

# SoLiS

Newsletter of the  
**Southeast Library System**

February 2013

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## SOWINGS

By Brenda Ealey, SELS

“Reading is a gift we give each other, not a solitary pastime.”

-Caroline Kennedy,  
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Seattle, January 27th, 2013.

I was attending an ALA Council meeting during Caroline Kennedy’s talk at ALA Midwinter Conference in Seattle, but I’ve loved hearing and reading the follow-up. And, it seems like such a great time of year to devote to reading as we look forward to spring, and as some of my favorite lists are revealed. So, allow me to highlight just a sampling to consider.

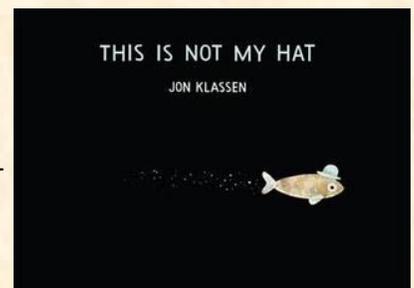
RUSA (Reference & User Services Association) 2013 announcements for their lists of notable books, listen list and reading list are ones I make a point of noticing and are a part of the ALA Midwinter Conference. The Notable Book List features a list of 25 outstanding fiction, nonfiction and poetry for adult readers. RUSA’s Listen List highlights extraordinary narrators and are named to the list “because they are a pleasure to listen to and make one reluctant to stop listening.” And, then their Reading List recognizes the best books in eight genres: adrenaline (including suspense, thriller and adventure), fantasy, historical fiction, horror, mystery, romance, science fiction and women’s fiction. You can find all the aforementioned lists on the RUSA website: [www.ala.org/rusa](http://www.ala.org/rusa).

The American Library Association (ALA) announcement for youth media awards in January is an announcement followed by many – so we’ll honor some of those award winners in the 2013 list below – and I’ll now have given you great reasons to add to your library collections, or better yet find a quiet corner and steal some time for yourself and read a good book.

*The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate – **Newbery Medal** for the most outstanding contribution to children’s literature.

*This Is Not My Hat* by Jon Klassen – **Caldecott Medal** for the most distinguished American picture book for children.

*Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America* by Andrea Davis Pinkney – **Coretta Scott King (Author) Book Award** recognizing an African American author of outstanding books for children and young adults.



Check out  
Southeast  
Library  
System on  
Facebook!



(Continued on page 11)

What's your library's plan for National Library Week? Kicking back with a good book and a nice cup of tea? You *wish* you had that kind of time at work? This year, find a little time for yourselves on April 19th and celebrate Southeast Library System's second annual...

# READ IN



Contact SELS for more information and ideas on how to celebrate the Read In at your library.

## CHALLENGING LIBRARY STEREOTYPES ONE PAGE TURN AT A TIME



# Free, Full-day Workshop! Sensory Friendly Storytimes: Serving Children with Special Needs

**Sump Memorial Library, Papillion, NE**

**Friday, March 8 8:00am - 4:30pm**

**E-mail only registration by March 4, 2013  
cathytmcmahon@gmail.com**

Families of children with special needs may be reluctant to attend traditional storytimes. Offering a Sensory Friendly Storytime is a powerful way of including ALL families in your programming. Learn how to facilitate a Sensory Friendly Storytime.

- Be able to recognize prevalence, symptoms, and techniques used for common childhood diagnoses.
- Gain a basic knowledge of characteristics of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down syndrome and developmental delays and receive simple tips for working with young children with special needs.
- Recognize common behavioral disorders in young children and their symptoms and how to address these behaviors as they occur in storytime.
- Learn to interact with parents and caregivers of children with special needs.
- Learn how to use manipulatives and external supports (cubes, reading cushions, fidgets) for children attending a Sensory Friendly Storytime.

**Bring your lunch or visit Papillion's local restaurants!**

This project was supported in part by state aid funding appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.



222 N. Jefferson St  
Papillion, NE 68046

(402) 597-2040  
[www.sumplibrary.org](http://www.sumplibrary.org)





## Southeast Library System Front Porch Award Application

The Front Porch Award is presented to a library (academic, institutional, public or school) that displays ingenuity in creating an atmosphere that welcomes patrons to their facility. This award and \$100 will be presented during National Library Week, April 14-20, 2013. Non-accredited libraries are welcome to apply.

### Enclose the following with your nomination:

Name of Library: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Individual submitting the application:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- In 250 words or less, state why the library deserves this award.
- Information about activities/programs developed for the library.
- Two letters of recommendation from any library supporter.
- Any other information that shows the library deserves this award.

Nominations must be submitted to:

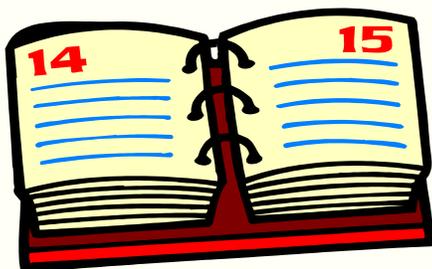
Brenda Ealey, Southeast Library System Administrator

5730 R St. Ste. C-1

Lincoln, NE 68505

[bsealey@windstream.net](mailto:bsealey@windstream.net)

**Application deadline is March 1, 2013**



# CALENDAR

February 2013

**February 6th** – Digital Learning Day ([www.digitalllearningday.org](http://www.digitalllearningday.org)) to celebrate innovative teaching practices that make learning more personalized and engaging and encouraging exploration of how digital learning can provide more students with more opportunities to get the skills they need to succeed in college, career and life. The website includes ways to participate for school and public libraries, as well as toolkits, contests, webinars and more.

**February 11 to 22** – Basic Skills: Customer Service. For a complete list of the Basic Skills modules calendar go to: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/NBSCALENDAR.aspx>.

**February 14th** – CASTL meeting at Tecumseh Public Library – The meeting starts at 10 a.m. and we'll be viewing the Techsoup for libraries webinar - *Mobile Technology Training: Tech-a-la-Carte* for information on a project taking technology training out of the library and into the community in a very personal way. We'll also have the round robin conversation for sharing ideas, questions and happenings with your colleagues. Book talk topic for the month is to choose a National Book Award winner or finalist – maybe from 2011 or a previous year to make sure you find one on the shelf. Find a list on the National Book Foundation website: [www.nationalbook.org/nba2012.html](http://www.nationalbook.org/nba2012.html). Please let the SELS office know if you plan on attending.

**February 15th** – Public Library Annual Statistical Surveys due. You can find resources to help complete the survey at: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/stats/bibliostatcollect.aspx> or by contacting John Felton, Planning & Data Services Coordinator, at Nebraska Library Commission – [john.felton@nebraska.gov](mailto:john.felton@nebraska.gov), 800-307-2665.

**February 21 to 23** – Nebraska State Reading Conference in Kearney. For more information go to: [www.nereads.org](http://www.nereads.org). You can find all the conference details on the website – including speakers and authors that will be presenting.

**February 22nd** – SELS Board Meeting at Seward Memorial Library – 10 a.m.

**February 25 and 26** – League of Nebraska Municipalities Midwinter Conference at The Cornhusker, Lincoln - [www.lonm.org/calendarofevents.html](http://www.lonm.org/calendarofevents.html).

**February 25 to March 22** – Basic Skills: Organization of Materials. You can register online at the Nebraska Library Commission Training Calendar (<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/calendar/>) starting January 18<sup>th</sup> and ending February 15<sup>th</sup>. For a complete list of the Basic Skills modules calendar go to: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/NBSCALENDAR.aspx>.

**February 28th** – *Big Talk for Small Libraries*, 9 to 5 online conference. For more information go to: <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/>. SELS will be hosting a group viewing of Big Talk at Walt Branch Library (6701 S. 14<sup>th</sup> St, Lincoln). If you want to attend the group viewing please let us know at the SELS office rather than registering through Nebraska Library Commission. You are welcome to join us for part or all of the sessions and continuing education hours will be earned per hours of attendance.

**March 2nd** – Dr. Seuss' Birthday – Celebrate Read Across America and find activities here: [www.seussville.com/Educators/educatorReadAcrossAmerica.php](http://www.seussville.com/Educators/educatorReadAcrossAmerica.php).

**March 8th** – Serving Youth with Special Needs from 8 to 4:30 at Sump Memorial Library in Papillion. Workshop topics will address "working with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome, developmental delays and other special needs". Learn how to design and direct library activities and experiences that are "sensory friendly" for these young patrons who need and deserve our attention and support. To register, send an email to Cathy McMahon by Monday, March 4th at [cathytmcmahon@gmail.com](mailto:cathytmcmahon@gmail.com). There is no charge for registration.

**March 9th** – SELS Friends Private Movie Showing of *Oz: The Great and Powerful*, 9:30 a.m. at Edgewood Theater (5220 S. 56th St., Lincoln). Doors open at 9 a.m. Find more information on page [12](#).

**March 10 to 16** – Teen Tech Week – <http://teentechweek.ning.com>. The purpose of the initiative is to ensure that teens

are competent and ethical users of technologies, especially those that are offered through libraries such as DVDs, databases, audiobooks, and videogames. Teen Tech Week encourages teens to use libraries' nonprint resources for education and recreation, and to recognize that librarians are qualified, trusted professionals in the field of information technology. Find event and activity ideas, publicity and TTW products for sale on the website.

**March 14th** – Last day for filing form 471 in e-rate process for discounts on telecommunications.

([www.universalservice.org/sl/tools/news/default.aspx#671](http://www.universalservice.org/sl/tools/news/default.aspx#671))

**March 14th** – CASTL Meeting at Fairbury Public Library (601 7th St) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Topic this month is Facebook – and Brenda will share information gained from a session with Ben Bizzle (Jonesboro, AR Library) and David Lee King (Topeka, KS Library) as, well as information from Nonprofit Webinars – Developing an Epic Facebook Strategy for Your Nonprofit with John Haydon. Book talk topic for the month is Black History. Please let the SELS office know if you plan on attending and remember you are welcome to join us for part or all of the day.

**March 16th** – Freedom of Information Day is an annual event on or near March 16, the birthday of James Madison, who is widely regarded as the Father of the Constitution and as the foremost advocate for openness in government. Freedom of Information Day recognizes those individuals or groups that have championed, protected, and promoted **public access to government information** and the **public's right to know**. (woot, woot!!)

**March 21st**— NLA Paraprofessional Spring meeting, *Learn From Experience@ your library*.

**March 22 to 31** – Crane Watch Festival in Kearney.

**March 25 to April 5** – Basic Skills: Leadership. You can register online at the Nebraska Library Commission Training Calendar (<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/calendar>) starting February 15th and ending March 15<sup>th</sup>. For a complete list of the Basic Skills modules calendar go to: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/NBSCALENDAR.aspx>.

**April** – School Library Month [www.ala.org/aasl/slm](http://www.ala.org/aasl/slm).

**April 4th** – PLTS Spring Meeting with Carolyn Davidson Brewer, Executive Director of North Texas Library Partners – “Help! I Am Not A Social Worker!” The meeting will be held at Walt Branch Library in Lincoln on April 4th, Blair Public Library on April 5th, Kearney Public Library on April 3rd, and Mid Plains Community College in North Platte on April 2nd.

**April 8 to 19** – Basic Skills: Library Policy. You can register online at the Nebraska Library Commission Training Calendar (<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/calendar/>) starting March 1<sup>st</sup> and ending March 29<sup>th</sup>. For a complete list of the Basic Skills modules calendar go to: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/>.

**April 12th** – National D.E.A.R. Day – National Drop Everything and Read Day - [www.dropeverythingandread.com/NationalDEARday.html](http://www.dropeverythingandread.com/NationalDEARday.html).

**April 12th** – CASTL (Conversation Among Small Town Librarians) meeting at Falls City Library & Arts Center (1400 Stone St.), 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**April 14 to 20** – National Library Week – [www.ala.org/nlw](http://www.ala.org/nlw).

**April 20 to 27** – Money Smart Week<sup>®</sup> - [www.moneysmartweek.org/ala](http://www.moneysmartweek.org/ala).

**April 19th** – SELS Friends Aged to Perfection at James Arthur Vineyards, in Raymond.

**April 22 to May 3**— Basic Skills: Communication. You can register online at the Nebraska Library Commission Training Calendar (<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/calendar/>) starting March 15<sup>th</sup> and ending April 12<sup>th</sup>. For a complete list of the Basic Skills modules calendar go to: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/>.

**April 30th**— El dia de los ninos/El dia de los libros (Children’s Day/Book Day) – <http://dia.ala.org> - The celebration emphasizes the importance of advocating literacy for every child regardless of linguistic and cultural background.

# Today's Libraries Connect (E-)Readers but Face Roadblocks

Guest Editorial by Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission

Nook. Kindle. iPad. Your local library. You've heard of all of these and you know that all four deliver digital content. But, according to the Pew Internet Project, most people don't know that U.S. public libraries provide ebooks and other digital resources. They are unaware of the fact that today's libraries offer books in a variety of formats—and so much more! Our Nebraska libraries continue to change and offer new services and programs to meet the ever-changing needs of our communities. The number of Nebraska public libraries offering e-books has more than doubled in the last two years, with fifty percent now offering the service. This is just the latest chapter in the story of our commitment to reading, knowledge, imagination, and lifelong learning for all Nebraskans.

Libraries help readers find authors, and authors find readers. We do this by selecting locally relevant materials, and through programs like One Book One Nebraska, as well as other collaborations with authors and publishers. Libraries also are engaged in growing and supporting the next generations of readers – encouraging children and young adults to read for fun and for success in school and life. But libraries face roadblocks. For the first time ever, we are barred from purchasing some materials our communities deserve. Right now, several of the largest trade publishers (known as “the Big Six”) refuse to sell e-books to public libraries. As a result, Nebraskans are not getting a fair deal. If our libraries' digital bookshelves mirrored the *New York Times* fiction bestseller list, we would be missing half of our collection on any given week due to these publishers' policies.

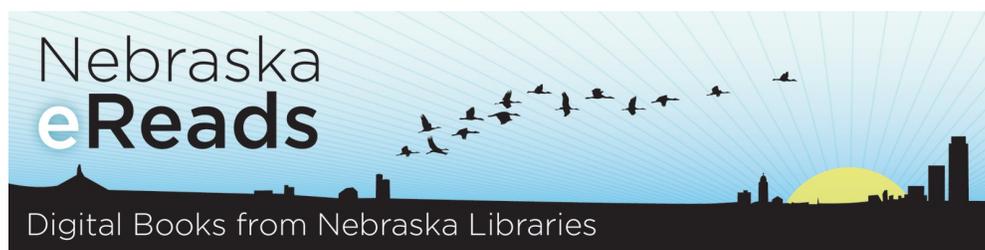
On the other hand, other publishers – including hundreds of smaller, independent presses and a rising tide of self-published authors – do understand the value of placing books in libraries. A recent report from *Library Journal* found that more than half of all library users report purchasing books by an author they discovered through the library. Publishing is not just another industry. It has special and important significance to society. Libraries complement and actively support this industry by supporting literacy and seeking to spread an infectious and lifelong love of reading and learning. Library lending encourages sampling new authors, topics, and genres. This experimentation stimulates the market for books, with the library serving as a discovery, promotion, and awareness service for authors and publishers. Every publisher must allow libraries to lend e-books so libraries can continue to work toward the mission of access for all.

But even if the publishers change their policies tomorrow, Nebraska libraries would have difficulty accessing the local funds to purchase all the ebooks and audio books that library customers need. Library customer demand continues to outpace supply. To address this, the Nebraska Library Commission has requested direct state funding to expand ebook and audio book borrowing access for Nebraskans. With an investment of less than 50 cents per person, Nebraskans can be assured that local libraries will do their best to continue their commitment to reading, knowledge, imagination, and lifelong learning for all Nebraskans. For more information about Nebraska

eReads, contact

Francine Canfield, NE Library  
Association Advocacy Chair,  
402-331-7636,

[fcanfield@cityofralston.com](mailto:fcanfield@cityofralston.com).



# Reflections on Migrating to WorldShare Management Services

by Sabrina Riley, Library Director at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska

We are six months into our library's migration from SirsiDynix's Symphony system to OCLC's WorldShare Management Services (WMS) which seems like a good time to stop and reflect on our decision to make this change. Did we make the right decision? Any system migration involves a lot of work and such a decision should not be made without serious consideration. The costs are even higher when one has selected a system still under development. The costs for me have included becoming a whole year behind in my other projects and repeating much of the electronic resources management implementation I had just completed in Serials Solutions the year before. And then there is the suffering caused by the bleeding-edge phase of product development.

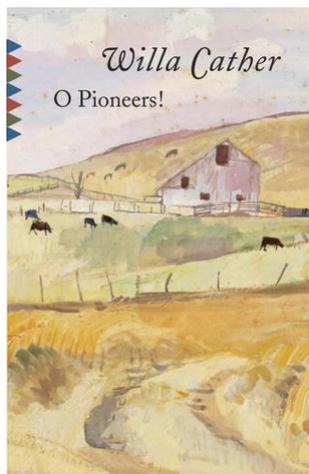
Any way you look at it, WMS is a young product which is still under development. There are some definite negatives to this. We get to help OCLC troubleshoot bugs, which eats up more time than I would like. OCLC implementation staff were up front with us, telling us not to underestimate the amount of time it would take to learn a new system and rethink workflows. WMS is a completely new visioning of what an integrated library system should be, incorporating not only traditional modules like acquisition, circulation, course reserves, and cataloging, but also electronic resource management tools like a license manager and knowledge base into a single package. Workflows have been streamlined to create efficiency and build on the advantages of shared data in the cloud. But the trouble is, sometimes it feels like the workflow has been streamlined too much and pieces we would really like to have are still missing.

Fortunately, OCLC's WMS team is a wonderful group of people to work with. They are friendly, responsive, and truly believe in their product. The development team works on a schedule to release upgrades and enhancements every three months. A "roadmap" is published so that we know what changes are coming in the next three to nine months. The implementation team and support team both encourage us to make enhancement requests and they try their best to help us with work arounds to keep our work running until enhancements can be released.

So do I still think we made the right decision to change? For now, yes. I'm still anxious for the further development and stabilization of WMS. But I definitely appreciate the efficiency created by having all aspects of our collection management, whether print or electronic, in one place. I also appreciate OCLC's business model which packages all services together for a reasonable price which helps me provide my library patrons with better service than we could otherwise afford. And I really appreciate the positive attitude of OCLC's WMS team which makes me feel empowered to both provide feedback and to utilize WMS to its fullest capability.

**Note:** Union College is a member of the Nebraska Independent Library Consortium and all seven current member institutions moved to WMS as a consortium this fall.

## Nebraska One Book Choices for 2013



By Brenda Ealey

One Book One Nebraska has announced that *O Pioneer! By Willa Cather* is the 2013 selection. One Book One Nebraska, in its ninth year, selects a book written by a Nebraska author. One Book for Nebraska Kids 2013 has also been announced with the selection of *Aliens on Vacation by Cleve Barrett Smith*, as well as One Book for Nebraska Teens 2013 – *Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld*.

The One Book programs are intended to encourage Nebraskans of all ages to get in-

involved with reading and to join in a statewide discussion and conversation. The Nebraska Regional Library Systems and Nebraska Library Commission have book bags to lend for *O Pioneer* – so if you've got a group who would like to get busy reading – let us know. The Nebraska Library Commission has book bags for the One Book for Nebraska Kids & Teens titles to lend, and we're hoping those might be available in the near future through the Nebraska Regional Library Systems offices, too.

# Advocacy Day 2013 Photo Showcase



Keep an eye on the Nebraska Library Association website for updates and materials from the 2013 NLA Advocacy Day



<http://nebraskalibraries.org/legislationadvocacy>

Choose eLiteracy over illiteracy.  
Fund Nebraska Access for Schools

A Couple Gumballs Connect Nebraskans to the Best Resources Available

©2013 Thomas Bragg

By Brenda Ealey

Nancy Vacek and Susie Homolka, directors of the Dvoracek Memorial Library in Wilber, hosted the January meeting of CASTL (Conversation Among Small Town Librarians). We always have a great time in Wilber – even when the main topic of discussion is personnel policies. Plus, they are gracious enough to provide us with the best kolaches around. Thank you!

The Nebraska Regional Library Systems contracted with Susan K. Sapp, Attorney and Senior Litigation Partner with Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, L.L.P. in Lincoln, to put together a template of a personnel policy for Nebraska libraries. The project was in response, in part, to the signing into law, LB470, which requires library personnel policies to be approved by their local municipality. The project includes a personnel handbook template, an hour recording with Susan highlighting personnel issues, and a print guide and glossary for use with the handbook and recording. We hope this will



CASTL meetings are open to librarians of all types, library trustees and library friends or supporters. The meetings typically start at 10:00 a.m., and wrap up by 3:00 or 3:30. Each meeting has a dedicated topic of focus, as well as a round robin for discussion and sharing of current issues, topics and library happenings. Attendees earn continuing education hours and you are welcome to join us for all or even part of the day.

- February 14th—Tecumseh
- March 15<sup>th</sup>—Fairbury
- April 12<sup>th</sup>—Falls City
- May 31<sup>st</sup> (June meeting) – Seward (Golden Sower)

prove to be a guide for library boards and directors in reviewing policy and complying with federal and state requirements. The materials will be available to borrow from any of the Nebraska Regional Library System offices and the Nebraska Library Commission.

We viewed the recording at the CASTL meeting and distributed copies of the personnel handbook templates as a first audience – with good results. There was lots of discussion, particularly in areas of anti-harassment, recording work hours and overtime, conduct rules, privacy and vacation leave. It was valuable to be a part of conversation between directors of multiple communities in discussing the variety of topics and in sharing practice and policy. I’ll share just some of the information gained below, with encouragement for library boards and directors to borrow and review the handbook and recording in its entirety as it is broad and diverse and requires specific considerations on multiple areas, as would be expected in the area of personnel law:

- You are required to have an anti-harassment policy and training. Training should be provided for new employees and annually updated, at a minimum of 2 years. Keep a record of attendance, and training can be provided in multiple formats.
- It’s important to have people properly classified. You can’t put everyone on salary to avoid overtime, if they should be paid hourly. ([www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/fairpay/fact\\_exemption.htm](http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/fairpay/fact_exemption.htm))
- An employee can’t volunteer for an organization to do the things they are paid to do. They can volunteer to do something totally different from what they are paid to do – but it has to be a completely different capacity – there has to be a clear distinction.

# CASTL Wrap Up

*(Continued on page 11)*

## CASTL Wrap Up continued

- Any accrued vacation leave that's unused at termination is paid as a cash benefit, it doesn't matter what the reason is for termination.
- Hourly employees are paid for actual hours worked – otherwise it's a wage and hour violation.
- If someone has to do something in order to get ready for work, that's work time. Things that make the library prepared for the public. This does not include personal preparation – i.e. combing hair, putting lunch in refrigerator...
- In Nebraska you are an at-will employee – can be terminated for any reason, except for illegal reasons, such as protected categories, worker's comp, or refusing to do something illegal.

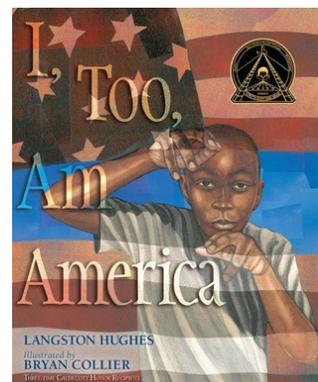
If you'd like to borrow the Sapp personnel policy recording – please let SELS know. You can earn continuing education for viewing and if you'd like my participation – I'd be glad to join you, or to respond to any questions.

## Sowings continued

*I, Too, Am America* illustrated by Bryan Collier – **Coretta Scott King (Illustrator) Book Award** recognizing an African American illustrator of outstanding books for children and young adults.

*In Darkness* by Nick Lake – **Michael L. Printz Award** for excellence in literature written for young adults.

*Back to Front and Upside Down!* By Claire Alexander – **Schneider Family Book Award** for books that embody an artistic expression of the disability experience.

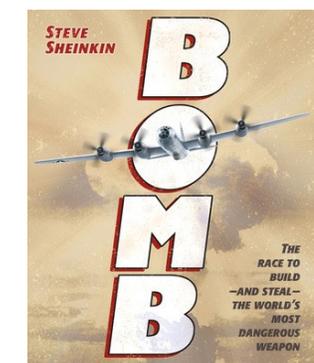


*Martin de Porres: The Rose in the Desert* illustrated by David Diaz - **Pura Belpré (Illustrator) Award** honoring a Latino author.

*Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Saenz – **Pura Belpré (Author) Award** honoring a Latino writer.

*Up, Tall and High!* By Ethan Long – **Theodor Seuss Geisel Award** for the most distinguished beginning reader book.

*Seraphina* by Rachel Hartman – **William C. Morris Award** for a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens.



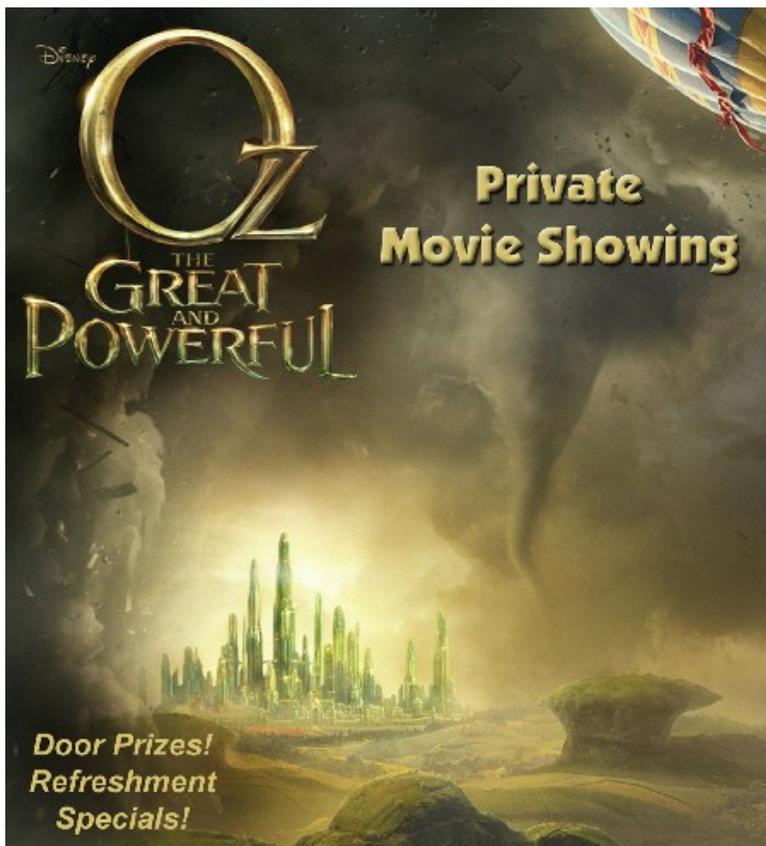
*Bomb: The Race to Build – and Steal – the World's Most Dangerous Weapon* by Steve Sheinkin – **YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction** for Young Adults.

**Alex Awards for the 10 best adult books that appeal to teen audiences:** *Caring is Creepy* by David Zimmerman; *Girlchild* by Tupelo Hassman; *Juvenile in Justice* by Richard Ross; *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan; *My Friend Dahmer* by Derf Backderf; *One Shot at Forever* by Chris Ballard; *Pure* by Julianna Baggott; *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich; *Tell the Wolves I'm Home* by Carol Rifka Brunt; *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* By Maria Semple.

For a complete list of award winners and honor books go to: [www.ala.org/news/pr?id=12298](http://www.ala.org/news/pr?id=12298).



## AMONG TREASURED FRIENDS



**Saturday, March 9  
9:30 a.m.  
(doors open at 9:00)**

**Edgewood Theater  
5220 South 56th Street  
Lincoln, NE**

*Reserve your seat by March 4 and SAVE!*

\$7.50 for SELS Friends members/guests  
\$10.00 for non-SELS Friends members  
\$12.00 at the door

All admissions will be paid for at the door.  
To reserve a seat in advance, email [info@selsfriends.org](mailto:info@selsfriends.org)  
Visit [www.selsfriends.org](http://www.selsfriends.org) for information about the SELS Friends.



By Becky Baker

On March 9 the Friends are hosting another entertaining private movie – this time showing Oz: the Great and Powerful. Don't forget to sign up by March 4 to make sure you get the best deal on admission costs!

Save the date! On Friday, April 19 this year's Aged to Perfection event will be held at James Arthur Vineyards. Registration information will be coming soon, but right now

we need "white elephant" donations from all of you! Donations will be auctioned off at the conclusion of Tom Bassett's program that night, and every donor will be rewarded with a free cookbook, compliments of the SELS Friends. Plus, the donation that brings in the most cash for the SELS Friends will win a bottle of wine for the donor! Items can be brought in that night, or if you aren't sure you can attend they can be given to any SELS Friends board

member or dropped off at the Southeast Library System Office (don't forget to leave your name with your donation). Board members are Becky Baker (Seward Memorial Library), Tom Schmitz (Lincoln Regional Center), Lisa Olivigni (Crete Public Library), Karen Frank (Greenwood Public Library), and Jan Thomsen (Alice M Farr Library, Aurora).

Hope to see you at these two fun events!

# News Around the System

## Stack Up at Seward

By Megan Boggs, Seward Memorial Library



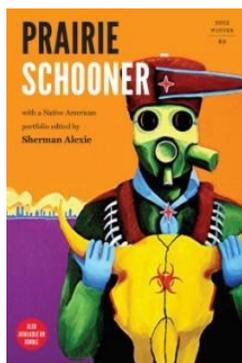
Seward Memorial Library hosted a 4-week "Stack Up" program during January.

Thirty sets of cups and personal instructions from Tracy and her daughter, Stacey, provided a positive (and noisy) introduction to the sport of speed stacking. If other libraries are interested in learning more about this new sport and hosting a demonstration/participation event, contact Tracy L. Phillips at phillipstracyl@gmail.com.



## Sherman Alexie visits UNL

By William Bragg



For their Winter 2012 issue, Prairie Schooner hosted a reading with Sherman Alexie. Alexie, who edited a portfolio featuring Native American writers for the issue, spoke on the 29th of January. Preceding this, two films were shown that Monday at the Ross.

The double feature included Alexie's The Business of Fancydancing (2002), and Smoke Signals (1998) for which he wrote the screenplay.

Tuesday, Alexie used the opportunity to read new material and share anecdotes and asides before sitting

down with Prairie Schooner editor Kwame Dawes for a brief discussion. In addition, time was provided for a few questions from the audience.

Both evenings were well attended with the theatre quickly filling on Tuesday. Many students and other hopeful spectators were unable to fit in either of the Ross' theatres. Overflow for the large theatre, where Alexie spoke, was directed into the smaller theatre where the event was screened live.

Alexie's humor was present and in top form. Quips directed at the absurdities of the Midwestern diet and Miss Nebraska, who was present in the audience, joined his usual targets of life on the reservation, spirituality, race and American culture.



## ...And They're Off

# News Around the System

By SELS



Mack the Horse continues his journey. The photo above (apologies for the poor quality) was submitted by the estate of a prominent surgeon from Scotland. Just look at Mack's unbridled mirth and merriment! It's really something.



Here, Mack visits Gilbert Public Library and sits down with Bonnie Felt and Jackie Larsen. The same reinless glee is present in this photograph as well.

Keep a look out for Mack. You never know where he will visit next!



## Waverly Community Library Recognized by City Board

By Lynn Wallasky

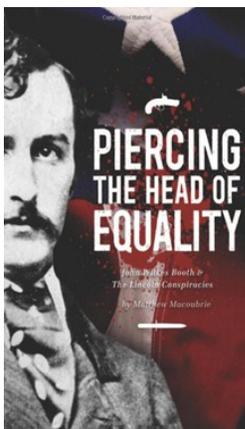
December 7th, the Waverly Community Library was honored by the Waverly City Board with a Civic Involvement Plaque. City Administrator, Doug Rix and Mayor Mike

Werner noted their appreciation to the volunteers that tenaciously kept the dream of a library in the forefront until it's reality. Waverly Community Library President Lynn Wallasky accepted the plaque.

## Piercing the Head of Equality

By Glenda Willnerd, Palmyra Memorial Library

Palmyra Memorial Library hosted "an afternoon with an author." Matthew Macoubrie, a senior at Wayne State College, shared information with the audience on the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Matthew has



published a book about this topic called *Piercing the Head of Equality*. An update of this title will be available this summer. His future plans include a book about Lincoln's Cabinet.



# News Around the System

## Volunteers Honored During Advocacy Day

By SELS

Three of the six volunteers honored during Advocacy day on the 30th of January were from Southeast Library System. The volunteers were presented their awards during the lunch by their district's Senator.

Marche Cepure, Lincoln, Senator Kate Bolz



Pat Apel, Syracuse, Senator Dan Watermeier



JoAnn Thomas, Lincoln, Senator Kathy Campbell (Pat Sloan, from LCL, in her place)



## 2013 IMLS 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Internship Grant Opportunity

By Kathryn Brockmeier

The Nebraska Library Commission's Cultivating Rural Librarians' Technology Skills program offers support for internships through grants to accredited public libraries. In partnership with the Nebraska Library Association and funded through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program, the internship grants increase awareness about library professions and education and the opportunities for employment in Nebraska libraries.

Internship grants range from \$500 to \$1,000. A library may provide one 100-hour internship during the summer months that might last eight weeks, or two 50-hour internships during the school year that might last ten weeks, depending on the needs of the library and the scheduling needs and qualifications of the internship candidates. Library grantees will re-

cruit, select, and hire their interns. Usually, interns are hired as contract workers and paid on a stipend rather than an hourly wage, but the terms of employment are determined by the library's governing body. Interns provide valuable assistance with library service activities and local library programming. Library staff help introduce interns to the joys of library service careers. Partnership projects involving collaboration between a public library and another type of library will be given special consideration.

Deadline for application is the **15th of February**

Find out more information at:

<http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog/2012/12/17/internship-grants-due-feb-15-2013/>

or

<http://nlc1.nlc.state.ne.us/nowhiring/Internships.asp>





# Proactive Strategies for School Librarians

Have you seen staff and program cuts in your library program?

In these challenging times, *all* librarians must effectively communicate the strong link between libraries and learning in *their* schools and districts.

**Presenter: Deb Levitov, Managing Editor of *School Library Monthly***

**Date:** 02/09/13 **Time:** 9:00-11:30

**OR**

**Date:** 02/23/13 **Time:** 9:00-11:30

**Location:** Omaha

Burke High School  
120th & Dodge St.

**Location:** Kearney

UNK Calvin T. Ryan Library, 2508 11th Avenue  
with streaming to satellites sites at  
Chadron, Miller Hall, Chadron State Campus  
Scottsbluff, ESU 13 office  
Sidney, ESU 13 office

*Co-sponsored by NSLA and the UNK School Library Program*

## **Why attend?**

Though not as hard hit as other states, Nebraska grapples with funding the state aid formula to the necessary level and school administrators and boards of education struggle to prioritize programs. As a result, reports indicate that schools across Nebraska have lost library staff and/or dollars for library resources. In order to “stop the bleeding,” school librarians must be prepared to clearly demonstrate how their library programs impact *their* schools’ academic goals (AYP), and thus re-establish their place as educational leaders in their schools and districts.



## **Workshop content:**

Participants will be given strategies and resources that will enable them to:

- **Examine** the library program to be sure it is student- and learner-centered. This will be accomplished through developing an annual report that links to student learning. (Participants will also be made aware of additional tools that can further their efforts, e.g., the New York or Colorado program assessment tools).
- **Identify** specific ways the library program links to academic goals for students. This will be accomplished by establishing a learner-centered mission and library policy using the rubric, *Six Steps: Saving Your School Library Program*.
- **Communicate** the library program’s effect on student achievement. This will be accomplished by focusing on library policy, language used, and contributions to student learning. Throughout the workshop, participants will plan ways to share all information with stakeholders (e.g., administrators, teachers, board members, etc.). There will be an emphasis on clarity of language, making sure others can relate to what is being said.

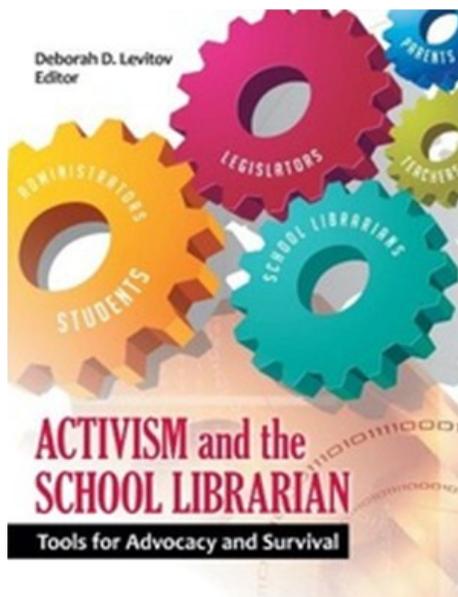
**Participants will come away with skills they can immediately use to build ongoing support for the library program.**

**Cost:** \$30.00—NSLA members; \$45.00—non-NSLA members; free to all library program students.

Pay onsite with exact cash or checks.

**Register by e-mail:** [contactnsla@gmail.com](mailto:contactnsla@gmail.com). Provide name, e-mail, location you are attending and indicate your membership or student status.

***Sponsored by the Nebraska School Librarians Association***



NSLA will have a limited number of Deb Levitov's book, *Activism and the School Librarian: Tools for Advocacy and Survival*, for \$25.00 at the Omaha and Kearney locations. Please pay onsite with exact cash or check.

This book provides practical strategies and step-by-step plans for developing advocacy initiatives for school libraries.

In a time when school budgets are being trimmed and library positions are being eliminated, the ability to attract funding and illustrate value is essential. Today's school librarians need to champion their programs and instigate positive change, yet many lack the necessary advocacy skills.

School libraries provide an essential service to the community, but without proper funding few libraries stand a chance to maintain the resources they offer—or to survive at all. School librarians can play an instrumental role in the survival of their programs. This how-to book provides school librarians with effective advocacy and activism strategies for promoting and improving their library programs.

*Activism and the School Librarian: Tools for Advocacy and Survival* offers straightforward, practical approaches for creating advocacy programs. This guidebook examines the characteristics for becoming an advocate, explores the meaning of advocacy/activism as an effort that is ongoing and proactive, and provides the steps required for initiating a successful program. The contributors address the various types of advocacy and activism, including legislative advocacy at the local, state, and national levels; school and district level programs; and community-based initiatives

The Lincoln Campus LRC at Southeast Community College has eliminated its microfilm reader/printer and would like to offer its **16mm microfilm collection** to other libraries. A full title listing is available by emailing Jo Shimmin at [jshimmin@southeast.edu](mailto:jshimmin@southeast.edu). Titles include *American Journal of Nursing*, *Business Week*, *Journal of Practical Nursing*, *Newsweek*, *RN*, and *US News and World Report*.

## Southeast Library System

Serving libraries in the counties  
of:

Cass • Fillmore • Gage • Hamilton •  
Jefferson • Johnson • Lancaster •  
Nemaha • Otoe • Pawnee •  
Richardson • Saline •  
Seward • Thayer • York

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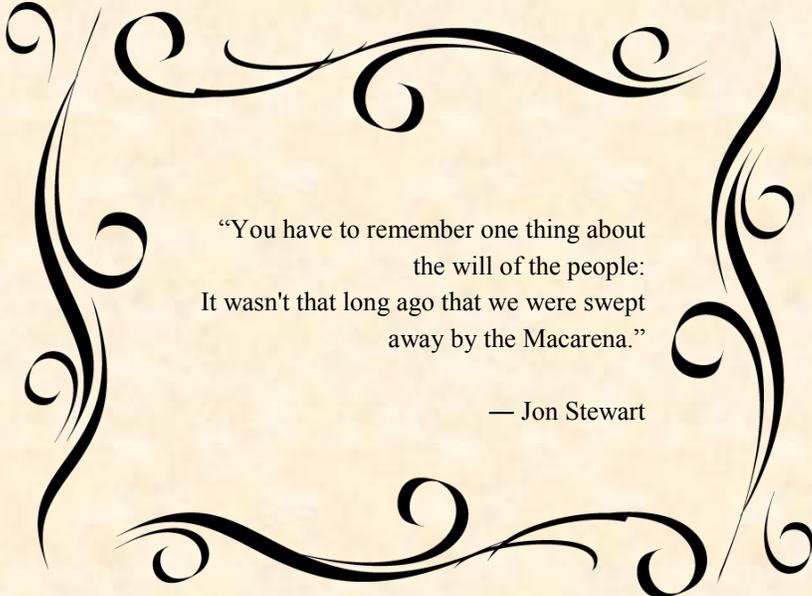
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## February 2013



“You have to remember one thing about  
the will of the people:  
It wasn't that long ago that we were swept  
away by the Macarena.”

— Jon Stewart

Southeast Library System is a multi-type library network with 248 members offering a wide range of service in public, school, academic, institutional and private libraries (Membership list with populations from 2000 Census are on the SELS web page: [www.selsne.org](http://www.selsne.org).) Membership includes 12 academic institutions, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, four private colleges, three community college campuses, a state college and a technical school. Fifty-four public libraries are system members. The majority of these libraries (34) serve populations fewer than 1,000. The system counts 146 school media centers among its members, 54 that are Lincoln Public Schools, with most of those belonging to Class 3 schools (population areas between 1,000 and 100,000). Fourteen of the school media centers are parochial. The system has 28 special and institutional members, most of which are located in Lancaster County.