

Eastern Express

September/October 2010

The Newsletter of the Eastern Library System—SSN 1064-3486

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Eastern Library System
11929 Elm Street, Suite 18
Omaha, NE 68144
402-330-7884
800-627-7884
Fax 402-330-1859
www.elsne.org
Staff
Kathleen Tooker,
Executive Director
ktooker@windstream.net
Nancy Meyer, Administrative
Assistant
nrmeyer@windstream.net

Robin Bernstein
Scott Berryman
Gail Formanack
Lowen Kruse
Mary Jo Mack
Joyce Neujahr
David Privitt
Marie Reidelbach
Gayle Roberts
Rosa Schmidt
John Seyfarth
Jan Therien

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From the Executive Director *Kathleen Tooker*

After a very hot, humid summer, it is welcome back time to school librarians while public librarians have been involved in budgets. Academic librarians have also been on duty all summer and are now in the midst of introducing new students to their library services so it is a busy time for all. Most of us are trying to figure out how to do more with less funding, Eastern Library System included.

It is not possible to offer new services, but we do want to remind you of the services and programs we do provide.

First, some general information about ELS. We were established in 1983 as a non-for-profit organization to improve library services to the citizens of the state. We are governed by a 12 member board. While we don't work directly with the public or students, we do work with libraries of all types in a seven county area.

Our office is staffed by my assistant, Nancy Meyer, nrmeyer@windstream.net, who is here weekdays from 7:30 am to 1:30 pm. I too am here five days a week and am out of the office some so it is best to check before you stop by. But do come and see us, as we love having visitors.

Networking & Communication
Newsletter—If you don't receive email notice that our *Eastern Express* newsletter is online, please take a

couple of minutes and sign up for it at www.nlc.state.ne.us. Just type 'mailing lists' in the search box to find where you can sign up for the ELS mailing list. Published every other month, we welcome hearing what is happening in your library and know others would also.

Mailing List—If you have a question or need advice or some library related subject, you can send us a request for information or an announcement, and we can send it out to almost 700 people on our electronic mailing list. Email

ktooker@windstream.net.

DIRECT meetings are for public library directors and are held every other month to provide networking and discussion on topics of interest.

CLICK meetings are for any youth services librarian or school librarian and are held for the same purpose.

Resource Sharing

Below is a list of items a system member may borrow:

- Book Bags for Kids—We have over 45 titles of interest to tweens and teens that we loan out to book discussion groups with most containing at least 20 copies.
- LCD projector.
- AccuCut Machine and various dies.

[continued on next page]



- Follett Dolphin PHD (portable handheld device) for inventory.
- Wii and games.
- Portable Public Address System
- Bifolkal Kits — A set of items to use to instigate discuss and remembering; great for programming.
- Professional Collection—Over 100 print resources on library topics.
- Periodicals and DVDs - Ask to be put on our routing list for periodicals and/or borrow one of our DVDs on library topics.

Cooperative Orders

Puppet orders—Twice a year (Spring and Fall) we do a cooperative puppet order from Folkmanis Puppets where we can purchase puppets at 40% off. Visit

www.folkmanis.com.



Others as the opportunity arises.

Continuing Education and Training

Workshops—Several times a year we offer workshops on new technologies or requested by our members.

Consulting

Available either by Phone or email or a personal visit, on library related issues.

Scholarships

ELS has a limited amount of funding for scholarships.

Visit our web page at www.elsne.org for more information about ELS and our programs and services. You will also find a list of board members, our annual report, links to the other regional library systems, and more.

We are here to serve you

Upcoming Events

October 8 - ELS Board Meeting, Snyder Public Library, 9:30 am.

October 13-15 - NLA/NEMA Fall Pre Conference, “Black Belt Librarians” - Grand Island (see page 13)

October 21st & 28th, November 4th -Basic Skills Classes - Waterloo Public Library - Public Administration - to register go to: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/news/content/2604.html>

November 6 - Celebration of Nebraska Books (see page 14)

November 12 - College of DuPage Teleconference - “Redesigning Today’s Public Services: Focus on Reference” <http://www.dupagepress.com/library-learning-network/>

November 12 - CLICK Meeting - La Vista Public Library, 9:30 am. Let Jodi Linhart know if you are coming—jlinhart@lavistamail.mccneb.edu

November 18—Customer Service Workshop, Sump Memorial Library in Papillion—9:30-12:30 (see flyer on page 3)

December 10 - ELS Board Meeting, Wahoo Public Schools, 9:30 am

February 11, 2011 - ELS Board Meeting, Bellevue University, 9:30 am

ELS Board Meetings are open to the public.



Putting Your Library Customer First -

A workshop for anyone who works in a library

November 18th—9:30 am—12:30 pm

Sump Memorial Library

222 North Jefferson, Papillion

Presenter: Joyce Neujahr, Director of Patron Services Criss Library - UNO

Did You Know ?

...excellent customer service builds support from the community for the library.

...great customer service skills can transform your library into a positive workplace where all your customer's needs are met.

Does your library provide outstanding customer service?
By everyone? To everyone?
All of the time?

If you can't answer "yes" to these questions, be sure to attend.

Name _____

Library _____

Email _____ Phone _____

3 hours of CE credit

Cost - \$15.00

Registration due by November 12th

Mail Registration and Check made to ELS to:

Eastern Library System
11929 Elm Street, Suite 18
Omaha, NE 68144

System News

Wahoo

The Friends of the Wahoo Public Library are having their 5th annual "Friends Fall Fair" on Saturday, October 9th at the library (637 North Maple.) They will have over 15 vendors plus baked goods, crafts, and door prizes. Great way to start your holiday shopping.

Wahoo received \$20,000 through the Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders County. This was previously known as Lincoln Action Program. A Wahoo GED teacher, Corky Forbes, worked with them on various other projects and they approached her with the idea that they could fund some adult education programs such as the library's GED & ELS classes. The project includes furniture, laptops, Steck Vaughn educational software, books, photo copier, smart board, television, assorted office supplies, multi media projector, screen, laptop storage cart & much more. The staff is excited about this project; it will help with their newly remodeled lower level.

Tekamah

The library had aquatic frogs for one of their Summer Reading Program events. The kids loved them.



Blair

The library had a lock-in (overnight at the library) with 35 kids and teens. They had a cake in the shape of a pig with an apple in its mouth instead of an actual pig roast.

Bellevue

The Bellevue Public Library has a great video on YouTube. It highlights the services, staff and programs at the library in a very unique and interesting way. Take a look -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zG7niKG4yTc>

North Bend Director Retires

Evla Saalfeld has been employed at the North Bend Library since 1990. Evla was born and raised in the North Bend area with a sister and a brother. She currently lives in rural North Bend. Evla and her husband farm and have two grown children. Evla loves to read, surf the net, and do crossword and jigsaw puzzles. She collects books and loves book sales. If you know of any, let her know. Evla will be retiring from the library at the end of September. She will be missed greatly. If you are in the neighborhood stop by and give her your best wishes as she starts this next chapter of her life. Amy Williams will be the new director of the library.



Happy 25th Anniversary to - CHIRS

Consumer Health Information Resource Service: a resource for Nebraska

In January 1985, a cooperative of three independent groups and agencies initiated the Consumer Health Information Resource Service (CHIRS) for Nebraska residents. The cooperative members included the McGoogan Library of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the Nebraska Library Commission, and more than 70 public libraries in the State. Sixty percent of Nebraska's population lives in the eastern part of the state in the metro areas of Omaha and Lincoln, while the rest of Nebraska's residents live in rural areas. In the early 1980's, the state's public libraries were receiving an increasing number of requests for medical information. However, the public libraries did not have the resources or the professional training to handle these requests. The public libraries referred the requests to the McGoogan Library of Medicine. McGoogan Library is the largest public health sciences library in the state; therefore Nebraskans recognize McGoogan as the logical source for their health information. Unfortunately, McGoogan's collection at that time concentrated only on professional literature and contained little to no health information written at the lay level. McGoogan Library perceived the need for a consumer health information service based on the large number of requests and referrals for health information from Nebraska's public libraries. The Nebraska Library Commission (NLC) divides the state into six library regions, designating six regional resource libraries to support each region's smaller libraries. Because of this organized network of libraries, McGoogan recognized the NLC as an obvious partner in providing consumer health information.

Hat Lady does Washington D.C.

Karla Shafer, director of the Hooper Public Library



In its ongoing great support of the Eastern Library System librarians, media specialists, etc., I was given a scholarship to help defray the expenses of my trip to Washington, D.C. for the 2010 Annual American Library Association Conference. I had been asked to speak at one of the workshops regarding the “American Dream Starts @ your library” project. The Hooper Public Library won two \$5,000 grants in two different projects, and in both rounds, our library was the smallest community to win.

My presentation was met with nods of agreement, laughter and tears, so I guess that’s good. Afterward, those who came to me became valuable networking connections and other speaking engagements were offered. It was a fantastic experience.



The gift of the ELS scholarship was a tremendous help. As I hailed cabs and waited for them to rescue me from treks in the heat, I constantly thought of how thankful I was for that extra help. All I learned and gave back to ALA was more effective because I could walk in refreshed and ready, instead of looking melted and spent from the sweltering heat. We see many ways ELS helps us, and I continue to be a thankful recipient of their unending support.

Nebraska Library Commission Funded for Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities Project

The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to announce that the U.S. Department of Commerce has awarded the Library Commission a **\$2,416,403** grant to fund Nebraska’s public computer center project, **Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities**. The three-year project is designed to expand broadband capacity; upgrade public computing resources in libraries; and advance access to employment, learning, health information, and E-Government services. The Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), provides funding to expand broadband access and adoption in communities across the US. and intends to increase jobs, spur investments in technology and infrastructure, and provide long-term economic benefits. In addition to the federal grant, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will provide **\$1,251,786** in matching funds, including a grant and technical assistance to support the project. The total project is **\$3,668.189**.

Libraries Participating in ELS

- Beemer - Karlen Memorial Library
- Dodge - John Rogers Memorial Library
- La Vista - La Vista Public Library
- Lyons - Lyons Public Library
- North Bend - North Bend Public Library
- Oakland - Oakland Public Library
- Omaha - A.V. Sorensen Branch
- Omaha - Benson Branch
- Omaha - Charles B. Washington Branch
- Omaha - Florence Branch
- Omaha - South Omaha Library
- Omaha - W. Dale Clark Library
- Omaha - Willa Cather Branch
- Scribner - Scribner Public Library
- Tekamah - Tekamah Carnegie Public Library
- Wahoo - Wahoo Public Library
- West Point - John A Stahl Library
- Wisner - Wisner Public Library



Phonebox Library

A community in North Somerset (England) has a novel way of solving their need for a library.

By purchasing an old 1935 red phonebox from BT (Britain Telephone?) and adding four wooden shelves stocked with some biographies, best sellers, children's, cookbooks, and more, the townspeople now have a place to borrow books. The library-in-a-box is open 24/7 and does a brisk business. Books are donated and if they don't circulate they are given to a charity. BT has received over 700 applications for phoneboxes with over 350 distributed. There might be kiosk libraries here in the US, but are there any phonebox libraries?

Impressive Numbers

The digital revolution has changed how Americans get their information and their entertainment.

	2000	2010
Active Blogs	12,000	141 million
Daily Google Searches	100 million	2 billion
Reality-TV Shows	4	320
Video Game Revenue	\$7.98 billion	\$19.66billion
Books Published	282,242	1,052,803
Daily Letters Mailed	207+ billion	175+ billion
Text Messages	400,000	4.5 billion
Daily E-Mails	12 billion	247 billion
Hard-Drive Storage	\$10/GB	\$.06 / GB
Daily Newspapers	1,480	1,302
CD Sales Revenue	943 billion	427+billion
iTunes Downloads	0	10 billion

[Seen in *Newsweek*, July 26, 2010, by NYC and Nayelie E. Rodriguez]

Hulu, LaLa, and Lulu—Ask the Librarian

Hulu, LaLa, and Lulu: What's the difference? A quick run-down of three popular web sites.

Hulu is the place to go to watch TV episodes of your favorite TV shows. <http://www.hulu.com>.

LaLa: Need to listed to some new music? Try LaLa! A free LaLa account lets you listen to complete songs from your favorite artists. Songs can be down-loaded to you mp3 player or flash drive for a small fee. <http://www.lala.com>.

Lulu is the place to go to self-publish your book. Now you novel, cookbook, or family history will be out there for the whole world to see— and buy a copy. <http://www.lulu.com>.

[Seen in the *Unabashed Librarian*, Number 155]

Sites to Help Mystery Readers

Two useful sites for finding information on mysteries are:

- www.stopyourekillme.com—Stop, You're Killing Me! This is a one-stop site for all things crime as it covers mystery, crime, suspense, and thrillers. In addition to detailed author information and book pages, the site offers lists of current award nominees and winners and a twice—monthly free email newsletter. there are various indexes such as a geographic listing of a character's home base, and the historical index organizes mysteries by the historical era.
- www2.kdl.org/libcat/WhatsNextNEW.asp—The Kent District (MI) Library's What's Next site is searchable by title, author, series, or keyword. It provides an authoritative listing of books in a series—something a dedicated mystery reader is always wanting.

[Seen in *Booklist*, May 1, 2010]

Tech Tips

- When using Word or WordPerfect and you get to the end of a line and want to keep two words together on the same line, here is how to do it. If you are using Word, first delete the space between the words, then press CTRL-SHIFT-Spacebar after the first word, and in Word Perfect, press CTRL-Spacebar.
- If you encounter a Web page that takes an long time to slither onto your screen, before resorting to violence, click your browser's Stop button, then click Refresh or Reload. if that doesn't work, give your computer a swat. It won't resolve the problem but you'll feel better.

[Seen in *Smart Computing*, August 2010. "Digital Nutrition: Frosted Mini Tips" by Richard Sherman]



Great Web Sites to Use

The first one has web sites from a presentation by Nancy Larimer, Lincoln Public Schools, that wowed everyone at the Youth Services Retreat. The next are the slides from Nancy's presentation.

- <http://bit.ly/9mHfJA> - sites
- <http://bit.ly/aHKZGm>—slides
- www.centralgarrison.com—Another site we learned about at the YSR. This is the Star Wars Costuming Group of Nebraska who will make appearances in libraries.

The Skype-An-author Network

(skypeanauthor.wetpaint.com) is a great resource according to Kate Messner, author of "An Author in Every Classroom," (*School Library Journal*, September 2010)

The article states that the cost of a virtual visit seem to range from around \$300 an hour, depending on the author. Some offer two kinds of visits — shorter Q & A sessions with classes that have read one of their books and longer presentations for a small fee.

On Messner's blog (kmesser.livejournal.com/106020.html) you will find a list of authors who offer free 20– minute Skype visits for classes or book clubs that have read one of their books. Messner advises to visit the author's website and email him or her before or ordering books or making plans.

KidderLit at www.kidderlit.com provides daily entries of the first lines of children's books, and then links to Amazon.com where readers can find out the author and title of the books, read reviews, and of course, purchase the book. Readers can search the titles in the database by age (Baby/Preschool, Ages 4-8, Ages 9-12, and Young Adult), by theme or by date. An entry might say,

10-31-09 AM—See the book on Amazon / Titter/ Ages 4-8/ Halloween "Grinch the witch woke up grouchy, grumpy, and very hungry." [Seen in *Library Sparks*, October 2010]

Below are some recently released or soon to be released titles that might perk up your checkouts. The list is from *Library Journal's* Booksmack online newsletter, Going on 13: Summer Reads by Angelina Benedilli.

- Hand, Elizabeth. **Illyria**. Viking. 2010. 144p. ISBN 978-0-670-01212-1. \$15.99. F
- Hartnett, Sonya. **Butterfly**. Candlewick. Aug. 2010. 240p. ISBN 978-0-7636-4760-5. \$16.99. F
- Holt, Kimberly Willis. **The Water Seeker**. Holt. 2010. 305p. ISBN 978-0-8050-8020-9. \$16.99. F
- Perkins, Lynne Ray. **As Easy as Falling Off the Face of the Earth**. Greenwillow. 2010. 352p. ISBN 978-0-06-187090-3. \$16.99. F
- Reeve, Philip. **Fever Crumb**. Scholastic. 2010. 325p. ISBN 978-0-545-20719-5. \$17.99. F
- Richards, Jame. **Three Rivers Rising: A Novel of the Johnstown Flood**. Knopf. 2010. 293p. ISBN 978-0-375-85885-7. \$16.99. F
- Sachar, Louis. **The Cardturner: A Novel About a King, a Queen, and a Joker**. Delacorte. 2010. 336p. ISBN 978-0-385-73662-6. \$17.99. F
- Sedgwick, Marcus. **Revolver**. Roaring Brook. 2010. 204p. ISBN 978-1-59643-592-6. \$16.99. F
- Yolen, Jane (text) & Mike Cavallaro (illus.). **Foiled**. First Second. 2010. 160p. ISBN 978-1-59643-279-6. \$15.99. F

&

Watch for Jeff Kinney's **Diary of a Wimpy Kid. Vol. 5**. Amulet Bks. Nov. 2010. 224p. ISBN 978-0-8109-8.

The fifth thousand-pound gorilla of this kid-fave series is reportedly about Greg and Rowley's friendship.

Trustee Continuing Education

The Rural Library Trustee: Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships (Web Junction) This course is archived at the Nebraska Library Commission. How do library trustees get trained? How are director and trustee roles defined to ensure a healthy library organization? How are trustee relationships cultivated both in and outside the library circle? This webinar explores these and other questions related to library trustees that will provide you with practical ideas and tactical strategies to support and advocate for your library organization as a trustee, or library director in a small or rural community. This webinar is brought to you by [ARSL](#) (Association for Rural and Small Libraries) and featuring presenters: Sally Gardner Reed, Executive Director [ALTAFF](#) (Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations); Kim Armentrout, [Library of Virginia](#); and Jim Minges, Director of the [Northeast Kansas Library System](#). (Archived at www.nlc.state.ne.us)

AALAFF Trustee Academy is Free to Nebraska Libraries & Will Be Archived for Watching Later

On or before October 18, ALTAFF will email all Nebraska library directors with a login to access the recorded webcasts and support materials to a Trustee Academy, a series of online courses to help Trustees become exceptionally proficient in their roles on behalf of their libraries.

Course Format

All courses will be recorded webcasts to allow Trustees the opportunity to complete each course at any time of day or night. ALTAFF knows Trustees are volunteers too, and the recorded format offers the most flexibility. Each course will run approximately 50 minutes.

Trustee Basics, Part I will cover the role of the Trustee in the community, who speaks for the Trustees, governing vs. advisory boards, holding effective board meetings (getting consensus, open meeting laws, parliamentary procedure, etc.), and board self-assessment. This course will be led by Lynn Stainbrook, director of the Brown County Library in Green Bay, Wis.

Trustee Basics, Part II will cover understanding and setting policy, understanding and supporting intellectual freedom and patron privacy, meeting state standards, Trustee liability and fiduciary responsibilities, considering D&O insurance, and Trustee ethics. This course will also be led by Stainbrook.

Working Effectively with the Library Director will cover understanding and respecting the different roles, evaluating a library director's performance, and hiring a new library director. This course will be led by Peggy Danhof . ALTAFF past president and president of the Board of Trustees of the Fountaindale Public Library in Bolingbrook, Ill, and Vicky Trupiano, director of the Fountaindale Public Library.

The Library's Budget will cover learning and understanding how your library is funded, understanding the library's financial reports, making powerful budget presentations, and developing auxiliary funding sources. Course leader will be Christine Lind Hage, Public Library Association.

Advocating for Your Library will cover sowing the ground with excellent public awareness and great service, how to design an advocacy campaigns, collaborating with stakeholders such as Friends and patrons, and implementing the campaign. Carol Brey-Casiano, ElPaso Public Library System.

NCompass Live: A Conversation with Sally Reed, ALTAFF - Recorded Online Session

Description — Sally Reed is the Executive Director of the American Library Association's newly re-designed Association of Library Trustees, Advocates, Friends and Foundations (ALTAFF). ALTAFF is the result of the merger of Friends of Libraries USA (FOLUSA), which Reed headed, and the former Association of Library Trustees and Advocates (ALTA). Sally will share her ideas about ALTAFF's mission and vision and how Nebraska and its libraries can benefit and fully use the resources available through this dynamic ALA division. Learn how Nebraska's unique statewide membership can benefit Nebraska – its libraries and people.

[View Recording](#)

Presentation Slides via SlideShare NOTE: To print a copy of a slideshow you'll first need to download it to your computer. To download a slideshow, you will need to create your own free SlideShare account.

Eastern Library System also has a selection of DVDs that libraries may borrow to watch for continuing education. Please give us a call at 402-3307884 / 800-627-7884 or email ktooker@windstream.net.

For CE Credit: Apply for Nebraska Library Commission C.E. Credits - Print out the [C.E. Activity Reporting Form](#) and send the completed copy to the address on the form. Check the [C.E Guidelines](#) for information on earning C.E Credits. Please email [Laura Johnson](mailto:Laura.Johnson).

Eastern Library System 2010 Adult Services Grant

Introduction: Eastern Library System is offering one (1) \$500 grant for projects and/or services that will benefit adult library customers. These grants are open to all ELS member libraries that provide services for adults. Grant funds are to be an addition to the current budget.

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

- Collection development either recommended fiction or non-fiction titles.

Provide list of what will be purchased.

- New service or program for adult customers.

Instructions: Complete the following form and submit five (5) copies by November 1, 2010, to: Kathleen Tooker, Eastern Library System, 11929 Elm Street, Suite 18, Omaha, NE 68144. **Faxes will not be accepted.** Applications will be reviewed by the Eastern Library System Continuing Education Committee.

Library Name: _____

Grant Director: _____ Title: _____

E-Mail: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

If awarded a grant, does the grant go to the library or library Friends or foundation? _____

Make check to _____.

Please answer all of the following statements on a separate page(s). **Address EACH section by titles, 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. Letters of support or partnerships
6. Evaluation

C. Estimated cost / budget and total cost

D. Benefit to adult customers. State in terms of results and outcomes for them based on goals.

E. Starting and completing dates

Grant Director

Date

Eastern Library System 2010 Children's / Youth Services Grant

Introduction: Eastern Library System is offering one (1) \$500 grant 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 current budget.

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

- Collection development (1) to replace worn or discarded books and / or (2) from recommended lists (Golden Sower, Caldecott, Newberry, Notable Books, ect.) 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 November 1, 2010, to: Kathleen Tooker, Eastern Library System, 11929 Elm Street, Suite 18, Omaha, NE 68144. **Faxes will not be accepted.** Applications will be reviewed by the Eastern Library System Continuing Education Committee.

Library Name: _____

Grant Director: _____ Title: _____

E-Mail: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

If awarded a grant, does the grant go to the library or library Friends or foundation? _____

Make check to _____.

Please answer all of the following statements on a separate page(s). **Address EACH section by titles, 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. Letters of support or partnerships (optional)
6. Evaluation

C. Estimated cost / budget and total cost

D. Benefit to children / young adults. State in terms of results and outcomes for them based on goals.

E. Starting and completing dates

Grant Director

Date

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target presents

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

Letters About Literature is a national reading and writing promotion program.

Sponsored in cooperation with the Nebraska Center for the Book, the Nebraska Library Commission, and Houchen Bindery Ltd.

Participation Guidelines for Readers

Books have wings. You can't see them, but they are there just the same. On books' wings, readers can soar to new places where they meet intriguing characters and experience exciting adventures. But a book's wings can also help a reader rise above difficult situations so that they see the world — or themselves — with new understanding. Has a book touched your life in a personal way? If so, we invite you to enter this year's LAL competition. Have you ever felt the power and lift of literature?

How to Enter

First, determine your competition level. Letters About Literature welcomes entries from all readers — reluctant as well as enthusiastic — on three Levels of Competition. Entrants must be at least 9 years old and fall into one of the following categories:

Level 1 — Grades 4-6

Level 2 — Grades 7-8

Level 3 — Grades 9-12

Second, reflect and connect! Select a fiction or nonfiction book, a short story, poem, essay or speech (sorry, no song lyrics) you have read and about which you have strong feelings. Explore those feelings and why you reacted the way you did during or after reading the author's work. Consider one or more of these questions when writing your letter:

- Did the characters, conflict or setting mirror your life in some way? If so, how? If not, why not?
- What strengths or flaws do you share with a character or characters in the book?
- What did the book show you about your world that you never noticed before?
- What surprised you about yourself while you were reading this book? Why was this work meaningful to you?

Your letter need not answer all of these questions, of course. These are just starting points to spark ideas.

Third, write a personal, reflective letter (not a fan letter or a book report!) Express yourself! A letter is less formal than an essay or research paper. Write honestly and in your own voice, as if you were having a conversation with the author. Those are the best letters to read and the most fun to write! Keep in mind these two tips:

- Correspond, don't compliment! Your letter should inform rather than flatter the author.
- Do not summarize the book's plot! The author wrote the book and knows what happened. What the author doesn't know is how the book affected *you*.

Our judges do not count words but we do have recommended lengths: Entries for Level 1 should be no less than 100 words and no more than 400 words. Entries for Level 2 should be no less than 300 words and no more than 600 words. Entries for Level 3 should be no less than 500 words and no more than 800 words. Please refer to the Contest Entry Guidelines in Rules #4 of the Official rules found at www.lettersaboutliterature.org for complete information on how to prepare your letter.

Fourth, submit your letter by December 10, 2010, using the required entry coupon. (See next page!)

STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS

LAL awards prizes on both the state and national levels. Each state center has its own panel of judges who select the top essayists in the state. State Winners will receive a \$50 Target Gift Cards and additional prizes, and then advance to the National Level Judging.

On each competition level, a panel of national judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select **six (6) National Winners** (2 per Level of Competition) and **twelve (12) National Honorable Mention Winners** (4 per Level of Competition). The National Winners will receive a \$500 Target Gift-Card, plus each will secure a **\$10,000 LAL Reading Promotion Grant** in his/her name for a community or school library so that others can experience personal relationships with authors and the stories they tell. The National Honorable Mention Winners will each receive a \$100 Target GiftCard, plus each will secure a **\$1,000 LAL Reading Promotion Grant** in his/her name for a community or school library. The community or school library selected for the National Winners and National Honorable Mention Winners is at the Sponsor's sole discretion. Refer to the National Level Judging in the Official Rules for more details.

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A Purchase will not enhance your chances of winning. MANY WILL ENTER, FEW WILL WIN. Open to legal residents of the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands enrolled as a student in grades 4-12 during the 2010-2011 school year, 9 years or older as of 9/1/10. Contest Starts 8/1/10 and ends 12/22/10. Void where prohibited. Subject to Official Rules found at <http://www.read.gov/contests>.

How to Submit Your Letter

RETURN ADDRESS. Print your name and complete return address (either home or school) in the upper right corner of the first page of your letter. Letters without a return address and adequate contact information will be disqualified.

ENTRY COUPON. Each letter must be accompanied by an entry coupon (below). Staple the coupon to the last page of your letter. Should you win a state or a national prize, your State Center for the Book will contact you using this information, so be sure your coupon is complete and legible!

MAILING ENVELOPE & ADDRESSES. Entries should be mailed in a flat 8x10" envelope or larger. Please indicate the competition level — either 1, 2 or 3 — on your envelope. Include a complete return address on your mailing envelope.

Letters About Literature

Competition Level (Indicate level 1, 2 or 3)

P.O. Box 609, Dallas, PA 18612

DEADLINE: Your Entry must be postmarked by December 10, 2010, (and arrive at LAL Central no later than December 20, 2010).

ASSESSMENT. All entries will be judged on the following criteria:

Content (the writer's achievement in addressing the contest theme).

Writer's Voice (the writer's style and originality of expression).

Exposition (the writer's use of language skills, organization and grammar).

Each criterion will be scored on a scale of zero (0) to five (5), where five (5) is excellent and zero (0) is not fulfilling the judging criteria. **OWNERSHIP.** All letters become the property of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Please make a copy of your entry as no letters will be returned.

NOTIFICATION & CONTACT. State Centers for the Book will notify state winners on or about 3/21/11. The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will notify National Winners and National Honorable Mention Winners on or about 4/21/11.

www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/letters.htm. For program updates, please see www.lettersaboutliterature.org or centerforthe-book.nebraska.gov, or e-mail lal@epix.ne.

Note for Teachers Submitting Class Sets:

- When mailing class sets, please include a cover letter that lists the names of each child who has written a letter. Mail class sets in one flat envelope rather than individual envelopes. Use one envelope for each level. Cover letters DO NOT take the place of entry coupons, however. Each letter must also have a complete **entry coupon**.
- Please do not assign the same book to an entire class, as this misses the spirit of the program — identifying a personal relationship with an author and/or book. Likewise, rather than assigning the same opening paragraph or topic sentences, encourage students to express themselves individually.
- Visit www.lettersaboutliterature.org for free teaching materials, including lesson plans, assessment checklists, writing samples, plus teaching tips from our many LAL teachers who have participated in the past.

Letters About Literature 2010-2011 Entry Coupon (cut & staple to letter)



PLEASE PRINT. Often our failure to contact you is due to incomplete or illegible information on the entry coupon.

Name _____ Age _____ Home Phone (optional) (____) _____

Grade (circle one grade only): **Level 1:** 4 5 6 **Level 2:** 7 8 **Level 3:** 9 10 11 12

Book/Story Title _____ Author _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Parental Signature (required if submitting as an individual entry): _____

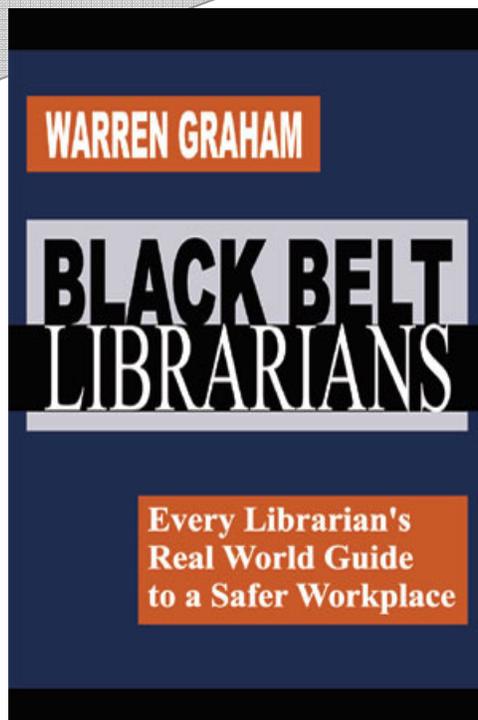
IMPORTANT! If submitting through a school or library, please complete the additional information below:

School/Library: _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

School/Library Telephone: (____) _____ School/Library E-mail: _____

Teacher/Librarian Contact: _____ E-mail: _____



NLA/NEMA Conference
Pre Conference Workshop
Sponsored by the Nebraska
Regional Library Systems

October 13, 2010

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Holiday Inn Midtown
 2503 S. Locust Street
 Grand Island, NE 68803

Cost \$20 (includes lunch)



Warren Graham will discuss:

- Handling difficult customers for public service staff and managers
- Complete security staff training
- Analysis of existing procedures and recommendations for improvement
- Customized training for specific needs
- Self-defense tactics for front line staff

This program is made possible by the Nebraska Library Commission and funded in part with state funds allocated through the Nebraska Legislature.

Register at the NLA/NEMA Conference Website:

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2010>



THE NEBRASKA CENTER FOR THE BOOK

Presents

A Celebration of Nebraska Books

November 6, 2010

Nebraska State Historical Society's

Nebraska History Museum, Lincoln, NE

Join Us to Celebrate:

- **2010 Nebraska Book Award Winners**
with authors reading from their work
- **Presentation of the 2010 Jane Geske Award**
- **2010 One Book One Nebraska program**
featuring *The Home Place*, by Wright Morris
- **2011 One Book One Nebraska book selection**
to be announced

Refer to:

centerforthebook.nebraska.gov

and [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)—search on Nebraska Center for the Book

Nebraska Regional Library System Snowman Raffle



The Nebraska Regional Library Systems are raffling the following collection of snowman items:

- an 18 1/2" X 22 1/2" framed cross stitch picture (pictured above) cross stitched by Sharon Osenga, Meridian Library System Director
- a snowman mug with lid and infuser
- a snowman and Christmas tree snow globe (pictured right)
- an 8" X 10" snowman plaque.



Tickets are \$3 each or 2 for \$5. You may purchase tickets at your system office now or at the System booth at the NLA/NEMA Conference in Grand Island. You do not need to be present to win.