

March /
April
2008

Eastern Express

The Newsletter of the Eastern Library System

From the Administrator

by Kathy Tooker

Nebraska Library Legislative Day
by Lynn Koserski

On Tuesday, February 12, I attended the Nebraska Library Association Legislative Day in Lincoln. The day began with breakfast in the capitol building. After breakfast, we walked a few blocks to the Lincoln Woman's Club for a short briefing on the legislative bills effecting libraries that are before the current unicameral. Mr. Ken Winston, a lobbyist, gave a brief overview of each bill and its current status.

After the meeting, I had time to go back to the capitol and take a short visit to the State Law Library. Lunch was at the Cornhusker Hotel. I got to have lunch with two senators, Sen. Aguilar and Sen. Lautenbaugh.

They were at the luncheon to present certificate of honor to library volunteers from their districts, as were other senators. After lunch, I attended the afternoon session with former senator Dave Landis. He gave a very interesting talk entitled: Political Influence: What Librarians Need to Know. It was very interesting, we played legislative poker (poker with a stacked deck) and he explained the 10 political strategies for influence. He said librarians tend to fight according to the Marquise of Queensbury Rules were as everyone else is there for a knife fight. Librarians are the "how a bill becomes a law" kind of people; we tend to follow the rules and don't understand those who don't. Sen. Landis was very enter-

taining, he received a standing ovation. I met two librarians from the York Public library system and they were quite interested in what I do as a reference librarian. They lamented the lack of money for books and the "it's all on line" mentality of the budget process. I enjoyed the day very much and thank the Nebraska Chapter of the Special Libraries Association for giving me the opportunity to attend.

Lynn is the Reference Coordinator at the Kutak Rock Law firm in Omaha. She is also the government Relations Specialist for the Nebraska Chapter of the Special Library Association.

**There were 146 librarians, Friends, and library supporters at the 2008 Library Legislative Day and that includes 33 Nebraska State Senators. If you have never attended, consider it for 2009.*



Senator Scott Lautenbaugh and Edith Solomon, honored volunteer at Otte Middle School in Blair

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The *Eastern Express* is available online 6 times per year.

- Jan/Feb
- Mar/Apr
- May/June
- Aug/Sept
- Nov/Dec

ELS Website
<http://www.elsne.org>

Be sure to check out the ELS website often. You will find workshops and events plus all of the equipment and materials we have available for loan plus information and opportunities you don't want to miss.

Lots of things are happening this Spring. The **Spring Fling - April 4th** and **Spring Colloquium - April 10th**, plus an **Evening with author, Ben Mickaelsen - April 16th** are all events you don't want to miss. And....the **Annual Meeting is June 22** this year, so mark your calendars now!



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System News

Waterloo

The library has a “Senior Coffee” the last Saturday of each month for those age 55 and older. In February a local and talented musician, Jim Yungbluth, provided music for the seniors with his harmonica. The library hosted “Read With the Cat” in celebration of Dr. Seuss’s birthday with two special “cats” from Elkhorn reading to the children.



Children’s Museum

Judy Andrews, early childhood specialist, will be teaching art programs for babies and toddlers in May. For more information on the classes go to their website—www.com.org. The Children’s Museum is a new member of ELS - WELCOME!

Fremont

The Keene Memorial Library will have their annual book sale from April 4-6 at the city auditorium, 9th and Broad St. The library is using their 2007 Youth Grant for Excellence from NLC to revitalize the baby and toddler play program and fund a new series of workshops for parents and caregivers.

Bellevue University

The Freeman-Lozier library recently hired three new staff members.

- Jeevan KC, from Nepal (part-time circulation assistant)
- Jennifer Sorensen (technical services assistant)
- Sophie Shrestha, from Nepal (part-time circulation assistant)

What is the national dish of Nepal? **The national dish is daal bhaat, boiled rice (bhaat) with a thin lentil sauce (daal), accompanied by curried vegetables (tarkaari) and possibly a dab of pungent pickle (achaar).**

The library will host an open house on Wednesday, April 16th from 2-4 p.m. for National Library Week.

Ralston

The Baright Public Library will be working with other city organizations on a Family/Multicultural Celebration set for April 20th, from 2-5 p.m. The library’s Tai Chi class has 25 enrolled.

Bellevue

The Bellevue Public Library is adapting some space previously used for non-print materials into a teen area.

La Vista

A customer at the La Vista Public Library requested a quilt class so one was started and has had good response. Quilts made have been given to the local police and fire department to distribute.

Wahoo

The Wahoo Public Library is ready to start offering their customers access to downloadable audiobooks through Overdrive. Wahoo Friends of the Library are hosting a Nebraska Humanities Council program on Understanding Family Photos.

Hooper

February was Love @ your library month at the Hooper public Library with a book discussion each week on a different Romance novel.



Oakland

The Oakland Public Library is conducting a survey of all the students in high school. If a student brings the survey back to the library he/she will be entered into a drawing for an MP3 player.

Valley

The Valley Public Library held a “Vote for the Oscar” event that was well received.

North Bend

The North Bend Friends of the Library have committed to building a new (or renovating the existing) library. Carlson West Provondra architects were hired and submitted proposed plans for both a new building and the renovation of the existing Carnegie building. Fund raising began in June of 2007. To date, over \$200,000 has been raised. The committee is currently discussing options for a site of a new building.

 The winner of the Chocolate Basket was Chrystal Dawson from Bellevue University. Many thanks to all who participated in the raffle. Over \$700 was made for ELS programs and services. And thank you to those who donated much of the wonderful contents.



Chrystal & Kathy



Spring Meetings

Attn: NLA C&U Section Members
Please join us for the May 9, 2008 Spring Meeting being held at Bellevue University in Bellevue. The theme for the Spring Meeting is Meeting the Library and Information Needs of Nebraska's Diverse Populations. Keynote Speaker will be Julie Todaro, President of ACRL.

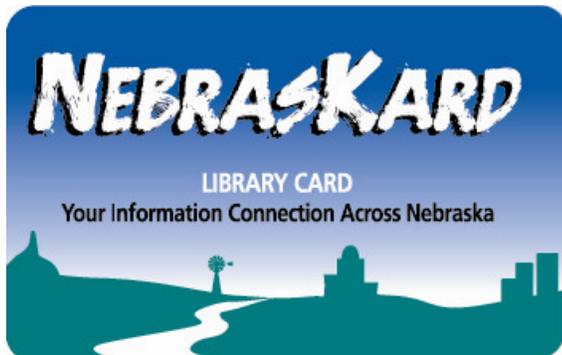
TSRT Spring Meeting - April 25th in Aurora.

The Public Library/Trustee Section and SCYP joint spring meetings:

- May 6th—Sidney
- May 8th—Grand Island
- May 9th—Papillion

For details on the Spring Meetings please visit the NLA web site at

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



Customers Benefit From NebrasKard Reciprocal Borrowing

In July 2001, the Library Commission initiated the voluntary NebrasKard reciprocal borrowing arrangement for Nebraska libraries, through which participating public and academic libraries can permit registered borrowers in good standing to borrow materials from other participating libraries across the state. Nebraska libraries have a long history of sharing resources for mutual benefit and to meet the needs and

interests of their users. The NebrasKard program is an extension of those cooperative resource-sharing efforts.

NebrasKard is designed to benefit library customers who need the convenience of borrowing materials from libraries outside their home communities. Libraries report that many of these individuals either do not have library service in their own community, or that they work, shop, or attend school outside their home community. In 2007, Nebraska libraries reported 956 cards issued—either small keychain cards or stickers for the customers' home library cards. Circulation ranged from one library reporting yearly circulation of more than 4,500 items to another reporting only six items circulated.

For more information about the NebrasKard program, including the policies and procedures, frequently asked questions, and a list of participating libraries, see the Library Commission home page, www.nlc.state.ne.us, and search on NebrasKard. Contact Maria Medrano-Nehls, 402-471-4008 or 800-307-2665; e-mail: mnehls@nlc.state.ne.us to order key chain tags, stickers, and bookmarks.

Nebraska Library Association Scholarship Opportunities

Louise A. Nixon Scholarship - \$1000

Duane Munson Scholarship—\$250

Links for these scholarships can be found on the NLA webpage <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org>. The application deadline for both of these scholarships is April 15th.

College of DuPage Teleconferences

- April 11—Trends, Fads or Folly: Spotting the library trends that really matter
- May 9—Library Challenges and Opportunities into the Future

For more information go the commission's training website—<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp>

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS—THE ELS
ANNUAL MEETING IS COMING ON
JUNE 20TH AT BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY
YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT.**

The Job of a Library Trustee

By Kathleen Tooker

You may have just been appointed by the mayor of your community to be on the library board or recruited by the library director or another trustee. Or, you may have been on the library board for several years and still not feel comfortable in the role of a trustee. Or maybe, you would like to be a trustee as you really like to read.

I sincerely hope you were not told that all you needed to be to be a trustee was attend a meeting once a month, approve the bills, and that it would not take more than an hour. If so, **you** have been sold a bill of goods. Being a library trustee is an important position; you are one of five (usually) people in your community that has the responsibility of seeing that the library serves the information needs of your community, provides programs and services, protects privacy and the freedom to read, and assures equal access for everyone. Still think this sounds like a hour-a-month job?

Trustees need to:

- Believe in public libraries and be willing to stand up for them, even if it is about an unpopular position.
- Be dedicated. Come to meetings prepared by reading all library reports.
- Understand the value of the library to the community and its residents. A library should be the heart of the community.
- Be a leader. This does not mean you have to be a leader on everything, but take your turn.
- Know your library's mission and be committed to it.
- Educate yourself about library issues; acquire knowledge from reading and attending workshops about issues such as Freedom to Read and library ethics. Ask

questions and listen carefully.

- Care about the quality of life in your community and be prepared to take a stand.
- Talk to others about the library, tell what services and programs it provides.
- Look for others who would make good board members; you should not stay on the board for more than two terms.
- Be a library advocate by speaking out for libraries on a local, state, and national level.
- Attend village or city council meetings. The library is an important department that should be represented.
- Be the eyes and ears of the board to the community and report back what you learn to the board and the library director. This can help determine what programs and services would be of benefit.

Now, does this sound like an hour-a-month job? No, but the future of your public library is important enough for library trustees to devote their time and talents to being a good board member. Understand that your role is critical for the future of the library to develop to its full potential.

Remember, libraries can and have changed lives, what could be more important than that?

“Libraries are community treasure chests, loaded with a wealth of information available to everyone equally, and the key to that treasure chest is the library card. I have found that the most valuable thing in my wallet is my library card.” - First Lady Laura Bush

“The public library has been historically a vital instrument of democracy and opportunity in the United States....Our history has been shaped by people who read their way to opportunity and achievements in public libraries.” - Arthur M Schlisinger

Resources For Youth Services Librarians & Media Specialists



Ben Mikaelson Visit

Organized by the Regional Library Systems, the Nebraska Library Commission is bringing children's author Ben Mikaelson to Nebraska for a tour. Ben will be discussing the challenges faced in creating his books at Mahoney State Park, Lee Sapp Riverview Lodge, on April 16th, 7 p.m. There is no charge for attending but you must register by contacting the Southeast Library System, 402-467-6188 / 800-288-6063 or email jennip@alltel.net. For more information go to the ELS web site at www.elsne.org.

Great Sites Just for Kids

The Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association, has a great web site of web sites just for kids. Included are sites on science, math, authors, reading, storytelling, and much more. Go to www.ala.org/greatsites to see if any of these sites should be links on your library web site.

Book Character Costumes

Children's book characters costumes are provided free of charge by the publishers for promotional use only at school, libraries and bookstores. The only cost to you is second-day shipping arranged by Costume Specialists to send the costume to its next event. Shipping for most is \$120 except for Scholastic costumes that are \$60. To view a list of costumes available go to costumespecialists.com/childrens_book_characters.html#. Call 800-596-9457 to reserve a costume.

Non-fiction Bibliography Available

Sharon Osenga, Meridian Library System Administrator, has put together a 10-page bibliog-

raphy of non-fiction titles for ages 11-17. If you would like a copy, go to the ELS web page at www.elsne.org and click on Non-fiction Bibliography found under "information and opportunities." Thanks, Sharon!

New Weeding Site

Many schools and public libraries have used the Sunlink site to help them weed their collections. Sunlink has been discontinued but you can still access back issues at www.sunlink.ucf.edu. Fortunately, the Heinemann Library will now host a site for Weed of the Month. Go to www.heinemannlibrary.com/weed/index.asp to sign up for the mailing list to be notified of each new Weed of the Month topic.

New Book You May Interlibrary Loan

The Bilingual Book of Rhymes, Songs, Stories and Fingerplays by Pam Schiller and others is now available for interlibrary loan from the system office. With over 450 selections, this would be a good resource to introduce the Spanish language into storytimes. Give us a call to borrow this title.

National Library Week

Celebrate National Library Week April 13-19. Tips for organizing and promoting NLW are posted on ALA's web site at www.ala.org/ala/pio/nlw. This year's honorary chairman is Julie Andrews who stars in a series of public service announcements now available to libraries for download from ALA. Just go to the web site given above for more information.

"All the stuff I've learned for boys seem to work for everybody. I'm speaking to that knucklehead in the back of the classroom, because that knucklehead was me."



Children's author Jon Scieszka who was appointed by the Library of Congress as the first National Ambassador of Young People's Literature.

more kids stuff

Intellectual Freedom Brochure

ALSC's Intellectual Freedom Committee has produced *Kids, Know Your Rights! A Young Person's guide to Intellectual Freedom*. This free, four-page brochure can be found at www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscpubs/KidsKnowYourRights.pdf. It is written for kids fifth grade and up and includes a booklist of fiction and nonfiction titles.

April is National Poetry Month

If you have never featured poetry or attempted a poetry activity in your library, let's try it this year. For lots of resources go to: www.teacher.scholastic.com/lessonrepro/k_2theme/poetry.htm



April 22nd is Earth Day

There is a great website with links to other sites about recycling—www.42explore.com/recycle.htm

The next **CLICK** (children and young adult librarians) meeting will be April 18th at the Valley Public Library. We will be singing our hearts out under the direction of Alice Boeckman, Bellevue Public Library, and, hopefully, will learn some songs we can actually use for summer reading and story-times. Please let Frankie at Valley know if you are coming mmk10k@msn.com.



IMPACT! ART EXHIBIT WITH KOOSER THEME

Opening on April 1 and on exhibit through May 15, the work of twenty-eight Nebraska artists come together in a fascinating exhibit of original work with a common element, the poetry of Pulitzer Prize winner and two-term U.S. Poet Laureate, Ted Kooser. Impact! has been around for more than 15 years and includes well recognized artists such as Gib Neal, Carlos Frey, Don Dernovich and Julia Noyes. In this project, each artist chose a poem by Kooser and created an original piece in their particular medium. There are works in acrylic, oil, water color, batik, ceramic, metalwork, collage, glassware and many combinations. Carlos Frey of Wayne chose the poem "Garage Sale" and the descriptions within the poem resulted in a painting of an old man sitting surrounded by those everyday objects he has perhaps spent years collecting, but willing or part with project now is required to them. This was completed and has been traveling since 2006, however not often exhibited in venues in Nebraska. When asked why, member Nicolette Maguire Bonnstetter of Lincoln told a reporter at the Norfolk Arts Center in 2007 that the project is to show the rest of the country "Nebraska does have good artists." Other similar projects with themes such as Games of Life and Nebraska's Impact are being created.

The Kooser exhibit is free and open to the public.

This exhibit is part of the overall theme in programming of the Neihardt Spring Conference on Saturday, April 26; "The Writer and the Plains," exploring the affect the Great Plains has had on the choices of genre and style of several writers. Included are poet Twyla Hansen, author Steve Kinsella, author and performer Tom May, and biographer Nancy Johnson. Wayne State College creative writing professor Lisa Sandlin will be moderator. Contact the Neihardt site for registration information. This exhibit is funded by a grant from the Nebraska Arts Council, without whose support a project of this magnitude would not be possible, nor would site like ours be able to make it available to the general public.

Located at 306 W. Elm Street in Bancroft, Nebraska, the Neihardt State Historic Site is open Mon-Sat 9-5 and Sunday 1:30-5:00 and hosts several such exhibits throughout the year as well as programs and conferences; free and open to the public. For information call 402/648-3388; 1-888-777-4667 or e-mail at Neihardt@gpcom.net. Visit our website at www.neihardtcenter.org.

Worth Checking Out



Available for Interlibrary Loan

Soaring to Excellence: People Watching With a Purpose: Meeting Needs Before they Need It. (DVD)

How many times have you planned and prepared a program or service based on what you thought was a “community need?” And how many of these didn’t quite work out like you thought? Libraries – public, school, and academic—are reimagining their roles in communities, moving beyond the rapidly outdated paradigm of creating services for patrons and students and instead partnering with community members in building meaningful experiences: whether those happen within the library’s walls, on a digital network, or in cultural and political spaces. Taking an “asset-based,” grassroots view, librarians and library educators advocate using a “community informatics” model toward library services, where significant—even delightful—engagement can happen. In this program, the paradigm shift is discussed, why it’s so necessary, and what it “look like” in the real world.

RFID Information

If you would like to find out more about Radio Frequency Identification systems for libraries, check www.3M.com and search under RFID. Select RFID Solutions and White Papers Series which is a series of papers that give a step-by-step guide to implementing RFID in your library. Choose from RFID 101, 102, 103, and 104; papers 501,601, and 701 should be coming soon.

Newsletter Templates

Thanks to Letter-Pop (letterpop.com), small libraries and schools can create and distribute visually appealing newsletters on the cheap, even free. Entirely web-based, Letter-Pop is super easy to use. Simply choose from dozens of templates and input your content. You can even import your snaps through Flickr. The free plan lets you publish 10 newsletters a year (with ads), while a beefier “Personal” account costs just \$25 annually. [Seen in *Straight-Talk from Northeast Library System, January 2008.*]

Free Environmental Database

EBSCO Publishing Company has decided to use its expertise to make it easier for others to “go green” by offering *GreenFILE*[™], a bibliographic database of information about environmental concerns free at www.greeninfoonline.com. The database contains nearly 300,000 records, full text for certain titles and backfiles. *GreenFILE* also has bibliographic information

for key non-scholarly titles such as : *E-The Environmental Magazine*, *Natural Life*, and *Mother Earth News*.

Librarian—Best Career

US News & World Report says that a library career is desirable. “Forgot about the image of librarian as a mousy bookworm. Librarians these days must be high-tech information sleuths, helping researchers plumb the oceans of information available in books and digital records. It’s an underrated career. Most librarians love helping patrons dig up information, and in the process, learning new things. Librarians may also go on shopping sprees, deciding which books and online resources to buy. They even get to put on performances, like children’s puppet shows, and run other programs, line book discussion groups for elders. On top of it all, librarians’ work hours are reasonable.” [Seen on www.usnews.com/articles/business/best-careers/2007/12/19/librarian-executive-summary.html].



The Five Laws of Digital Education (Adapted from Ranganathan’s Five Laws of Library Science)

1. The Web is for use.
2. Every learner deserves access.
3. Access benefits learners.
4. Expand the world of the learner
5. The Web is a growing organism.

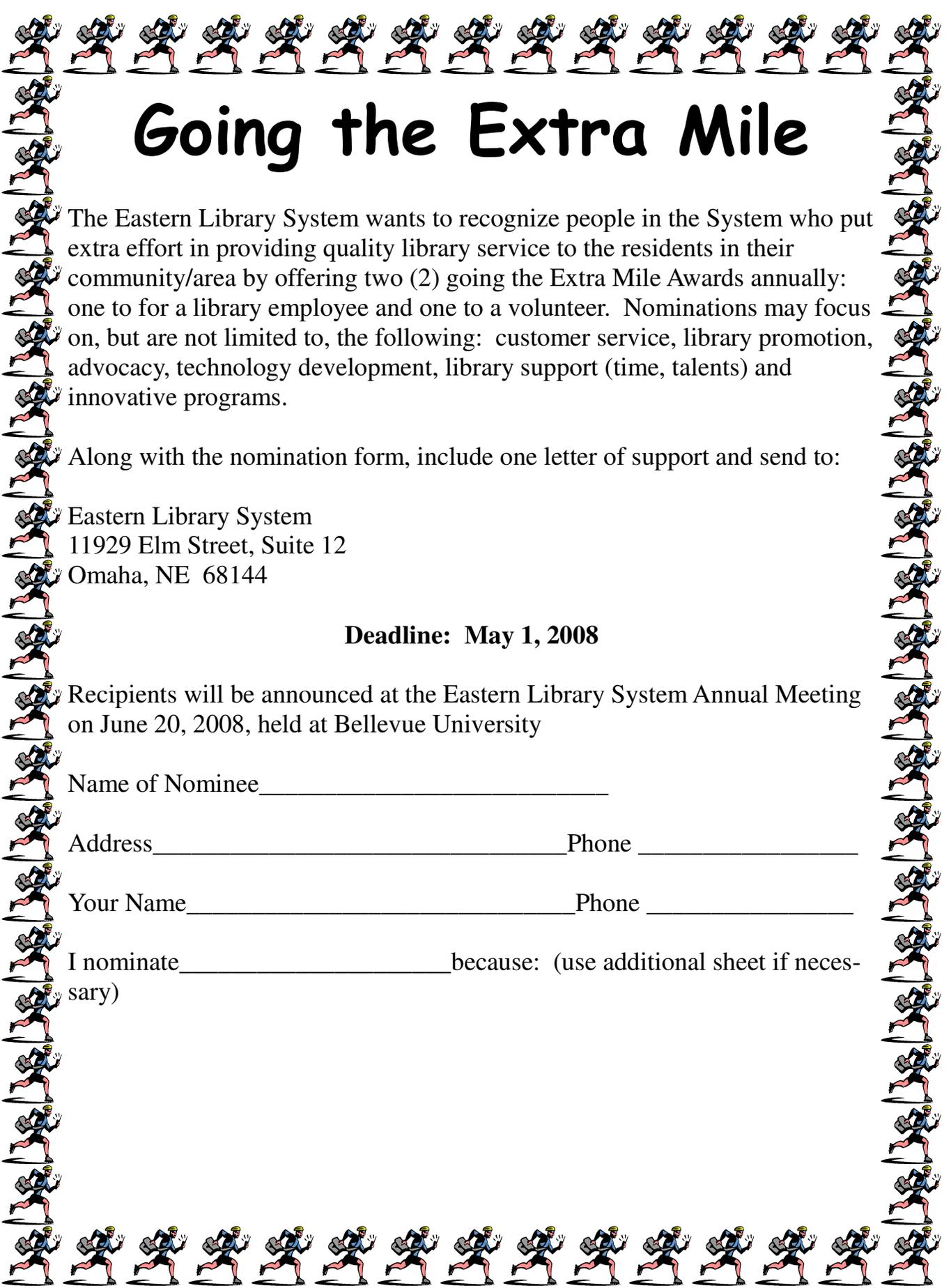
[Seen in *VOYA*, February 2008. *Join My Network: A Cyber Six-Pack for Educators* by Erin Downey Howerton.

Want to add color to an entire paragraph in MS Word 2007?

1. Type your text into your document and highlight.
2. Look on the home tab in the ribbon, in the paragraph group. You will find a button that looks like a bucket of paint. That is the “shading” button. If you click on the dropdown menu you will see a palette of colors that you can use to shade your paragraph.
3. Select your favorite color – notice that you get a live preview, so just roll your mouse over all the colors that you are thinking about, and click on the one that suits you best.

And Now for a Little Humor....

“....I believe it was a scientist at Xerox who first joked that there will be a paperless office right after there is a paperless bathroom.” [Seen in *American Libraries*, October 2007. *Printing in the Library*, by Andrew K. Pace.



Going the Extra Mile

The Eastern Library System wants to recognize people in the System who put extra effort in providing quality library service to the residents in their community/area by offering two (2) going the Extra Mile Awards annually: one to for a library employee and one to a volunteer. Nominations may focus on, but are not limited to, the following: customer service, library promotion, advocacy, technology development, library support (time, talents) and innovative programs.

Along with the nomination form, include one letter of support and send to:

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

Deadline: May 1, 2008

Recipients will be announced at the Eastern Library System Annual Meeting on June 20, 2008, held at Bellevue University

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Your Name _____ Phone _____

I nominate _____ because: (use additional sheet if necessary)

**Eastern Library
System Board Meeting
Minutes**
February 8, 2009
Bellevue University



Present: Robin Bernstein, Jan Therien, Scott Berryman, Carrie Turner, Dorothy Willis, John Seyfarth, Denise Lawver, Sam McMullen, Marie Reidelbach, Kathy Tooker, Nancy Meyer, Becky Sims, Joyce Neujahr, Mary Jo Mack, Jan Boyer, Bill Menousek and Richard Miller.

President Denise Lawver called the meeting to order.

Two changes were made to the December 14, 2007, minutes. The revised minutes will be filed.

The treasurer's reports for December 2007 and January 2008 were reviewed. The reports will be filed for audit.

There was no correspondence.

Jan Boyer gave a report from the last State Advisory Board that was held in Grand Island. Jan stated that the LSTA plan was updated and approved, that Shannon White had given a technology report about databases and Gretchen Healey had given a report about tribal libraries.

Kathy gave the administrator's report. See written report. Kathy reported that she met with Nancy Busch and Brenda Ealey to continue planning and refining plans for the Future Search Conference in June. Kathy wrote a grant to Peter Kiewit Foundation seeking funding to supplement the Conference. Other highlighted activities included: planning for the Library Media Specialist Day, the DIRECT meeting that was held in Hooper, meeting with Becky Pasco to coordinate a CE providers' meeting in the state, consulting with the Douglas County Corrections Facility and the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility, attended the Reference for Dinosaurs workshop held in Sump Memorial Library. Kathy reported that the Omaha Children's Museum is a new Systems member. There are 33 senators and over 105 people signed up for this year's Legislative Day.

Committee reports:

Continuing Education: Robin reported that another Reference for Dinosaurs workshop has been added. The Annual meeting will be held at Bellevue University on June 20th and most everything has been lined up and is in place for the meeting. The theme is "Leadership is not for the birds". Becky Pasco will be the keynote speaker.

Nominating Committee: Becky Sims reported that the ELS Board will need 3 more members as terms are up for Lupe, Sam and Becky. The nominating committee will contact prospective candidates.

Technology Committee: John reports that there is an ELS workshop coming up on March 21 at UNO called the "digital age workshop" and will address copyright issues and advanced webpage design.

Funding Committee: The profit for the chocolate basket was over \$600.00 April 4th will be the date of the Spring Fling fundraiser that will be held at Immanuel Hospital. 27 birdhouses have been distributed to libraries. Earl Tooker made all of the birdhouses. Sam asked the board to consider giving Earl a gift card to show appreciation for his willingness to help the Board with this project. A motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase a gift card.

Old Business: The Board thanked Lupe for his work making suggestions for proposed changes. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the bylaws with changes.

New Business: A motion was made to give away Nancy's old CPU through a drawing. Motion carried. Kathy passed out applications for "Going the Extra Mile Award." Library staff are encouraged to nominate people for this award. A suggestion was made to try and have committee meetings on the same day as the regular systems meeting. All board members agreed this was a good idea. Sam picked Chrystal Dawson's name for the chocolate drawing. Chrystal works at Bellevue University and the basket was delivered to her.

Richard Miller reported to the group about the Nebraska Library Commission. Richard gave highlights about: Nebraska Association of Country Officials Meeting, the College of DuPage Teleconferences 2007 – 2008, student internship grants for accredited public libraries and certain institutional libraries, Talking Book and Braille Advisory Committee needs nominees, NLA Legislative Day, Computers in Libraries 2008 Conference discount, the Serving Your Spanish-Speaking Customers Workshops, Dollars for Data Libraries, Ben Mikaelson visiting Nebraska, Teen Tech Week and One Book for Nebraska Teens 2008.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting

April 11, 2008

Neihardt Center, Bancroft

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mary Jo Mack

**Eastern Library System Board Meetings
2007-2008**

April 11 - Neihardt Center, Bancroft

June 20- Annual Meeting, Bellevue University



Unshelved® by Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum

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www.unshelved.com

Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Library

Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum, the *Unshelved* guys

What possessed Bill Barnes and Gene Ambaum to write a comic strip about a library? And how do they keep tens of thousand of librarians around the globe laughing every day? Visit www.unshelved.com to find out what everyone's talking about, and then come to the banquet to hear Bill and Gene discuss what makes libraries so darned funny.



Bill

About Bill Barnes

Bill is a native New Yorker who was dragged all around the world by his parents at a very formative age and finally ended up in the wilds of Seattle. He is a trained software designer and very much an untrained cartoonist.

About Gene Ambaum

Gene is the pen name of a public librarian from the Seattle area. He loves graphic novels, television shows from his childhood, pina colodas, and getting caught in the rain. He continues to make the mistake of letting Bill write his bios



Gene

Thursday, April 10th, 2008 5:30-9:30 p.m.

at **The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel** 333 S. 13th Street, Lincoln, NE Yankee Hill III

Schedule of Events

5:30 – 6:30	Social hour, cash bar
6:30 – 7:30	Dinner
7:30 – 8:30	Presentation by Bill Barnes & Gene Ambaum
8:30 – 9:30	Discussion –Last 1/2 hour book signing and selling

Dinner: Windsor Pork Loin or Chicken Oscar or Tortellini Rosa

Spinach salad, rice, rolls and butter, coffee, tea, and milk. Big Red cake for dessert.

The Spring Colloquium is sponsored jointly by: the Eastern Library System & the Southeast Library System.

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

.YES! I want to participate in the Spring Colloquium 2008: Unshelved, Bill Barnes & Gene Ambaum

Name _____ Library _____

Work phone _____ Work email _____

Please choose one: Pork Chicken Tortellini

Send completed registration form & payment of **\$35.00** to: **Southeast Library System**,
5730 R St., Ste. C-1, Lincoln, NE 68505. **Deadline: Wednesday April 2, 2008.**

Follow me to the



Sponsored by the
Eastern Library System Board

Spring Fling



**Enjoy wine tasting, other beverages,
hors d'oeuvres and desserts
Visit with friends
Music by Kenny O
Win a fabulous door prize**

**Friday, April 4, 2008
7:00 p.m.**

**Alegent Health Immanuel Medical Center
Holling Center
6901 North 72nd Street, Omaha**

**\$25 per person
suggested donation**

Name(s): _____ #Attending _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Proceeds go to support Eastern Library System programs and services

Make check payable to ELS and mail registration to:

Ben Mikaelson Tours Nebraska in April



The Nebraska Library Commission will bring children's author **Ben Mikaelson** to Nebraska for an **April statewide author tour**. Mikaelson will present programs, organized through the Nebraska Regional Library Systems, for both schoolchildren and the general public in ten Nebraska communities.

Author Ben Mikaelson has won the International Reading Association Award and the Western Writer's Golden Spur Award. In addition, his novels have won Reader's Choice awards from many states, including the 1995 Nebraska Golden Sower Award. Mikaelson is the author of *Rescue Josh McGuire*, Nebraska's **2007 One Book One Nebraska Kids** selection. He lives in a log cabin near Bozeman, Montana, with a 750-pound black bear that he adopted and has raised for the last twenty-five years. Please visit his website for great stories and pictures: www.benmikaelson.com.

Please join us at

Mahoney State Park
Lee Sapp Riverview Lodge
April 16th, 2008 at 7 p.m.

Research - Finding the Heart of a Story

Ben discusses the challenges faced in creating his books. A slide presentation allows a wonderful view inside Ben's research as he tries to uncover the "heart of a story." These experiences include raising a 650-pound black bear, living with the homeless, working with dolphins, attending Space camp, going undercover with Drug Enforcement Agents and living with the Maasai in Africa. The diversity of Ben's writing and research has made his books so appealing to students. This presentation is both informative and entertaining.

Books will be available to purchase and Ben will be available for a short signing session.

Please contact
Southeast Library System to register
or to **pre-purchase books**.

Titles available: *Rescue Josh McGuire*,
Stranded, *Touching Spirit Bear*, & *Petey*.

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



Nebraska
Library Commission

Sponsored by Eastern Library System

Two great workshops all in one day - attend one or both

LaVista Public Library, 9110 Giles Road

April 14, 2008



Let's Make a Book: The Art of Bookmaking

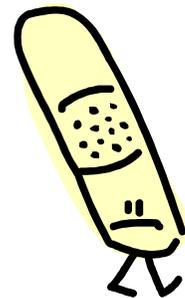
9:30—11:30 am

Presenter: Marvel Maring

While librarians handle books every day, many of us do not understand how a book is made. Marvel, a public services librarian at UNO, has in addition to her MLS, an MFA in Painting from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MFA in Book Art from the University of Alabama. She will show you that making a book is an art and the more you know about book construction, the more you will understand how to mend one.

First Aid for Books: Mending and Repair

12:45—3:00 pm



Presenter: Casey Kralik

Casey is a technical services librarian at the Freeman/Lozier Library, Bellevue University. In addition to mending the books at the library she has taught several workshop on book repair. Please bring one or two books that need repair with you to the workshop.

Cost: \$15 each or both for \$25—2 CE credits for each workshop

Name _____ Library _____

**Making a difference
@your library™**



Nebraska Public Libraries Meet Local Demand for Quality Information



Children's Summer Reading Program activities at the Atkinson Public Library are supported with state aid funds.

- ◆ **271 Public Libraries in Nebraska**
- ◆ **Materials Checked Out to Nebraskans:**
Adult 7,467,016
Children.. 5,675,667
Total ... 13,142,683
- ◆ **Videos Available to Nebraskans:** 256,781

- ◆ **Local Public Libraries Are Open to Serve Nebraskans:**
..... 425,171 hours per year
- ◆ **Nebraskans Visit their Local Public Library:**
159,732 visits per week
8,306,057 visits per year
- Nebraska library customers would fill **Memorial Stadium** 2 times each week

95% of Nebraska public libraries provide public access to the Internet.

- ◆ **Materials made available to Nebraskans through Interlibrary Loan** (materials shared between libraries):
Loaned 38,379
Received 34,174

- ◆ **Audio Materials Available to Nebraskans:** 264,831

- ◆ **Nebraskans Received Answers to Questions:**
23,422 questions per week
1,217,932 questions per year

Twice as many Nebraskans visited Nebraska public Libraries as went to the movies last year.

- Nebraska library customers would fill **Devaney Sports Center** 11.4 times each week
- ◆ **Library Employees Providing Information Services to Nebraskans:** 782 FTE

Reference librarians in Nebraska public libraries answer more than 1,217,932 questions each year. Standing single file, the line of questioners would stretch from Omaha to Scottsbluff.

Data Source: Annual Nebraska Public Library Statistical Data, 2005-2006, collected by the Nebraska Library Commission. Data is based on reports from 80% of Nebraska public libraries.

For more information, see the Nebraska Library Commission home page: <www.nlc.state.ne.us>.

Upcoming Events

March 26-29—Public Library Association Conference, Minneapolis

April 2/18 & May 2 - Basic Skills, Organization of Materials, Keene Memorial Library

April 4 - Spring Fling (see page 12)

April 10 - Spring Colloquium 2008 (see flyer page 11)

April 11 - ELS Board Meeting, Neihardt Center, 9:30 a.m.

April 14 - Let's Make a Book & First Aid for Books, La Vista Public Library (see page 14)

April 16 - Ben Mikaelson Evening Event open to the public (see page 13)

April 18 - CLICK Meeting, Valley Public Library, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

April 25 - Technical Services Round Table Spring Meeting, Leadership Center, Aurora

April 29-May 2 - Mountain Plains Library Association Conference, Salt Lake City

May 16 - DIRECT (Public Library Directors) Meeting, Bennington Public Library, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

June 20 - Eastern Library System Annual Meeting, Bellevue University (more information in next issue)

Check out the Nebraska Library Commission's web page calendar
<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libcal/libcal.html> for a schedule of events.

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

Spring Fling - April 4th

Spring Colloquium - April 10th