



## Saving Nebraska's Treasures Program to Air

*Saving Nebraska's Treasures* will air on NET Television this summer. The Nebraska Library Commission, the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS), and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) partnered on a \$249,837 grant awarded by the Partnership for a Nation of Learners, a collaboration of the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, to produce the show and accompanying training.

*Saving Nebraska's Treasures* will create awareness of the importance of preserving the state's cultural heritage, and educate families, museum workers, and librarians about how to slow the deterioration of artifacts, photographs, and documents. This is expected to impact how heritage collections in the state's museums and libraries are handled, raise awareness among the general public, and increase participation in the Library Commission's **Nebraska Memories** project.

A complementary Website is in development, along with three distance learning workshops (on conservation, preservation, and digitization) for library/museum staff and volunteers. For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us).



Photos courtesy Tom Sain

Nebraska State Historical Society staff evaluate objects for *Saving Nebraska's Treasures* broadcast.

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The 2006 compilation of **Nebraska State Government Publications** is available on the Nebraska Library Commission Website at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/stategovpubs.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/docs/stategovpubs.html). To receive a print copy contact Jennifer Wrampe, Nebraska Library Commission Documents Staff Assistant, 402-471-3217, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [jwrampe@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:jwrampe@nlc.state.ne.us).

## From the Director...

Sally Reed, Executive Director of Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA), came to Nebraska in March to lead workshops on "Maximizing Friends." Nebraska is the first state to purchase a statewide membership in FOLUSA. The membership covers public libraries, library friends groups, and library trustees. FOLUSA offers a wealth of information and ideas readily available to members. Reed's workshops are part of the package. Emphasizing the need to make an excellent case for libraries, Sally Reed noted that library friends groups are ever more important with competition from the Internet, big bookstores, cable TV, and other sources of information and entertainment.

Recruiting library friends is key to making the case for libraries. Volunteerism offers an outlet for people of all ages. Reed promoted efforts to target new retirees, those who wish to remain active and helpful. She encouraged recruitment of parents, especially those with preschool children. And she recommended involving kids and giving them a chance to be involved in decisions.

Sally Reed encouraged library friends, trustees and librarians to use FOLUSA resources for new ideas and tips on fundraising, advocacy, promotion, special projects, and grants. And she responded to dozens of questions, offering practical advice and solutions. Many of these ideas and much, much more can be found at [www.folusa.org](http://www.folusa.org).

Perhaps best of all, Reed talked about making the case for libraries—turning people into library supporters by demonstrating why libraries matter. Reed followed with dozens of stories and examples. Everyone benefits from having a well-educated, literate community. A person might not be a library user, but benefits from how others use libraries. Libraries raise the overall well-being of the community. Libraries matter. Reed's message was summed up in her statement, "Don't tell them what you are doing without telling them why you are doing it."

April is National Volunteer Month, drawing attention to the vital contributions made by the many people who contribute to numerous causes. Thank you to the many Nebraskans who volunteer time and effort to library services. You make an important and valuable difference.

Rod Wagner

## Statewide Planning Sessions Organized

Nebraska library staff and supporters are invited to help plan for the future of library services in Nebraska. The Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries are seeking ideas for the 2008-2012 *Nebraska Library Services and Technology Act Plan for Library and Information Services*.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services uses a population-based formula to provide funds to the Nebraska Library Commission for statewide library initiatives and services, based on the Nebraska Library Commission plan. The Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries recently provided input for this plan through a group discussion activity, as did a group of library staff and supporters in Alliance. They used the following general questions (based on perceptions gathered from recent research) to guide the discussion:

- What are the strengths of Nebraska libraries that need continued support and improvement?
- Can we stretch the "Library" brand beyond books? Does this matter and why?
- The public desires ease of use, convenience, and availability. What can be done to support libraries' efforts to better address these expectations?
- If recent research shows that the public is dissatisfied with the service experience of libraries relating to physical factors (lack of hospitality, inconvenient hours, etc.), what could be done to help libraries improve

satisfaction with library space and customer service? Other ideas for helping libraries improve customer satisfaction?

- What services or activities might libraries discontinue or at least de-emphasize?
- Considering the "general" perceptions that people have of libraries, what will libraries need to do better in the future to remain relevant?
- Surveys indicate that the public, generally, holds libraries in high regard. But that doesn't necessarily translate into adequate public funding support. Are there opportunities we are missing to tap the goodwill that apparently exists for libraries?
- What's your "vision" for Nebraska library services in 2012?

If libraries are to meet the needs of their communities, we need to hear from community members about what they want their libraries to provide. Community perspective on the issues raised by these questions will help shape the future of library service in Nebraska. Nebraska library staff, boards of trustees, foundations, and friends groups are invited to join us in May at locations across the state. For details, see [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), Library Training, search on "Commission Planning" (be sure to use quotes).

No registration necessary. For more information contact Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, 402-471-4001, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [rwagner@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:rwagner@nlc.state.ne.us).

## NCompass

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### Nebraska Library Commissioners:

John Dale, Chair, Lincoln, term expires 2008; Jean Ahrens, Scottsbluff, term expires 2007; Patrick Gross, Wayne, term expires 2009; Mary Nelson, Holdrege, term expires 2009; Velma Sims-Shiple, Fremont, term expires 2007; and Carol Spencer, Broken Bow, term expires 2007. Commission meetings are held the second Friday of every other month, or as scheduled by public action of the board.

*This publication was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.*

## Gates Foundation Launches New Initiative

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's U.S. Libraries Initiative has announced a new five-year commitment to help U.S. public libraries serving low-income communities continue to provide free, high-quality computer and Internet service and training to their communities. Library Commission Director Rod Wagner said Nebraska will participate in the program in 2008.

With almost forty percent of Americans lacking Internet access at home, libraries are a critical link to technology for many who cannot afford the service on their own. "It is virtually impossible to succeed today without access to computers and the Internet. For the millions of people who don't have those tools at home, the public library helps level the playing field," said Allan Golston, president of the foundation's United States Program. "Unfortunately, some libraries are struggling to keep up with innovations in technology. We want to make sure every library can remain a viable choice for high-quality computer and Internet services for its community."

The foundation grants will focus on the following objectives:

- Increase the percentage of libraries that regularly upgrade their computers. Research indicates that forty percent of all public libraries struggle to upgrade computers due to cost, space, and maintenance challenges. The foundation will provide matching grants for

upgrades to libraries that can secure dedicated local funding sources.

- Increase the percentage of libraries with continued high-speed Internet connectivity. Thirty-seven percent of public libraries need to upgrade their Internet connectivity to meet the demands of patrons, especially as higher bandwidth becomes increasingly necessary to support complex applications. Foundation grants will help libraries plan for upgraded connectivity.
- Help library staff get the technical support and training they need to support technology systems. Foundation grants will invest in efforts to provide nationwide training resources and technical support.
- Support libraries in their efforts to secure adequate and stable funding for library computers and Internet connectivity. Foundation grants will support advocacy training for library staff and research demonstrating the positive benefits of technology to library users.

The foundation will direct its hardware upgrade grants to public libraries that serve communities with ten

percent or more of the population living in poverty and which are vulnerable to having their computer and Internet services become obsolete. For more information contact Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission Library Development Director, 402-471-3175, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us).



*The Bill & Melinda Gates*

*Foundation is offering tools to help library advocates communicate the value of the public library and the library's technology services. The*

### **Keeping Your Community**

*Connected video and brochures can be used to launch conversations with local government and community partners.*

*For more information or to order these free tools, see*

*[www.gatesfoundation.org/UnitedStates/USLibraryProgram/RelatedInfo/CommunicatingValue.htm](http://www.gatesfoundation.org/UnitedStates/USLibraryProgram/RelatedInfo/CommunicatingValue.htm).*

## Libraries Earn Dollars for Data

Twenty-six unaccredited public libraries qualified for **2007 Dollars for Data** payments by completing the annual Public Library Statistical Report using Bibliostat™ Collect.

The Library Commission instituted the \$250 payments two years ago to encourage unaccredited libraries to take an additional step toward achieving accredited status by reporting the data online. Many libraries have participated since the beginning, giving the Library Commission and the National Center for Education Statistics a truer picture of library service in the state.

For more information contact Kit Keller, Nebraska Library Commission Planning & Data Services Coordinator, 402-471-3216, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:kkeller@nlc.state.ne.us), or see the Library Commission Website, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), and search on Dollars for Data.

### **Libraries receiving Dollars for Data are:**

Arthur County Library  
 Bayard Public Library  
 Benkelman, Dundy County Library  
 Big Springs Public Library  
 Callaway, Nigel Sprouse Memorial Library  
 Clearwater Public Library  
 Dalton Public Library  
 Davenport Public Library  
 Daykin Public Library  
 Harrison, Sioux County Library  
 Hay Springs, Cravath Memorial Library  
 Hayes Center Public Library  
 Indianola Public Library  
 Lewellen Public Library  
 Mason City, Sunshine Township Library  
 Milligan Public Library  
 Minatare Public Library  
 Oconto Public Library  
 Palisade Public Library  
 Plymouth Public Library  
 Rising City Community Library  
 Stratton Public Library  
 Sutherland Public Library  
 Syracuse Public Library  
 Table Rock Public Library  
 Wauneta Public Library

## Library Improvement Grants Awarded

The Nebraska Library Commission has announced recipients of the 2007 Library Improvement grants, formerly called Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants. The grants were renamed to broaden the scope of applications.

Twenty-four libraries, including one Regional Library System and one school library, received \$341,169, which the Library Commission awarded through a competitive grant process. The Library Commission distributes federal funds in Nebraska administered through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the federal agency that strengthens museums and libraries to benefit the public. The funds are intended to enhance local library programs and services by supplementing local funding.

Among the items funded were computer servers and workstations, self-checkout systems, laptops, printers, scanners, projectors, copiers, TVs, software, and kiosk furniture.

### Grant recipients were:

Alliance Public Library  
Battle Creek Public Library  
Blair Public Library  
Central City Public Library  
Geneva, Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center, North High Library  
Gering Public Library  
Grand Island Public Library  
Hartington Public Library  
Hooper Public Library  
Lincoln City Libraries  
McCook Public Library  
Neligh Public Library  
Ogallala, Goodall City Library  
Omaha Public Library  
Orchard Public Library  
Panhandle Library System  
Randolph Public Library  
Schuyler Public Library  
Scottsbluff Public Library  
South Sioux City Public Library  
Stromsburg Public Library  
Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library  
Valentine Public Library  
York, Kilgore Memorial Library



## Public Libraries Affected by Ice Storms

Photo courtesy [www.extremeinstability.com](http://www.extremeinstability.com)

Late last year and early this year a series of snow and ice storms hit central Nebraska resulting in widespread loss of electricity to communities in fifty-seven counties, later declared disaster areas. Gov. Dave Heineman described the December storm as, "probably the most devastating ice storm we've ever had in Nebraska." One newspaper estimated that up to 7,000 electric meters were offline, and 2,600 miles of power lines and 740 miles of high-voltage lines were disabled.

So how were public libraries in the area affected? Nebraska Library Commission Library Development staff attempted to contact all 163 public libraries in the disaster areas. Most libraries reported that they were forced to close some unscheduled hours but that little additional time was lost because the libraries already were scheduled for holiday closure.

The following libraries reported significant damage from the storms:

### Axtell Public Library

The library had to close and lost electricity. When electricity was restored, damage occurred to the hot water heater, furnace, and toilet, all of which had to be repaired.

### Hildreth Public Library

The library lost power; the city is paying for using generators, and the library is unsure whether it will be billed for the generation of electricity.

### Holdrege Area Public Library

Probably the hardest hit of those contacted, the library was closed from December 30 to January 13. The library

incurred significant costs in purchasing uninterruptible power supply units for library computers to compensate for differences in electrical current provided by generators versus alternating current, renting and setting up a generator, and providing fuel for the generator.

### Loomis Public Library

Electricity was limited to the town, but the librarian (and the village clerk, who works in the same area) staffed the library. An electric calculator, typewriters, and one computer were damaged.

### Neligh Public Library

The library lost a computer and had to have the copier repaired. Heating bills will be significantly higher.

### Shelton Public Library

The power outage resulted in a fire next door to the library, causing significant smoke damage to the library. The library was closed for a week during which the building was cleaned and deodorized. The library submitted a claim to the city under its insurance for "loss of wages and damage."

### Wilcox Public Library

The library was closed for two weeks because it uses electric heat and there was no generator in the village to handle energy needs for other than basic services. Nebraska Public Power District is paying for diesel fuel to run the generator. The library doesn't know yet how the costs associated with this will be apportioned.

For more information contact Richard Miller, see contact information on page 3.

## Your Library Can Participate in Nebraska Memories

Don't have time for scanning? Is metadata too intimidating? If you'd like to add your library's historical materials to the Library Commission's Nebraska Memories database in easy ways that don't involve special training, view a recent one-hour online session.

Topics covered in the session included an explanation of the project and its history, a tour of the Nebraska Memories Website, options to participate, new EZ Descriptions, free scanning options, and training options.

Libraries and other cultural heritage institutions are invited to add digitized materials such as photographs, maps, sound recordings, and more to the data-

base which is available to the public at [www.memories.ne.gov](http://www.memories.ne.gov).

Nebraska Memories is a cooperative project to digitize Nebraska-related historical and cultural heritage materials and make them available to researchers of all ages via the Internet.

To view the session, see the Library Commission Website at [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us);

click on the Library Training icon on the left, search on Nebraska Memories, and click on "Nebraska Memories: How Your Institution Can Participate."

For more information contact Shannon White, Nebraska Library Commission Network Services Director, 402-471-4031, 800-307-2665, or e-mail: [swhite@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:swhite@nlc.state.ne.us).



A historical image of the adult reading room in the Kearney Public Library.

## Commissioners Appoint State Advisory Council

Library Commissioners appointed four new members to the State Advisory Council on Libraries and reappointed four members for three-year terms that began in January.

### New appointments were:

**Kathy Ellerton**, Administrator, Northeast Library System (Wayne)

**Steve Fosselman**, Director, Grand Island Public Library

**Scott Kinney**, Director, Chadron Public Library

**Frank Zimmerman**, Public Library Trustee (Auburn)

### Those reappointed were:

**Mary Ann (MeMe) Smith**, Director, Schuyler Public Library

**Nancy Cantin**, Director, Medical and Patient Library, Hastings Regional Center

**Patricia Gross**, Librarian, Gering High School

**Gretchen Healy**, Library Director, Little Priest Tribal College (Winnebago)

The State Advisory Council, chaired by Dr. Rebecca Pasco, University of Nebraska at Omaha, meets at least twice yearly and advises the Library Commission on statewide library development and planning. For more information, including minutes and agendas, see the Library Commission Website, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries.

## Position Available

### The Panhandle Regional Library System Coordinator

position is a Nebraska Library Commission Senior Librarian position in Scottsbluff, NE.

This is an exceptional opportunity for a versatile professional to provide services for a multi-type Regional Library System in a fourteen-county area in western Nebraska. The successful candidate will be responsible for coordinating activities of the Panhandle Library System Board with the Nebraska Library Commission.

Seeking applicants with the following characteristics: self-motivation, ability to work independently, possessing well-developed written and verbal communication and listening skills, presentation skills, leadership ability, and strong organizational skills. Experience in library-related areas such as administration, collection management, reference, technology, planning and evaluation, and the ability to work well in collaboration with a variety of people inside and outside the library field. Ability to organize and implement continuing education activities. Extensive travel, with some during weekends and evenings. Valid driver's license required.

Minimum of \$39,237, higher DOQ; comprehensive state employee benefits package. Master's degree in Library Science from an American Library Association accredited program required, with three years experience preferred.

For more information see [www.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/JobsAndCareers.asp](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/JobsAndCareers.asp) or contact Doreen Kuhlmann, Business Manager, Nebraska Library Commission, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-471-4007, 800-307-2665, email: [dkuhlmann@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:dkuhlmann@nlc.state.ne.us).

**Open until filled.** Must complete State of Nebraska job application. Apply to: [www.wrk4neb.org](http://www.wrk4neb.org) or 301 Centennial Mall South, First Floor, P O Box 94905, Lincoln, NE 68509. An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

## Youth Grants for Excellence Awarded

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded \$50,000 in grants in December 2006 to assist in improving services to children and young adults, and to provide continuing education and training opportunities for children's and young adult librarians.

These awards represent an important part of the Library Commission's commitment to the goals established for the *Making a Difference @ your library™: Nebraska Library Services and Technology Act Plan for Library & Information Services 2003-2007*.

Among the funded projects, many focusing on boys and reading, were a summer lunchtime book discussion for fifth, sixth, and seventh graders; a lapsit program for parents and children from birth to age two; preschool storytimes; a program by a professional robotics expert/educator; creation of homework areas, teen spaces, and advisory boards; mystery party; father/son book club, chess club, family game night; programs on geocaching and photography; and a summer reading tent outfitted with reading materials and cozy reading areas to encourage reading without the distractions of computers and television.

### The following libraries received grants:

Ainsworth Public Library  
Axtell Public Library  
Central City Public Library  
Chadron Public Library  
Clay Center Public Library  
Lydia Bruun Woods Memorial Library, Falls City  
Keene Memorial Library, Fremont  
Gibbon Public Library  
Grand Island Public Library  
Hastings Public Library  
Kearney Public Library  
La Vista Public Library  
Osmond Public Library  
Plattsmouth Public Library  
Ponca Public Library  
Randolph Public Library  
Sidney Public Library  
Springfield Public Library  
Wayne Public Library  
Kilgore Memorial Library, York  
Eastern Library System

For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Children's Services Coordinator, 402-471-4003, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us).

## Libraries Receive Incentive Payments

Sixty-seven Nebraska libraries have earned incentive payments to acknowledge their achievement of enhanced or excellent accreditation status.

Under the revised Public Library Accreditation Guidelines, which were fully implemented in 2006, libraries are accredited at one of three levels: essential, enhanced, or excellent. Each level represents increased expectations regarding funding, hours open, and programs and services offered.

The Library Commission will pay additional direct state aid payments of \$800 to each library with excellent accreditation and \$350 for enhanced status.

For more information contact Kit Keller, see contact information on page 3.

### Libraries receiving incentive payments are:

#### Enhanced Accreditation

Alliance Public Library  
Arapahoe Public Library  
Auburn Memorial Library  
Bassett, Rock County Public Library  
Beemer, Karlen Memorial Library  
Bennington Public Library  
Broken Bow Public Library  
Cambridge, Butler Memorial Library  
Central City Public Library  
Clarkson Public Library  
Clay Center Public Library  
Crawford Public Library  
Crete Public Library  
Bess Johnson Elkhorn Public Library  
Fairmont Public Library  
Fremont, Keene Memorial Library  
Geneva Public Library  
Gering Public Library  
Gordon City Library  
Gothenburg Public Library  
Grand Island Public Library  
Gretna Public Library  
Hartington Public Library  
Hastings Public Library

Holdrege Area Public Library  
Humboldt, Bruun Memorial Library  
Lied Imperial Public Library  
Kimball Public Library  
LaVista Public Library  
Lincoln City Libraries  
Lyons Public Library  
Neligh Public Library  
Newman Grove Public Library  
Norfolk Public Library  
Oakland Public Library  
Ogallala, Goodall City Library  
Omaha Public Library  
Ord Township Library  
Osceola Public Library  
Papillion, Sump Memorial Library  
Pawnee City Carnegie Public Library  
Pender, House Memorial Library  
Plainview Carnegie Library  
Ralston, Baright Public Library  
Ravenna Public Library  
Seward Memorial Library  
Shelby Public Library  
Stanton Public Library  
Stromsburg Public Library  
Superior Public Library  
Tekamah Public Library  
Valentine Public Library  
Wayne Public Library  
West Point, John A. Stahl Library  
Western, Struckman-Baatz Public Library  
Wisner Public Library  
York, Kilgore Memorial Library

#### Excellent Accreditation

Ainsworth Public Library  
Alma, Hoesch Memorial Library  
Atkinson Public Library  
Battle Creek Public Library  
Beatrice Public Library  
David City, Hruska Memorial Public  
Library  
Mitchell Public Library  
O'Neill Public Library  
Plattsmouth Public Library  
Scribner Public Library  
Sidney Public Library  
Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public  
Library

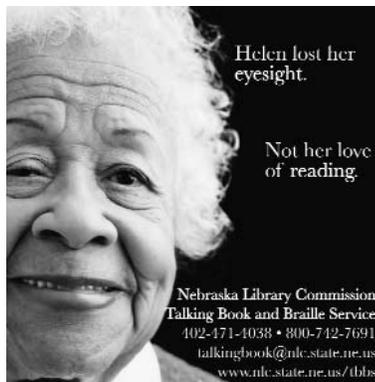
## Talking Book Ads, Posters Target Seniors

Nebraska public libraries received posters this spring, and ads are running in publications aimed at senior citizens in an outreach effort by the Library Commission's free Talking Book and Braille Service.

Each library received two posters with customized document holders to serve as stands. Librarians are encouraged to display one poster in their library, near the large print books or books on tape. The other poster is for librarians to take to a venue in the community where seniors gather, such as a café or senior center.

An ad featuring a testimonial from longtime talking book volunteer narrator Marjory Gloe appeared in the fall 2006 issue of *The Older Nebraskans' Voice*, published by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. The same ad also ran in the February 2007 issue of *New Horizons*, published by the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging. Another ad, developed for a national outreach campaign by the Library of Congress, (featuring the slogan "Helen lost her eyesight. Not her love of reading") ran in the April edition of *Prime Time*, a bimonthly magazine featuring active seniors of Lincoln and southeast Nebraska.

The Library Commission can provide electronic versions of these ads to any library that can arrange for them to be run without charge in their local newspaper or other publication.



The Talking Book and Braille Service is for any Nebraskan who cannot read regular-sized print because of visual impairment; cannot hold a book or turn its pages; is unable to read or handle

books due to accident, illness, surgery, or medication, even if the disability is temporary; or who has been certified by a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy as having a reading disability, such as dyslexia.

Nebraska librarians are authorized to certify application forms for individuals who qualify because of blindness, visual impairment, or physical disability.

The Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service, working with the Library of Congress, circulates 59,000 book titles and 120 magazines, mostly on cassette. The book collection includes national bestsellers, short stories, westerns, biographies, history, and romances. Library Commission studios record books and magazines about Nebraska and the Great Plains.

A cassette player is loaned to each reader. It has large buttons and can be adapted with finger extenders for the control keys and headphones for private listening. All materials are returned to the Library Commission postage-free.

For more information or application forms, contact Dave Oertli, Talking Book and Braille Service Director, at 402-471-4005 or 800-742-7691, e-mail: [talkingbook@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:talkingbook@nlc.state.ne.us).



## Summer Reading Program Workshops Held

Sally Snyder, Children and Young Adult Library Services Coordinator, has been traveling the state this spring



providing training in preparation for this year's Summer Reading Program, "Get a Clue @ your library®." The teen theme is YNK (You Never Know @ your library®).

Workshops featured programming ideas, book reviews, a presentation by Nebraska children's author N.L. Sharp, make-and-take craft ideas, and more.

All Nebraska public libraries receive one copy of the program manual courtesy of the Nebraska Library Commission. Additional copies of the manual must be ordered from Upstart-Highsmith at the regular price. The Library Commission is a member of (and provides funding for) the Cooperative Summer Library Program (CSLP) consortium, which contracts for development and distribution of materials to libraries in several states.

The Library Commission provides book and video lists divided by age group related to the theme, and offers videocassettes for check-out that complement the summer reading program theme. Videos lend alternative formats to library programs and may encourage reluctant readers to join in the fun.

Additional materials, including clip art and posters, are available through the Library Commission Website. See [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on Summer Reading Program and click on Summer Reading at the Nebraska Library Commission.

For more information contact Sally Snyder, see contact information on page 6.

## New Members Join Talking Book Advisory Committee

Two new members were recently appointed to the Advisory Committee of the Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service, and one was reappointed for an additional two-year term. New on the committee are Joan Davis of North Platte and Ana Kalin of Lincoln. Reappointed for another term is Bob Deaton of Lincoln. Other members include Carolynn Bennett of Beatrice, Sandra Kelsey

of Fremont, Ryan Osentowski of Lincoln, Shirley Schmidt of Columbus, Mike Steinmeyer of Hebron, and Avis Wiest of Ogallala.

The Advisory Committee represents users' needs and makes recommendations concerning library programs, policies, and services.

For more information contact Dave Oertli, see above contact information.

## Libraries Enter Web 2.0

Wondering what comprises Web 2.0...and what libraries have to do with this trend in Web social sites?

"While the term, 'Web 2.0,' describes a wide array of applications fueled by user-generated content and designed with many-to-many communication in mind, there's one universal, operative word that sums up the essence of 2.0-ness: participatory." Pew Internet & American Life (<http://www.pewinternet.org/rss.asp>)

Joshua Porter, in a presentation titled *Principles of Social Design*, suggests that designing Websites for successful social interaction is driven by the success of sites like MySpace (MySpace.com), Delicious (a social bookmarking tool, <http://del.icio.us/>), and Craig's List ([www.craigslist.org](http://www.craigslist.org)). These sites may be primarily focused on ease of use (by many and varied people), the ability to add value back to the site through user-generated content, providing the user with personal identity and the feeling of personal control and independence.

To capitalize on these changes in Web functionality, the Nebraska Library Commission is providing Web 2.0 training on using social sites in libraries. During Flickr (a photo-sharing Website, [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)) training, participants learn to open a Flickr account and upload photos, as well as how libraries are using Flickr in innovative programming.

Since young people are the primary target for the Library Commission public service announcement (PSA) to recruit Nebraskans to the library profession, the PSA is available on YouTube (sharing site for original videos, [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)), where it might have a greater chance of reaching the target audience, as well as on the Library Commission Website ([nowhiringatyourlibrary.org](http://nowhiringatyourlibrary.org)). The PSA is posted at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZvHUE6qfP8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZvHUE6qfP8), and as of April 17, 2007, it has been viewed 2,645 times, "favorited" twenty-three times, and received comments like:

"Libraries are hip"

"The library is cool because the music is louder there!"

"Nice attempt at retiring the 'bun/half-glasses/sensible shoes' stereotype. 'Really cool!' as your librarian might say."

A listing of the applications included in Web 2.0 is available at [www.go2web20.net/](http://www.go2web20.net/).

## New Lines of Communication Opened

The Nebraska Library Commission is always interested in experimenting with new ways to communicate with Nebraska library staff and supporters, and we hope you'll take a look at our new communication initiatives and tell us how they work for you.

### Nebraska Library Commission

**Blog.** This new addition to the Library Commission's communication and publishing activities offers timely conversations about activities, events, issues, and topics related to Nebraska library services. In many cases these short, interactive posts include links to further information. Library staff, supporters, and customers are invited to comment on any information item by clicking on the comments hotlink at the end of the posting. The blog is divided into the following categories of interest to the Nebraska library community:

- Books & Reading
- Education & Training
- General
- Information Resources
- Library Management
- Now Hiring @ your library®
- Public Relations
- Talking Book & Braille Service (TBBS)
- Technology
- Youth Services

Access the Nebraska Library Commission Blog by clicking the "text balloon" Blog icon on the left side of the Nebraska Library Commission home page at [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us) or directly at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/blog](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/blog). RSS feeds can be set up to provide an alert when

new content has been added to the blog.

☞ **RSS Feeds.** RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is an easy way to receive an alert when new information has been posted on the Library Commission Website in Announcements, Publications, Podcasts, or Blog. By subscribing to an RSS feed, you will know when new information is available without visiting the Website. For information and to subscribe, click the orange and white icon on the right side of the Nebraska Library Commission home page ([www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us)) or see [www.nlc.state.ne.us/feeds](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/feeds).

☞ **Now Hiring @ your library®.** This new section of the Nebraska Library Commission Website provides easy access to information about library education options, scholarships, job openings, library careers, mentoring, and recruiting. Nebraska and regional job listings have been repackaged and are now provided through a searchable job bank resource at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/JobsAndCareers.asp](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/NowHiring/JobsAndCareers.asp). This Website supports the work of the Library Commission IMLS grant, *Recruiting the Next Generation of Nebraska Librarians @ the movies*, and can be accessed by clicking the "coffee cup" icon on the left of the Nebraska Library Commission home page or directly at [www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.com](http://www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.com) and [www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.org](http://www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.org).

For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, see contact information on page 1. ☞

## New Admirals Named to Nebraska Navy

Salute to Talking Book and Braille Service volunteers Marjory Gloe and Jeff Schroeder—now Admirals in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska. Library Commission Director Rod Wagner bestowed the awards during a Celebration of Volunteers event, February 27, 2007. Jeff received his admiralship in recognition of sixteen years of volunteer service in tape duplication; and Marjory was recognized for fifteen years as a volunteer narrator.

Freddie Peaco, Volunteer Specialist from the Library of Congress, helped to recognize narrators Frances Buell and Beth McNeil, and John Sposato, clerical support, for ten years of volunteer service. Dick Shasteen, also a volunteer narrator, received a framed certificate for five years of service.

Other volunteers receiving individual recognition included Ana Kalin, Paul Killion, Derek Maley, Fred McCormick, Margery McNabb, and Pat Schreurs. ☞



## Dinner and Dialogue Report Posted

The final report of the Dinner and Dialogue sessions with public library directors, board members, and municipal officials is available on the Library Commission's Website at [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on Dinner and Dialogue. Four sessions were held around the state in September as part of an interim study requested by state senators during the 2006 legislative session. The goal was to examine the relationship between libraries and local government in cities and villages with a population of less than 5,000.

One hundred twenty-five people attended the sessions at Fort Robinson State Park, North Platte, Norfolk, and Brownville, arranged by Maggie Harding, chair of the Trustees, Users, and Friends (TUFS) section of the Nebraska Library Association, along with Kris Rogge, Wally Seiler, and Joan Birnie. Martha Gadberry of Gadberry & Associates facilitated the discussions. The Library Commission provided assistance and financial support

for the events, and Commission Director Rod Wagner attended the meetings.

Conversations at the sessions revealed that communication between libraries and government officials in most municipalities is good, but there were enough reports of lack of knowledge about each other to suggest that more training and education about municipal and library laws is needed.

Among the topics discussed were Finances, Personnel, Policies and Programming, Board Appointments, Reporting and Advocating, Building, Planning, Technology, Personal Relationships, Training and Education, Division of Labor, Partnerships, and Reporting.

Recommendations focused on exploring ways to use the resources of the Nebraska Library Association, Library Commission, and the League of Municipalities to provide training and education, and resource/research materials.

For more information contact Rod Wagner, see contact information on page 2.

## Maximize the Value of Friends

Effective Friends groups are invaluable for raising money, promoting libraries, and engaging in advocacy. For Friends to live up to their potential, they must be nurtured, encouraged, active, well-informed, and clear about their role in relationship to the library.

The Nebraska Library Commission recently purchased membership in Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) for all Nebraska public libraries to ensure that their library staff, Friends groups, trustees, and foundations can take advantage of FOLUSA's services to enhance fundraising, advocacy, and public awareness.

As a component of this initiative, FOLUSA Executive Director Sally Reed presented workshops in late March in North Platte and Fremont aimed at helping library supporters and library staff work together to make sure that Nebraska library Friends groups are growing and active, that they are great fundraisers, and that they are prepared to work in partnership with "city hall" for library funding, referendums, and/or bond issues.



**Sally Reed**

See the Nebraska Library Commission Website at [www.nlc.ne.state.us](http://www.nlc.ne.state.us), search on FOLUSA, for handouts from the workshops. The handouts cover a variety of topics of interest to Library Boards and Foundations, as well as Library Friends groups. They include:

- Advocacy Campaigns—legal limits on spending for non-profits.
- Checklist for Advocacy—ten ways library advocates can make a significant impact on the library budget.
- Friends Board Development—leadership development tips for board members.
- Getting and Keeping Members—recruiting and nurturing contributors and active members.
- How to Organize a Friends Group—organizing and energizing a new group.
- Model Friends' Cooperative Network—chart showing how the library director, Board of Trustees, and Friends group work in partnership to achieve library service goals.

For more information contact Rod Wagner, see contact information on page 2.

## 'Following the Clues' DVD Available

McGoogan Library of Medicine has available for libraries free copies of a DVD titled "Following the Clues: A Visit to the Doctor and the Library." The DVD is intended for early- to mid-elementary-school students and follows a girl as she and her grandmother make a doctor's appointment, prepare for the appointment, see the doctor, and find health information at the library. They can see how Alana, her grandmother, the nurse, the doctor, and the librarian gather and follow clues toward an effective treatment and preventive care for Alana's rash.

These activities can be confusing for young children and for adults unfamiliar

with the U.S. health care system, and are especially difficult for those who cannot speak English or those new to the English language. The DVD is available in English, Spanish, and Sudanese-Nuer.

The film content is appropriate for unsupervised viewing by children. For most effective learning, McGoogan librarians recommend that parents and children watch the film together.

For more information or to receive a DVD, contact the McGoogan Library of Medicine at 402-559-6221, 866-800-5209, or visit its Website at [www.unmc.edu/library/clues](http://www.unmc.edu/library/clues).

## Council Launches Library Practitioner Certification Program

The Western Council of State Libraries launched its Library Practitioner Certificate Program in January. A library practitioner is defined as a library director without a master's degree in library science. The purpose of the certificate program is to enable library practitioners to improve their vocational education and development, improve career and mobility opportunities, and demonstrate to employers and communities that they have acquired skills and knowledge recognized by a professional association.

The certification requirements are a high school diploma or GED; 2,000 hours of library work, unpaid or paid, within five years of application; and 242 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) in specific competencies. Renewals are required every three years and require an additional 45 CEUs. Courses taken up to five years prior to the application date are eligible for certification purposes.

To ensure that certificate applicants receive high-quality education, the Council also has established an approved education provider process. It will approve providers who demonstrate competence, experience, and dedication to providing high-quality educational opportunities.

More information is available at the Western Council of State Libraries Website at [www.westernco.org/continuum/certification.html](http://www.westernco.org/continuum/certification.html). Information about the provider program can be reviewed at <http://certificate.westernco.org> or contact Laura Johnson, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator, 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [ljohnson@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:ljohnson@nlc.state.ne.us).



## Basic Skills: Public Services Offered this Spring

The Public Services classes of the Basic Skills continuing education series were offered this spring in each of the six Regional Library Systems and online. The Public Services course includes basic customer service, reference, readers' advisory, effective library design, and serving community needs.

Other courses in the Basic Skills series, coordinated by the Nebraska Library Commission in partnership with Nebraska's Regional Library Systems, are Public Library Administration, Collection Development, and Organization of Materials. They are offered in rotation, one approximately every six months. Onsite courses typically provide

twelve to fifteen hours of class instruction over three sessions.

Librarians participating in the Nebraska Public Librarian Certification Program must successfully complete the Basic Skills classes or have formal education or training covering equivalent subject matter.

For more information contact Laura Johnson, Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Coordinator, 402-471-2694, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [ljohnson@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:ljohnson@nlc.state.ne.us), or see the Library Commission's Website, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us) and search on Basic Skills.

### Access CE Information Online

Nebraska library staff can access Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education (CE) information to track CE credit hours for Public Librarian Certification. See the Nebraska Library Commission Website at [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on CE Record Review, or [www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/ce/lookup.asp](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/ce/lookup.asp). Enter your name and password. NOTE: Passwords were e-mailed to all currently enrolled participants. If you did not receive a password or for more information, contact Laura Johnson, see above contact information.

## Updated STAR Reference Manual Available

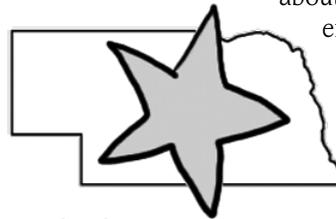
The Nebraska Statewide Training for Accurate Reference (STAR) Manual, a joint effort of the Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Library Association, and the Regional Library Systems, has been updated and is available on the Library Commission Website, [www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/star/star.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/star/star.html).

The STAR Reference Manual was created as a training aid for Nebraska reference librarians contains useful information on reference techniques and ethics. Subject specialists from libraries across the state contributed their expertise and provided invaluable bibliographies of

resources. The manual has gained recognition as a practical guide; librarians from several states and Australia have inquired about using it for their own reference training.

The manual was originally produced in the 1990s with Eastern Library System Administrator Kathy Tooker overseeing its production. Since then it has been converted to an electronic format and updated twice.

For more information contact Lisa Kelly, Nebraska Library Commission Information Services Director, 402-471-4015, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [lkelly@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:lkelly@nlc.state.ne.us).



## USDA Rural Development Assists Communities with Library Building Needs

Over the past few years the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development has helped several Nebraska communities construct and repair their local library buildings. Among the communities receiving USDA assistance are Atkinson, Bassett, Brady, David City, Humboldt, Rulo, Tecumseh, Trenton, Ulysses, Wahoo, Wakefield, and the campus of the Little Priest Tribal College in Winnebago.

Wahoo Public Library is Rural Development's most recently constructed library in Nebraska. The City received USDA Rural Development funds totaling more than \$1 million to build this 12,000-square-foot public facility that includes a partial basement, children/young adult/adult collection and reading areas, a genealogy area, and multipurpose and conference rooms.



Photo by JEO Consulting



USDA funds were used to help build the Wahoo Public Library (above) and purchase the Rock County Public Library bookmobile in Bassett.

USDA Rural Development funding can also be used to assist in repairs and equipment costs. Examples can be found in Ulysses, Rulo, and Rock County. The Ulysses Library utilized USDA funding for roof replacement/repairs, while the Rulo Library installed a new floor. Rock County Public Library in Bassett purchased a bookmobile that is critical to the five rural schools in the county because it allowed them to retain their accreditation by the state of Nebraska.

**Is your community planning to build a library?** Contact USDA Rural Development for funds to assist. Rural areas include unincorporated areas, cities and towns (20,000 population or less). Public entities including municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply.

For more information contact Denise Brosius-Meeks, 402-437-5559, or see [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne).

## E-rate Funding Reported

One hundred six (106) individual Nebraska libraries or regional library systems received funding under the E-rate program in 2005. (The last year for which cumulative totals are available because the Schools and Libraries Division is still distributing funds for the current year.) All received telecommunications funding, while 49 received funding for Internet access. The average discount was 66 percent with the discounts ranging from 25 percent to 90 percent depending on the number of public schoolchildren eligible for the free and reduced lunch program in the school district in which the public library is located. The total amount received was just over \$137,452 and individual libraries' amounts ranged from \$99 to \$28,550. (Note: The figures for Omaha Public Library are not included here because its funding is received along with an Omaha-area consortium.)

For questions please contact Richard Miller, see contact information on page 3.

## Vendor Day Held in May

The Library Commission held its second annual Vendor Day May 1 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. The event provided librarians with the opportunity to meet multiple vendors of electronic information, automation, and other library technology products and services during a single day and to learn more about their products. More space was available this year and additional vendors provided presentations. Vendors had the opportunity to present two sessions during the day, as well as meet with participants in an exhibit area during two extended break times.

For more information contact Shannon White, see contact information on page 5 or see Announcements on the Library Commission Website, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us).

## NEBASE Advisory Council Members Chosen

Greg Mickells, Lincoln City Libraries, and Sally Gibson, Creighton University Reinert Alumni Library, were selected as NEBASE Advisory Council members in a recent election. They began serving three-year terms in January. The Library Commission would like to thank all the candidates who were nominated and agreed to sit for the election.

The NEBASE Advisory Council serves as a channel for two-way communication between NEBASE and its members. The Council is comprised of seven delegates,

elected by NEBASE member libraries. The NEBASE member who serves on the OCLC Users Council is an ex-officio member of the NEBASE Advisory Council. Member libraries are encouraged to contact their representative with questions, suggestions, or concerns regarding Nebraska's OCLC network, (NEBASE), organized and managed by the Nebraska Library Commission.

For more information contact Shannon White, see contact information on page 5.

## Online Teleconference to Focus on Libraries in the Digital Age

The next installment of free College of DuPage library teleconferences will be May 11, when James G. Neal, Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian at Columbia University, will assemble a panel to discuss the future relevance of libraries as we know them. Practical predictions of how traditional roles of libraries will be explored, including:

- information selection
- acquisition
- synthesis
- navigation
- dissemination
- interpretation
- archiving
- information aggregation
- publishing
- education
- research and development
- policy advocacy



James G. Neal

The Library Commission purchases a statewide license for Nebraska library staff to participate free of charge in teleconference programming provided by the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

The teleconference is ninety minutes. If you wish to attend this program, 11:00 A.M.–12:30 P.M.CT, and 10:00 A.M.–11:30 A.M. MT, see your regional library system administrator for a location near you. For more information see the Library Commission Website, Library Training, at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/training](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/training), search on DuPage.

If you have any questions about the teleconference series in Nebraska, or would like to host programs, contact Laura Johnson, see contact information on page 10. ❖

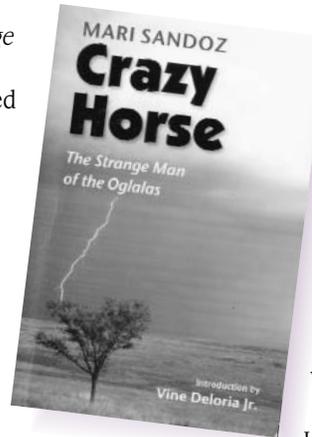
## Sandoz Work is 2007 One Book One Nebraska

*Crazy Horse: The Strange Man of the Oglalas* by Mari Sandoz is the featured selection for the **2007**

### One Book One Nebraska

celebration. Author, historian, and member of the Nebraska Hall of Fame, Sandoz was one of the most outspoken advocates for fair treatment of Native-Americans and for the documentation of Plains heritage. She worked to shed light on the challenges native people faced in the wake of the expansion of a growing American nation.

The Library Commission is encouraging libraries around the state to participate in One Book One Nebraska events throughout the year to help provide Nebraskans the opportunity to come together to learn about and discuss Native-American culture, plains history, and contemporary issues.



Activities marking 2007 One Book One Nebraska are being organized by the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society and the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College. A list of events, reading guide and discussion questions, poster, and sample press release are among the resources available at [www.onebookonenebraska.org](http://www.onebookonenebraska.org).

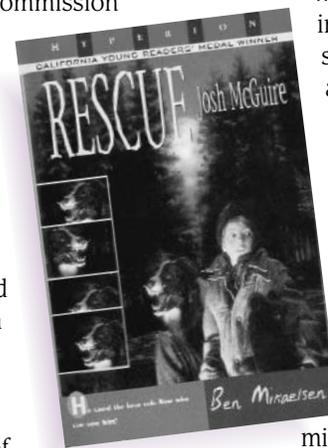
The Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center has transformed Bill and Jan Moeller's book *Crazy Horse: A Photographic Biography* into a traveling exhibition. By visually exploring the locations Crazy Horse lived and traveled, viewers will be able to form a portrait of Crazy Horse as he related to his environment. The exhibition is available to travel to libraries and museums in 2007 at no cost.

For more information contact Sarah Polak, Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, 308-432-6066, or see [www.marisandoz.org](http://www.marisandoz.org). ❖

## Library Commission Initiates One Book One Nebraska Kids

Wouldn't it be great if kids all over Nebraska were discussing the same book? The Library Commission has started a new program to encourage children across Nebraska to all read and discuss the same book. This year's selection, *Rescue Josh McGuire* by Ben Mikaelson, is aimed at fourth to sixth graders and is about a boy who risks a lot to try to rescue a bear cub.

A book bag containing fifteen paperback copies of the book along with discussion questions, activities and background information is available from the regional library system offices.



This is a great book to read anytime and librarians may borrow the book bag whenever it is available and fits into the library or school's schedule. In the future the announcement of the year's title will occur in January to give librarians and students plenty of time to borrow a book bag, and read and discuss the book.

This is the kickoff for an ongoing event that will alternate between upper elementary and middle school titles. A title for middle school age readers, the One Book for Nebraska Teens, will be selected for the 2008 program. For more information contact Sally Snyder, see contact information on page 6. ❖

## Young Nebraskans Win State Writing Contest

Gov. Dave Heineman honored Nebraska student writers by presenting them with Letters about Literature award certificates and signing a proclamation proclaiming April 15-21, 2007, as National Library Week in Nebraska. Students recognized for their letters to influential authors were:

### Winners

Kassy Pepper, Bellevue, for a letter to Margaret Peterson Haddix

Taylor Hough, Omaha, for a letter to Ann Martin

Carrie Chen, Lincoln, for a letter to Louisa May Alcott

### Runners-Up

Brooke Klebe, Lincoln, for a letter to Jeanne Birdsall

Claire Wiebe, Lincoln, for a letter to J.R.R. Tolkien

Katie Kutsenko, Lincoln, for a letter to Leo Tolstoy

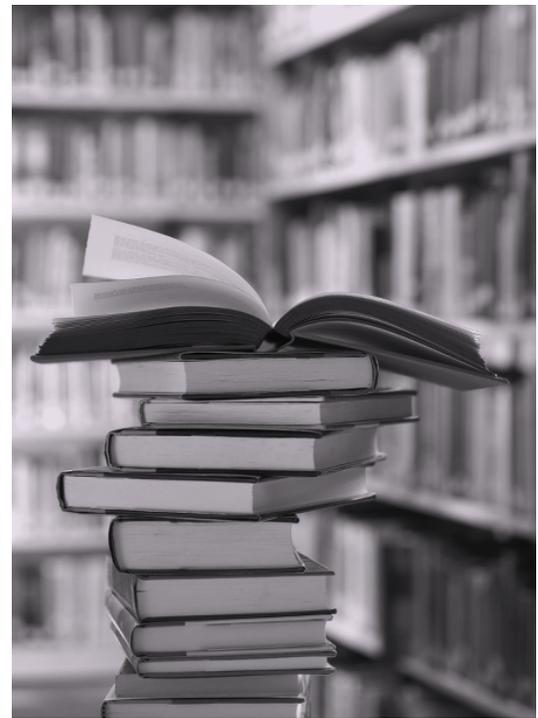
### Award of Merit

Lilyane Sanchez, Lincoln, for a letter to Harriet Beecher Stowe

Approximately 56,000 young readers across the country participated in this year's Letters about Literature competition, a reading promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, presented in partnership with Target Stores. In Nebraska the contest is coordinated by the Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Center for the Book, with additional support from Lee Booksellers and Houchen Bindery Ltd.

To enter, young readers write a personal letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Readers select authors from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. The program has three competition levels: upper elementary, middle school, and secondary. The contest theme encourages young readers to explore his or her personal response to a book then express that response in a creative, original way.

Nebraska finalists each receive cash prizes, and gift cards to Target Stores and Lee Booksellers. For more information see [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on Letters about Literature.



## Governor Proclaims 'Adopt A Library' Day

April 23 was "Adopt A Library Day" and the celebration began with Gov. Dave Heineman presenting a proclamation at a signing ceremony at the State Capitol in Lincoln. "Adopt A Library Day" is a spinoff of [AdoptALibrary.org](http://AdoptALibrary.org), a literacy advocacy Website that encourages visitors to donate books and money to featured libraries, including Little Priest Tribal College/Winnebago Public Library in Winnebago.

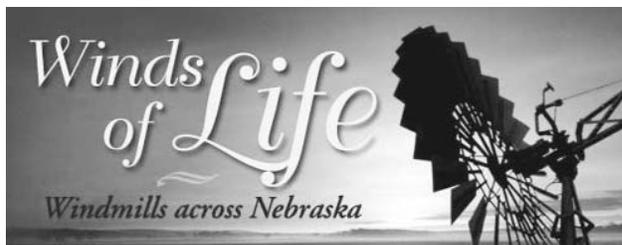
"I'm really excited at all the attention on libraries and their importance in our communities," said Lynn Gaubatz, creator of [AdoptALibrary.org](http://AdoptALibrary.org). "When the governor of Nebraska decided to proclaim 'Adopt A Library Day' in recognition of the books donated to tribal libraries in his home state through [AdoptALibrary.org](http://AdoptALibrary.org), I was over the moon!"

[AdoptALibrary.org](http://AdoptALibrary.org) is designed to encourage and facilitate donations to schools and libraries in prisons, on Native American reservations, and around the world. [AdoptALibrary.org](http://AdoptALibrary.org) does not ask for or accept donations. All donations go directly to libraries and schools, or organizations that aid them. For more information contact Gretchen Healy, Library Director, Little Priest Tribal College, 402-878-3335, e-mail: [ghealy@lptc.bia.edu](mailto:ghealy@lptc.bia.edu).

## Libraries Invited to Host Windmill Activities

The Center for Rural Affairs has launched a first-ever statewide arts and tourism project called **Winds of Life: Windmills across Nebraska**. Windmills were essential to the sustainability of early Nebraska settlement and today remain a symbol of the life and culture they enabled.

The statewide arts project calls on Nebraskans to rekindle interest in the revitalization of rural Nebraska by uniting artists, communities, libraries and other organizations, and corporate sponsors to create works of art depicting windmills.



All Nebraska libraries are invited to share in the celebration of windmills by hosting their own activities. These activities could take the form of literary events such as collecting oral histories about

windmills or holding windmill poetry or short story contests, readings, windmill art contests, or other windmill-themed events.

Special recognition will be given to the community that best exemplifies the spirit of Winds of Life.

For more information contact Julie Paschold, 402-528-3750, e-mail: [jpaschold@gmail.com](mailto:jpaschold@gmail.com), or see [www.windsoflife.com](http://www.windsoflife.com).

## Commission Profiles

**Linda Jensen** began her job at the Library Commission as staff assistant for Library Development services in August 2006. She finds working with colleagues who share a passion for reading and providing literature for others in the state very rewarding.



Linda works with Library Development Director Richard Miller, Continuing Education Coordinator Laura Johnson, and Children & Young Adult Library Services Coordinator Sally Snyder.

Her interest and enthusiasm for the job led her to take classes to become a Level II certified librarian, which she plans to complete in spring 2009.

Linda grew up in Seward, moved away after high school and returned several years later because "I love the comfort of living in a small town." She walks and exercises daily, likes to crochet, quilt, and garden, and enjoys a good "bust-a-gut" laugh. Her book at the moment? *No Place Like Home* by Mary Higgins Clark.

Continuing Education Coordinator **Laura Johnson** started work at the Library Commission in mid-October, just in time for the NLA/NEMA Conference.

She came to Nebraska from a Chicago suburb, where she worked for twelve years with the Metropolitan Library System, first as a reference librarian doing backup reference for member libraries, and later as a reference consultant, teaching lots of workshops.



Although not a native Nebraskan, Laura's family moved to Omaha while she was an undergraduate at Bradley University, so she had visited the state many times before taking the job with the Library Commission. She earned her MLS from the University of Missouri-Columbia and an MBA from Northwestern University.

Laura was attracted to the continuing education position because "the library profession is one of those where you use

everything you've ever learned. And it has changed a lot with the introduction of new technologies. Those two things have convinced me that continuing education is very important to librarians. And, librarians are cool people who are interesting to work with."

The most challenging aspect of her new job to date, she says, has been the pace of learning many new things and meeting so many people. Right now she's commuting from Omaha to Lincoln every day, so she's listening to books rather than reading them. Her favorites include "anything that's engaging at 75 mph." Asked what she looks forward to doing after she gets settled in Lincoln—"there are all those antiques shops I haven't visited yet."

**Cynthia Taylor** has been a Research Analyst working mostly with the Institute for Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS) *Librarians for the 21st Century* grant since June 2005. The grant's purpose is to recruit young

people into the library profession, and Cynthia has developed the details of scholarship programs, helped develop the Now hiring @ your library® Website, assisted in the design and development of a public service announcement, helped develop a mentoring program, and participated in planning and implementing a conference for library personnel in October 2006. She also reports the results of the grant activities in biannual reports to IMLS.



Cynthia worked in the natural foods industry in Lincoln (she's originally from Omaha) for many years and left it to pursue a second career in watershed science and policy. In 2000 she completed an MS in Geography and an MA in Environmental Studies at the University of Oregon. Her master's thesis evaluated the effectiveness of stream habitat enhancement projects in providing quality habitat for salmon in streams in the mountains of northeast Oregon.

After working as a full-time research assistant for a team of scientists that advises Oregon officials on the recovery of

wild salmon populations, she returned to Lincoln to work at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on research to evaluate the health of Nebraska streams and fish populations. One of the great things about returning to Lincoln, she said, was the opportunity to live in her duplex again, a 100-year-old house she renovated in the 1980s.

Cynthia enjoys gardening, bicycling, "cooking and eating really healthy foods," reading *The New Yorker* and working on the old house, and she hopes to work in the watershed science field again. In the meantime, she plans to continue moving forward on the grant to recruit young librarians and coming up with ways to evaluate the project to show how it is making a difference in people's lives.

The Library Commission's newest employee, **Michael Sauers**, began work March 1 in the newly created position of Technology Innovation Librarian.

Michael was raised in a suburb of Rochester, New York, earned his MLS from the University at Albany's School of Information Science and Policy, and lived in Las Vegas for two years before moving to a Denver suburb where he worked for ten years as Internet Trainer for the Bibliographical Center for Research.

At the Library Commission he'll continue working with librarians of all types to keep them moving along as technologies change, which is a big challenge, he says. "It's my full-time job to keep up and even I don't have enough time. I'm not sure how anyone who also has to work a reference desk has time to do it."

After living in larger cities, Michael said he had some trepidation about moving to a smaller city, but has found that Lincoln has just about everything he needs, just fewer of each thing (two Indian restaurants instead of two dozen, for example). He says since moving the Nebraska, he has checked visiting Carhenge off his lifetime to-do list, and is looking forward to biking



(continued on Page 16)

## News of Nebraska Libraries and People

■ New library directors include Beatrice State Developmental Center, **Nikki Reisen**; Creighton Public Library, **Lindsay Neuhaus**; Clarkson Public Library, **Denise Ross**; Dalton Public Library, **Connie Ankeney**; Emerson Public Library, **Mary Anne Schwarten**; Kearney, Buffalo County Historical Society, **Jennifer Murrish**; University of Nebraska at Kearney, Calvin T. Ryan Library, **Janet Stoeger Wilke**; Lexington Public Library, **Kathy Thomsen**; Lincoln City Libraries, Arnold Heights and Eiseley Branch Libraries, Branch Supervisor **Julee Hector**; Litchfield Public Library, **Kelly Barnes**; Madison Public Library, **Kathy Stender**; Minatare Public Library, **Karen Muzzey**; Macy, Nebraska Indian Community College, **Mary Johnson**; Newman Grove Public Library, **Kathy Strong**; Norfolk, Northeast Community College, **Mary Louise Foster**; Oakdale Public Library, **Judy Hershberger**; Omaha Public Library, Benson Branch Library, Branch Manager, **Ben Brick**; Omaha Correctional Center, **Denise Morton**; Seward, Concordia University, Link Library, **Judy Preuss**; Wahoo Public Library, **Denise Lawver**; Faith Memorial Library, Wallace, **Debbie Andrews**; and Wilcox Public Library, **Donnette Johnson**.

■ The office of the **Meridian Library System** has moved. The new address is: 1015 Central Ave., Suite B, Kearney, NE 68847. The phone and fax numbers remain the same. Phone: 308-234-2087, 800-657-2192; fax: 308-234-4040.

■ **Omaha Public Library Director Rivkah Sass** was recently roasted and toasted as the Omaha Press Club's 110th **Face on the Barroom Floor**. The tradition, begun in 1971, has grown into one of



Omaha's most prestigious awards and recognizes outstanding individuals who have made an impact on the community. In announcing the award, the Press Club said Rivkah has "labored with passion, joy, and courage to begin to push the Omaha Public Library toward greatness."

■ **Kathy Thomsen** recently became Executive Director of the **Nebraska Library Association**, succeeding Maggie Harding. Kathy is a native and resident of North Platte. She is a certified teacher and taught in the Eustis schools. Kathy earned her MLS from the University of Missouri-Columbia and worked for Lincoln City Libraries for six years as a Youth Services Librarian and interim branch supervisor.

■ **Bennington Public Library** is an example of a Nebraska library using new technology to help meet Website needs. Bennington is using WordPress blog software to operate a blog on its library Website at <http://benlib.wordpress.com/>.

■ After a long career in teaching and library work, **Cherie Longmuir** retired in April as **Panhandle Library System Coordinator**, a position she held for four years. Congratulations Cherie on your retirement and move to Wyoming.

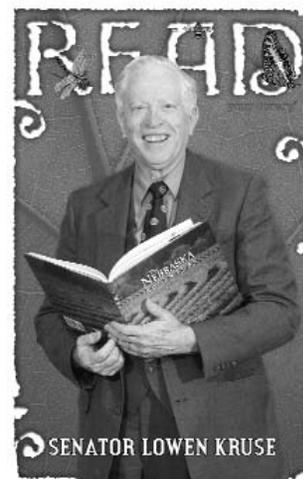
■ The grand opening of the **Falls City Library & Arts Center** was held in January with the unveiling of a sculpture, "The Learning Curve," in front of the library followed by an open house with tours, and viewing of art works by local artists Alice Cleaver, John Falter, and Allan Tubach.

■ **Fairmont Public Library** installed four new computer desks and, with the help of the **Mary Tous Charitable Foundation**, purchased a new computer and window treatments. The library's Website is [www.ci.fairmont.ne.us/library.asp](http://www.ci.fairmont.ne.us/library.asp).



■ The Nebraska Library Development Director **Richard Miller** (above) attended the awards ceremony of the Nebraska Association of Elementary School Principals to receive the award given to the **Panhandle Library System** as a "Friend of Education." The award is given to deserving groups who show exemplary leadership in promoting public awareness of elementary and middle level education, and provide special services and unique opportunities for children.

■ State **Senator Lowen Kruse**, District 13, Omaha, was selected as the **2007 Nebraska Librarian Champion**,



which honors a state or federal legislator or other individual "who has promoted and supported legislative efforts that promote Nebraska libraries and librarianship." Senator Kruse has been in the Unicameral since 2000 and serves as Vice Chair of the Appropriations Committee and Chair of the Intergovernmental Cooperation special committee. ➡

## Nebraska Book Awards Nominations Sought

The Nebraska Book Awards, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book and supported by the Nebraska Library Commission, recognize and honor books written by Nebraska authors, produced by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or related to Nebraska.

Nominations for this year's awards are **due by June 30**. For more information and entry forms, see the Library Commission's Website, [www.nlc.state.ne.us](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us), search on Book Awards. Send the entry form, three



copies of the book, and the \$40 entry fee to NCB Book Awards, Nebraska Library Commission, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023.

The Nebraska Center for the Book brings together the state's

readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book. The Nebraska Center has been an affiliate of the Library of Congress Center for the Book since 1990. ➡

## Commission Profiles

(continued from Page 14)

Lincoln's trails. And he tries not to think about the tornado issue much.

As an amateur photographer, Michael's photos have been published in domestic and international publications and used in software packages. He is the author of eight books on technology for librarians and has written dozens of articles for various journals and magazines. He's currently working on his ninth book, *Searching 2.0*, for Neal-Schuman, Inc. In his spare time he reads about 130 books per year. Right now he's reading *Recursion* by Tony Ballantyne, *Nixon and Mao* by Margaret MacMillan, and *The World is Flat* by Thomas L. Friedman. Nebraska's librarians are invited to read Michael's blog at [www.travelinlibrarian.info/](http://www.travelinlibrarian.info/). ➡



## Nebraska Library Commission

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