



Published quarterly by the
Republican Valley Library

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You say HELLO—I say GOODBYE

Hi. I am Denise Harders and I am looking forward to January, when I will officially become the Administrator for the Republican Valley Library System. I have worked in many different library



jobs in a variety of types of libraries over the last 25 years, and I am eager to get started on this new challenge. I am excited to meet the RVLS members and to help promote the excellent services offered by the libraries in the System.

My first library job was as a library processing clerk for the Grand Island Public Schools in 1982. I typed stencils and then used a teeny tiny mimeograph machine to print catalog cards. After the ink dried, I typed the subject headings on top of the cards, glued pockets in the books, and ironed the spine labels on. Before I left the Grand Island area in 1986, I had my first taste of using an OCLC workstation. I learned a lot about cataloging and discovered that I really liked filing and keeping things organized.

(continued on page 2).



I am finally leaving RVLS. I kept trying to leave and kept coming back and even now, leaving is very difficult. I love working with everyone in RVLS and this job seems to be made for me. But, now, finally, it seems like the right time. Barry and I are already partially living in Omaha, and we both like living there. We have much work to do on our house, and I think I will be pretty good at bossing carpenter Barry around! We are starting to get acquainted with people and have reconnected with old friends. Our youngest daughter is having a baby in March and with 5 other grandchildren in Omaha, I think we will be pretty busy. Plus, we want to do some traveling and have already booked a trip to San Diego in January. But, if you see my resume being handed out, you will know my husband and children are ready for me to go back to work!

I am so excited with what is happening in RVLS I can't wait to

If I seem kind of familiar to some of you, it could be from my next job. I worked for the Public Library System in Holdrege from 1991-93. For about half of that time, I drove the Bookmobile, stopping at schools, care homes, and public libraries in Phelps, Kearney, Harlan, and Furnas counties. While in Holdrege, I had the opportunity to earn the Public Librarian Certificate offered by the Nebraska Library Commission by taking the Basic Skills classes. After that experience, I knew that I wanted to be a librarian.

I worked for Central Community College for 10 years. The first five as a library assistant at the Grand Island Campus and from 1999-2004, I was the Resource Center Supervisor for the Hastings Campus Library. That job offered me the chance to get hands-on experience with all aspects of managing a library. In the mid-90s, I went back to college part time while I continued to work full time.

My husband of 30 years, Vaughn, and I currently live in Allen, Texas, which is a suburb of Dallas. Since moving to Texas in 2004, I completed a Bachelor's degree and in May 2010, I graduated from Texas Woman's University with a Master of Library Science degree.

Our daughter, Jill is the CNC Programmer for Chief Custom Products. She and her husband, Chad Bucknell, live in Alda. Our son, Clint, is a senior, majoring in Organizational Communication at Southeastern University in Durant, Oklahoma. He will graduate with a Bachelor's degree in May 2011, and plans to pursue a Master's degree at that time. Both sets of our parents, as well as most of our brothers and sisters live in Nebraska, and Vaughn and I are truly grateful that my new position with RVLS allows us to move back to the part of the country we consider home.



Please feel free to contact me before January at deharders@yahoo.com. After January 4, I will be available in the RVLS office by telephone or email. I will stay in touch and plan to meet many of you in the next few weeks.

see what the next couple of years bring. With 31 public libraries involved in the BTOP grant bringing updated technology to RVLS libraries (see page 5), and with the new Pioneer project for libraries to join (see page 6), the libraries in Republican Valley Library System are at a tipping point. The future will be exciting, demanding and probably beyond anything we can imagine at this time.

I have enjoyed working closely with Kay Kloppenborg the last three years. Kay was able to keep me on track and focused and looking better than I actually am. Maybe now we will have time for lunch, perhaps in Omaha :)

The RVLS Board members, both present and past have become cherished friends. I am going to keep in touch and not let you go out of my life. You have helped me grow in the job and as an individual in ways you don't even know. Thanks for the great times.

I will miss working with the other system directors. We have traveled together, worried about each other's problems and worked side by side on many projects. And we have had fun. It has been a treat.

I also want to say a big Thank You to Rod, Richard, and everyone at the Nebraska Library Commission. I want you to know what a great group you are to work with. I always describe our work as everyone moving in the same direction toward the betterment of libraries in Nebraska. Sometimes, the road gets a little bumpy or someone falls off, but always, the vision for great Nebraska libraries remains strong. For the last 5 years, I have told people if it isn't happening in a library I don't know about it! So now, I'll be able to find out what is happening outside the library world. To everyone I say, keep in touch! I am certain Denise will be an excellent System Director and Kay will still be here so things may change but everyone will still be working to make Nebraska libraries stronger and more viable than ever.

Sherry Houston

RVLS NEWS



**RVLS has a NEW
website:
libraries.ne.gov/rvls**

Hastings College Perkins Library is pleased to welcome a new interlibrary loan assistant, **Sheri Schneider**. Sheri was born and raised in Fort Dodge, Iowa, and received her BS and Master's degrees in education from Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Sheri met her husband Jim at Iowa State. The Schneiders moved to Hastings from Onalaska, WI. Jim is a research scientist at MARC in Clay Center.

They have two daughters: Melanie, who is Director of Student Services at the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy and Cindy, who is a Physical Therapist in Boise, ID and assists her husband in his office. He is a psychotherapist dealing with young children. The Schneiders brought to Hastings their three cats, Tobias, Kirby and Marley – all adopted from the WI Humane Society, of which Sheri was a board member.

Sheri enjoys reading (especially history), knitting, bridge, music, family, travel and gardening. **Welcome to the System, Sheri!**

Candice Bird is the new director of the **Palisade Public Library**. **Welcome to the RVLS system, Candice!**

North Platte Community College welcomes **Sarah Dockray** as their new Director. We look forward to working with you, Sarah, **Welcome!**

Mmmm– Good!

Nancy Sherwood, RVLS Board Secretary, from **Auld Public Library** in **Red Cloud** served this delicious Frito corn salad at the last board meeting. (She's willingly sharing the recipe with everyone)

Frito Corn Salad

2 cans shoepeg corn (drained)
2 cans niblets corn (drained)

2 C. Miracle Whip
2 C. shredded cheddar cheese
1/2 C. chopped onion
1 bag Fritos Chili Cheese corn chips (broken up)

Mix all of the above, EXCEPT the corn chips. Add chips right before serving.

Can substitute mexi corn for niblets to give it some color, could also add a can of black beans (rinsed & drained).

Thanks, Nancy!

Ellison on the Move

Here's the schedule for the Ellison, if you want on the schedule please contact us, or if it is near you, perhaps you could work out something with your neighbor.

November 1, 2010—
Southern Valley Public Schools Oxford, NE

December 1, 2010 —
Clay Center Public Library, Clay Center, NE

January 1, 2011—
Fairfield Public Library, Fairfield, NE

February 1, 2011—
Oxford Public Library, Oxford, NE

March 1, 2011—
Harvard Public Schools, Harvard, NE

April 1, 2011
Wallace School Library
Wallace, NE

If you would like to schedule the Ellison for your facility, please

e-mail us at: rvlsasst@inebraska.com or
rvlsadmin@inebraska.com



*RVLS has a
NEW CAR—NEW DIRECTOR*



It's Your Move

Update from Maria Medrando-Nelhs

Fred and I want to thank each of you for your prayers, best wishes, cards, and donations provided during our time of need. Your donations have been used to pay our health insurance premiums, medical bills not paid by insurance, the very expensive anti-rejection medication, and gas for the constant trips to Omaha for check-ups and treatments. It also provided us with some peace of mind so that we could focus on Fred's care.

Although Fred has had some set backs especially getting the infection in his new liver under control. He is much better then before he had his liver transplant and each day the pain is less and his energy increases.

Please note that I am still raffling items on [Fred's Transplant Fund Blog](#).

We want you to know that your generosity has been a blessing to us and proves beyond doubt that people in the library world are the VERY BEST people around.

We pray that God will bless each of you for your kindness and generosity.

Truly Blessed,
Fred Nehls and Maria Medrano-Nehls

Heartfelt Thanks.....

Thank you, Sherry, for being a part of our lives at the Republican Valley Library System. You have a wonderful way of making people feel special and are a terrific listener. We have learned much from you. You have encouraged us to always be willing to learn and keep sight of what is important. We are reminded of your generous spirit to help others and lead by example. We hope you know that your thoughtfulness and gift of friendship will always be appreciated. I've heard the saying that a successful life is not the things we get, but the hearts we touch. Sherry, you have touched our hearts and we hope, we in turn have touched yours. May you be blessed with all the good things in life as you begin your new journey. We will miss you.

**Vicki Casper,
RVLS Board President**

RVLS Has Scholarship Money Available

Up to \$100.00 per event for registration, mileage, meal, etc.

Only one scholarship per person per fiscal year

All member libraries eligible

Name _____

Library _____

Event _____

Date of event _____

Scholarship requested for _____ (meal, room, etc.)

Amount requested _____

Other information:



Send to: Republican Valley Library System
2727 W. 2nd Street # 233
Hastings, NE 68901

Nebraska Library Commission Awarded \$3.6 Million to Upgrade Public community Centers in 147 Library Buildings

The Nebraska Library Commission announced that the U.S. Department of Commerce has awarded the Library Commission a \$2,416,403 grant to fund Nebraska's public computer center project, Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities. The three-year project is designed to expand broadband capacity; upgrade public computing resources in libraries; and advance access to employment, learning, health information, and E-Government services. The Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), provides funding to expand broadband access and adoption in communities across the U.S. and intends to increase jobs, spur investments in technology and infrastructure, and provide long-term economic benefits. In addition to the federal grant, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will provide \$1,251,786 in matching funds, including a grant and technical assistance to support the project. The total project budget is \$3,668,189. This grant project will increase connectivity in 45 of Nebraska's public library buildings, as well as deploy more than 600 new computer workstations and upgrade another 475 at 147 public library locations. With this increased capacity to deliver rich Internet content and provide computer literacy training at libraries across the state, the project will partner with other state agencies and organizations to provide services in education, workforce development, and E-Government to 13,300 weekly users at libraries. As many as 42,700 Nebraskans will benefit from approximately 384,500 hours of education over the three years of the project.

RVLS has 31 public libraries involved in this project. They are:

1. Hoesch Memorial Library, Alma
2. Arapahoe Public Library, Arapahoe
3. Axtell Public Library, Axtell
4. Bartley Public Library, Bartley
5. Beaver City Public Library, Beaver City
6. Dundy County Library, Benkelman
7. Blue Hill Public Library, Blue Hill
8. Butler Memorial Library, Cambridge
9. Clay Center Public Library, Clay Center
10. Culbertson Public Library, Culbertson
11. Klyte Burt Memorial Libray, Curtis
12. Elwood Public Library, Elwood
13. Fairfield Public Library, Fairfield
14. Franklin Public Library, Franklin
15. Hastings Memorial Library, Grant
16. Harvard Public Library, Harvard
17. Hastings Public Library, Hastings
18. Hildreth Public Library, Hildreth
19. Holdrege Area Public Library, Holdrege
20. Lied Imperial Public Library, Imperial
21. Indianola Public Library, Indianola
22. McCook Public Library, McCook
23. Nelson Public Library, Nelson
24. North Platte Public Library, North Platte
25. Cordelia B Preston Memorial Library, Orleans
26. Oxford Municipal Library, Oxford
27. Auld Public Library, Red Cloud
28. Superior Public Library, Superior
29. Sutherland Public Library, Sutherland
30. Sutton Memorial Library, Sutton
31. Trenton Public Library, Trenton

For a map version of Participating Libraries: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/statistics/librarymapbttop.html>

Changing to Pioneer???

A group of five Nebraska libraries called the Pioneer Consortium has just successfully concluded a Library Improvement Grant awarded by the Nebraska Library Commission. Pioneer Consortium reached an agreement with LibLime, a division of PTFS, Progressive Technology Federal System, to provide the public libraries in Grand Island, Gretna, Holdrege, Lincoln and St. Paul with the following services:

- * Installation of open source Koha software for one union catalog of all the members' holdings
- * Circulation, cataloging, public access catalog, acquisitions and other modules required by most libraries
- * Configuration tailored to the consortium's system parameters as well as individual library policies whenever permitted, and branding/look/feel of the software for staff and public
- * Data migration, import and record structure profiling in Koha
- * Union catalog de-duplication and quality control to allow migrating libraries to easily attach their holdings to already-migrated bibliographic records
- * Training
- * Maintenance and hosting services - phone and online help desk, backups, upgrades and all system administration
- * PTFS-hosted Internet "cloud" access to member libraries

Call for Additional Consortium Membership

As the current Pioneer membership begins this process with LibLime in October 2010, it is also beginning a process of **accepting letters of interest from Nebraska accredited public libraries** for possible inclusion in the union catalog starting in mid-2011. The consortium anticipates considering additional members on a semi-annual basis thereafter and will work with LibLime and any new members to determine the best means to schedule and pace migration and go-live dates. Pioneer plans to publish additional information of assistance to interested libraries this fall, especially those considering Library Improvement Grant (see pg. 11) applications through the Nebraska Library Commission for data migration needs.

This process will be opened up to other types of libraries throughout Nebraska starting in 2012.

Letters of interest may be sent to the President of the Pioneer Consortium:

Steve Fosselman, Grand Island Public Library, 211 North Washington Street, Grand Island, NE 68801
sf@gi.lib.ne.us 308-385-5333

Basic Membership Costs

Initial Costs

Pioneer Consortium Orientation Fee		\$250
One-time database setup charges based on that library's number of bibliographic records:	0-25K	\$750.00
	25-50K	\$1,000.00
	50K+	\$1,500.00
Charges for dataload, de-duplication, etc.		15 cents per bib

All libraries are responsible for their own Internet costs, pc workstations, networking structure, local IT and technical services support, etc. There is **no** need for ILS-related server hardware housing bibliographic/patron/circulation data at each library.

Annual Maintenance Costs

In 2010/11 the costs of LibLime maintenance - as well as modest costs for development work performed on Pioneer Consortium's behalf by LibLime and "central-library" reimbursement for cataloging/training assistance - will be assessed to all members by formula in relative proportion to their legal service area, operating revenues, collection size and circulation. This assessment formula is based on a minimum annual payment of \$350 or 1% of the total budget, whichever is higher. The Consortium is happy to provide an estimate of costs for various-sized libraries with exact costs to be determined based on all libraries' assessment as per the formula.

These are the basic costs for a full range of Koha open source modules, and do not include future years' maintenance increases charged by LibLime. Through the process of spreading costs among additional members, however, the Pioneer Consortium will be able to support such enhancements and total cost of ownership should still remain low in the future.

Not Just Cost, But Service Benefits

For this investment, participating libraries will receive the benefits of a next generation integrated library system with **no local responsibility** for server maintenance, data recovery or other server-related technical support, as well as transparent access to the collections of other member libraries across the state.

Pioneer Consortium's overall goals are enhanced efficiency and productivity for Nebraska libraries, and an enhanced experience for any patron using a Nebraska library.



ALTAFF Presents New Online Courses for Trustees

Nebraska Library Directors:

Beginning in October 2010, the Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF) will be offering a new Trustee Academy, a series of online courses to help Trustees become exceptionally proficient in their roles on behalf of their libraries. All courses will be recorded webcasts to allow Trustees the opportunity to complete each course at any time of day or night. ALTAFF knows Trustees are volunteers too and the recorded format offers the most flexibility.

As part of the Nebraska Library Commission's statewide affiliation with ALTAFF, all Trustees in Nebraska will have the opportunity to complete the five courses in the Trustee Academy series [free of charge](#).

Trustee Academy Courses

- **Trustee Basics Part I and Part II** presented by Lynn Stainbrook, director of the Brown County Library in Green Bay, Wis.
- **Working Effectively with the Library Director** presented by Peggy Danhof, ALTAFF past president and president of the Board of Trustees of the Fountaindale Public Library in Bolingbrook, Ill, and Vicky Trupiano, director of the Fountaindale Public Library.
- **The Library's Budget** presented by Christine Lind Hage, past president of the Public Library Association and director of the Rochester Hills Public Library in the greater Detroit area.
- **Advocating for Your Library** presented by Carol Brey-Casiano, ALA past president and director of the El Paso Public Library System.

How to Participate

- Nebraska library Trustees do not need to register or pay for Trustee Academy courses.
- On or before October 18, 2010, ALTAFF will e-mail all Nebraska library directors with a login to access the recorded webcasts and support materials.
- Nebraska library directors will then share the login information with their Trustees.
- Trustees will be able to watch the recorded webcasts on their own computers at any time of day or night.

Learn More

More information about all courses is available online at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/altaff/trustees/academy.cfm>. As a reminder, Nebraska library Trustees should not register or pay for Trustee Academy courses. Access will be provided free of charge on or about October 18, 2010.

I encourage you to share this information with your library Trustees. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by phone or e-mail.

Beth Nawalinski
Marketing & Communications Director
Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF)
American Library Association
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Suite 3-N
Philadelphia, PA 19107
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find ALTAFF on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ala.altaff>
follow ALTAFF on Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/ala_altaff

GRANTS

You still have time to apply for a grant from the Nebraska Library Commission. You must be an accredited public library.

The two types of grants which are still available this year are :

- **Continuing Education and Training Grant** which is due December 17, 2010. The purpose of these grants is to assist Nebraska libraries, through continuing education and training for their library personnel and supporters, to improve the library services provided to their communities.
- **Library Improvement Grant** which is due January 7, 2011. The purpose of the Library Improvement Grants is to facilitate growth and development of library programs and services in Nebraska public and institutional libraries, by supplementing local funding with federal funds designated for these purposes.

For more information see the website:

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/grant.html> or call the System office and we will be glad to assist you.

American Library Association Annual Conference and Exhibition – 2010

WOW! — Wonderful! Overwhelming! World-class!

“Wow!” doesn’t even come close to describing the **2010 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition** in Washington DC, July 24 – 29. From the moment I picked up my registration badge, event tickets, and exhibition pass, to the final rally at Capitol Hill, the conference was packed with exciting speakers, programs, and awards. How very fortunate I am to have been able to attend this powerful convention.

I spent two hours on Friday, at the exhibitor’s booths “The Stacks”, and realized I would need to come back for probably 2 more hours to see the other half of the exhibits. Needless to say, just the exhibits were overwhelming!

My first session was to attend Affiliate Assembly for AALS (the American Association of School Librarians). As SCYP Chair, I was the delegate to

that Affiliate Assembly. In that session, universal concerns were addressed and rewritten to submit for consideration. I participated with other librarians across the United States as the concerns were unified and tweaked for submission. I met with school librarians (media specialists) from Region 9 which includes Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. As an invited guest, I also had the opportunity to meet with Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan at an early morning session on Monday, June 28. AASL leaders had an opportunity to meet informally with Secretary Arne Duncan to discuss the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. How state deficits are affecting school librarians and their programs was a topic for

Continued from page 8 —American Library Association Annual Conference and Exhibition – 2010

consideration. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, was asked to address the concerns which were discussed at Affiliate Assembly. His concern is that education is in danger of taking a step backward with this budget shortfall. School Librarians wanted to emphasize that librarians specifically be included along with teachers whenever monies are allocated for education.

The YALSA Coffee Klatch was very productive in that authors (sometimes co-authors) promoted their books in a 5-minute visit with librarians. In the one hour scheduled time, at least 10 authors shared their motivation and the production of their books. Each author's book was recognized by YALSA. Those who visited with librarians at my table, were Rick Yancey, Simone Elkeles, Jessica Day George, David Macinnis Gill, Holly Black, Laurie Halse Anderson, Libba Bray, John Barnes, John Green and Lauren Myracle.

I heard the following featured speakers: Sue Monk Kidd and Ann Kidd Taylor, authors of Traveling With Pomegranates, Sir Salman Rushdie who wrote Luka and the Fire of Life for young adults, Toni Morrison, author of Beloved, Marlo Thomas, author of Growing Up Laughing! to be released in September 2010.

The Caldecott/Newbery Award Banquet was a highlight of the conference for me. Jerry Pinkney was the 2010 Randolph Caldecott medal winner for The Lion and the Mouse. Rebecca Stead won the 2010 John Newbery medal for When You Reach Me. Caldecott Honor book illustrators, Marla Frazee and Pamela Zagarenski also spoke. Newbery Honor Book authors, Philip Hoos Philbrick were in attendance. The function was a classy mix of literature and librarians. I was in good company – librarians are some of the nicest people.

The Michael Prinz award ceremony was

another impressive event. Libba Bray won this prestigious award with her novel Going Bovine. Honor books were Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith by Deborah Heiligman, The Monstrumologist by Rick Yancey, Punkzilla by Adam Rapp and Tales of the Madman Underground: An Historical Romance, 1973 by John Barnes. All five authors spoke at the Michael Prinz award presentations.

Acclaimed songwriter and performer Natalie Merchant entertained with folk-rock music from her newly released "Leave Your Sleep". I attended many other sessions, including a Poetry Blast. The Bookcart Drill Teams were a kick! The closing session was Amy Sedaris. Then over a thousand red shirted librarians encouraging "Vote for Libraries", marched to the rally at Capitol Hill, chanting, "We're going to tell them, we're going to tell them!". As our ALA leader asked, "What do we want?" We responded "Money!" To "When do we want it?" we answered "Now!" And so we rallied in support of libraries across the nation.

Senators, who strongly supported our cause, spoke at our rally and the author of many YA banned books, Lauren Myracle, read from one of her books, urging us to be brave enough to stand up for what we believe and need. In today's economy, **Libraries are needed more today than ever before.**

This report offers a brief overview of my activities during the ALA Conference. There were so many programs offered, I know I missed some important information only because I had to make some very hard decisions in choosing which to attend. I appreciate being able to attend. Thank you, SCYP!

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Eshleman, NLA/SCYP Chair,
And YA Librarian, North Platte Public
Library, North Platte, NE 69101

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

Letters About Literature

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in cooperation with affiliate state centers for the book and in partnership with Target Stores, invites readers in grades 4 through 12 to enter Letters About Literature, a national reading-writing contest coordinated and sponsored in Nebraska by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, and Houchen Bindery Ltd.

To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author, living or dead, from any genre—fiction, nonfiction, or poetry, contemporary or classic—explaining how that author's work changed the student's way of thinking about the world or themselves.

Contest participants compete on three levels:

- Level I for young readers in grades 4-6
- Level II for young adult readers in grades 7-8
- Level III for readers in grades 9-12

Letters About Literature awards prizes on both the state and national levels. Each state center has its own panel of judges who select the top essayists in the state. State winners will receive prizes, and then advance to the national competition.

How to enter

Submissions at all levels must be postmarked by **December 10, 2010**. The Nebraska Center for the Book will notify state winners in mid-March 2011 and national winners in mid-May 2011.

Contact the national program director at lal@epix.net or visit the [official website](#):

<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>

for additional information. You may also contact [Mary Jo Ryan](#) for state-specific information and prize details. For more information, call 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665.



On the Bookshelf

The following audiobooks have recently been added to the RVLS Collection:

- **Burn** by Barr, Nevada
- **The Glass Rainbow** by Burke, James Lee
- **The Rembrandt Affair** by Silva, Daniel
- **Star Island** by Hiaasen, Carl
- **Women Food and God: An Unexpected Path to Almost Everything** by Roth, Geneen

A complete listing of our available materials is on our web page libraries.ne.gov/rvls under Services

If you are considering a career in librarianship, you can take advantage of grant money for college, training, or an internship from the Nebraska Library Commission.



The Nebraska Library Commission was awarded a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in the amount of \$721,033. This grant will be used by NLC and Central Community College to foster the recruitment, education, and 21st century skills development of 165 pre-professional and professional students through scholarships, internships, and stipends. The Cultivating Rural Librarians' Technology Skills program adds value to students' formal educational experiences through social and face-to-face networking opportunities and through technology skills training. The grant will also be used to recruit promising high school and college students and diverse library personnel to ensure that Nebraskans receive library services provided by knowledgeable librarians who represent a range of backgrounds and talents.

Mark Your Calendar



- November 2, 9, 16.....Basic Skills, Hastings
- November 5, 12, 19....Basic Skill, Lexington
- November 6Nebraska Center for the Books, Book Awards, Lincoln
- November 13.....National Gaming Day @ your library
 Register at <http://ngd.ala.org/> to win a \$5000 Gaming Gear Shopping Spree from DEMCO
- College of Dupage on-line webinars—
<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/reserve/dupageflyer0192010.pdf>

Sherry's new contact information:



Sherry Houston

12220 S. 79th St.
Papillion, NE 68046

Phone: 402 984-3882

E-mail: sherryhouston@hotmail.com
sherryhouston@gmail.com



2010-2011 RVLS Board Meetings

Newly Elected Officers:

President –Vicki Casper

Vice-President –Mo Khaumona

Secretary –Nancy Sherwood

Board Members:

Tony Anderson

Beth Falla

Jane Hilton

Mary Nelson

Vicki Perrie

Sylvia Person

Sky Seery

Dana Wade

Claudette Wielechowski

All meetings begin at 10 am.

Your attendance is encouraged and welcomed!

- November 5, 2010** Mary Lanning Hospital Library, Hastings, NE
- January 7, 2011** Franklin Public Library, Franklin, NE
- March 4, 2011** On-Line Meeting
- June 3, 2011** Annual Meeting, (location to be announced)



Electronic Documents

A new wealth of information is available at your fingertips!

UNK's Calvin T. Ryan Library recently subscribed to a new service from Marcive ---- "Documents Without Shelves". This service provides records to thousands of electronic government documents, made available with one click in full-text or PDF. These records are fully-searchable in the UNK Library Catalog by agency, title, subject, and even by keyword! And again, because they are an electronic document, the full-text is available at your convenience wherever you are! New records are received monthly, along with a listing of new additions.

Some examples include:

Action guide for emergency management at institutions of higher education.

Climate change indicators in the United States.

Federal Justice Statistics Resource Center.

Of course the library still receives government documents in print, as well. The newest government documents can be found on the new books shelf located on the library's first floor.

If you would like more information, please contact Rochelle Krueger, Government Documents Librarian (2nd floor at the Library), at kruegerr@unk.edu or 308-865-8542.

—Rochelle Krueger, Government Documents Librarian, kruegerr@unk.edu

Submitted by Susan Franklin:

Photo by Abi Burrows

Former United States Poet Laureate Billy Collins kicked off our annual Sigma Tau Delta and **Perkins Library Banned Books Reading at Hastings College** (Hastings, NE) with his poem about censorship, "Rain." Collins also shared a personal encounter with censorship. As a melodramatic high school student, Collins published a poem in his school newspaper which stated that life was so miserable people should just start euthanizing babies. Collins' Swift-inspired poem upset the administration to such a degree that any student who left the school with a copy of that paper containing Collins' poem was threatened with expulsion. The reading, our contribution to the American Library Association's Banned Books Week, was hosted over the noon hour on the front steps of the college library, and included a homemade soup luncheon and door prizes of controversial books and films. After Collins read, the floor was opened to all in attendance. Students and faculty were given the opportunity to read passages from their favorite banned or challenged books and share the reason people have requested bans on the books. Selections included *Matilda* by Roald Dahl, *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss, and *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger, among others. The event was a huge success, with over 70 people in attendance.



Summer Brain Freeze

By Cathy Mohnike

Being an avid reader is a little like being a real estate maven. Your favorite reading spots are determined by location, location, location... with locations being picked according to where the best light is at that time of day. My five main reading locations are the rocking chair in the piano room, the high-backed chair in the fireplace room, the sofa in the TV room, the bed in my bedroom and yes, the "throne" in the bathroom. During the summer I don't want to waste a moment of reading time so I place a different book in each of these locations. The upside being that this gets me through a lot of books by summer's end, the downside being an occasional reader's brain-freeze. My book club members are very impressed that I can juggle this many books at once but they shouldn't be. This technique does lead to an eventual crash and burn where I start mixing all of the stories together. When that happens I am forced to pick one of the books and finish it so that I can free up some space in my book-brain. So, lucky you, I am going to give you a quick look at six of the books that I read during July. There's got to be something here for almost everyone.

Since I like to pretend I'm keeping my brain stimulated in the summer two of the books are Pulitzer Prize winners. "**Olive Kitteridge**" by Elizabeth Strout wasn't my favorite. It is about Olive who is a cranky retired schoolteacher. Hey! I'm a retired schoolteacher and

I'm not cranky so I didn't like her very much. I had a better feeling towards "**Anthill**" by E.O. Wilson. First of all I read it to see what the title had to do with the story. I just knew a 378-page book could not actually be based on an anthill. I was wrong. The book is divided into six parts—one of which is The Anthill Chronicles. This 75-page chapter is the doctoral study that the lead character, Raff Cody, has written about the large colony of ants on the Lake Nokobee trailhead. He has been studying and taking notes on this colony since he was a youngster. Before he goes off to college he notices a change in the activity of the colony. As it turns out the change in activity is caused by the death of the Trailhead Queen. This may not sound all that fascinating but believe me it is worth checking out this book just to read about the ants in this and two other colonies on the island. I knew next to nothing about ants before and definitely didn't realize how complex and fascinating their colonies are.

"**Following Polly**" by Karen Bergreen is a fun light-hearted summer read. Alice Teakle went to college with Polly Dawson. Polly was Miss Everything—she got every boy, she aced every class, she ended up marrying the professor that everyone had a crush on, blah, blah, blah. Of course their paths do not cross for several years after college but then on the very day Alice is fired she happens to run into Polly at a coffee shop. Polly doesn't even recognize Alice and so, since Alice has nothing better to do,

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She is taken to the police station where they make the mistake of not paying attention to her so she slips away. The rest of the book involves Alice trying to clear her name by finding out who did away with Polly.

If you are in the mood for a Victorian romance try "**More Than Willing**" by my friend Laura Landon (aka Susie Bauman). She has been writing romance novels for over 19 years and this is her first published work. Susie visited our book club to discuss her book and tell all about how the publishing industry has changed with the advent of ebooks and Smashword Publishing. We had a rousing discussion about buying real books versus buying them on Kindles, the Nook, etc. It was such a treat to have her join us. I bet she'd visit your book club too. Just stop by the Grafton Mini-Mart and visit with her.

My last two reads for the month are good ones if you are up for more serious fare during the summer.

"**Imperfect Birds**" by Anne Lamott is the story of Elizabeth Ferguson and her daughter, Rosie. Rosie is having a

tough time getting through the summer before her senior year because of her increasing drug addictions. Elizabeth paddles furiously on the river of denial before she finally is forced to wake up to what is going on. Lamott is one of my favorite writers because of the way she tells it like it is.

"...life with most teenagers was like having a low-grade bladder infection. It hurt, but you had to tough it out."

and

"The child is merely a moon. She has no light of her own, no income, no car. She is a satellite. Her judgment is frequently poor, and she is mean. She is South Africa before the revolution, cruel and crazy. Divest! Divest!"

"**Shadow Tag**" by Louise Erdrich takes a serious look at a spousal relationship that has gone out of whack and the devastation that causes to the entire family.

So there are six of the books that have been parked in one of my five reading locations. And now that I have shared them with you I can totally divest my book-brain of them. Ahhh! Now that feels good!

A Celebration of Nebraska Books

November 6, 2010

2:30—6:30 p.m.

Nebraska State Historical Society's

Nebraska History Museum

131 Centennial Mall North

Lincoln, NE

Republican Valley Library System
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Webster

“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” - Thomas A. Edison