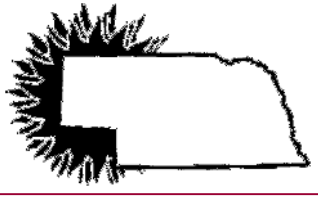


Panhandle Sun



The Newsletter of the Panhandle Library System

June/July 2008

Fundraising Efforts Pay Off

It is obvious that libraries are important to panhandle communities, and there are a great many dedicated librarians working hard to improve library service for their residents. Especially in these times when funding is tight, it takes extra effort to provide even basic library services.

Seeking alternative funding sources is not an easy task; it can be time-consuming, frustrating, exhausting, and stressful. Yet, when the funding comes through, it sure is a wonderful feeling!

Some public libraries in the panhandle were recently awarded funding to support library service.

Bev Russell, Director of the Scottsbluff Public Library, was thrilled to receive \$75,000 for library expansion efforts from Platte Valley Companies. The Scottsbluff Library community fundraising campaign has raised over \$700,000. Bev says that there will be a few more small fundraisers just in the next month.

Another recipient of funding is the Minatare Public Library. Since December, the Library has been without staff. The previous employee was funded through Experience Works, a charitable community-based organization providing low-income seniors with employment. However, funding was no longer available in December. A group of eight dedicated volunteers worked at the library from

February through June 1 to keep the Library from closing. The Village has now received an Experience Works grant to employ a 20-hour per week staff person.

Lodgepole Public Library will get new carpeting, paint, and have repair work completed thanks to help from the Buckley Foundation!

Chadron public Library and Bridgeport Public Library received Library Improvement Grants from the Nebraska Library Commission. The Library Commission awarded over \$194,000 federal dollars in 25 grants to eligible library service organizations. This money augments local support for library programs and services and will be used to improve access to information resources throughout Nebraska.

Chadron Public Library received a \$9,727 Library Improvement Grant for library planning. The money will be used to contract services for a library-building planner to help the Library move forward with its building project. Services to be performed include collection analysis, space needs assessment based on fiscal outlook, growth projection, and statistical analysis.

Bridgeport Public library received a \$9,375 Library Improvement Grant for an upgrade to Follett Destiny and installation of wireless Internet service. July is their target date for completion of both services.



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Panhandle Library System Upcoming Events

June 19, 2008 Southern Public Librarians Meeting

Kimball Public Library, 208 S Walnut

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Topic: Customer Service

Register with the PLS office

July 9, 2008 Database Road Show

Location: WNCC-Sidney

Time: Part 1: E-Library, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. &
Part 2: BIP & Fiction Connection, 1:00 p.m. to 3:30
p.m.

Register with NLC by July 5, 2008 for one or both
sessions.

July 11, 2008 Northern Panhandle Public Librarians Meeting

Location: Hemingford Public Library, 812 Box Butte,
Hemingford, NE

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Topic: Adult Programming

Register with the PLS office

July 25, 2008 PLS Annual Meeting

Theme "Life's a Beach"

Location: WNCC, 371 College Drive, Sidney

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Cost: 12.00, payable to PLS

Morning snack and lunch included.

Register by July 17, 2008 with the PLS office

July 31, 2008 NEMA/PLS Annually Sponsored Workshop

"Back to the Future"

Location: ESU #13, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$15.00, payable to PLS

Snacks and lunch included

Register by July 18, 2008 with the PLS office

August 8, 2008 Central Public Librarians Meeting

Location: Morrill Public Library, 119 East
Webster, Morrill

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Topic: To be announced

Register with the PLS office

September 9, 2008 PLS Board Meeting, Lunch, and Committee Meetings

Bluffs Business Center, 1517 Broadway,
Scottsbluff, Main floor conference room
10:00 a.m. PLS Board Meeting

Noon: PLS Will provide lunch and drink

1:00 P.M, Committee Meetings

Please RSVP the PLS office by September 3rd
if you plan to eat lunch.

September 10, 2008 PLS Author Tour Planning Session

Author: Natasha Friend

Location: Bayard High School, 726 4th Avenue

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Register by September 3, 2008 with the PLS
office

September 25, 2008 WebJunction Training

Location: The Harms Advanced Technology
Center, 2620 College Park, Scottsbluff

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Register with Nebraska Library Commission

September 30, 2008 Welcome to the Social Web

Location: ESU 13, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Presenter: Michael Sauers

Please bring a USB Flash Drive

Register with Nebraska Library Commission,
at: <http://nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp>

October 1, 2008 I Blog, You Blog, We Blog

Location: ESU 13, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff

Time: 9:00 a.m. to Noon

No cost

RSS

Time: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

No cost

Presenter: Michael Sauers

Register with Nebraska Library Commission

at: <http://nlc.state.ne.us/traning/train.asp>

October 2, 2008 Introduction to Web Page Creation with XHTML

Location: ESU 13, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

No Cost

Presenter: Michael Sauers

Please bring a USB Flash Drive

Things to do before this class:

<http://nebraskaccess.backpackit.com/pub.1174857>

Register with Nebraska Library Commission:

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/traning/train.asp>

October 3, 2008 Style Your Web Site With CSS

Location: ESU 13, 4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

No Cost

Please bring a USB Flash Drive

Things to do before this class:

<http://nebraskaccess.backpackit.com/pub.1174851>

Register with Nebraska Library Commission at:

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/traning/train.asp>

October 7, 8, 9, 2008 PLS Author

Tour- Author: Natasha Friend

For 7th and 8th graders in the
Panhandle Region

Watch for more information this
fall.



Lewellen Public Library Has A New Director



You'll notice some changes when you enter the Lewellen Public Library, since Ruth Radke became the Director just a few months ago. Ruth has been busy moving the children's collection from the back of the building to the front, designing a pleasant reading area for children's story time, organizing the collection, and verifying proper cataloging. She certainly has accomplished a lot in such a short period of time, considering Ruth is the Library's only staff person.

Ruth isn't entirely new to libraries, or to Lewellen. She worked as a librarian at Lewellen schools for 30 years. Ruth first began as a librarian at the elementary school, then later went to the high school. She enjoys library work, but also likes to be around people. Being director of a small community library is a great combination—Ruth gets to work with people of all ages and still be a part of a library community.

With summer starting, Ruth is planning activities for the kids and exploring new programming ideas. Right now, she is gearing up for Lewellen Days, on June 13. So, if you're in the area, stop by and visit the library book sale, checkout the library, or just say, "hi" to Ruth.

PLS Member Library Spotlight-

Summit Christian College

2025 21st Street, Gering Phone: 308-632-6933

Website:

Their sign is easy to spot from Five Rocks Road as you drive past U Street in Gering. The sign was erected sometime in July 2007. But don't be fooled! Summit Christian is not a new college. The school has been around since 1951. In January 2008, Summit Christian College moved to a new facility and location.

The decision to move from its long time location in Scottsbluff to the current Gering site started June 28, 2007. The move was completed in January 2008—just six months later. With a library collection of more than 20,000 volumes, the move was no easy task. Jennie Powell, Librarian, along with two student workers placed books in boxes for the transfer. You can imagine the number of boxes there were to move! When the boxes of books were brought to the new location, Jennie and her two student volunteers emptied the boxes and placed the books in order on the shelves. Most of the books are Dewey 200's, as religion is the subject specialty for the college. Now, that's a lot of 200's to shelve in correct order!

The library is very welcoming. Not only does it look clean and orderly, the colonial style furniture, various flower arrangements, and floral tapestry on the wall bring a warm feeling to the room. Jennie hosts a coffee time for the students, which seems to be popular. Next semester, she will try incorporating displays with coffee time. Jennie is seeking new ways to attract students to the library. In the previous building, the library was located near the main offices. In the new building, the library is down a hallway, and is not central to the daily hustle & bustle. This is a new challenge for Jennie, but she has a number of marketing ideas that she plans to try this summer.

The library collection supports the students and faculty of the College. Summit Christian College offers Bachelor and Associate's degrees in ministry and missionary education. The library collection contains a large religion collection, a small Christian fiction section, general nonfiction, journals, newspapers, and audio materials. The school will be adding additional math and science materials to the collection to fulfill accreditation requirements. The library subscribes to several databases. Students and faculty may access the databases from two computers in the library. There is also a computer lab in the main entrance area near the front offices.

The library currently uses Emilda, an open source Integrated Library System. They are in the process of seeking out other open source options, such as Evergreen.

The Library is open to anyone to use. Students and faculty may check out library materials free, and others may check out materials for an annual fee. Currently, the library is open six days, and approximately sixty hours, a week. This doesn't include Sunday hours, which may begin in the fall.

Summit Christian College has a very dedicated group of volunteers. Much of the renovation work was done by staff and students. The building was previously a nursing home for seniors, so there was lots of work to be done. Volunteers removed wallpaper, and took out the plumbing in the residential nursing area of the building. Now, the building has very nice dorm rooms, a main commons, a computer lab, the library, a large chapel, and a reception hall. It's amazing that the renovation was completed in just six months!

The College is open this summer. Be sure to stop by for a visit. Remember, when your patrons ask a religion question that you can't seem to answer—refer them to the Summit Christian College Library. Jennie may be able to help! *Margie Harrison*

Farewell to Scott Kinney

Chadron Public Library will soon be looking for a new Director. Scott Kinney is moving back to Wyoming in June, as he starts a new position as Director of the Sweetwater County Library System. It is a nine branch system and includes the cities of Rock Springs and Green River, Wyoming. Scott has accomplished so many things during his two-year tenure as Director of Chadron Public Library. He also contributed time and expertise to the betterment of libraries statewide. Scott served on the Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries and was recently elected to serve on the Panhandle Library System Board. Scott will certainly be missed.

Ben Mikaelson Visits Ogallala

Children's author Ben Mikaelson traveled across the state to talk with children and young adults at schools and libraries. The Nebraska Library Commission provided funding for the event. The author conducted a writers' workshop at Ogallala High School for upper class high school students. Following the workshop, Mikaelson went to the Goodall Public Library and spoke to young children on "becoming the author of your life". Both events were a great success. Teachers, students, and community members were thrilled to have Ben Mikaelson visit Ogallala!



Ben Mikaelson speaks to youngsters at Goodall Public Library in Ogallala.

Have You Seen These Websites...



TechSoup

<http://techsoup.org>

TechSoup provides a range of technology services for nonprofits, including news and articles, discussion forums, and discounted and donated technology products. In order to be qualified to receive any donated products, organizations must be able to demonstrate their status as 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, or U.S. public libraries.

The PALINET Leadership Network

<http://pln.palinet.org>

The PALINET Leadership Network, PLN, is designed to help library leaders (and those who will become leaders) communicate, coordinate, find resources and share information. You can read, contribute, and comment on articles.

Swaptree

<http://www.swaptree.com>

Swaptree is a trading system for books, CDs, DVDs, and videogames. Just list what you want and what you have, and the computer figures out where it is and sets up trades. All you pay is the shipping and Swaptree prints out the shipping label.

Word Spy

<http://www.wordspy.com>

Word Spy is devoted to *lexpionage*, the sleuthing of new words and phrases. The Web site lists new terms that have appeared multiple times in newspapers, magazines, books, Web sites, and other recorded sources. Find out the definition of *BlackBerry prayer* and *silent disco*.

Nebraska Library Commission 2008-2009 Continuing Education and Training Grants Now Available

Grants of \$250 to \$5000 will be awarded. Each grant requires a 25% match. The purpose of these grants is to assist Nebraska libraries to provide improved library services to their communities through continuing education and training for their library personnel and supporters.

Applications from libraries cooperating with other libraries or entities will be given first consideration. Applications from libraries which have never received a Continuing Education and Training Grant will also be given preference.

Successful applications will show how the continuing education and training services proposed will support the above purpose. Grants will be awarded to projects which develop the knowledge and skills of Nebraska library personnel in furtherance of the institution's mission. Library board members, volunteers, advocates, and other supporters may be included in the training, as appropriate.

This funding is available for accredited public libraries, accredited public libraries in conjunction with recognized community organizations or agencies, groups of public libraries, regional library systems, consortia of public libraries, and state-run institutions. Libraries cooperating with other community entities must be the prime administrators of their grants.

Further information and applications are available now at: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/conedgrants/cegrant08/index.html> . Completed applications are due on or before **August 4**.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Laura Johnson, Continuing Education Coordinator, at [email](mailto:ljohnson@nlc.state.ne.us), or 402/471-2694 or 800/307-2665.

Apply Now for Library Education Scholarships

July 1 is the next deadline for application for Nebraska Library Commission scholarships, supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to recruit and educate the next generation of Nebraska librarians. Due to funding considerations, master's-level scholarships in this round may be limited. To apply, see Nebraska Library Commission's Now Hiring @ your library® Website, www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.org, or contact Kit Keller, Nebraska Library Commission Planning and Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665.



The Scrapyrd Detectives—Free Comic Book Series

While at the Mountain Plains Library Association conference I attended a session lead by Bill Galvan, author and artist of “The Scrapyrd Detectives”. If you are unfamiliar with the comic book series, you need to check it out. “The Scrapyrd Detectives” is a free comic book series devoted to promoting a union and cooperation of young people from differing cultures. These educational comic books have proven successful in presenting an appreciation of multiculturalism, ethnicity and diversity. Comic books are also an important developmental tool because they engage both the left and right brain to understand language and associate images. The Diversity Foundation is pleased to give The Scrapyrd Detectives as a free educational tool to libraries, educators and community groups. To order the comic books, download lesson plans, and for more information go to: [http:// smilesfordiversity.org](http://smilesfordiversity.org).



YALSA 2008 Teens' Top Ten Nominations

Teens' Top Ten is a "teen choice" list, where teens nominate and choose their favorite books of the previous year. Nominators are members of teen book groups in fifteen school and public libraries around the country. Voting happens during Teen Read Week 2008: October 12 - 18. Promotional materials are available to use at your library or school. For more information go to <http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/teenstopten/teenstopten.cfm>

Nominations:

Before I Die by Jenny Downham
Betrayed by PC Cast and Kristin Cast
City of Bones by Cassandra Clare
Daemon Hall by Andrew Nance
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
Eclipse by Stephenie Meyer
Extras by Scott Westerfeld
Evil Genius by Catherine Jinks
Glass by Ellen Hopkins
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by JK Rowling
Ironside by Holly Black
Jango by William Nicholson
Jinx by Meg Cabot
The Luxe by Anna Godbersson
Maximum Ride: Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports by James Patterson
Saving Zoe by Alyson Noel
Sun and Moon, Ice and Snow by Jessica George
The Sweet Far Thing by Libba Bray
Tamar by Mal Peet
Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson
Unwind by Neal Shusterman
Vampire Academy by Richelle Mead
Wicked Lovely by Melissa Marr
Wildwood Dancing by Juliet Marillier

2008 Nebraska Golden Sower Award Winners Announced

Primary

Winner: *The Great Fuzz Frenzy* by Janet Stevens & Susan Stevens Crummel, illus. Janet Stevens

Honor: *Mrs. McBloom, Clean Up Your Classroom!* by Kelly DiPucchio & *Tooth Fairy's First Night* by Anne Bowen, illus. Jon Berkeley

Intermediate

Winner: *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney

Honor: *The Stupendous Dodgeball Fiasco* by Janice Repka, illus. Glin Dibley & *The SOS File* by Betsy Byars, Betsy Duffey, and Laurie Myers

Young Adult

Winner: *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

Honor: *Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld & *The Perfect Shot* by Elaine Marie Alphin

Free Parent-Child Early Literacy Materials to Download

NLC has posted a new set of free parent-child early literacy materials, titled "On the Go". These materials include 14 activities designed to be used outside the home, in the car, while walking, during bus rides, etc. The activities encourage early language and literacy development from birth through pre-school. They are appropriate for children with disabilities as well as children who are developing typically. The development of these materials was supported by Grant H324M020084 from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The Free reproducible language and early literacy activities were developed by Angela Notari-Syverson, Ph.D. and colleagues. To download materials go to www.wlearning.com and click on the purple button that says "Free Parent Education Handouts" on the home page. Look for the "On the Go" file to download the materials in PDF format.

Customers Benefit From NebrasKard Reciprocal Borrowing

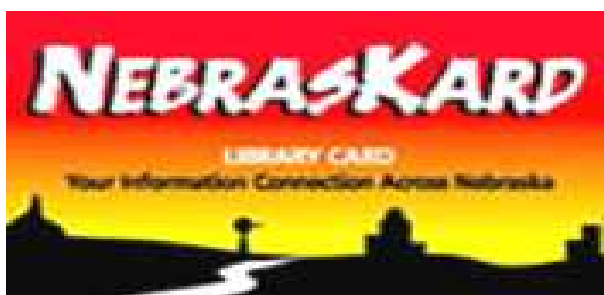
In July 2001, the Library Commission initiated the voluntary NebrasKard reciprocal borrowing arrangement for Nebraska libraries, through which participating public and academic libraries can permit registered borrowers in good standing to borrow materials from other participating libraries across the state. Nebraska Libraries have a long history of sharing resources for mutual benefit and to meet the needs and interests of their users. The NebrasKard program is an extension of those cooperative resource sharing efforts.

NebrasKard is designed to benefit library customers who need the convenience of borrowing materials from libraries outside their home communities. Libraries report that many of these individuals either do not have library service in their own community, or that they work, shop, or attend school outside their home community. In 2007, Nebraska libraries reported 956 cards issued either small keychain cards or stickers for the customer's home library cards. Circulation ranged from one library reporting yearly circulation of more than 4,500 items to another reporting only six items circulated.

For more information about the NebrasKard program, including the policies and procedures, frequently asked questions, and a list of participating libraries, see the Library Commission Website;

www.nlc.state.ne.us and search on NebrasKard.

Contact Maria Medrano-Nehls, 402-471-4008 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: mnehls@nlc.state.ne.us to order keychain tags, stickers, and bookmarks.



Children's Choice Book Awards Announced

The Children's Book Council announced the winners of the first annual Children's Choice Book Awards May 13 at a gala in New York City hosted by Jon Scieszka. Since the 1970s, the CBC and the International Reading Association have run a program called Children's Choices. Ten thousand children in five teams across the country spend months reading and evaluating 500-700 books submitted by publishers. Approximately 99 books each year make the final favorites list in each of three grade categories: kindergarten to second grade, third to fourth grade, and fifth to sixth grade.



This year, they opened up the voting to kids everywhere! Some 55,000 children across the country voted for their favorite books, authors, and illustrators at libraries, bookstores, and online.



Award Winners:

Book of the Year for 5th–6th graders- *Encyclopedia Horrifica* by Joshua Gee

Book of the Year for 3rd to 4th graders- *Big Cats* by Elaine Landow

Book of the year for Kindergarten to 2nd graders - *Frankie Stein* by Lola M. Schaefer

Illustrator of the year award- Ian Falconer; *Olivia Helps with Christmas*

Author of the Year award is J.K. Rowling; *Harry Potter and the Deadly Hallows*

Statewide Community Resources At Your Fingertips Via 2-1-1

Want to know where to go in your community for human services? The answer is just a mouse click away at www.ne211.org.

This Web site has information about programs in your community -- and across the state -- that

provide such services as *homeless shelters, transitional housing, health care, financial assistance, food banks, mental health care and counseling, crisis lines, utility assistance, substance abuse programs, recreation programs, mentoring programs, community services, volunteering, disaster relief*, and much more!



At the ne211.org site, you may search for resources in a number of ways:

1. Type in a keyword, such as “emergency housing”
2. Browse the categories of human services and select the one that best fits
3. Use one of our “quick” searches
4. Look for an agency or program with the alphabetical search
5. Limit your search results by a miles radius from a zip code (for keyword, category, alphabetical, and “quick” searches)

For example, a keyword search for “library” returns over 50 results, including public libraries and agency-based resource centers. An ne211.org user can find out if a particular public library offers story time, GED classes in Spanish, public Internet access, or other services. Common keyword searches made on ne211.org relate to housing, health care, financial assistance, food, and mental health care.

Rather talk to someone on the phone? The ne211.org Web site is a companion to 2-1-1, the three-digit phone service. Residents of 38 Nebraska counties and eight counties in southwest Iowa can dial 2-1-1. Just dial 2-1-1 on your phone to connect to a live, certified information and referral specialist. Interpretation assistance for more than 150 languages is offered to those calling the 2-1-1 call center.

Both the Web site and the call center are free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Free Resources Available to Help Promote Libraries to Children

Now there are even more great reasons to check out the KIDS! @



Your Library® campaign tool kit. The ALSC Public Awareness Committee has been busy collecting and developing MORE FREE resources for promoting libraries to youth!

Here are the latest additions:

- The Library Dragon readers theater script line art adapted from Michael White's Kids! Campaign artwork
- Bibliography of books about kids and libraries
- List of songs for kids about reading and libraries
- Dr. Seuss-themed hidden treasure puzzle
- Dr. Seuss mad libs game

Visit the tool kit at www.ala.org/kids and discover a whole lot more to help you with promotion! It's all free and waiting for you there!



Libraries to receive "The Gift that Heals"

April is National Donate Life Month, and to highlight the

Donate Life Nebraska campaign to increase donor registration and awareness, the Nebraska Organ & Tissue Donor Coalition will donate a copy of a new book, "The Gift That Heals," to every public library in Nebraska, nearly 300 books in all.

The book's author, Reg Green, a British journalist and donor father who lives in California, will be in Omaha for a news conference to help announce the book donation at 10 a.m. Monday, April 14 at the Omaha Public Library, Abrahams Branch, 5111 N. 90th Street. He will also be speaking and signing books at The Bookworm, 7802 Pacific Street, on Monday, April 14 at 6 p.m.

Green was approached by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) with the idea of writing a book about organ and tissue donation which would share personal stories covering almost every facet of the donation/transplant process—the experiences of donor families, living donors, transplant candidates and recipients, donation and transplant professionals.

"The goal of this book is to give readers a feel for the wide range of emotions and experiences that are inherent in this fascinating, life-saving procedure," said Walter Graham, executive director of UNOS, who conceived the idea for the book. "At the same time, we want readers to be inspired to support organ and tissue donation—especially by declaring their intention to be donors themselves."

There continues to be an extreme shortage in the number of available organs and tissues for transplant.

A significant factor in the shortage is the gap between the number of Americans who are in favor of organ, eye and tissue donation and the number of potential donors who have effectively documented a donation decision.

Research from the national organization, Donate Life America, shows that nine out of 10 Americans support organ and tissue donation, but only about 34 percent know how to make a legal commitment to become a donor. Closing this gap will have an immediate life-saving and life-enhancing benefit to those awaiting transplants.

The message in Green's book complements the goal of The Nebraska Organ & Tissue Donor Coalition (NOTDC), according to Vickie Brady, chairperson of the Board of Directors of the non-profit, all volunteer organization.

"Our goal is to narrow the gap by encouraging Nebraskans to find out the facts about organ and tissue donation, and then take action to document their decisions," she said. "'The Gift That Heals' not only provides excellent information, but does so in the context of 42 inspirational real life stories of courage, hope and renewed health. I cannot imagine anyone could read this book and not be inspired to donate life."

The stories range from that of a severely wounded police officer who can now participate in favorite sports thanks to a bone donor, to another which tells of a woman whose diseased lungs could no longer function without oxygen and who, since transplantation, has climbed Half Dome in Yosemite National Park. The stories also relate the selflessness of families who donated organs and tissues of loved ones so that others might live, including the author's own family story.

In addition to the books, NOTDC will also provide libraries with Donate Life posters, bookmarks and pamphlets about how to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor so that Nebraskans will have ready access to accurate donor information.

"We are grateful to the Nebraska libraries for their help in this endeavor," Brady said.

"I'm delighted that the libraries of Nebraska are setting a standard for the rest of the United States. The shortage of donated organs will only be solved when people understand how many lives can be saved by a simple decision to say 'yes.' And what better place is there for that understanding to come from than the public library," shared Green.

Green is also the author of "The Nicholas Effect: A Boy's Gift to the World," the personal account of the Green's family vacation in Italy that turned tragic when Reg and Maggie's seven-year-old son, - Nicholas, was shot in an attempted robbery by highway bandits. When Reg and Maggie made the decision to donate their son's organs and corneas, they changed the lives of seven Italians who were waiting for transplants and the hearts of people all over the world.

"Nicholas had the future taken away from him," said Green, so it seemed natural to Reg and Maggie "to give the future to someone else."

Nicholas' story was the basis of the 1998 made for TV movie, "Nicholas' Gift" that starred Jamie Lee Curtis and Alan Bates. Green has become one of the most prominent advocates for organ, eye and tissue donation in the world.

The book donation is the latest project in the ongoing *Donate Life Nebraska* multi-media campaign to heighten awareness and encourage Nebraskans to sign

up on the Nebraska Donor Registry.

Each person who registers as a donor could potentially save eight lives through organ donation and improve the lives of up to 50 others through cornea and tissue donation. Nationally, more than 98,000 people are waiting for organ transplants. In Nebraska, about 460 people are on the waiting list.

Nebraskans have responded positively to the *Donate Life Nebraska* message. As of April 2007, 43 percent of licensed drivers in Nebraska were registered donors. As of December 31, 2007, that number had increased to 48.6 percent.

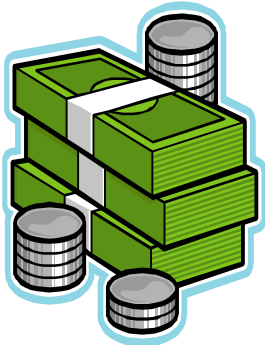
"We attribute much of this to the fact that they can indicate their wish on their driver's license," said Beverly Neth, Director of the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles. "This information is automatically added to the state's official donor registry. So if you have a red heart and the word "donor" on your driver's license, you are a registered donor. The increase says a lot about the people of Nebraska—when they become aware of a need, they respond generously."

Over 98 percent of those who have registered as a donor in Nebraska have signed up at the Department of Motor Vehicles when getting or renewing a driver's license or state identification card. Individuals can also indicate their wish to be a donor by signing up directly with the Nebraska Donor registry at www.nedonation.org. Postage-paid registration cards are also available through Nebraska Organ Recovery System by calling 877-633-1800.

For more information on organ, eye and tissue donation, call 1-800-718-LIFE or (402) 559-3788.



What is Your Library's "Return on Investment" (ROI)



Would you like to know how much "return" your community receives on library services for every dollar spent? If so, then you need to know more about ROI. Return on Investment can be a powerful advocacy tool.

As budgets are being slashed, and the roles and image of libraries are starting to change, ROI is becoming a hot topic in the library world. John Felton, Research Specialist with the Nebraska Library Commission, writes on the Library Commission blog, "The formula for calculating "Return on Investment (ROI)," is usually associated with the world of finance, but during the past 10 years, libraries and other non-profit entities have adopted this model for communicating the economic and social value of their institutions to the communities they serve. For example, a study released in January, 2008 by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library shows that for every dollar spent on the library, the community gains a return of \$3.34."

The topic may sound confusing, and you may wonder how in the world you actually calculate your library's return on investment. Don't worry! The Nebraska Library Commission has put together an ROI For Public Libraries wiki- <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/wikis/roi4libraries/> The site contains a definition of ROI, examples of libraries that have completed ROI studies, information about why this type of analysis is important for public libraries, a bibliography, and sources of library ROI calculators.

Workshop sessions will take place in the near future. In the meantime, check out the wiki and play around with the calculators. You may be amazed at how truly valuable your library is to your community.

Collection Development Made Easy

While attending Book Expo America (BEA) in Los Angeles this past weekend, I had an opportunity to attend a session called "How Libraries Buy: Librarians Reveal their Methods for Collection Development. Although the panel consisted of librarians from very large library systems who participate in centralized selection, I was able to see a common thread among the systems represented and all public libraries. *There are many collection development philosophies, and lots of different ways in which to handle selection.*

Many publishers at the session wanted to know—how do librarians select materials? One publisher asked the panel if they preferred printed publisher catalogs, online versions, lists, or nothing. Each panelist had a different answer! An author asked the panel, "how can I get my book into your library." Once again, the process was different for each panelist.



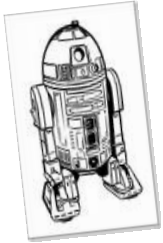
The good news is—there is a free web site available to assist librarians in the collection development process. The site is <http://www.earlyword.com>. EarlyWord is packed with the latest news and ideas for collection development and readers advisory librarians. It is created by Nora Rawlinson, former editor-in-chief of Library Journal and Publishers Weekly, and Fred Ciporen, former publisher of Library Journal, School Library Journal, Publishers Weekly, and Library Hotline. Their mission is "to bring together the best thinking on the art of selecting books for public libraries. By giving readers what they want, when they want it, we believe libraries can increase their circulation and their support" Topics include bestseller lists, book reviews, how to book an author, in theaters now-with tie ins, one community one book programs, publisher contacts, and publisher catalogs. Go to <http://www.earlyword.com> and have a look!

The 4 R's: Robots, Romance, Revolvers and Recipes

Join us on October 15, 2008 at the Bennett Martin Public Library on 14th and N in Lincoln, Nebraska for a Pre-Conference Workshop exploring four different genre's featuring midwest authors. Each author will explain their writing techniques and love for their choice of genre.

Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and sessions begin at 9:30 a.m.

October 15, 2008
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Bennett Martin Public Library
14th and N
Lincoln, Nebraska
Cost \$35.00 per person,
lunch included
5 CE Credits



Robots will be our first session beginning at 9:30 until 10:00 a.m. with Kevin J. Anderson. Kevin J. Anderson is the author of more than ninety novels, 43 of which have appeared on national or international bestseller lists. He has over 20 million books in print in thirty languages. He has won or been nominated for numerous prestigious awards, including the Nebula Award, Bram Stoker Award, the SFX Reader's Choice Award, the American Physics Society's Forum Award, and New York Times Notable Book. By any measure, he is one of the most popular writers currently working in the science fiction genre.

Revolvers is the title for our mystery session from 10:10 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. with Sean Doolittle. Sean Doolittle grew up in southeastern Nebraska. His first two novels, *Dirt* and *Burn* were published by [UglyTown](#)). More recently, *Rain Dogs* was published by Random House/Bantam Dell (2005). His most recent novel is *The Cleanup* (Dell, 2006). His writing was shortlisted for the CWA/Macallan Dagger Award. He won the Gold Medal in *ForeWord Magazine's* Book of the Year Award in 2003 for *Burn*. And *Dirt* was an Amazon.com Top 100 Editor's Pick for 2001. He holds the MA from the University of Nebraska — Lincoln, where he won the Mari Sandoz Prize for his fiction. He lives in Omaha with his wife and daughter.



Romance is a topic that Victoria Alexander knows well. She will share her knowledge with us from 10:50 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. Victoria Alexander was an award-winning television reporter until she discovered fiction was much more fun than real life. She turned to writing full time and has never looked back. Victoria grew up traveling the country as an Air Force brat and is now settled in a hundred-year-old house in Nebraska with her husband and two teenaged children, and a bearded collie named Sam. She firmly believes housework is a four-letter word, there are no calories in anything eaten standing up, procrastination is an art form, and it's never too soon to panic.



Recipes will be presented by Jessica Covi from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. She will share her experiences in compiling the cookbook "The Toast of Omaha" with the Junior League of Omaha service organization. The Junior League of Omaha is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.



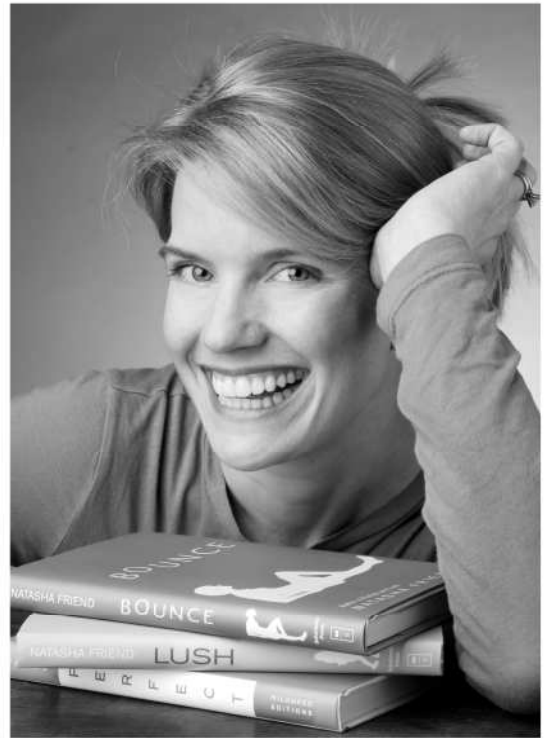
Lunch will be served from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. followed by a Panel Discussion from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will wrap up the workshop with an Autograph Session from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

AUTHOR PROGRAM COMING IN OCTOBER

The Panhandle Library System is bringing author Natasha Friend to present a program for *all 7th and 8th grade children* in the Panhandle region **October 7, 8, and 9**. Two evening performances will be held for the public—in Bayard on October 7 at 7:00 p.m. & in Scottsbluff on October 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Natasha's first book, *PERFECT*, won the Milkweed Prize for Children's Literature and the Golden Sower Award for the state of Nebraska. Her second young adult novel, *LUSH*, was an A.L.A. Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers. Book #3, *BOUNCE*, was released in September 2007

A writer and full time mom, Natasha ("Tash" to her friends) has taught at the Brearley School in New York City and Ecole Bilingue in Cambridge. Most recently she served as director of the Brimmer and May Summer Camp in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. Her writing has appeared in "Family Fun" magazine and "Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul." Tash lives in Connecticut with her husband and two young sons.



On September 10, 2008, the Panhandle Library System will hold a planning session at Bayard High School for teachers, media specialists, and librarians. At the training, everyone will receive a packet of activities to prepare students for the program, plus a FREE BOOK by Natasha Friend. The Author Tour Planning Committee will answer any questions. There will be *food and fun* to get everyone fired up for the special event!

Please complete the enclosed registration form for the Sept. 10 meeting and send it to the Panhandle Library System office **by AUGUST 29** – so that we can prepare enough packets and food for everyone.

This is the sixth children's author program presented by the Panhandle Library System. It is a cooperative effort of librarians, schools, and community groups. Funding is provided by PLS, grants, and donations. We hope you will support and promote this opportunity to make literacy come alive.

If you have any questions, please contact the PLS office at 308-632-1350.

Panhandle Library System Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 11, 2008 – 10:00 A.M.
Bluffs Business Center Main Floor Conference Room
1517 Broadway, Scottsbluff, Nebraska

President Diane Downer called the meeting to order. Board members present: Terry Christensen, Lillian Diedrichsen, Diane Downer, Glenda Gamby, Marjorie Harrison (System Coordinator) Eileen Nightingale, Jane Schlager, Jim Soester, Kathy Terrell, Ruth Walker. Members absent: Vickie Retzlaff. Visitors: Rod Wagner (Nebraska Library Commission). Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Round Table: Jane Schlager: Scottsbluff Public Library has Sirsi as their automation system; Paving with Pennies, pancake feed at Community of Christ Church, Dr. Dewey donated a rocking chair he built for a raffle, Read-a-Thon in April, and grants to help with the library expansion. Eileen Nightingale: Friends celebrated Library Lovers Month, Junior Friends game day, valentines for nursing home, St. Patrick's Day crafts, egg-stravaganza, book sales held at the Sidney Public Library one week a month, Saturdays two ladies help the public with taxes, puzzle table in adult section; Diane Downer: Gering Public Library is in the process of hiring a staff member, Friends wrote a \$5000 grant from the Union Pacific Foundation; selling raffle tickets for a John Grisham autographed book.

Committee Reports: Annual Meeting: Wendell Gaston will be the speaker. There will be a \$250 fee. The location is still to be decided and there was a question about the July 18 date; CE/Tech: A series of computer workshops will be offered May 20-23 at the Reta King Library in Chadron. Limited to 12 people. College of DuPage trainings are on tape or DVD and can be borrowed from the PLS office. Summer Reading Program workshop is March 18. The theme is Catch the Reading Bug; Public Relations: Author Natasha Friend will be coming to the Panhandle area October 6-10. Age group targeted will be 7th & 8th graders.; Scholarship: Received an application. \$100 left to give.

Rod Wagner gave the Nebraska Library Commission report. The One Book One Nebraska adult book this year is *Restoring the Burnt Child* by Nebraska State Poet Bill Kloefkorn and teen book *Book Thief*. PLS has book bags for both of these books for libraries to borrow. Marjorie Harrison gave the Coordinator's report. In the budget report Marjorie explained how she had allocated the \$5000 that PLS had received from the Nebraska Library Commission. 36 responses were received from the second survey concerning the PLS newsletter. Following discussion it was decided that Marjorie would present the results of both surveys and have a copy of the newsletter in pdf format on the computer at the annual meeting in July.

Marjorie Harrison presented to the group what she had learned from contacting the 3 car dealerships in town concerning the car lease and purchase options. After discussion by the board a motion was made by Jim Soester; 2nd by Ruth Walker to have the system lease a vehicle for the coming 24 or 36 month period contingent on the system administrator finding out the economy of two vehicles and two separate companies and email the board members as to what she finds out. A roll call vote was taken with 9 ayes; 0 nays. Motion passed.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13 at the Bluffs Business Center main floor conference room. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Lillian Diedrichsen
Secretary

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Marjorie Harrison, PLS Coordinator

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June / July 2008