

VALLEYTALK

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Featured Librarian: Carol Schell, Trenton Public Library

Some stories are so unique and original; one has to hear them over and over again. Carol Schell has one of those stories. Carol was an accountant, but not just any accountant. Carol was an accountant for a large group of lawyers in San Francisco. Carol lived in a condo in downtown San Francisco and could walk to the symphony where she used her season tickets. Carol loved going to great restaurants. BUT....she was tired of the traffic and the sirens. She was tired of the hustle of city life and the homeless. She was tired of San Francisco so she started thinking about leaving. First, she thought about moving to New England- too expensive; New Mexico- too much crime and finally she thought about Nebraska. Carol grew up in Elsie, NE, although, her family moved to the Denver area. She started looking on the internet for houses that were for sale in western

Nebraska. She flew back several times and researched western Nebraska and looked at houses and towns. By then, Carol says, she knew what she wanted. She wanted to look out her window and see rural...she wanted to see plains, rivers and cornfields. She wanted to be able to sit on her porch at night, watch the stars and hear silence. I said, "Carol, you wanted my life!" So in 2000, Carol quit her job, sold her condo, and Carol Schell moved to Trenton, Nebraska.



Carol did some part-time work at various jobs in the area, but in 2004, Carol took the job as director of the Trenton Public Library. Carol had

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Featured Librarian: Carol Schell

never worked in a library and wasn't a big library user. The homeless in San Francisco kept her away from the Public Library, but she was always an avid reader and had frequented many bookstores during her years in the city. She said being the director of a small public library seems like a natural fit for her and she loves it. Carol said she was 35 before she touched a computer, but she took a class at a community college where they took a computer apart and it took the mystery away for her, so since then, she has been an avid computer user. She reads to preschoolers and buys books that people like. Circulation at the Public Library has increased. Her many years of bookstore usage have influenced her decisions in the Public Library. She shelves many books by various genre and worries about making people feel comfortable in the library. She uses NebraskAccess and hopes to drag library users into the information age. She publishes a column in the newspaper telling what is new in the library and encouraging library usage. Carol is committed to making Trenton Public Library the best it can be and Carol says her real goal is



to "make people look at what they have in a new way".

Carol says she wants people to get a "fresh look" at their life and their community. The quality of life in Trenton is wonderful, full of friendly people. People in Trenton, Nebraska don't realize what they have, and they take their way of life for granted. As Carol was talking, I realized she is talking to all of us in Nebraska. We really do have the "good life". She recommends reading Alan Boye's book *The Complete Roadside Guide to Nebraska*, 2nd edition. And yes, she does miss the good restaurants!



VALLEYTALK RECEIVES MAKEOVER

Notice anything different about this issue of VALLEYTALK? It's a completely new, fresh design! We hope you find it easy on the eyes and enjoy the new format!



RVLS NEWS

Axtell Public Library received a Libri Grant. Congratulations!



Deb Jameson, Wallace Public School, reported that Wallace didn't have school on Friday, March 2, so Read Across America was celebrated on Thursday. The FCCLA students went to classrooms K-3 and read with the kids for a half hour. Each elementary student had a high school partner with which to read. The elementary students love it when they interact with the high school students!

Sutton Memorial Library had a birthday party on March 2 for Dr. Seuss and The Cat in the Hat. Director **Gertie Schmer** had some of the older homeschoolers in the community read Dr. Seuss books to 30 kids. The kids colored a picture of The Cat in the Hat and received other Seuss-themed handouts. The kids sang Happy Birthday to Dr. Seuss and ate cake. Fun was had by all!

The Hastings community was invited by **Hastings Public Library** to join the nationwide celebration of the 10th annual National Education Association's (NEA) Read Across American Day on March 2, 2007. To honor the good doctor and celebrate the fun and value of reading, the Hastings

Public Library scheduled something for everyone, according to Director **Linda Rea**. At 10:00 a.m., a special Dr. Seuss story hour (with Pam Bohmfalk and Alan Rea, Linda's husband, as readers) for preschoolers with stories, activities and Dr. Seuss birthday cake. Older children were invited to come in all day; they sent birthday cards to the Cat in the Hat, completed a Seuss activity sheet and had cupcakes. Read Across America Day was also the kick-off of the library's "Why Reading is Important to Me" essay contest. With contest categories for readers of all ages, the contest will run through National Library Week, April 15-21, 2007.

Congratulations to the following RVLS members who recently received Scholarships from RVLS: **Deb Lawson, Hayes Center Public Library**—to attend Make & Take; **Carol Eshleman, North Platte Public Library**—to attend NLA Library Legislative Day; and **Cathy Barger, Hitchcock County Unified Schools**—to attend a Reading Conference at Kearney. Way to go!

Debra Polacek, Harvard Public Schools, celebrated Read Across America by having **Jennifer Utecht** from ESU#9 speak to all students, several classes at a time, about the excitement and value of

reading. A Scholastic Book Fair was also held; all elementary students received a \$2.99-or-less book at the fair, which was purchased using grant money. Elementary students decorated grocery sacks showing their favorite books. The sacks were then used at Harvard Foodmart. The school paper THE CHIRP included articles about the celebration. A special lunch menu tied into special book titles; the books were displayed in the lunch room. Dessert was a birthday cake honoring Dr. Seuss. All high school students had the opportunity to complete a reading scavenger hunt in the high school library. Top 10 lists of popular fiction and non-fiction books were displayed throughout the building. Students could fill out a top ten list of their own using the posted lists. When their top ten list was turned in to the office, they were then entered in a drawing for a gift certificate for a book at a local book store. Classroom teachers also celebrated Read Across America in their individual classrooms with various activities.

Sad News... William W. "Bill" Beck, media specialist in the Wahoo and **Franklin school systems** for 41 years, passed away on March 5, 2007. Bill was a former RVLS Board Member. Sincere condolences to his family.

Colleen Carter, Hastings Public Schools, has exciting news: her husband Doug has accepted a transfer to the Alaska FSA office. Will Colleen follow? Stay tuned!

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Survey Says...

RVLS recently conducted its biannual System member survey using Survey Monkey for the first time. The survey consisted of ten questions with options to check; respondents were able to choose as many of the options for each question that applied to them. Of the 72 members who responded by taking the user-friendly survey online, 37 represented public libraries; 3 represented college libraries; 29 represented school libraries; 4 represented special/institutional libraries; and 1 marked "other."

In response to how members communicate with RVLS, 42 said they use our 800 number; 71 said they use email; 4 send faxes; 2 write letters; 1 said, "I rarely contact them, but I do receive their e-mail updates, etc."; and one said, "I show up on your doorstep occasionally to visit (and return all the magazines I've been stockpiling)."

When asked which RVLS services members use, the replies were: 15 audiobooks users; 27 Ellison/dies users; 16 storykit users; 5 Spanish collection users; 7 bulk loan users; 3 iPod/MP3 player users; 7 cooperative puppet order users; 17 professional collection users; and 33 rotating magazine users. Additionally, survey takers added that they use: magazine articles; grant information; videotapes of programs; consultation and reference services; continuing education; interlibrary loan; shared articles; DVDs of programs; workshops; training; and professional advice.

Sixty-four respondents liked getting *VALLEYTALK*; 62 felt *VALLEYTALK* has useful information; one felt the newsletter contained too much information; and one said he/she really doesn't look at the newsletter. Several shared additional comments: "I don't always have time to read *VALLEYTALK*, but it contains good info." "[It] keeps me connected with other libraries and librarians." "Nicely done! This is something I use a LOT." "I like "visiting" other libraries through the articles about them." "A nice tool to learn about libraries in region."


When asked whether members use the RVLS webpage, 8 replied that they use it often; 15 that they do not use it; 48

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Vote for Golden Sower Awards

It's time to think about voting for the 2007 Golden Sower Awards!
All votes must be submitted by April 15, 2007.

Go to the Golden Sower web site at www.goldensower.org and click on the link for "The Nugget," which contains information for adults working with the Golden Sower program. You will find a link there called "Voting Information."

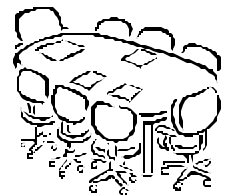
Please submit your votes using the online voting tally sheet if at all possible. If for some reason you are unable to submit your votes this way, there is a link to a paper vote tally that you can submit by US mail. 

*Come Together @
your library™
with National
Library Week,
April 15-21.*

2006-2007 Board & Annual Meetings

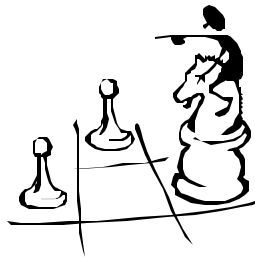
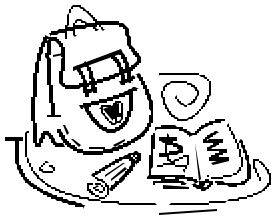
June 1, 2007
ESU # 11, Holdrege, NE
Featuring Pippa White
SEE INSERTED FLYER!

Hope to see you soon!



It's Your Move

Book Bags, Book Bags! RVLS has several book bag sets for you to borrow. *One False Move* by Alex Kava (10 books) is available if your book club didn't get to read it last year. We also have *Rescue Josh McGuire* by Ben Mikaelson (15 books), which is the One Book for Nebraska Kids 2007 and *Crazy Horse* (10 books) by



Mari Sandoz, which is the 2007 One Book, One Nebraska. Each kit contains

the books, some study questions and other items for use with your group. We are reserving kits for four or six weeks. Call the System office ASAP at 800-569-4961 to reserve your kit!

Now you can **Check Your Own Record in the Nebraska Library Commission CE Database**. You

can access the Library Commission's CE database and keep track of how many continuing education credit hours you have earned toward your Public Librarian Recertification. Just go to <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/ce/lookup.asp>>. Then enter your name and password (which you should have received from Laura Johnson, NLC Continuing Education Coordinator). It's that easy. Please try it out and take a look at your CE record. (Let NLC know if our records don't agree with yours!) For questions or assistance, contact Laura M. Johnson at 800.307.2665.



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Survey Says

replied they occasionally use it; and 15 said they think it works well. Three added comments: "I've never taken the time. Oops!" "I like the system basic info included." "I didn't know that they had a webpage. But, I will look for it now."

Pertaining to RVLS scholarships, 50 members said they have never applied for one; one said the criteria is too hard to meet; 7 think RVLS should give more scholarships; 2 said they are not sure what RVLS should do about scholarships; 7 do not have the time to go to the meetings for which RVLS gives scholarships; and 13 would like RVLS to give grants to libraries instead of scholarships. Seven additionally added: "Keep offering them!" "Great job." "I applied for a scholarship once and was approved, but I didn't get the final paperwork submitted and never received the monetary award." "Or perhaps grants in addition to scholarships?" "I have received a scholarship to attend a workshop and that was helpful to my library. Grants instead of scholarships would be good if the criteria was simple and easy to meet." "I have applied." "Got a few. Thanks!"

Fifty-one respondents have attended RVLS-sponsored workshops; 15 would like to see more workshops; 30 desire more technology-oriented workshops; 19 want more workshops that concentrate on books and reading; 27 want workshops that deal with technical library topics such as cataloging or weeding; and 19 say they attend the Summer Reading Program workshops. Additional comments were: "I'm sorry I have not been able to attend any. I did enjoy the evening meeting at McCook last year with Sherry." "I've liked what I've attended, but would not classify them as several." "It is difficult for me to attend a lot of the workshops but you provide a wide variety of useful workshops." "I am new and had to miss the workshop I was planning to attend. Looking forward to attend a workshop when I can!" "I work 2 other jobs, therefore I can't attend as many workshops as I'd like." "Try to attend when close and possible." "I have attended one." "Digitization workshop (hands-on)."

Regarding the importance of SRP to public libraries, 31 respondents said they do not attend the summer reading program workshops; 20 said they do; 14 said they send library staff to SRP; 12 said they think the SRP workshops are excellent; 3 would like to see more useful information at the SRP workshop; 4 said they don't like the craft part of SRP; and 6 would like more activities at SRP. Additional comments were: "Public libraries need to be more proactive with not just the pre/K-6 crowd - themes are too confining and limiting." "I like the summer reading program material but I can't attend the workshop!" "I know that crafts are important for SRP but I do get tired of so much time spent on crafts and I suppose getting a craft presenter is expensive. I do not like making crafts at the workshop." "I would like libraries to share names of speakers for programs during the summer and throughout the year for youth." "I'm usually working another job, therefore I can't attend. We do have a strong SRP." "Our SRP is done by FBLA - they send people to workshops and usually a library board member attends. I'd like to see less

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On the Bookshelf



The following items have been recently added to the RVLS Professional Collection:

Books

- ♦ *Paper Cutting Stories from A to Z* by Valerie Marsh (1992).

Books on CD

- ♦ *At First Sight* by Nicholas Sparks
- ♦ *Fortunate Son: A Novel* by Walter Mosley
- ♦ *Sisters* by Danielle Steel
- ♦ *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen
- ♦ *What the Dead Know* by Laura Lippman
- ♦ *The Worst Hard Time* by Timothy Egan

New Storykit

- ♦ "Dragons & Castles" storykit contains "Learn & Fly with Dragons" CD; knights, horse and dragon figures; castle building activity; and ten books.

If you would like to borrow these items please contact the System office at 800-569-4961 or <rvlsasst@tcgcs.com>. If you would like to see list of all available items (including magazines routed), go to <www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/professional.html>.

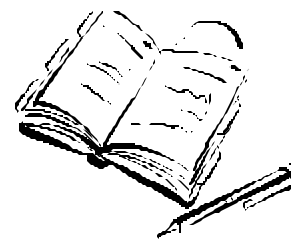
Nebraska Book Awards



The Eighth Annual Nebraska Book Awards program, which recognizes and honors books written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or relating to Nebraska, is now open for entries. To be eligible, the book must be: published in 2006 as indicated by the copyright date; published professionally and assigned an ISBN; bound (no loose leaf); written by a Nebraskan or Nebraska-related author; published by a Nebraska publisher; or, have a Nebraska theme or setting. Categories to enter include: nonfiction; children/young adult; fiction; cover design/illustration; poetry; and anthology. An entry fee of \$40 per book per category is required. The winners in each category will be presented with a distinctive certificate. The winning books will be displayed at the annual Nebraska Book Festival. Notices will be sent to the media and winners will be entitled to display award stickers on their book covers. Award winners will be announced and presented at the Nebraska Center for the Book's Annual Book festival October 13, 2007 at the Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln. The deadline for entries is June 30, 2007. For an entry form, go to <www.nlc.state.ne.us/publications/ncbawards.html>.



RVLS Calendar



April 2007

- 3—Basic Skills: "The Customer-Centered Library" with Karen Hyman, 10am-3pm, North Platte Community College North Campus.
- 10—Basic Skills: Public Services; 10am-3pm; North Platte Community College, North Campus.
- 13— "The Best from the Web" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11am-12:30pm, Central Community College-Hastings & McKinley Education Center-North Platte. RSVP to rvlsasst@tcgcs.com by 4/11.
- 15-21—National Library Week, "Come Together @ your library"
- 17—Basic Skills: Public Services; 10am-3pm; North Platte Community College, North Campus.
- 21—Spring Colloquium: What Are You Reading? From the Obvious to the Obscure with Kate Marek, 5:30pm-9:30pm, Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. **See flyer on page 12.**
- 24 & 26—Understanding MARC21 Bibliographic Records, 10am-3pm Holdrege Area Public Library. See <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/training/eventshow.asp?ProgID=8088> for more info.
- 25—NLA's Diversity Committee Spring Meeting, 10am-3pm, Lexington Public Library. Go to <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/news/content/2071.html> for more information.

May 2007

- 1—Vendor Day, 9am-4pm, Cornhusker Marriot Hotel, 333 South 13th Street, Lincoln, NE. Email jpowell@nlc.state.ne.us to register.
- 7-11—NLA Public Library/SCYP/TUFS Sections Spring Meetings, 9:30am-4pm. **See flyer on page 7.**
- 11—"The Relevance of Libraries in a Digital Age" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11am-12:30pm, Central Community College-Hastings & McKinley Education Center-North Platte. RSVP to rvlsasst@tcgcs.com by 5/9—delivery is dependent on attendees!
- 22—"I Blog, You Blog, Weblog" Workshop, 1-4pm, Hastings College Computer Lab in the Fleharty Center. To register, go to <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp> and search on "blog".
- 23—"Library Transformation: Making It Happen" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11am-12:30pm, Central Community College-Hastings & McKinley Education Center-North Platte. Must RSVP by 3/21
- 24—"I Blog, You Blog, Weblog" Workshop, 9am-Noon, Omaha Public Library, W. Dale Clark Computer Center. To register, go to <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp> and search on "blog".

June 2007

- 1—RVLS Annual Meeting, ESU # 11, Holdrege, 11am. **See inserted flyer.**

July 2007

- 9-13—4th Nebraska Library Leadership Institute, Schuyler, NE. For an application form, go to <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/eastern/NLLIApplication.pdf>; for a scholarship application, see http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/Leadership_Scholarship_App_07.doc

HELP! I Can't Read the Computer Screen

Do the visually impaired have problems reading the computer screen in your library? One simple solution is found in a software program called ReadPlease. ReadPlease is a text-to-speech software program for Windows-based operating systems. There is a free downloadable version and a pay version. ReadPlease will magnify and/or read aloud text from a web page, email, or scanned document, etc. Although it is not intended for the totally blind but for people with low vision, it is very easy to use. The program requires very little staff training and is a cheap way to help patrons or staff who may have difficulty reading the computer screen. Patrons using the screen reader, which reads text aloud, should be provided headphones to ensure privacy and to avoid disturbing other patrons. More information can be found at <<http://readplease.com>>. ~ As published in the March-April 2007 *NWKLs EXCHANGE*, newsletter of the Northwest Kansas Library System.



Albuquerque on a bus

Thirty-two brave souls ventured to Albuquerque March 13, to take part in the Mountain Plains Library Association's Conference. For those starting in Omaha, the trip was 19 hours one way. We were very familiar with the bus (pictured to the right and with its riders, below) by the time we were back in Nebraska. Albuquerque was a lovely place to visit. All the adobe homes and businesses created an ambiance that is totally unfamiliar to Nebraskans. The weather was perfect. No wind, 70 degrees, I was thinking I must be in heaven.



Wednesday, *Library Journal* sponsored a Day of Dialog about books. It was a terrific day. Not only did we get to hear firsthand about the upcoming books soon to be in our libraries, we received copies of many free books, which I am handing out to lucky librarians at our next Summer Reading Program workshop in Blue Hill. Authors spoke, publishers spoke, we had food, life just doesn't get better! (Pictured below, a group of conference-goers relaxed at dinner.)



Joe Janes from the University of Washington gave the keynote address for the convention. He is such a terrific speaker, I even took notes. He said libraries must focus on services to the young, and libraries must become central to the information lives of our communities by being available 24/7; in other words, he said the library is bigger than the building. He said many other things but I really liked when he said librarians are the most important profession in the world because we make humanity more human. Right on, brother!!!

I went to many other sessions, looked at the exhibits, ate great food, and had a wonderful time. I attended a session on digitization called *Imaging: worth a 2nd look*, which had many good ideas for small digital projects. Gina Minks, who worked for UNL at one time, gave us a quotation from Ivan Turgenev "A picture tells me at a glance what it takes dozens of pages of a book to expound." So look at the pictures and next year if the Nebraska Library Commission sponsors a bus,

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Nebraska Library Legislative Day



On Valentine's Day, I was lunching with the Legislature. Library Legislative Day was held at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln and librarians and library supporters from all over Nebraska met with members of the Legislature. Carol Eshleman from North Platte, Mary Nelson from Holdrege and I visited with members of the Legislature who represent Republican Valley Library System. We tried to impress on the Legislators how important Nebraska libraries are to their communities. It was a cold, snowy day, but the lunch was excellent, the speakers were dynamic and everyone had a great time. Thank you Nebraska Legislators for supporting Nebraska libraries. Pictured above are the Youth Volunteer Award recipients, which included RVLS teens Lena Erickson (North Platte) and Kacey Gaar (Grant), who is not pictured. Pictured, bottom, are Sherry and Cherie Longmuir, PLS.



Crazy Horse Is 2007 One Book, One Nebraska

Crazy Horse: The Strange Man of the Oglalas, by Mari Sandoz, is the 2007 One Book One Nebraska selection. Published in 1942, *Crazy Horse* is one of the best-known books written by Sandoz. More than a description of the life of an individual, *Crazy Horse* is an in-depth look at the culture and spirituality of the Oglala Sioux.

Activities to mark the 2007 celebration of One Book One Nebraska are being coordinated by the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College. These events include book discussion groups, resource guides, traveling exhibits, etc.

We hope that you help us celebrate and explore the work of one of Nebraska's great literary voices by participating in local community events throughout Nebraska related to *Crazy Horse* and One Book One Nebraska. The RVLS System office has two *Crazy Horse* book kits—call 800-569-4961 to reserve a kit.

For Additional information please contact the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at 308-432-6401 or see <<http://www.onebookonenebraska.org/2007/index.html>>.



(Continued from page 5)

Survey Says

attention to crafts & activities and more on actual reading." "[I] use [my] own ideas and books." "They are often too far for me to go and I don't really get many ideas that I can use in my library." "SRP is very important IF one has the staff to implement it."

New technologies are at the forefront in libraries today. In response to what respondents would like to see RVLS do more to help their libraries with, 16 responded databases; 31 said handheld devices (iPods, MP3 players, PDAs, GPS devices, digital gadgets, etc.); 16 said blogs; 17 said webpages; 19 replied computer repair; 13 replied audiobooks online; 21 said new Internet things such as Flickr; and 8 said they were sick, sick, sick of technology. Additional comments included: "I would like more time to have training in technology usage." "Now especially audiobooks online." "But we must have it [technology]." "Some type of brain chip which would instantly make me proficient with all of the above." "All of it. I don't even know what I don't know!" "I need a break!" "We don't have the luxury of being sick of technology. --interlibrary courier, universal interlibrary loan."

Respondents were also able to tell us anything else they felt like sharing about RVLS services. The responses were: "Thank you for all you do." "I love and appreciate Sherry and Susan, they are doing an excellent job! Kudos to both of them!" "I have not used RVLS services very much but have enjoyed the ones that I have used." "Sherry and Susan do a great job at RVLS. I always have prompt replies to my requests and questions." "Keep up the great work!" "Republican Valley Library System does an excellent job in reaching all kinds of libraries." "I would like to borrow a story kit, but I worry about the logistics about how to get it and how to return it." "I think RVLS is the BEST system in the state! Of course, I may be prejudiced . . . Seriously, the system does an incredible job of allowing for networking and sharing among multiple types of libraries. RVLS serves as resource for ALL libraries and Sherry and Susan do a phenomenal job of meeting our needs. Thank you for all you do! P.S. I love responding to these surveys. I think you should do one about every 3 months or so. In your spare time :)" "I am a new Media Specialist and I am working on my degree. As a first year librarian RVLS has been very helpful. I feel that I can call or e-mail with any question I might have. I would especially like to thank Sherry for all her help." "Thanks for all your support. I always know I can count on the system if I need something." "I feel Sherry and Susan and all other people involved with RVLS are doing the best they can to help my library and other libraries. Wish being a librarian was as simple as some people think it is but with the new technology it will never be simple again." "I really appreciate the excellent help from RVLS. Sherry and Susan are both organized and I feel very informed on library matters. Sherry is a great listener and super motivator. I really appreciate the extra effort she gives to our system. We are very fortunate!" "We have multiple staff that use RVLS services, including the Ellison machine and dies. Very glad the resource is there." "We have appreciated the support we have received from RVLS. The magazine routing saves us money. The large print bulk loans are wonderful for us since our book budget is small." "You do a wonderful job of providing many things to us and I have so enjoyed the workshops and especially the Follett Users Meeting." "I like knowing that helpful advice is just a phone call or e-mail away. The e-mails about articles of interest (and access to the articles) is great." "You have been most helpful whenever I call you. Thanks." "The people who work there are very helpful." "I appreciate all the hard work that goes into the programs, etc that the RVLS staff does for all of us in the system. Being involved in planning programs at my library I know how much goes into what appears to be simple and streamlined to the uninitiated. RVLS is providing a well-rounded "list" of services, workshops, etc. for library associated folks in our area. Our library has been involved in just about every service available over the last many years so we have a good sampling of your assistance. Thank you ladies for your dedication and hard work." "Staff is great and very helpful." "You do a good job." "I appreciate the arranging the of workshops to attend. You are doing a good job." "I think you two do a great job! I feel very privileged to be a part of RVLS. Anytime I have had questions or needed help I received answers and all the help I needed." "I have appreciated the support given from the RVLS. The response has always been prompt and helpful. Workshops have been informative and met my needs as a new librarian." "Thank you for always being available and helpful when I call!" "Staff is friendly and helpful, always willing to answer questions and help in any way. Thank you!" "Thanks for all of your help. I have really appreciated your services." "I'd like to see a email of exactly what professional services for which we can (or cannot) call on your office. Our library is beginning automation and I don't think your office was consulted before software was purchased or implemented. For some reason, we dropped the ball and information was garnered through the grapevine--a scientific source to be sure. Now we are bogged down when much of the confusion could have been averted had we sought advice and assistance from RVLS. Even if you could not have helped, you could have gotten us in touch with the folks who could. Thanks." "I enjoy attending board meetings when they are in my area. Annual meetings are great but don't always fit into my early June schedule. It's nice to have Susan and Sherry to bounce ideas off of. Keep up the good work. RVLS is lucky to have so many concerned and hard working librarians and users on the board." "I think workshops about computer troubleshooting would be very helpful. Also learn the fundamentals of digitization. Thank you." >>**Thanks to all members who responded to the survey!**



2007 Spring Colloquium

What Are You Reading? From the Obvious to the Obscure.

Kate Marek, Associate Professor at Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science and former SELS Administrator, will spend an hour sharing some of the most interesting things she's been reading and talk about why you need to read them too. Her Obvious title: *The World is Flat*. Her Obscure title: *Ambient Findability* by Peter Morville. And in between: *The Wisdom of Crowds*, *The Cluetrain Manifesto*, *Good to Great*, and *Good to Great for the Social Sector*, *A Whole New Mind*, *Becoming Justice Blackmun*, *The Long Tail*, *Code: Version 2.0*, and *Silent Theft* are some titles that might be discussed. You don't have to read these titles before the colloquium, but bring a "you shouldn't miss this" suggestion of your own to share!

This promises to be an interesting discussion piqued by texts within and outside traditional library literature.

Saturday April 21, 2007, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
at The Cornhusker Hotel
Yankee Hill 3, 333 S. 13th Street, Lincoln, NE

Schedule of Events

5:30 – 6:30	Social hour, cash bar
6:30 – 7:30	Dinner
7:30 – 8:30	Presentation by Kate Marek
8:30 – 9:30	Discussion

Dinner: Arbor Buffet

Fresh garden salad, fresh seasonal fruit, fresh vegetable tray with dip, Chef's potatoes or rice, two Chef's fresh vegetables, rolls and butter, coffee, tea, and milk. With Roast Beef with Mushroom Steak Sauce and Coconut Thai Chicken for entrees. The Arbor Buffet also includes assorted Cornhusker cakes and pastries.

**The Spring Colloquium is sponsored jointly by: the Eastern Library System,
& the Southeast Library System.**

YES! I want to participate in the Fall Colloquium 2007: Kate Marek

Name _____ Library _____

Work phone _____ Work email _____

Send completed registration form and payment of **\$35.00** to: Southeast Library System, 5730 R Street, Suite C-1, Lincoln, NE 68505 Deadline: **Friday, April 13, 2007.**

Get a Clue @ your library!

The first Summer Reading Program workshop was held in Imperial at the Lied Imperial Public Library on March 8. What a wonderful place to have a workshop. The large room was ideal for a day filled with creative ideas for children and reading. NL Sharp talked about becoming an author, working with an illustrator and how to get a book published. Her name is really Nancy Wagner and she is a children's author from Fremont. Her enthusiastic presentation was enjoyed by the participants. Sally Snyder from the Nebraska Library Commission reviewed an awe-producing selection of books for children, Sharon Osenga presented energizing songs and games to make summer reading fun for all children, and Joan Chesley had participants act out *The Case of the Purloined Pig*, *A Dewey Mystery*, and *The Squeaky Door*. She also gave storytelling tips and techniques which made me want my grandchildren present as they would have loved her. As I listened to all the presentations, I wished I were still working with elementary school kids....anyway for a few minutes!! There will be another session held in Blue Hill on March 29.



*At the direction of Presenter Joan Chesley, Judith Hollers, Indianola Public Library, Sharon Lohofener and Mitzi Mueller, both from North Platte Public Library, enact *The Squeaky Door*.*



Pictured left-to-right are Presenter/Author N.L. Sharp, Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission, and Carolyn Lowitz, Goodall City Library (Ogallala).



*From left, Jane Lemmert, North Platte Public Library, Joan Chesley, Presenter, and Carol Schell, Trenton Public Library, also act out *The Squeaky Door*.*

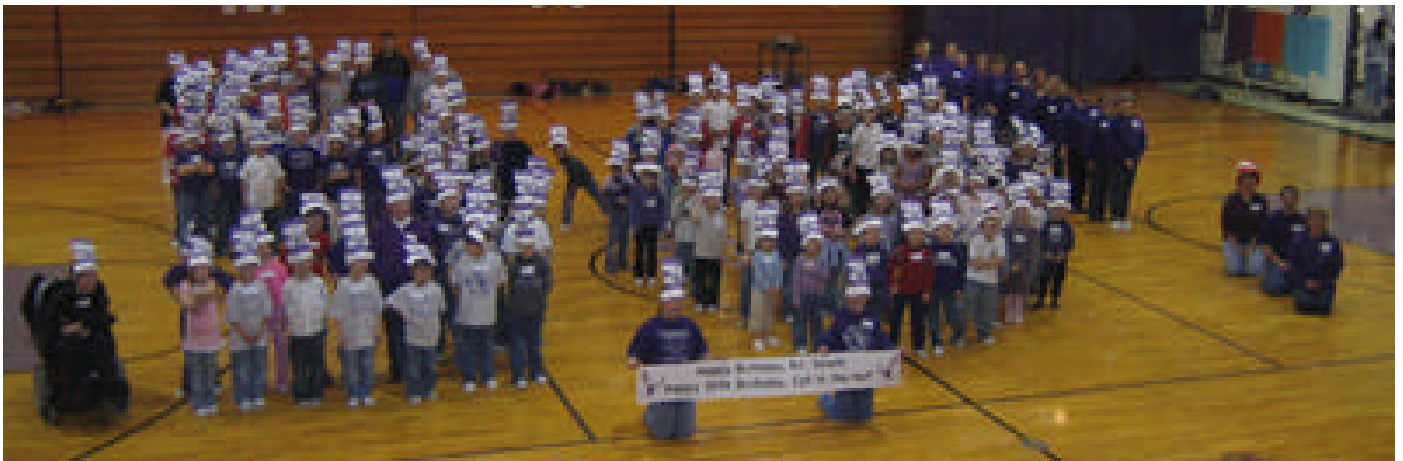
(Continued from page 3)

RVLS News

Congratulations to **Patty Hall, McCook Public Library Director**, who recently welcomed a new grandson, Cooper James Williams!

Cathy Barger, Hitchcock County Elementary (two school sites at Culbertson and Stratton), reports that a Read Across America celebration was held at the junior/senior high site (Trenton). The elementary students formed a "50" in honor of the Cat in

the Hat's 50th birthday (pictured below). During the celebration, high school students led students in a variety of activities centering around 50 (i.e. 50 jumping jacks, 50 touch toes, 50 jump rope). Following the activities, students were treated to a reenactment/Power Point presentation of the book *The Cat in the Hat*, as well as birthday cake which honored both Dr. Seuss and the Cat in the Hat. It was one awesome celebration!

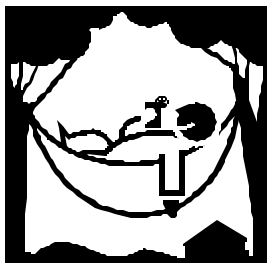


Longmuir to Retire

(Continued from page 9)

After a long career in teaching and library work, **Cherie Longmuir** will be retiring from her position as **Coordinator of the Panhandle Library System** on **April 27**.

Cherie says, "Thank you for making western Nebraska libraries such special places, and in turn, having made my four years here so rewarding."



Congratulations, Cherie, and good luck in your retirement!



maybe you will want to travel to MPLA or PLA and network with a group of really fun library people.

Pictured below are Barry and Sherry Houston, Sharon Lohofener, Carolyn Clark and her husband Bob, and Dianne Jensen (all three



women work at North Platte Public Library).



Facts for Features: Cinco de Mayo

A *Special Edition* U.S. Census Bureau Facts for Features, located at http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/009726.html, covers Cinco de Mayo Excerpts are below; for the complete facts, see webpage.

Cinco de Mayo, a national holiday in Mexico, celebrates the legendary Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, in which a Mexican force of 4,500 men faced 6,000 well-trained men of the French Army. The battle lasted four hours and ended in a victory for the Mexican Army under Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza. Along with Mexican Independence Day on Sept. 16, Cinco de Mayo has become a time to celebrate Mexican heritage and culture.

26.8 million Number of U.S. residents of Mexican origin in 2005. These residents constituted 9 percent of the nation's total population. >> **25.5** Median age of people in the United States of Mexican descent. This compares with 36.4 years for the population as a whole. >> **609,000** Number of Mexican-American civilians 18 and older who were military veterans. >> **1.1 million** Number of people of Mexican descent 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher. This includes more than 300,000 who have a graduate degree. >> **4.0** Average size for families with a householder of Mexican origin. This compares to 3.2 people in all families. >> **14%** Percentage of employed civilians 16 and older of Mexican heritage who worked in managerial, professional or related occupations. In addition, 24 percent worked in service occupations; 20 percent in sales and office occupations; 19 percent in construction, extraction, maintenance and repair occupations; and 21 percent in production, transportation and material moving occupations. >> **\$35,464** Median household income in 2005 for households with a householder of Mexican origin. >> **23.8%** Poverty rate in 2005 for people of Mexican heritage for whom poverty status is determined. >> **69%** Percentage of civilians 16 and older of Mexican origin in the labor force. The percentage was 66 percent for the population as a whole. There were 12.2 million people of Mexican heritage in the labor force, comprising 8 percent of the total labor force. >> **50%** Percentage of householders of Mexican origin who owned the home in which they lived.

(Source for the preceding statements: 2005 American Community Survey. Figures do not include people living in group quarters.)

Trade With Mexico

\$332.4 billion The value of goods traded between the United States and Mexico in 2006. Mexico was our nation's third-leading trading partner, after Canada and China. <<http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/>>

Businesses

701,078 Number of firms owned by people of Mexican descent in 2002. They comprised 45 percent of all Hispanic-owned firms. Among these Mexican-owned firms, 275,896 were in California and 235,735 in Texas. The Los Angeles-Long Beach-Riverside, Calif., combined statistical area had 174,292. >> **\$96.7 billion** Sales and receipts for firms owned by people of Mexican origin in 2002. >> **\$18.9 billion** Sales and receipts for Mexican-owned firms in the retail trade sector in 2002, which led all sectors. Construction led all sectors in the number of such firms, with 116,290.

(Source for statements in this section: <<http://www.census.gov/prod/ec02/sb0200cshisp.pdf>>)

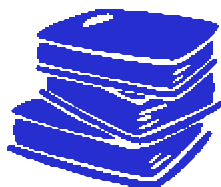
Mexican Food

\$100.4 million Product shipment value of tamales and other Mexican food specialties produced in the United States in 2002. <<http://www.census.gov/econ/census02/guide/INDRPT31.HTM>>



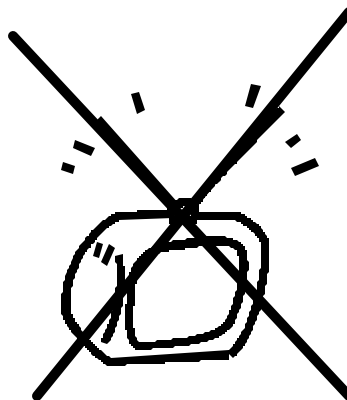
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Phelps
Red Willow
Webster



TV Turnoff Week

TV Turnoff Week is April 23-29, 2007. For ideas to incorporate this observation into your library, go to <http://www.tvturnoff.org/facts.htm>.