavra, Lied Public Library, Pierce, NE

The Young Man and the Sea

By Rodman Philbrick

A young man takes on a summer project he can believe in. His father is still grieving for his mother, and the young boy believes that he can make his father proud and bring him out of his depression. He foolishly pushes his bravery to the max, but in the end he accomplishes what he set out to do.

This book was well written in the first person and holds the interest of the reader. Both boys and girls will be captivated by this tale of a young man on a mission.

~~Sandra Lyons, Stromsburg, NE

Prince William, Maximilian Minsky, and Me

By Holly-Jane Rahlens

Nelly Sue Edelmeister is miserable living in Berlin. Her mother has decided that she needs to participate in a bar mitzvah in which she has no interest. Nelly's first love is Prince William which leads to many problems. The first is to get to England and meet Prince William. Nelly hears the basketball team may be touring in England so she decides to get on the team. The problem is that she has no interest in basketball and doesn't know anything about the game. Her lessons come from another sort of prince and takes Nelly down a very different path.

There are references in the book to topics that are not the



necessary to discuss in books for teens. It gives the idea that loose morals are alright. They do not need to read about these topics as they see it enough on television.

~~Karma Ragland, Red Cloud, NE

The Grandma Cure

By Pamela Meyer

Little Becky has a cold and her two grandmas first take turns caring for her. She loves each special thing the grandmas do for her when they are there. But once they both watch Becky at the same time, they fight over what they are going to do for Becky. Becky then teaches them how to share and get along like her Kindergarten teacher taught her. The important phrases are large and in bold print.

It is a great book for k-1st graders. They will be able to relate it to their own real life experiences. It is recommended for grades K-1 in both public and school libraries.

~~Sarah Klinetobe, O'Neill, NE

The Handle and the Key

By John Neufeld

This story leaves you very emotional.

You will feel like crying as you read one page and then you want to clap and cheer as you turn the page. Dan has always been a foster child, moved around by the state frequently. Now he is being adopted into

Knox family. They are a wonderful family, but Dan can't relax and be happy. First of all his new sister doesn't want him in their home. Then he wonders if he can trust his new father and mother. What if he breaks a rule, will they send him back?

This is a very good read, which is highly recommended for age 10 to adult in any library.

~~Joan Chilvers, Pierce, NE

If You Give a Pig a Party

By Laura Numeroff

One thing always leads to another when you give a party and could even end up creating a never ending cycle of parties. It all starts with a simple party. The story will delight young listeners who are familiar with the authors other books.

This book is recommended for Pre-school through 2nd grade in both public and school libraries.

~~Laticia Olson, Randolph Public School

True Confessions of a Hollywood Starlet

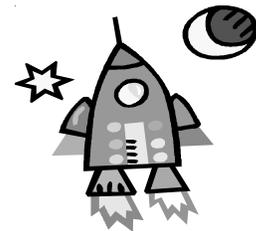
By Lola Douglas

Morgan Carter, actress, alias Claudia Miller, has arrived at Fort Wayne, Indiana after a make-over so she can pass for ordinary. Her Hollywood fast life caught up with her and she nearly died following an overdose of drugs. After detox, followed by AA and NA, she has to spend a year undercover. She must keep a diary of her experiences, and

this book is the result. At first she chafes under the restrictions. When a Hollywood friend shows up unexpectedly, they go to Chicago to have some fun, and one of the paparazzi recognizes her friend and snaps their picture. It is only a matter of time before her cover is blown and she has to deal with the consequences.

This was a fun, quick read, with substance. There are surprises along the way, but characters, situations, relationships, events and plot twists seem believable and logical. Addicts do not usually succeed in achieving sobriety the first try, but a few do. Recommended for 8th grade and up in both school and public libraries.

~~Gretchen Healy, Little Priest Tribal College



Rocket Science 101

Have you ever wondered how spaceships work? Check out this web site: <http://www.nasa.gov/externalflash/RocketScience101>. It shows you three different spacecraft.

As you learn the parts of the spacecraft, you get to build it. When you're done, you watch an animation of it launching! Both kids and adults will find it both education and entertaining.



Your 2006-2007 Northeast Library System Board

Pictured in the back from left to right are: Kay Schmid, Hruska Memorial Public Library; Michele Hastreiter, Humphrey Public Library; Dee Johnson, Secretary, Central Community College; Linda Risinger, Orchard Public Library; Joyce Sullivan, Elgin Public Library, and Sharon Jones, Genoa Public Library.

In the front from left to right are: Sally Stahlecker, Norfolk Public Library; Luran Lofgren, President, Wayne Public Library; Jolene Klein, Wakefield Community Schools; Laurie Rehnstrom, Coleridge Community School; and Kate Osterude, Neligh Public Library. A big thank you to these folks who spend extra time and energy to make libraries better in Northeast Nebraska!!

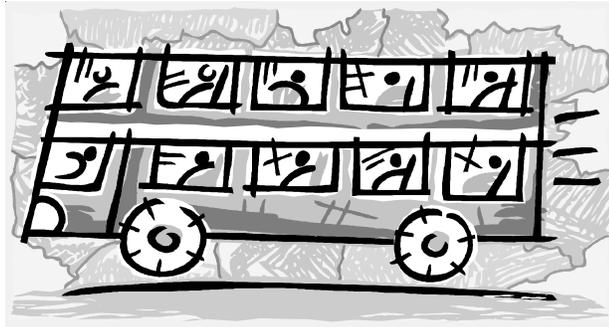


Alex Kava Visits

Congratualtions to these Northeast libraries for having Alex Kava visit their library! Ms. Kava will be visiting 33 libraries throughout the state and roughly one third are in the Northeast system!

Sept. 10 - Columbus; Sept. 11 - O'Neill; Sept. 12 - Niobrara; Sept. 12 - Neligh; Sept. 13 - Randolph; Sept. 13 - Wayne; Sept. 14 - South Sioux City; Sept. 14 - Ponca; Sept. 18 - David City; Oct. 6 - Genoa and on Oct. 14 - Schuyler.

**NLA Pre-Conference Program Sponsored by
the Nebraska Regional Library Systems
October 25, 2006, 9:30am-5:00 pm ~ \$20 ~ 5.5 CE**



EXCURSION TO HISTORIC BROWNVILLE, NEBRASKA: BOOK TOWN, U.S.A.

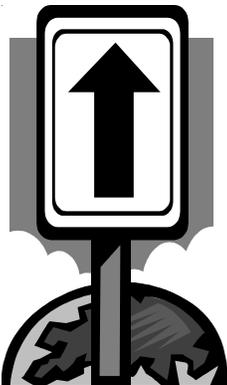
Visit historic Brownville and hear the story of how it became an international Book Town in the movement founded by Richard Booth, Hay-on-Wye Wales, Oxford graduate and self proclaimed "King of Books". Jane Smith, The Lyceum/Bookstore & Café, will present on Brownville's designation as a Book Town, one of three in the United States, after which there will be time to tour the shops before visiting the Whiskey Run Creek Winery and perhaps take a stroll along a river walking path. Transportation will be provided round-trip from Omaha.

AGENDA

- 9:30 Depart from Omaha
- 11:00 Jane Smith, Presenter
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00-3:00 Free for shopping and touring
- 3:00 Whiskey Run Creek Winery, Wine tasting; tour of the 1886 brick cave and 110-year-old barn positioned over a creek
- 4:00 Depart Brownville for Omaha



EXCURSION TO HISTORIC BROWNVILLE, NEBRASKA: BOOK TOWN, U.S.A.
Pre-Conference Program Sponsored by the Nebraska Regional Library Systems



Name: _____

Library: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please send registration form + \$20 fee (checks payable to NRLS)
by **Wednesday, October 18** to:
Eastern Library System, 11929 Elm Street, Suite 12, Omaha, NE 68144

**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.**

**The difference between 'involvement' and 'commitment' is like an eggs-and-ham
breakfast: the chicken was 'involved' - the pig was 'committed'.**

~~Anon.

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



**Northeast Library System
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