

Eastern Express

January/February 2009

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1 Goal - Continuing Education - A Challenge

by Kathy Tooker, ELS Executive Director

Every two years the Eastern Library System Board develops a two-year Plan for Service. While I firmly believe that having a plan is very important, I don't know many people who will tell you they enjoy the planning process. This is the year ELS needs to scan the environment, talk to our members, look at our finances, and decide what we can do to best serve our member libraries.

The number one goal in the plan is always the same — Continuing Education and Training. Here is why we think this is the most important service we can provide.

The System believes that education is a key ingredient to improved library services. Since libraries are the stewards of the world's knowledge base, it is of prime importance to provide librarians,

media specialists, library support staff, and library trustees with the opportunity to expand their knowledge through continuing education, training, and consulting.

GOAL 1. Provide continuing education workshops and training opportunities for librarians on topics suggested by the Continuing Education Committee and requested by System members.

To accomplish this goal, ELS works hard to come up with timely and interesting workshops. Some we do on our own; others we do in cooperation with one or all of the Nebraska Regional Library Systems (NRLS), or the Nebraska Library Association (NLA), or the Nebraska Educational Media Association (NEMA), or the Nebraska Library Commission (NLC).

These are some of the workshops to expect in the next few months, there will probably be others announced later.

February 2—*Fifty Plus: Getting Ready to Hand Over the Reins*, Theresa Dickson, presenter. Recently, several library directors have voiced concerns to me about finding someone either to take their place or to fill staff positions due to retirement. Dickson will not only give you good advice, but entertain you doing so. (NRLS)

Also later the same day, Dickson will explore the problems or joys, of *Supervising Your Friends and Former Peers*. What you could learn from this workshop could make life a whole lot easier. (NRLS) Both of these workshops will be held at the Wahoo Public Library.

(continued on page two)

Abraham Lincoln's Bicentennial

Abraham Lincoln, born February 12, 1809, from the state of Illinois, and our 16th President, shaped Barack Obama's inauguration. The event's theme, "A New Birth of Freedom," was taken from Lincoln's 1863 Gettysburg Address.

Go to this website for ideas to celebrate including reading lists.

www.lincolnbicentennial.gov

"The things I want to know are in books. My best friend is the man who'll get me a book I haven't read."

• Abraham Lincoln



(continued from page one)

February 10 is the day to head to Lincoln for the *Nebraska Library Legislative Day* which gives you an opportunity to advocate for your library. Come to coffee in early, Attend a briefing to find out what is happening legislatively, visit with your state senator (having already invited her/him to join you for lunch, and then attend the afternoon session to hear Brian Mikkelsen, Director of Political Activity for the Nebraska Educational Association, how to operate more effectively in the political world. (NLA)

The annual *Summer Reading Program* workshop will be held on February 27 at the Keene Memorial Library in Fremont. Keynote speaker will be Alice Boeckman, from the Bellevue Public Library. ELS is fortunate to have talented children and youth services librarians who come with wonderful ideas to use for crafts and programming this summer. (ELS, NLC)

On March 20, ELS is offering a workshop we have never done before— *Facilities Management*. If you have never had to deal with a disaster, plumbing problem or a leaky roof, or security issues, count yourself lucky. Presenters will be Michael Straatmann and Deb Pearson from UNL along with the director of the Keene Memorial Library, Ann Stephens, and Bob McGuire, who handles all those day-to-day maintenance problems for the library.

The *ELS Annual Meeting* will be held this year at the UNO Thompson Alumni House here in Omaha. We try to make this a fun day as well as an educational one for everyone and this year will be the same. Pat Wagner, Pattern Research, Denver, will talk about ethics and libraries. Pat is never one to let people in the audience just sit there, she involves them in the discussion. — and makes it fun. This is also to give an award to two, say farewell to some of our board members, and welcome new ones. (ELS)

Two other events happening in July are *the Roadtrip to ALA in Chicago*. Board a chartered bus in Lincoln or Omaha and get off in Chicago with no driving or parking worries. July 9 to 14 are the dates. (NRLS, NLC)

And finally, the 5th *Nebraska Library Leadership Institute* will be held at St. Benedict's outside Schuyler from July 20-24. Sponsored by the Regional Library Systems with funding from the Nebraska Library Commission, the goal of this event is to provide the knowledge and skills to become a library leader.

It is a challenge to try to keep pace with today's rapidly expanding knowledge base and technical innovations; attending continuing education workshops and training is one way to keep current plus have the added benefit of networking with your peers.

Check the Eastern Library System web page regularly at www.elsne.org for more information or call me at 402-330-7884 / 800-307-7884 for more information.

Ethical Decision Making

Librarians often have to make a professional judgment call as to what is ethical. This may concern intellectual freedom, privacy, policies, or even who can use the library.

The American Library Association has adopted a Code of Ethics that every librarian should read. The principles of the code are written in broad statements to guide ethical decision making. If you don't already have a copy, you should; it is available at the ALA web site or call the ELS office for a copy.

Mark your calendar for June 12 when Pat Wagner of Pattern Research, Denver, will be addressing the topic of ethics at our Annual Meeting. It should be an very information and interesting presentation. Pat never just presents while you listen, she engages the audience.



What Would You Do?

A professor places materials on reserve for his students and demands the librarian at the circulation desk tell him what students have checked out the materials?

A public librarian receives a call from the local school demanding to know what student had a certain book checked out so that the another person at the school could get it.

A transient enters a small public library and proceeds to read the newspapers and use a computer. He is quiet, well-mannered, and not causing a problem in any way. A local policeman comes in and demands the transient leave. The director explains the man has not caused a problem. The policeman pays not attention and the man is ushered from the library and told to leave town.

These are true situations, now what would you do?

Trustees and Library Advocates



Here is a way to advocate for libraries and earn some continuing education credit for library board certification.

Many Nebraska librarians, staff, boards and others participated in either the Nebraska Libraries Future Search conference, or in focus groups for the conference. We certainly want to keep the conversation going and provide follow-up information on some of the ideas that have come out of that conference. So, the Nebraska Regional Library Systems will share a topic bi-monthly based on 12 Vision Statements from that 2008 conference. **If you want to use these for conversations with library boards, friends, or your community that would be a way to ensure the discussion continues. Nebraska Library Commission will provide continuing education credits including for library trustees if you put it on the agenda and discuss during a board meeting.** A series of questions and activities to choose from in helping initiate the conversation are listed below the vision statement. We suggest choosing at least two questions and two activities, however you can choose as many, or all – and utilize throughout 2009, as a way of continuing the Nebraska Libraries Future Search discussion.

Vision statement to consider: The library is a vital hub, woven into the fabric of the greater community, responding to and empowering people through local and global connections.

Questions:

- Talk about ways your library is a hub within the community, or services that might reflect the library's involvement in the community as a whole locally and beyond.
- Let's say a newspaper wants to do a story on the library and the role it plays in the community, what would you list? Provide examples of how library services impact library customers in their day to day lives. Talk about connections made locally, regionally, statewide and internationally.
- List community and customer needs that are prevalent today. Are there ways library services can assist in responding to those, or perhaps are already responding to?

Library websites are one way of providing access to library services and information around the clock. Two of many are Holdrege Public Library at www.holdregelibrary.com, or Bennington Public Library at <http://library.bennington-ne.com/> where the possibility to chat or blog is available anytime. Libraries are also investigating the use of kiosks, or mall locations where the library is placed where people tend to congregate. Connecting the library to customers with particular needs such as ESL or finding a job, and

partnering with organizations like a literacy council or Nebraska Workforce are examples of services provided as a direct response to a particular need while collaborating to make the most of community wide resources. List outreach services your library provides, or might consider developing, or partnerships with other organizations that reinforce the library as THE community center – the place that will “connect” individuals with product in response to customer need or desire, within or outside the walls of the library during the hours the library is open or closed.

Activities:

Nebraska libraries include the Library Bill of Rights as part of policy which lists service to all people of the community not restricting access based on origin, age, background or views. Review the Library Bill of Rights at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybillrights.cfm>.

Veronda Pitchford, of the Urban Libraries Council, was the speaker at the Fall Colloquium October 2008. Their publication: *Welcome, Stranger: Public Libraries Build the Global Village* is a great resource for libraries of all types for strategies in welcoming and helping immigrants in transitions into the community. It also provides information on the major role libraries provide in this process. You can find copies of this publication to borrow, 17 pages, as well as the 25 page toolkit at the Nebraska Regional Library Systems' offices and the Nebraska Library Commission, or on the Urban Libraries Council website: <http://www.urbanlibraries.org/publications/print.html>. Review and discuss for insight in successfully serving a growing constituent in Nebraska.

Nebraska Regional Library Systems and Nebraska Library Commission have copies of Kathleen de la Pena McCook's book: *A Place at the Table: Participating in Community Building*. It outlines methods for ensuring that librarians are a part of community discussions, planning and problem solving with tools for strengthening community partnerships and connections while promoting the library's assets. Use the book to begin discussion for building community collaboration and empowerment through library services and involvement. Or take a look online at McCook's - A Librarian At the Kitchen Table - <http://www.urbanlibraries.org/publications/print.html>. The blog provides great articles for discussion and consideration, as well as timely information on libraries building community in a variety of settings.

Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community by Robert D. Putnam was a national bestseller and provided provocative ideas on social change focusing on American behavior increasingly disconnecting from each other and social structures. Listen to an interview with Professor Putnam on NPR's All Things Considered: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1074874>. Listen as a group and use for discussion. What do you agree or disagree with? This program and book were published in 2000, how are things different or the same in 2009? For more information on the book or Putnam go to: <http://www.bowlingalone.com/>.

System News

Snyder Public Library

Betty Niewohner, director, is thrilled to announce that their library was chosen as one of forty in the nation to host “Visions of the Universe: Four Centuries of Discovery.” The American Library Association (ALA), in cooperation with the [Space Telescope Science Institute](#) (STScI) Office of Public Outreach, Baltimore, Maryland, and the [Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory](#) (SAO), Cambridge, Massachusetts, invited public libraries to apply for a national tour to 40 sites with a traveling exhibition to mark the International Year of Astronomy (IYA) in 2009. The exhibit will travel from January 2009 through December 2010. The project will be in Snyder from approximately January 21—end of February. The exhibit illustrates 400 years of growth in our knowledge of not just planets, stars, nebulae, and galaxies, but also the size and scale of the universe in both space and time. They are planning tours of the exhibit from schools, nursing homes, families with children, and anyone who is interested. The “Visions” is open Saturday 9-12 and Sunday 11-3. Call to schedule an appointment any time—402-568-2570 or 402-372-3610.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has provided major funding for the exhibit. Exhibit sponsors were especially interested in receiving applications from public libraries in small towns and rural areas that have limited access to NASA resources, as well as from public libraries in larger population centers. All libraries on the tour receive \$500 programming support stipends and \$250 collection development stipends.

Tekamah Public Library

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development has awarded \$100,000 to the Tekamah library. A total of 1.3 million dollars went to 12 Nebraska municipalities, including the Tobias library and museum and the Bancroft community building, for the development or improvement of civic, cultural, and convention centers.

The Tekamah library is planning an addition and the Tekamah-Herman elementary school is helping the by holding a coin drive from February 11-20. They are hoping to collect enough money to purchase a \$100 brick that will be used in the new addition.

&

The library will be holding their first-ever Winter Reading Program from February 4-March 28.

Omaha Public Schools

Congratulations to Kelly Arbuckle, media specialist at the McMillan Middle school.



Kelly completed National Boards for Professional Teaching Certification in the area of Library Media K-12 in November. Kelly said, “I worked with a cohort at UNO that helped me tremendously. Certification is a process that usually takes several years and submissions. I feel very grateful to those who assisted me to achieve certification the first year. I believe that the people I worked with at UNO and the teachers I collaborated with at my school really helped me succeed.”

Gail Formanack, supervisor of library services at OPS—“is very proud to have a nationally certified member on its team.”

Fremont—Cathy McMahon is the new children’s librarian at the Keene Memorial Library.

WELCOME

Yutan—The new library director at the Yutan Public Library is Nicole Irvin.

Thank You

To all who participated in the ELS Book Fair at Barnes and Noble the Saturday after Thanksgiving. We received \$355 in cash and gift cards as a result of your purchases.

A special thanks to our story-tellers, Gayle Roberts, Blair Public Library and Sandy Belfi, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion

Meadows Elementary School, Ralston

The Nebraska Department of education and the Quest Foundation presented \$10,000 grants to four Nebraska teachers who submitted their good ideas to the foundation this year. Diane Adams, media specialist at Meadows school, will use interactive whiteboards and other electronic tools to improve vocabulary and reading.



Cheers from Rwanda!

Dean Jacobs, who spoke at an ELS annual meeting several years ago and is “traveling the world,” is now in Rwanda working with the Dian Fossey Gorilla Project. He will be there for another six months. He encourages you to go to these websites.....
www.travel4life.org and www.gorillafund.org and look at the photos and read the information on this project and others. Dean is a great photographer. Here is one of his many pictures.



Grants Awarded

The Eastern Library System awarded the following Adult and Children’s Services Grants:

- Wahoo Public Library - Freedom to Read project. Partnering with the Saunders County Correctional Center, they will provide resources and library materials to those incarcerated.
- Bennington Public Library - The library will subscribe to “Overdrive,” downloadable audio books.
- Bennington PL - Great Early Elementary Reads - beginning reading material for an increased number of young readers
- Springfield Memorial Library - Poetry and Prints - a program of creative writing and print making for junior high youth.

Sump Memorial Library, Papillion, is going to improve their signage and lighting according to director, Robin Clark.

Director Karla Schaffer, **Hooper Public Library**, is excited as progress is being made on creating a teen and gaming space in the library. They received a Youth Grant for Excellence from NLC. Their Friends group also held a Read-a-Thon to fund their “Books to Babies” project.

The Baright Public Library, Ralston, is hosting an “Intro to Screenwriting Designed for High School Students and Teachers” program on February 4. Director Francine Canfield reports that now the library will have an appointed library board; Ralston has been the only public library in the state with an elected board.

The **Bennington Public Library** is looking forward to adding downloadable audio books to their services with the installation of Overdrive. This service was made possible with a grant from ELS.

Denise Lawver, director of the **Wahoo Public Library**, says the library has installed a new security program and thinks enough funding has been raised to install an elevator to the lower level of the library so it can be used in the future.

The **Blair Public Library Friends** hosted a dinner for their city council members and guests at the library to give everyone a chance to see what the library has to offer and also how crowded it is getting. Ruth Peterson, director, reports the library is developing a Toy Library.

Ceresco Community Library is offering a variety of classes on Saturday have been enthusiastically received.

Todd Schlechte, director of the **Gretna Public Library**, reports that the return rate from a feasibility study in regard to a new library building was very good. Seventy-five percent of the responses said that either a new building was urgent or necessary.

LaVista Public Library has added six new computers to their children’s area. Director Rose Iwan says they are a welcome addition.

One of **Springfield Public Library’s** after school programs that has been very popular is “Fit and Read.” Director Connie Manzer also said the library has been notified that it will receive the Pictures in American exhibit.

New titles have been added to the Book Club Kits thanks to a bequest to the **Bellevue Public Library**. Libraries in ELS can check this out at <www.bellevuelibrary.org/adultserv.htm>. Lupe Mier, director, is pleased that a group is working on establishing a Friends of the Library.

Worth Checking Out

Extra Dewey Books

Becky Sims, director of the Thomas S. Power Library, Offutt Air Base, has three extra copies of *Dewey: The Small Town Library Cat Who Touched the World*, by Vicki Myron and Bret Witter, that she will loan out to libraries who want to use it for a book club. Send your request to Becky Sims, 402-294-5276; <rebecca.sims@offutt.af.mil>.

Public Library Accreditation

Each year the Nebraska Library Commission accredits approximately one-third of the public libraries in the state. Guidelines for accreditation were established over 20 years ago to “assist and support improvements in Nebraska public library services.” Libraries are accredited every three years on three levels based on the number of guidelines the library meets. Accredited libraries receive state aid from NLC; libraries accredited at a higher level receive more state aid dollars.

- Essential — 26 out of 30 guidelines
- Enhanced — all of the of the essential guidelines plus 18 out of 20 additional guidelines
- Excellent —all of the above guidelines plus 14 more guidelines

This year Bancroft Public Library and the Wahoo Public Library were accredited at the Essential level. Keene Memorial Library, Fremont, and Springfield Memorial Library received the Enhanced level of accreditation.

Congratulations!

Web Sites

At the *ELS Technology In the Digital Age* workshop held last month, instructors Karen Hein, Gayle Roberts, and John Seyfarth introduced several cool tech tools that are fun and useful to use. Try them and see what you think.

- Animoto - animoto.com - Create short videos

for hosting on the web

- Weebly - www.weebly.com - Web page and Blog creation
- Wordle - www.wordle.com - Word art plus crossword puzzles, letterheads, etc.
- Dafont - www.dafont.com - Lots of different fun fonts

Meeting Scheduler Helpers

- Doodle - doodle.com
- Congregar - www.congregar.com/create
- ScheduleOnce - www.scheduleonce.com

News From CHIRS

The Consumer Health Information Resource Service (CHIRS) has a free display you may have in your library to highlight your health information service in your library or at a local health fair. The displays have already been reserved for two community health events in Nebraska, and they are available for your community too. You can request the display by filling out the form on this page: <http://appl.unmc.edu/forms/library/displayform.cfm>, or call Teresa Hartman at 402-559-7075.

Good Books Sites

Even librarians need suggestions of good books to read. Here are two web sites with recommendations.

goodreads - www.goodreads.com - Here you can see what others are reading, keep track of what you have read, and check out the different popular lists such as Best Books Ever, Best Books in the 20th Century, Best Historical Books, Best Young Adult Novels, as well as The Worst Books of All Times.

Nebraska Public Radio - www.npr.org/ Click on books and you will find recommendations from book sellers, Nancy Pearl, critic Maureen Corrigan, Five Books to give this Year, plus comments from other readers.

Librarian is one of 30 best careers for 2009 according to U.S. News, but we already knew that, didn't we?

Upcoming Events

February 2-6 - Theresa Dickson Workshops see webpage www.elsne.org)

February 10 - Legislative Day, Lincoln
[Registration Form](#)

February 13 - Soaring to Excellence: Targeting the Ages: Programming that Hits the Mark. To register go to www.nlc.state.ne.us and search on the training calendar by using DuPage

February 13—ELS Board Meeting, Kripke Jewish Federation Library, Omaha—9:30 am

February 27 - Summer Reading Workshop, Keene Memorial Library, Fremont (see flyer on webpage www.elsne.org)

March 1-3—MPLA, Wichita
March 20—Facilities Management Workshop, Keene Memorial Library, Fremont—time TBA

April 3—Soaring to Excellence: Library Challenges & Opportunities: Diversity Beyond the Obvious. To register go to www.nlc.state.ne.us and search on the training calendar by using DuPage

April 10—ELS Board Meeting, Buffet Middle School, Omaha—9:30 am

April 16—Soaring to Excellence: an Ounce of Prevention: Health Reference Basics. To register go to www.nlc.state.ne.us and search on the training calendar by using DuPage

April 17, 24 & May 1—Basic Skills, Gretna Public Library

April 18—Media Specialist Day, UNO

June 12—ELS Annual Meeting, UNO

July 9-15, 2009-American Library Association 2009 Conference, Chicago <http://www.ala.org/ala/conferenceevents/upcoming/annual/index.cfm>

July 20-24—Nebraska Library Leadership Institute

What's Up Doc is a Blog

Times change, new technologies come along, and we use them to (hopefully) improve our services. *What's up Doc?*, our bimonthly newsletter listing state and federal publications received at the Library Commission, has gone 2.0! Sometimes doing something new means stopping doing something the old way. The print *What's Up Doc* will cease publication with the November/December 2008 issue. The 2008 annual compilation of state documents will also be published soon. A new *What's Up Doc* was launched as a blog in September 2008, and is accessible at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/whatsupdoc>

The new *Doc* features all of the information provided in the old *Doc*, and more. Blog format allows us to post lists of newly received publications, make announcements about state e-pubs that we have downloaded to our server, and blog about "documents in the news" more frequently than was possible with the bimonthly compilation. The publications lists include OCLC catalog numbers and hotlinks to downloaded copies of documents that any library can use to add them to their catalogs.

Doc is also broadening in scope to feature updates about other projects documents staff are involved with: Nebraska Memories, collaborative digitization projects, scanning materials from the NLC Archives, information services, etc.

We welcome feedback and comments about the new *What's Up Doc*—pros and cons of making the change, need for future annual state docs compilations, comments on news postings, etc. Would you like to write a news article for us to post? How about using the blog to comment! Or contact Beth Goble, Government Information Services Director 402-471-4017 email bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us.

To sign up for *What's Up Doc* via RSS go to the site and click on the RSS link.

Nebraska Library Association Scholarship Opportunities

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org>

Would you like to attend graduate classes or training to increase your library skills? Here's your opportunity to apply for financial assistance. These links include information on the Louise A. Nixon Scholarship (\$1,000.00) and the Duane Munson Scholarship (\$250.00). The application deadline is **April 15th** of the current year.

Louise A. Nixon Scholarship

Louise A. Nixon (1897-1989) worked constantly to enlighten the legislature about Nebraska's libraries' needs. She served as Assistant Director of the Nebraska Legislative Reference Bureau and as Legislative Council Librarian. Louise Nixon was head of the Nebraska Library Commission from 1950 to 1969. When federal funds were made available, she initiated bookmobile demonstration projects; public library construction; extension services; services to institutional residents and the physically challenged; and an inter-library communication network. Our lives have been enriched by her openminded, conscientious dedication to building library service in this state.

When Nixon reflected on her life for the Lincoln Journal, the paper wrote, "There is no single figure of greater 20th century significance in developing Nebraska's contemporary system of community libraries – facilities, collections, trained personnel, cooperative networking."

This scholarship was established to help each recipient reach for Nixon's goals of dedication and vision.

Recipients will be announced in May.

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/nixonschol.htm>

Duane Munson Scholarship

Duane Munson, a well-known bookseller from Columbus, has been a long-time leader and solid supporter of library and educational activity in Nebraska. He desires to share his good fortune jointly with the NLA and NEMA communities. Munson has personally sponsored this scholarship since 1991.

Recipients will be announced in May.

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/munsonschol.htm>

Talking Book Advisory Committee Seeks Nominees

One vacancy currently exists on the Advisory Committee to the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service. The purpose of the committee is to represent the needs of talking book and Braille borrowers and to make recommendations concerning library policies, services, and programs. Membership consists primarily of library users but may include librarians, educators, health care providers, and others who understand the needs of individuals with disabilities. The committee normally meets twice a year.

The Talking Book and Braille Service provides free talking books, magazines, playback equipment, and Braille to any resident of Nebraska who cannot see regular print, or hold a book, or turn its pages. Persons interested in serving on the committee should contact Talking Book and Braille Service, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023 by March 1, 2009. Phone: 402-471-4038 or 800-742-7691, fax: 402-471-6244, e-mail: talking-book@nlc.state.ne.us.

National Library Week April 12-18, 2009



The 2009 National Library Week theme is "Worlds connect @ your library." Materials focusing on the theme can be downloaded from the American Library Association—www.ala.org/nlw.

Posters, bookmarks, luggage tags, banners and buttons can be purchased through the ALA store at www.alastore.ala.org.

Resources For Youth Services Librarians & Media Specialists

Public Libraries Awarded 2008 Youth Grants for Excellence

Nebraska Library Commission awarded almost \$40,000 grants to 25 public libraries and to the Eastern and South-east Library Systems. Congratulations to all!

Atkinson Public Library - "Stepping Into Reading Success" \$1,800

Battle Creek Public Library - "Golden Opportunities with Golden Sowers" \$ 670

Beatrice Public Library - "Children's Spaces and Programs to Facilitate Play, Reading, Learning & Creativity" \$4,500

Bennington Public Library - "Children Become Published Authors" \$1,744

Blair Public Library—"Educational Resource Collection/Toy Library" \$2,500

Central City Public Library - "Pirates and Pineapples" and "Downright Good Writing!" \$ 697

Fairfield Public Library - "Books for Young Adults" \$250

Hastings Public Library- "Día de los Niños, Día de los Libros" \$3,330

Hooper Public Library- "Time for Teens" \$4,200

Kearney Public Library- "Express Yourself Graphically @ Kearney PL" \$2,523

Neligh Public Library- "Totes for Tots" \$750

Norfolk Public Library - "Reader's Theater Company" \$1,410

Osmond Public Library- "YA Audio Collection" \$ 250

Lied Pierce Public Library - "Creativity at your library" \$ 750

House Memorial Library, Pender- "Solve the Mystery! Join the 39 Clues Club @ your library!" \$1,300

Ponca Carnegie Library - "Book Banquet" \$1,525

Lied Randolph Public Library - "Explore the Arts" \$1,494

Scottsbluff Public Library, #1- "Teen Technology Grant" \$782

Scottsbluff Public Library, #2 - "Cradle Catchers" \$ 450

South Sioux City Public Library - "Infant & Toddler Story Time" \$600

Springfield Memorial Library—"ART Bags" \$455

Stromsburg Public Library - "Youth Gaming @ the Library" \$809

Tekamah Carnegie Public Library, #1- "Play Date at the Library" \$800

Tekamah Carnegie Public Library, #2- "Video Game Nights for Teens" \$831

Wahoo Public Library—"Be Creative @ your library" \$750

John A. Stahl Library, West Point—"Teen Creativity in the Library" \$750

Kilgore Memorial Library, York - "Art: Up, Down & All Around" \$2,630

ELS & SELS - "Youth Services Retreat" \$700

New Book Bag Titles Available for Loan

DuPrau, Jeanne - *The City of Ember*

Giles, Gail - *Shattering Glass*

Klages, Ellen - *The Green Glass Sea* (new One Book for Nebraska Kids)

Pfeffer, Susan - *Life as We Knew It*

Schusterman, Neal - *Dread Lock: Dark Vision #1*

Call or email the system office to reserve any of these new book sets to use with your book discussion groups.

National Puzzle Day

January 29 is National Puzzle Day. You can print and distribute Hidden Pictures® on

<www.highlightskids.com/Games and Giggles/Archive/hpTopArchive.asp> or bookmark the page for kids to play. [Seen in *Library Sparks*, January 2009]

School Library Journal publishes a free electronic newsletter for teens twice a month. Sign up at <www.slj.com.teen>. Click on "newsletter subscriptions" in the top right corner of the page.

Each issue includes:

- current recommendations for books, film, graphic novels, games and anime
- technology discussions
- teen consumer information
- YA author interviews

[Seen in *CKLS Post*, November-December 2008]

Citation Aid

EasyBib Write Smarter is a free online service that helps students properly cite research sources. The application offers citation assistance for more than 50 styles of resources and supports NLA aids APA formatting. users fill out a form with relevant information about the source, and EasyBIB formats and alphabetizes citations for online viewing or exporting to Word. [Seen in *American Libraries*, November 2008]

Series Made Simple is a new guide to the latest series nonfiction. This supplement to *School Library Journal* covers new series published between June 2008 and early 2009. If you would like to interlibrary loan this resource, call or email the system office.

Great Web Sites for Children

[The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC)]

- ☺ Adolescent Literacy - www.adlit.org
- ☺ Bob the Builder - www.bobthebuilder.com/usa/intro.html
- ☺ Career Information for Kids - <http://www.bls.gov/k12/>
- ☺ The Children's Book Review - www.thechildrensbookreview.com
- ☺ Exploring Nature Educational Resource - www.exploringnature.org
- ☺ The Federal Communications Commission Kids Zone - www.fcc.gov/cgb/kidszone
- ☺ GoGooligans - www.gogooligans.com
- ☺ The Harry Potter Lexicon - www.hp-lexicon.org
- ☺ Leading to Reading - www.rif.org/leadingtoreading/en/
- ☺ Nutrition Explorations: Kids - www.nutritionexplorations.com/kids/main.asp
- ☺ The Road to the Capitol/National Mock Election - www.nationalmockelection.org/game/
- ☺ Vicki Cobb's Science Page - www.vickicobb.com
- ☺ We Shall Overcome Historic Places of the Civil Rights Movement National Register Travel Itinerary - www.nps.gov/history/NR/travel/civilrights
- ☺ Ziggity Zoom - www.ziggityzoom.com
- ☺ ZOOM by Kids, for Kids! - <http://pbskids.org/zoom/help/contact/general.html>

The Big Read

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, announces the fifth deadline for "The Big Read," whose purpose is to revitalize the role of literature in American popular cultures.



Grants ranging from \$2,500-\$20,000 are available to encourage local communities to inspire reading by developing and carrying out programming revolving around a single work of literature. Programming must be conducted between September 2009 and June 2010. Applications are due: February 3, 2009, so hurry.

To look at the application process go to: http://www.neabigread.org/application_process.php Questions can be directed to Arts Midwest at 612-238-8010 or email—TheBigRead@artsmidwest.org.

The next CLICK meeting will be held at the Wahoo Public Library on April 3, 2009, 9:30 am. We will be discussing policies relating to children in the library. If you have policies bring them along.

They can relate to internet usage, behavior, parental responsibility vs. library staff responsibility or any other type of situation that would best be dealt with by having a policy already in place.

Current members of the NLA C&U are invited to submit proposals for the Professional Development Grant made available by C&U. Funding is available to support members to attend conferences or meetings related to library profession, who otherwise would be unable to travel because of financial limitation.

Application Deadline:

January 30, 2009 for the spring applications

Please contact members of the NLA C&U Awards and Grants Committee if you have any questions: Shaista Wahab (swahab@unomaha.edu); Michael Straatmann (mstraatmann@unl.edu) and Rene Erlandson (rerlandson@unomaha.edu)

Application Form and additional information available at:

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/cu/awardsandgrants/grants/profdev/guidelines.htm>

FYI

One Book One Nebraska 2009 invites citizens across the state to read *A Lantern in Her Hand*, by Nebraska author Bess Streeter Aldrich. [The Nebraska Center for the Book board selected *A Lantern in Her Hand*](#), a classic story of a pioneer woman who withstands the adversity of existence on the prairie to triumph in the joy of everyday life. Libraries across Nebraska are encouraged to join other literary and cultural organizations in planning for 2009 activities and events that will encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this story. Support materials to assist with reading/discussion activities will be distributed in early 2009. See the Library Commission Blog, http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/NLC/books_reading for an ongoing discussion of library tools and programming ideas for One Book One Nebraska 2009.

One Book One Nebraska 2009 is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska Library Commission, and the University of Nebraska Press. This year the reading celebration is hosted by the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation, www.bessstreeteraldrich.org. The Foundation will sponsor activities throughout the year to help highlight One Book One Nebraska, including:

Short Story Contest (<http://www.bessstreeteraldrich.org/contest.html>) for Nebraska authors (Adult, High School, and Middle School). Prizes will be awarded for original stories to winners in each age category. Deadline for submissions: February 17, 2009, Bess Streeter Aldrich's birthday.

- February 15, 2009: Bess Streeter Aldrich Birthday Celebration and Open House at the Bess Streeter Aldrich House, 204 East F Street, Elmwood, Nebraska to kick-off the yearlong celebration of **One Book One Nebraska 2009: Nebraska Reads *A Lantern in Her Hand***.

- April 18, 2009: Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation Spring Banquet will feature Carol Miles Petersen's presentation of Bess Streeter Aldrich's story behind *A Lantern in Her Hand*. The winners of the Aldrich short story contest will be honored at the banquet.

- A Summer Outdoor Event will highlight the beauty of the yard and garden of the historic Aldrich home.

- Bess Streeter Aldrich Remembrance Day will be held in the fall. This day will be dedicated to celebrating the author's life.

The Journey into Christmas holiday event closes the year's activities, with the Aldrich House decorated for the holidays and open every Saturday and Sunday in December.

As part of the One Book One Nebraska celebration, the Foundation will also work with Nebraska Library Commission staff in a cooperative effort to digitize Aldrich-related materials and photographs of artifacts. They will make them available via the Internet through the Commission's *Nebraska Memories* online searchable database.

Additional resources for **One Book One Nebraska 2009: Nebraska Reads *A Lantern in Her Hand*** are in development and will be available January 1, 2009, including:

- Book Club Kit, with discussion questions, book bags and books (courtesy University of Nebraska Press) for libraries to borrow, and suggested resources.

Website, as part of the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation site, www.bessstreeteraldrich.org, and linked from <http://www.onebookone-nebraska.org/>.

- Press kit, including news release, downloadable poster, Governor's Proclamation, and other materials.

Access to special library-discount pricing on books from University of Nebraska Press at <http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/pages/OneBookOneNebraska.aspx>

- Support for programming from the Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC), including:

- Carol Miles Petersen is available through the NHC Speakers Bureau for her program, "Bess Streeter Aldrich: Biography." This talk by Petersen is not a living history or Chautauqua-style presentation. See the NHC website, www.nebraskahumanities.org/speakers/speakerscat.html, for information and steps to apply. A description of her program follows:

Bess Streeter Aldrich: Biography, by Carol Miles Petersen. Petersen, Bess Streeter Aldrich's biographer, explores the writer's life and career in this program. From 1899 to 1950, Aldrich wrote and sold more than one hundred short stories. Through books that depict rural life, she also recorded the cultural and historic heritage of Nebraska.

- Other Speakers Bureau programs are available on pioneer life and the westward migration. Some of these are Chautauqua-style.

A Video History of Bess Streeter Aldrich. Biography of native-Nebraska author Bess Streeter Aldrich. NHC videos are housed at the Nebraska Library Commission. To order videos directly from the Library Commission Reference Services, contact ready@nlc.state.ne.us, 402-471-4019, 800-307-2665.

Libraries, schools, and nonprofit organizations are welcome to apply for NHC mini and major grants to help support local **One Book One Nebraska 2009** programming at <http://www.nebraskahumanities.org/speakers/hrceligibility.html>.

Librarians have always known that books and reading connect people across time and place. In a rapidly accelerating trend, libraries in Nebraska have brought their communities together through literature by hosting community-wide reading programs. We look forward to this same kind of overwhelming response to One Book One Nebraska 2009. For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us.

Eastern Library System Board Minutes

Keene Memorial Library, Fremont December 12, 2008

Board Members: John Seyfarth, Jan Therien, Robin Bernstein, Mary Jo Mack, Joyce (Keber) Neujahr, Scott Berryman, Gayle Roberts, Denise Lawver, Rosa Schmidt, Lowen Kruse, Kathleen Tooker, Nancy Meyer, Marie Reidelbach
***Alternates*:** Dorothy Willis, Barbara Dean

The meeting was called to order by President, John Seyfarth. Introductions were made including the following guests: Jan Boyer, representing the State Advisory Council, Charles Gordon, Commissioner and Trustee for Keene Memorial Library, Robin Clark, Sump Public Library Director, and Ann Stephens, Keene Memorial Public Library

Rosa Schmidt made a motion to approve the October 10, 2008, minutes, Denise Lawver seconded. Motion carried.

The October and November 2008 treasurer's reports were distributed and filed for audit.

Kathy Tooker shared receiving a thank you from Ann Stephens for speaking at a Fremont Rotary Club meeting in support of a county tax. Also she received a thank you for providing an apron as a raffle item from ELS.

Administrator's Report: See written report

Jan Boyer presented a report of the State Advisory Council which met on November 14, 2008. Rod Wagner reported that funding for LSTA will probably be based on the previous year. The council supports the Nebraska Library Commission's application for a Librarian for the 21st Century grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The council will serve in an advisory capacity. A "connectivity" initiative from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is underway which includes a cash commitment. The Nebraska Library Association annual meeting was very successful. However, concerns regarding the electronic election were discussed including the site being down and not receiving notification about how to vote. A Future Search wiki has been established. Pat Gross, Gering High School, will be the new chair of the State Advisory Council in 2009. Theresa Jehlik, Diana Johnson, Becky Pasco, and Jan Boyer have completed their terms. Next meeting - March.

Charles Gordon provided the Nebraska Library Commission Report. He encouraged those interested to attend their open meetings to hear about the activities of the commission.

Committee Reports:

Continuing Education – Denise Lawver shared that the committee had reviewed nine grants and selected four to receive \$500 each.

Nominating – No report. Will meet via email.

Technology – John Seyfarth shared the "Technology in the Digital Age" workshop held on December 5 was a success receiving positive evaluations. A workshop on "Building Computers – Hardware Confidence" is in the works.

Fundraising – The committee will meet January 9th to explore several fundraising activities.

Advocacy – Scott Berryman invited all State Senators to accompany their public librarian for lunch today. Unfortunately no one was able to make it, but it was a good first time effort. They will explore other activities for Legislative Day. Lowen Kruse encouraged everyone to stay in contact with their Senators and supported using email to contact them. Also he suggested sharing information with their Legislative Assistants.

New Business:

1. Kathy shared that a new alternate to replace Sally Payne was needed. Marie Reidelbach nominated Sam McMullen and Jan Therien seconded. The appointment was approved.

2. A copy of the Eastern Library System Audit Report for the FY 2007-2008, was distributed. Jan Therien made a motion to approve the audit report, Robin Bernstein seconded. Motion carried.

3. Personal Policy Review will be reviewed initially by: Dorothy Willis, John Seyfarth, and Marie Reidelbach.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2008, at the Jewish Community Center at 132nd and Dodge.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Marie Reidelbach, Secretary
of the Eastern Library System Board.



Eastern Library System Summer Reading Workshop 2009

February 27, 2009
Keene Memorial Library
1030 North Broad Street, Fremont

9:00-9:30 am Registration and morning coffee and goodies

9:30-Noon Alice Boeckman, Bellevue Public Library, will be presenting a variety of ideas that can be used by libraries of about any size—with ideas for everyone from babies to teens. She will highlight the following:

- Music
- Acting
- Puppets
- Creative writing
- Dance
- Visual Arts
- Nature Arts

Noon– 12:45 Lunch

12:45-1:45 Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission: Hop on the Reading Express to see the Best Books for 2009

1:45-2:00 Break

2:00-3:30 Share Time - This is your time to share ONE book, craft, program or other idea you have already in the works.

Please bring 40 copies of your ideas/bibliography.

Cost: \$15 (checks to ELS) which includes lunch - 6 CE credits

Send your registration by February 20th—

*****PLEASE send your registration on time. You may pay at door but please indicate that on your registration and mail or fax it as soon as possible.**

Name _____

Library _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Send to: Eastern Library System, 11929 Elm Suite 12, Omaha, NE 68144

Snow date is
March 6th. If the
weather looks bad
on the 27th please
call the office -
330-7884.