

**January/
February
2005**

Eastern Express

The Newsletter of the Eastern Library System

The Nebraska Legislature

by Nancy Meyer

Our form of government is unique among all of the states because it has a single-house system. We have George Norris to thank for that. The first day of the first Unicameral was January 5, 1937. This year the Unicameral Session also began on January 5th and will continue for 90 days with the last session scheduled for June 3, 2005. Enough history lesson!

The Unicameral website (<http://www.unicam.state.ne.us>) has all the information you need to follow a bill as it travels the long road to becoming a law and, most important, how to **contact your state senator**. The 49 senators are permitted to select one bill as his or her personal priority bill for the session. Each committee may select two of the bills referenced to it as committee priority bills for the session.

The speaker is also allowed to select up to 25 additional bills as speaker priority bills. Priority bills must be selected prior to the 45th legislative day during a 90-day session and prior to the 30th legislative day during a 60-day session. It all sounds so confusing, however, the more you are involved the easier it is to understand. There is also a 21-page list of the lobbyists and how to contact them.

The *Unicameral Update*, the weekly publication of the Legislature is available online but you can also request a printed subscription. If you would like to request a new subscription to the print version of the

Unicameral Update, please send your name and postal address to uio@unicam.state.ne.us. You may also mail your subscription request to the following address.

Unicameral Information Office
Nebraska Legislature
P.O. Box ,4604
Lincoln, NE 68502

You might want to bookmark or make an icon of the website for your computers and make the print copy available for your patrons.

The Nebraska Library Association Legislative Day is February 23 (look for the flyer in this issue.) Since

Kathy has been the chair of the Legislative Committee for the past several years, we have had the opportunity (hmmmmm) to spend a lot of time contacting and meeting senators and working and planning for Legislative Day.

As of the writing of this article 378 bills and 11 constitutional amendments had already been proposed with only 5 days into

this session. I can see the rescinding of term limits and the smoking ban as a couple of interesting topics that should make for some news-worthy ink.

I emailed some of the senators asking them for a sentence or two that I could use in this *Eastern Express*. Turn the page to read what they said.

Senator Lowen Kruse (my senator) wrote this:

“The 2005 session of the legislature will center again on finances. Revenue will increase by about 5%, which is certainly helpful. However, we expect 60% of the budget to need a 10% increase, in areas such as Medicaid and health care costs over which we have little control. So it will still be crunch time.” ➔

**“The Salvation
of the State is
watchfulness in
the Citizen”**

“I do expect this legislature to take a good look at long term issues—which includes library services—and to develop policy in terms of where we need to be down the road. I hope it happens, as we are overdue for reflection on policies which will best serve our future.”

Senator Nancy Thompson, who ran an unsuccessful bid for Congress, is a very gracious lady and I for one am glad she is still in the Unicameral. Her comment.....

“The 2005 legislative session will be very interesting because this is the first time in the history of the state that 20 senators will be leaving in two years. As a member of that first term-limited group, I will be working with my fellow senators to complete legislative initiatives and help the newcomers who will be taking on leadership responsibilities a lot more quickly than in the past.”

Senator Kermit Brasher was elected Speaker of the Legislature. That post is elected by the membership every two years. The speaker sets calendars and daily agendas and presides in the absence of the Lieutenant Governor. Senator Brasher sent me a great quote—one that we all could applaud.

“May we by our efforts make these the best of times for the people of the State of Nebraska.”

This is the 99th Legislative Session...look for a big party next year!

We Need You!

By Kathy Tooker, NLA Legislative Chair

As Nancy wrote in the above article on the Nebraska Legislature, Library Legislative Day is February 23. There is a full day of events planned with plenty of time for you to visit with the senator from your district, meet other librarians, trustees, and library friends, enjoy a good lunch at the Cornhusker Hotel, and hear about some outstanding youth who volunteer their time and talents at their local library. Last year over 60% of the senators (or one of their aides) joined us for the luncheon. We received many good comments from the senators and the others attending but what stands out in my mind is the comment from one senator. He asked, “Is a librarian from my community here?” I had to reply no the librarian was not here. This shouldn’t happen. It is your responsibility to invite your senator and tell him or her about what is happening in your library—be it a public, school, academic, or special library. All libraries receive support in many ways from the Nebraska Library Commission, so **please attend this year** and show your support and interest in the Nebraska library community.

Eastern Library System
11929 Elm Street, Suite 12
Omaha, NE 68144
402-330-7884 or 800-627-7884
FAX 402-330-1859

www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/eastern

We reserve the right to edit or refuse all contributions. **Editor:** Nancy Meyer
ISSN # 1064-3486



System Board:

H. Lynn Bradman
Paul Emmerich
Denise Lawver
Lori Long
Tammy Lorenz
Sam McMullen
Guadalupe Mier
Kenny Oyer
Becky Pasco
Lynn Schnoor
Becky Sims
Dorothy Willis

Serving - Burt, Cuming, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington Counties

System Staff

Kathleen Tooker, Administrator
ktooker@alltel.net

Nancy Meyer, Administrative Assistant
nrmeyer@alltel.net

Trustee Tips

Thank you to all library trustees who have competed and returned the Trustee Survey. Lynn Bradman, who designed the survey and will analyze the responses, is very pleased with the number returned. So far there are around 550 returned surveys—that is well over a 40% return rate which is excellent, but it could still be better.

There is still time for the trustees who have forgotten or put off filling out the survey. The deadline is February 1, 2005.

One of the guidelines for library accreditation is that the library board is certified. In order to be certified a library board must complete 20 hours of continuing education every three years. Remember that a trustee receives two hours of continuing education credit for filling out the survey. If a board composed of five members each receives two hours for a total of ten hours they will fulfill half of the required 20 hours every ten years for a certified board.

As was explained at the beginning of the survey, the reason for collecting information from library board members is to gather important information about your roles and needs a Nebraska library trustee and the general needs of your library board. Once the data is analyzed it will be used to help improve, plan, and organize activities, training opportunities, and materials for Nebraska trustees in the future. The goal is having a strong and vital library that serves the recreation and information needs of your community.

“All you need in life is truth and beauty and you can find both at the Public Library.” Studs Terkel, author.

“There is not such a cradle of democracy on earth as the Free Public Library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration.” Andrew Carnegie, capitalist.

Librarians in Books

by Kathy Tooker



As a bibliophile of many years standing, I keep a list of books I want to read. I have my favorite authors so when I see that one of them is coming out with a new title, it goes on my list. Alice Hoffman's books are ones that automatically go on my list. Imagine my surprise, when I see her newest book that is due this spring is about a librarian. That got me to thinking about the made-for-TV-movie that aired last fall with Noah Wylie. So I did some checking on titles that had a librarian as the protagonist and was delighted to find an interesting mix of titles.

- Hoffman, Alice. *Ice Queen*. Little, Brown, 2005. When she is struck by lightning, the ice queen (a small-town librarian) finds her life transformed.
- Beinhart, The Librarian. Thunder's Mouth, Nation Books, 2004. A thriller with a nebbish university librarian who teams up with two fellow librarians to form a Mission Impossible like squad to fight against an evil think-tank with a plan for world-domination.
- Carr, Josephine. *The Dewey Decimal System of Love*. New American Library, 2003. Forty-year-old librarian Alison hides behind a french twist and sensible clothes falls for a married man and tries to figure out a way to get him to notice her.
- Cart, Michael. *In the Stacks: Short Stories About Libraries and Librarians*. Overlook Press, 2002. Unusual stories about the most evocative place—the library—by noted authors such as Jorge Luis Borges and Alice Munro.
- Tracy, Christopher. *The Adventures of the Librarian: The Return of the Spear*. I books, 2004. This is the novel that the movie starring Noah Wylie and is based on the premise that only the Librarian can protect the world from evil forces.
- Ellis, Rhett. *How I Fell in Love With a Librarian and Lived to Tell About It*. Sparkling Bay Books, 2004. Something for everyone — romance, mystery, and adventure.
- Griffith, Michael. *Bibliophilia: A Novella and Stories*. Arcade Books, 2003. A funny story middle-aged librarian is appalled to find herself assigned as the library sex cop.

*Some of the brief reviews were taken from Amazon.com. The review of *The Ice Queen* is from *Library Journal*.

System News



Bellevue

The Bellevue Public Library made the National Education Association's website as one of the "50 Great Event Ideas."

✓ Check this out at [www.nea.org/readacross/] - look for "plan and event" and click on "great events" - they are #45.

Their entry featured books by Dr. Seuss and a reading marathon. You may want to use some of their ideas.

Blair

The members of the Board of Trustees, The Library Foundation, and the Friends of the Library met with Richard Miller, NLC, last month to explore the possibilities for improving library facilities and services of the Blair Public Library. They studied information from comparably sized communities in the state and discussed options open to their library.

Awards

The Nebraska Library Commission awarded a total of \$60,182 in grants for 32 libraries to assist in providing improved services to children and young adults, and to provide training opportunities for children and young adult librarians. Following are the libraries in the Eastern System receiving grants.

Bellevue Public Library - \$3,575

Establish a marionette troupe, whose members are in grades 7-12, to provide entertaining, engaging programs for children and adults using stories from folklore and from classic children's literature.

Blair Public Library - \$2,554

Provide a conduit with electrical outlets to the children's/teen area and purchase one new computer for the teen area. One older computer will also be moved to the area for catalog access (once wiring is in place).

Ceresco Public Library - \$778

Creation of a fund and educational teen/youth space designed to attract youth in grades 5-12, promote social interaction, sharing of interests, and involve-

ment in library services, including programs and activities.

Keene Memorial Library, Fremont - \$3,746

Designing a teen space for the library and involving the newly formed Teen Advisory Board in the process. The funding will be used for teen programs and to promote the teen groups of the library.

La Vista Public Library - \$2,545

Redesign a specific library area for teens thereby increasing area usage and services. The library will develop additional programs and services for teens.

Omaha Public Library - \$2,243

Providing early literacy training to child care workers and parents, using the Every Child Ready to Read materials. A minimum of 40 training sessions will be offered

Tekamah Public Library - \$1,500

Provide space for teens in a former storeroom on the lower level. Video chairs, beanbags, an area rug and floor pillow will be purchased. The library will create a "Teen Panel" to recommend materials such as graphic novels and videos and to help prepare a survey for their peers. Plans call for revitalizing a young adult book club developed some years ago

More Awards

Nebraska Library Commission awarded MLS scholarships to Karen Frizzell of Dana College in Blair, Laura England of Metro Community College, and Marguerite Martin and Elizabeth Anderson of Omaha.



LTA scholarships have been awarded to Rosa Schmidt, Oakland Public Library and Martha Grenzeback and Patrice Lippert from Omaha. Congratulations!

Bancroft

The Bancroft-Rosalie School Media Center has benefited from a Reading First grant. According to June Hawk, the media center has beautiful new wooden shelves that were locally made and was able to add many new books to their collection.

Eastern Library System Children's / Youth Services Grant

Introduction: Eastern Library System is offering two (2) \$500 grants for projects and/or services that will benefit children and young adults. These grants are open to all ELS member libraries that provide services for children and/or young adults. (Schools should submit an application from the district, not from an individual school.) Grant funds are to be an addition to the local current budget.

Description: Projects and / or services should include one of the following:

- Collection development (1) to replace work or discarded books and/or (2) from recommended lists (Golden Sower, Caldecott, Newbery, Notable Books, etc.) Provide list of what will be purchased.
- Children's literature course from any university or college
- New program or service for children or young adults

Instructions: Complete the following form and submit five (5) copies **by March 1, 2005** to: Kathleen Tooker, Eastern Library System, 11929 Elm St., Suite 12, Omaha, NE 68144. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Applications will be reviewed by the Eastern Library System Continuing Education Committee. **Faxes will not be accepted.**

Library Name: _____

Grant Director: _____ Title _____

Library: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Zip _____

Please answer of following statements/questions on a separate page(s). **Address each bulleted and numbered section by title. i.e. B. Project Description, B.4 Implementation.**

- A: Project Title
- B: Project Description (must address each of the following):
 1. Identify need
 2. Goals
 3. Objectives
 4. Implementation
 5. Evaluation.
- C: Estimated cost / budget
- D: Benefit to children/young adults. State in terms of the results and outcomes for them based on goals.
- E: Starting and completion date

Grant Director

Date

For Children's Librarians & Media Specialists



Be a sweetheart and make a valentine for each staff person in your library or media center and include a piece of chocolate with a note saying that you appreciate their support.

Professional Journals

Here are six articles you can interlibrary loan from the System office. Give us a call and we will interlibrary loan them to you.

1. Coleman, Jennifer. "The Prop Connection: Bring Books to Life." *Library Media Connection*. November / December 2003. Make the story come alive when book talking by using a prop. For example: *The Dollhouse Murders* by Betty Ren Wright, use dollhouse miniatures.

2. Salley, Coleen and Terrance E. Young Jr. "Outstanding Science Read-Alouds." *Book Links*; November 2004. This bibliography includes titles of interest for preschool through elementary.

3. Honnold, RoseMary. "Connecting Teens with Generations A-Z: Intergenerational Programs with Young Adults." *Public Libraries*; September / October 2004. Tips and ideas for programs to give teens a sense of community and belonging with older generations.

4. "Best Books 2004: Adult Books for High School Students." *School Library Journal*, December 2004. From fiction to nonfiction, mysteries to Mars, this list is sure to tempt readers.

5. Mooney, Maureen. "Graphic Novels for the Elementary School." *Library Media Connection*; January 2005. These graphic novels are fun and eye-catching, a sure way to hook reluctant readers.

6. Rodgers, Jean E. "Research Paper Topics: Controversial Issues: For or Against: Pro or Con?" *Library Media Connection*, January 2005. This full-page of topics will be a help come time for research papers.

Nancy Drew may be turning 75 years young this spring but thanks to a complete make-over by publisher Simon & Schuster, the girl detective is now up-to-date. She uses the Internet, carries a cell phone, and has strawberry blond curls. There are now eight new titles completely rewritten in the first person by ghost writers. The official 75th anniversary takes place next summer with the launch of *Where's Nancy?* Might be a good reason for a library party.

Online Resources for Book Discussion Ideas Book Clubs and Reading Guides

- Teenreads.com: www.teenreads.com/clubs/index.asp.
- Creating Your Own Discussion Guide, & Reading Guide - Bookbrowse.com: www.bookbrowse.com/bookclubfun/page7.cfm.
- Talk It Up Book Discussion Guides - Multnomah County Library: www.multcolib.org/talk/guides.html.
- What to Do When there's No Guide Available - Reading Group Guides: readinggroupguides.com/no_guides.asp.

The next CLICK (Children's Librarians Information Coffee Klatch) meeting will be held on January 31, 2005, at the Bess Johnson Elkhorn Public Library at 9:30 am. Sally Snyder, Acting Coordinator of Children's Services for NLC, will be joining the discussion with tips and strategies for writing a winning Youth Grant for Excellence. We will talk about each one of the sections of the grant application and how it should be answered. Even if you wrote a successful grant in the past, this workshop will be beneficial to you as each year the competition increases. Please bring past grants you have submitted, both ones that have been accepted and ones that weren't. The meeting is open to any librarian who works with youth.

Book Reviews of Golden Sower Nominees 2004-2005, Grades 4-6

By Joan Chesley, Keene Memorial Library, Fremont

Qwerty Stevens Back in Time: the Edison Mystery by Dan Gutman. Qwerty Stevens is in trouble with his mom. Again. It seems that trouble is his middle name. Digging has always been a stress reducer for Qwerty, so he digs. To his great surprise, he digs up a trunk with famous inventor Thomas Edison's name on the cover. Qwerty knows all about Edison because Edison's laboratory was in West Orange, New Jersey, just a few blocks from Qwerty's house. Qwerty knows that Edison had patents for 1093 inventions. What if there were really 1094? Why did the famous inventor bury this trunk with a secret invention inside? Qwerty plugs the invention into his computer to see what will happen, and he is whisked away to Spain. The only problem is that he needs someone in his room to press the "escape" key to get him back to this time and place. That is just what does happen when Qwerty decides to visit Edison at his 1879 laboratory and his sister, Barbara, decides to come along instead of staying home to press the escape.

Storm Warriors by Elisa Carbone. The Storm Warriors were the Surfmen who manned the Pea Island Life Saving Station in North Carolina, 1895. Told through the voice of a 14-year-old Nathan, an African American living with his father on an abandoned fishing cabin near the Pea Island station in North Carolina, the brave exploits of the small group staying at the station for about ten months of the year are described. The men in the life saving stations saved many ships and their crew along the Eastern Coast of the United States using the meagerest of provisions. Nathan aspires to be a surfman doing brave deeds, but his is only his dream. His father reminds him that he should tend to fishing and leave dreaming for others. Along with the story of the brave life saving stations is the dream of an African American boy who secretly studies a medical manual and dares to dream. To anyone traveling to the East Coast today, the Life Saving Stations are still there for tourists to walk through and imagine life as a surfman waiting for disaster to strike.

The Ghost Sitter by Peni R. Griffin. Susie has been waiting for her parents and her little sister, Gloria, to come home. She promised that she would wait. But it is now fifty years and she is still waiting. Families come and go to her house but only the very young ones see her. To everyone else, she is a chill, a shimmer of light. Still, she waits. When Charlotte and her family move in, Susie once again steps in to play with the baby Brandon, who loves her and calls for her "worm" bedtime song. Charlotte hears from neighbor girl, Shannon, about the ghost in their house but of course can't see Susie at all. Charlotte becomes more interested in Susie, and reads (in the library) of a fireworks accident which took the life of Susie Smith fifty years ago. The enterprising Charlotte searches for Susie's family and succeeds in finding the now middle-aged Gloria, who tells Charlotte her terrible secret.

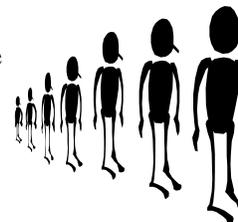


Join NLA

If you have not joined for 2005 or you were not planning on joining, please re-consider. There are many good reasons to join the Nebraska Library Association. You will receive:

- ✓ NLAQ—a quarterly publication with lots of great information from your colleagues.
- ✓ A biennial membership directory.
- ✓ A reduced rate to the annual Fall Conference.
- ✓ Discounted prices at selected Nebraska businesses.

But, most of all, you will be part of a large organization whose primary function is to support and promote all Nebraska Libraries.



Please consider also offering this opportunity to your staff and be sure to have them join the **Paraprofessional Section!**

For a membership form go to:
www.nol.org/home/NLA/membership.html

Announcements

HeritageQuest Online added to NebraskaAccess

The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to announce that the genealogy database HeritageQuest Online is being added to the statewide NebraskaAccess program through June 30, 2005. If response to HeritageQuest Online is positive and funding remains available, our intention is to continue providing statewide access to it during FY 2005/2006 and beyond.

Nebraska libraries can look forward to having access to HeritageQuest Online beginning February 1, 2005. During the month of January, Nebraska Library Commission Network Services staff will be working with ProQuest to set up access to HeritageQuest Online for all Nebraska libraries. We will also be working to integrate HeritageQuest Online into the NebraskaAccess web site. Remote access to HeritageQuest Online will also be available at this time. Passwords will be emailed in late January to the database contacts of libraries registered for NebraskaAccess resources. Libraries already registered for NebraskaAccess will NOT need to reregister for this new NebraskaAccess resource.

HeritageQuest Online contains a unique, growing collection of research materials for tracing family history and American culture. It combines digital, searchable images of U.S. federal census records with the digitized version of the popular UMI® Genealogy and Local History collection. This online database is an essential collection of unique material for both genealogical hobbyists and professionals.

To stay informed about the addition of HeritageQuest Online to NebraskaAccess and the statewide database program, please watch the Trial and NebraskaAccess4Lib mailing lists. Information will be posted to these lists as it becomes available. For information on how to join the NebraskaAccess4Lib mailing list visit: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox/maillinglist.html>.

One Book, One State: Nebraska Reads My Antonia

The Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation is launching an initiative in the Spring to encourage everyone across the state to read the classic novel *My Antonia* by Willa Cather. Libraries can purchase copies of the book at significant discounts (50%) from the University of Nebraska Press (www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/news/onebook.jsp.) This offers expires April 30, 2005. For more information on this

event go to www.willacather.org or contact Betty Kort, Executive Director of The Cather Foundation – 402-746-2653 or willacather@gpcom.net. The Foundation is 50 years old and celebrating with a Festival on April 29-30th in Red Cloud.

A writing contest for 11th and 12th grade Nebraska high school students, also sponsored by the Cather Foundation in cooperation with the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Hastings College, is being held. Winners will be required to attend the awards ceremony at the Cather Center in Red Cloud on April 29, 2005 during the Festival. You can download the contest rules and entry forms at www.willacather.org/onebook_contest.htm. Send entries by February 15, 2005, to Sue Maher, Department of English, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE 68182-0175.

MPLA Board Choice Award

Nina Little, MPLA State Representative from Nebraska, is pleased to announce Rose Shinker, La Vista Public Library Director, as her designee for the MPLA Board Choice Award. Rose works with the Metropolitan Community College in serving the students, faculty and staff that frequent the joint-entity building. Rose is very active in the Nebraska Library Association as an officer and committee head, plus presenting at local, regional and national conferences.

Facts can be Fun

[from Beth Goble, Nebraska Library Commission]

http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/003147.html

Ed. Note: The above website address looks a little complicated but I assure you that if you type it in correctly it will take you to a very interesting page on Valentine's Day related facts from the census bureau. Here are some of them....

One legend has it that Valentine's Day originated to commemorate the anniversary of the death of St. Valentine, a Roman clergyman who was executed on Feb. 14, about 270 A.D., for secretly marrying couples in defiance of the emperor. According to another, the holiday began as a Roman fertility festival. Americans probably began exchanging handmade valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther Howland, a native of Massachusetts, began to sell the nation's first mass-produced valentine cards.



Attention library staff and public library board members!

Are you looking for a way to learn more about copyright?



Copyright Basics for Libraries

**How about a course that you can take at home or at your library?
You'll even earn 2 hours of continuing education credits!**

The Nebraska Library Commission, in cooperation with the Regional Library Systems, will provide access to the course "Copyright Basics for Libraries" through an online class being offered by the *Library Education @ Desktop (LEAD)* program from the University of North Texas School of Library and Information Science. More specific information about each course is available at: <http://www.leadonline.info/>

Normally the cost of these courses is \$ 7.00 each. But the Nebraska Library Commission is purchasing slots for 10 people within each Regional Library System area. So there is no cost for you to participate.

What if I have never participated in an online course?

That's ok. Your Regional Library System office staff will provide you with assistance if you need it.

Can completion of the course be applied toward the Public Librarian Certification program or the Public Library Board Certification program?

Yes. If a participant has applied for the certification program, the person will receive 2 hours credit toward the appropriate certification, whether it is Public Librarian or Board certification.

When will the class start?

The class listed above will begin **February 10th, 2005**. You will have until **March 23rd, 2005** to complete the course.

When and where can I register for the course?

The Regional Library System offices will take registrations until February 7th, 2005.

There are just 10 seats (at no cost to you) available in each Regional Library System. They are offered on a first come basis – so don't delay. If you are interested in registering for one of the courses listed above, contact your Regional Library System office before **February 8th, 2005**.

What if I have more questions?

If you have any other questions pertaining to this opportunity, contact Pam Scott, Continuing Education Coordinator, Nebraska Library Commission via email: pscott@nlc.state.ne.us or via phone: 800-307-2665.

Have you ever wanted to attend the “Woodstock for Capitalists” weekend in Omaha? Had a yen to hear the “Oracle of Omaha” and his sidekick, Charlie Munger, make their annual financial forecasts? This might be your year to attend the Berkshire Hathaway Annual Meeting at the Qwest Center in downtown Omaha on April 30th.

Make a \$5.00 donation to the Louise Nixon Scholarship Fund to enter your name in a drawing for two tickets to the Berkshire Hathaway Annual Meeting on 30 April 2005. For each additional \$5.00, another chance will be added to the drawing. If you make a \$10.00 donation, your name is entered twice in the drawing, \$25.00 gets you five chances, \$75.00 gets you 15 chances, etc.

Warren Buffett always plans a full weekend for his shareholder guests. Typical events include shopping at the Nebraska Furniture Mart with the employee discount, a cocktail reception at Borsheim’s, and a chance to tour NetJet’s business jets. Various Berkshire Hathaway companies always have booths at the Annual Meeting. Past exhibitors have included Dairy Queen, Fruit of the Loom, Geico Insurance, The Pampered Chef, and See’s Candies.

You can’t catch a glimpse of Warren Buffett if you don’t donate. Send your check payable to **NLA – Nixon Fund** (It would be very helpful if you also write **Louise Nixon Scholarship Fund Winter 2005** on your check’s “For” line.) and mail it to –

Maggie Harding, NLA Executive Director
Louise Nixon Scholarship Fund Winter 2005
P.O. Box 98
Crete, NE 68333-0098

The winner will be notified by 7 April 2005. The Berkshire Hathaway meeting credentials will be mailed to the winner by 15 April 2005.

Worth Checking Out



Winter Blahs? Maybe This is the Answer

The FX staff abandoned all semblance of adulthood when they assumed new names during the April staff meeting. The names were computed using the formula in Dav Pilkey's *Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plot of Professor Poopyants*, in which the evil professor forces everyone to assume a new name. Most staff members proudly wore a nametag proclaiming their new identity, although some were embarrassed to do so, in spite of working in an environment where most are shockproof. Sample names were Crusty Waffle Sprinkles, and Zippy Applehiney. Names of the actual owners will not be revealed, in order to protect the innocent, and to maintain library confidentiality. Amazingly, no two staffers received the same name.

Remember that children laugh an average of 146 times a day; adults laugh an average of four times a day. - Loopy Bubbleban and Zippy Applemouth, FX

Note: Dav Pilkey is a popular author with 7-11 year old boys. The specific direction can be found on pages 90-91 of the hardback edition of the title described above.

From *Cross Reference*, Fairfax County (VA) Public Library. Seen in *Library Administrator's Digest*, November 2004.

Reference shelves getting crowded? If so, you might want to weed out some of the "dead wood?" You might want to call Don Ruch (402-850-8373) who runs Reference Book Rescue. His card reads "helping to keep Reference Books out of the landfills."

Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc. invite library supporters to send a Valentine to tell City Council how much they love libraries and how any further cuts "will hurt you, your family, and community," The Friends request that completed Valentines be mailed to the Friends office for group to deliver. The Valentine was included in the Friends newsletter (you can see an example online at (www.folusa.org)). Supporters are advised, "Your name and full address must appear on this card in order to deliver it to City Council."

From ALA.... Free online materials, in English and Spanish, for the 2005 observance of National Library Week, April 10-16, are available by clicking on the NLW icon at www.ala.org/@yourlibrary. The 2005 theme is "Something for Everyone@ your library."

A new online toolkit with graphics and sample publicity materials for the Public Library Association's "The Smartest Card. Get it. Use it. @ **your library** advocacy campaign is now available at www.ala.org/pla. A campaign poster, bookmark and other materials are also available from the Winter 2005 ALA Graphics Catalog as well as the ALA Online Store at www.alastore.ala.org.

For information on how to write a good federal or any grant proposal, call the System office and we will interlibrary loan the two-page article from the Paulding County Carnegie Library (OH). The information, from the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, is also available online at www.cfda.gov/public/cat-writing.html.

Teaching the Internet in Libraries by Rachel Singer Gordon, has been added to our Professional Collection. Published in 2002 by ALA, this book will help you provide training classes in your community and includes sample handouts and press releases Call the System office to interlibrary loan.

Nebraska Memoriesmaking Nebraska's past unforgettable. The Nebraska Library Commission announced the launch of Nebraska Memories, a cooperative project to digitize Nebraska-related historical and cultural heritage materials and make them available to researchers of all ages via the World Wide Web. Nebraska Memories is slated to makes its Web debut in spring 2005. For more information go to www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskamemories.

Tech Tip—When working in Word, you may unlink from any words or picture. Highlight the words or picture, rightclick, and select remove hyperlink. [Seen in *More Than Books*, Bellevue University.]

A library is not simply a repository of books, it is the symbol and center of our culture...a door and a window for those who might not otherwise have such doors and windows. Amy Tan, author.

Upcoming Events



January 21—ELS Board Meeting, Bennington Public Library, 9:30 AM.

January 21—College of DuPage Teleconference: Dealing with Difficult People.

January 24—Theresa Dickson Communication Workshops, Raymond A. Whitwer Library, Tilden, 9-12 & 1:30-3:30. For more information go to www.nlc.state.ne.us and check announcements.

January 31—CLICK Meeting, 9:30 am, Bess Johnson Elkhorn Public Library

February 2—DIRECT meeting, La Vista Public Library, 9:30 am.

February 18—College of DuPage teleconference, Library Challenges & Opportunities: Library Marketing

February 23—Nebraska Legislative Day. Mark your calendar! (see flyer in this issue)

February 25—Summer Reading Program Workshop, Keene Memorial Library. (see flyer in this issue)

March 19—Library Media Specialists Training Day. More information to come.

For more information on any of these events, call the System Office.

*Eastern Library System
11929 Elm Street, Suite 12
Omaha, NE 68144*

Non-profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Omaha, NE
Permit No. 1635