

**November/
December
2006**

Eastern Express

The Newsletter of the Eastern Library System

From the Administrator

by Kathy Tooker

Almost every workshop or training session we attend, we are asked at the end to complete an evaluation. Here at the Eastern Library System we do the same thing. Most people complete them willingly, some even take them with them as they want time to think about it and they mail or fax them back to us. We thank you for this.

Evaluations can be very useful. When planning our next annual meeting or our next program for children and/or youth, or next technology workshop, I drag out the file and reread the evaluations. They are very useful in helping us decide what we need to offer or what we should change. Many times there are suggestions as to what type of continuing education is really needed and in what format.

A good evaluation form should be based on the workshop goals and objectives, or evaluations often include statements like these and you be asked to rate them.

- The program met my expectations.
- I will be able to use what I have learned today.
- The instructor's message was clear and understandable.
- The speaker was well prepared and communicated effectively.
- The workshop held my interest.
- I will be able to use what I learned today in my job.
- The handouts provided by the speaker were well organized and informative.

This list could go on for pages. There are evaluations where you circle smiley faces, animals, or other pictures. This is supposed to make the evaluation more fun to fill out.☺

Then we have the evaluations where you are asked to make comments about the speaker, content, handouts, audio-visual, facilities, what you learned and how you can use it, were the questions relevant, etc. Here again, the list can go on and on.

What I am getting to with all of this is that evaluations can give us a lot of very useful information that will assist in planning future programs you want and need, organizing the content, selecting presenters, even picking sites and locations for workshops and programs.

What isn't helpful are comments that we absolutely have no control over. This is very frustrating. Visiting with my fellow system administrators, we have heard just about everything when it comes to comments about workshops. I sincerely wish I could do something about what makes a participant unhappy, as we truly want the day to be a rewarding and educational experience for all.

So, here are my top five comments on evaluation forms I have seen in the last 15 years that I can do nothing about:

5. The speaker's voice was too raspy.
4. The tables were too high, too low, grainy on top, wrong shape. Or, the chairs were too hard, too soft, or not comfortable.
3. The weather was too hot, too cold, too nice, too what-ever.
2. There should have been potato chips for lunch. Variations of this are that the food is too hot, too cold, too spicy, too bland.
1. The walls of the hotel were too thin, and I could hear noise from the program next door.

When ELS sponsors continuing education events we aim to make the experience a pleasant and a rewarding one.

Our main concern is that the workshop offer you something you can take back and use to benefit both you and your library customers. So **please**, continue to fill out those evaluations and write comments that will aid us in making this possible. And in turn, we will try to foresee situations that might interfere with the learning process.

Of course, one thing we can always do to make the day a good one, is hand out some chocolates!

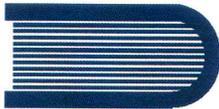
Like Cabbies, Library Staff Honest with Cash
[*Library Journal*, October 2006]

Librarians find all kinds of items left in books, but the canceled checks and old letters are usually not accompanied by more than a few bucks. At the North Brunswick Public Library, NJ, however, library assistant Shirley Paige flipped through a returned book and found \$1800 in \$20 and \$100 bills. Paige determined the name of the borrower and told the library director. When the surprised patron was contacted he explained that he had absentmindedly stuck cash from a bank withdrawal in the book...titled "Master Your Money Type."



What is the most unusual item left in a book returned to your library? Email it to us and you just might win a prize!!

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System News



Fremont

"Lemony Snicket Book Release Party Draws Kids"

On Friday, October 13th, Keene Memorial Library hosted a book release party celebrating the thirteenth and final book in Lemony Snicket's "A Series of Unfortunate Events." Keene's dedicated and talented staff designed a wonderful program, featuring face painting, snake and necklace crafts, a trivia contest, a ball tossing game, a life-size ersatz elevator, and a trunk of Count Olaf disguise that the kids could try one. Attendance was over 60 kids and adults. The success of this event was due to the hand-on nature of the party, the competitive games, the popularity of the off-kilter humor of the Lemony Snicket series, and the incredible creativity that the party allowed - kids could jump around, act out the plots in the book, and put their own spin on everything. In addition to the activities, Keene Memorial Library made thirteen copies of the new book available for check-out. They ran out of all thirteen books and had to make several hold requests to meet the demand. It was not only a great party, but a literary success.

Ceresco

The Ceresco Community Library celebrated its 30th anniversary with a book signing by Omaha author, Alex Kava. In the fall of 1976, rural resident Mary Bell Beach, told the manager of the Hinky Dinky grocery store in Wahoo to, "give me a price on the Funk and Wagnell encyclopedias you have on sale....I'm going to start a library." Wylene Twombly, current director, credits the steady growth and improvement of the library to the community members who care about Ceresco and are willing to support the library and its programs.

UNMC

The McGoogan Library of Medicine held a "Coins for Candy" promotion where they raised over \$100 for the Fontenelle Elementary School's library to purchase books. All this takes it a big bowl of candy and a coin receptacle and it takes care of itself.

Omaha Public Library

The Washington branch is offering some interesting programs for teens. They are working to start a monthly televised teen talk show called, "The Main Concern." The library also offers, one day a week, free tutoring throughout the year.

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Benson Branch Teens - read 13,656 pages during Teen Read Week. The teen librarian, Nancy Chmiel, bargained with her readers that if they accomplished a certain goal she would stand on a billboard. They met the goal and Nancy spent four hours standing on a billboard on 89th and Fort Streets, across from the Nebraska Humane Society on November 10th.

Alex Kava Visits

About ten months ago the 2006 One Book One Nebraska Reads One False Move program began. At the NLA/NEMA Conference in Omaha last month, the author, Alex Kava, spoke and autographed her books. To date Alex has made 34 speaking engagements in Nebraska, including West Point, Omaha Public Library, UNO, Papillion, Bellevue, Blair, and Ceresco in the Eastern Library System. Alex has been asked to be the guest of honor at the Mayhem in the Midlands to be held at the Embassy Suites in Omaha in May of 2008.

The two bags with ten copies each of "One False Move" are still available for loan from ELS. Besides the books there is a folder with discussion questions and an interview with the author. This is a great book club resource. We will loan the bag for one month. Call the system office if you would like to pick up a bag. To date we have loaned the bags out to five ELS libraries.

Accreditation Plus!

The guidelines for public library accreditation must be met to receive state aid. To qualify for enhanced accreditation, a library must meet all twenty-six of the essential guidelines, and any eighteen of the enhanced guidelines. To qualify for excellent accreditation status, a library must meet all of the essential and enhanced guidelines, and any fourteen of the excellent guidelines. The following libraries in ELS have met the enhanced guidelines:

Sump Memorial Library, Papillion
John A. Stahl Library, West Point
Gretna Public Library
La Vista Public Library
Tekamah Public Library
Bennington Public Library
Wisner Public Library
Oakland Public Library
Omaha Public Library
Keene Memorial Library, Fremont
Lyons Public Library

And one library met the excellent accreditation requirements:

Scribner Public Library



More news

Waterloo

After building a brand new library in Waterloo, what better way to use the old library building than to have a haunted house fund raiser. Volunteers put up walls to simulate a maze. The book garden outside was turned into a grave yard. Inside a librarian dressed in black welcomed the visitors into a Victorian parlor. And then there was the terrifying clown room! It was only open two evenings and they made over \$400.



UNO

The University of Nebraska at Omaha's Library Science Education Programs received a *Regents Award for Excellence in Teaching and Service to its Profession*. This recognition draws important attention to library science education and libraries from key policy makers in both the university and the community. Those students, faculty, administrators, and Nebraska library professionals involved in the program are to be congratulated.

Bellevue University

The library has made available to their students the ability to use the computers in the library for research and save to a "P" drive and then to their personal flash drives or a floppy disk. The library has also recently added new databases: *LoisLaw*, *Homeland Security Digital Library*, *Safari Business Books*, *Factiva*, and *Standard & Poor's NetAdvantage*.

Wahoo

The new director of the Wahoo Public Library is our own ELS board president, Denise Lawver.

Congratulations!

Gretna

Jennifer Jazyka, director of the Gretna Public Library, recently had a bouncing baby boy. Best wishes. And, a get-well wish goes to Jean Slowinski, children's librarian, who is recuperating from back surgery.

NLA/NEMA Awards

The following are the winner of some of the annual awards presented at the NLA/NEMA Fall Conference:

- Mad Hatter Award - Patty Birch, North Platte High School (NEMA)
- Meritorious Service Award - Duane Munson (NLA)
- Mari Sandoz Award - Joan Hoffman, writer and poet from Clearwater, Nebraska (NLA)

Congratulations to ELS Award Winners

- Excalibur Award - Sally Payne, director of the Sump Memorial Library, Papillion (PLS)
- Paraprofessional Award - Mary Gubbels, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion (PARA)
- Meritorious Service Award - Becky Pasco, UNO (NEMA)

2006/2007 NLA Election Results

- Vice President/President - Lisa Olivigni, Crete Public Library
- Secretary - Diana Johnson, Stromsburg PL
- MPLA Representative - Julie Simpson, Lincoln City Libraries
- C&U Section - Vice-Chair/Chair Elect - Michael La-Croix, Creighton University. Treasurer - Trudy de Goede, University of Nebraska, Kearney
- Public Library Section - Chair - Nadine DiBacco, Omaha. Vice Chair/Chair Elect - Nancy Chmiel, Omaha Public Library. Secretary/Treasurer - Lisa Guthals, Morton-James Public Library
- Paraprofessional Section - Vice Chair/Chair Elect - LaRaine Cihak, Gilbert Public Library, Friend. Secretary - Bonnie Henzel. NLC
- ITART - Vice Chair/Chair Elect - Linda Parker, University of Nebraska, Omaha. Secretary/Treasurer - Duane Abbott, Omaha
- TSRT - Vice Chair/Chair Elect - Sheryl Williams. Secretary - Laura England, Keene Memorial Library, Fremont
- SCYP - Vice Chair/Chair Elect - Betty Meyer, Hebron Public School
- S&I Section - Vice Chair/Chair Elect - Erin Egan-OsBurn, Dept. of Correctional Services. Secretary - Carolyn Bennett, Beatrice Public Library
- TUFS - Secretary/Treasurer - Jean Spence, Omaha
- NMRT - Vice Chair/Chair Elect - Charlene Maxey-Harris, University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Secretary - Nora Hillyer, University of Nebraska, Omaha. Treasurer - Judith Wolfe, University of Nebraska, Lincoln



Resources For Children's Librarians & Media Specialists

Fifty-three librarians and media specialists attended the Eastern and Southeast Library Systems Youth Services Retreat in October and were fortunate to be a part of Judy Freeman's presentation. Judy, children's literature consultant, is a former media specialist and *author of three books about books that kids will read. Her program got everyone involved in singing, dancing, readers' theater, storytelling, and poetry.

In addition to introducing the audience to many wonderful books as well as a variety of ways to use them effectively with kids, Judy offered these tips on working with kids:



- Ask questions that elicit a response other than yes or no but know when it is time to get back to the story.
- Must read a book and listen to the "voice of the book" to decide on your character.
- Must love a book to read it aloud.
- Look for the "actionable moments" in the book.
- Readers need a reason to turn the page.
- Tie fiction and non-fiction books together so kids want to read both.

Judy's philosophy on books and kids is to: "Give more than asked for, more than they need, more than they ever thought existed."

**Books Kids Will Sit Still For 3: A Read-Aloud Guide*. 1-59158-164-8 paperback, 936 pages, \$44.

Best Book Lists

Library Media Connections 2005 Awards! Booklist (October 2006 issue) contains the titles that the editors consider the best and their significance in the school setting.

Best New Books for the Classroom from *Book Links* (September 2006). Each has a Thematic Link to other stories on the same theme.

To interlibrary loan a copy of either of these bibliographies, contact the system office.

Author Info.....

Jack Prelutsky is one of the country's most popular children's poets. His works that include *A Pizza the Size of the Sun* and *Behold the Bold Umbrellaphant*, spans nearly 40 years and 35 books. Prelutsky, 66, was named the nation's first children's poet laureate, courtesy of the non-profit Poetry Foundation. The two-year post comes with a \$25,000 award.

David Macaulay, 59, has written and illustrated 19 books starting with *The Way Things Work* in 1998. He is the winner of this year's MacArthur Fellows Program. The so-called "genius grant," has rarely been given to a children's author, and carries a no-stings cash prize of \$500,000.

Teens Favorite Book - *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* by J.K. Rowling took the #1 spot on the annual Teens' Top Ten, sponsored by YALSA. Stephanie Meyers' *Twilight* came in second place.

Let's Read as a Family is a booklet available from Reading is Fundamental for FREE! It comes in both English and Spanish and has literacy activities and games for the whole family. Go to <www.rif.org/barrio/default_english.msp> to print it out.

As soon as you get your new 2007 calendar mark September 6th and 7th to attend the Annual Youth Services Retreat at Camp Carol Joy Holling, Ashland.

The CLICK meeting at the Hooper Public Library last month produced a list of "good books."

- "Last Apprentice" by Joseph Delaney
- "Born Blue" by Han Nolan
- The Tamora Pierce series
- "Twilight" and "New Moon" by Stephanie Meyer
- "The Return of Skeleton Man" by Joseph Bruchac
- "Why Cowboys Sleep With Their Boots On" by Laurie Knowlton
- "Al Capone Does My Shirts" by Gennifer Choldenko
- "Worth" by A. LaFaye

And....."Crazy Gibberish" by Naomi Baltuck (a collection of story hours)

Karla Shafer, director of the Hooper Public Library, and two of her trustees, Pegge Hertzfeldt and Phyllis Atwood, were the perfect hostesses. Karla even raffled off one of her beautiful quilted wall hangings to those in attendance (Joni Wilder, La Vista PL, was the lucky winner.)

The Next Click Meeting is: February 5, 2007, at the La Vista Public Library. We will have an open forum.

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The Summer Reading Workshop will be held at Keene Memorial Library in Fremont on February 23, 2007.

Are you looking for health services in your community?



Maybe you need to find a support group in your area or a hospital nearby? Maybe you would like to know where nursing homes across the state are located? If you have questions like these, you need Go Local Nebraska (<http://medlineplus.gov/nebraska>). This service is a cooperative initiative between the National Library of Medicine (NLM), part of the National Institutes of Health, the McGoogan Library of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and Nebraska's public libraries. Initial funding was provided by National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM)MidContinental Region and the McGoogan Library of Medicine. Go Local Nebraska includes websites, contact information, and service descriptions for hospitals, physicians, nursing homes, support groups, and many other health resources.

Suggestions or additions to Go Local Nebraska are encouraged and appreciated. Simply send an email to askus@unmc.edu You may also call 402-559-6221 or toll free 1-866-800-5209.

College of DuPage Continuing Education Teleconference Series 2006-2007 (sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission)

Next Gen Librarianship: Where Do We Go from Here? Speaker: Rachel Singer Gordon. Broadcast Date: Friday, February 9, 2007.

Library Transformation: Making it Happen. Speaker: Richard M. Dougherty. Broadcast Date: March 23, 2007.

The teleconferences are 90 minutes in length from noon to 1:30 p.m. Call the system office for specific sites to view the videoconferences.



Library Career Resource Website

The Nebraska Library Commission is hosting a website -

www.NowHiringAtYourLibrary.org - where you can explore library career options. This site is more than just job listings. There are educational opportunities, scholarships (next deadline is February 1,) career development and recruitment, as well as links to other library professionals through mentoring.

NLA Legislative Day

Just as soon as you get your new 2007 calendar, clear Wednesday, February 14, 2007, for a trip to Lincoln. Legislative Day will include informal meetings with our state senators, a briefing of legislative issues and lunch at the Cornhusker Hotel at noon. There will be quiet a few freshman senators in this legislative session so it is important that they see library advocates right at the start.

Nebraska Memories

[Allana Novotny, Network Services Librarian]
Nebraska Memories is a cooperative project to digitize Nebraska-related historical and cultural heritage materials held by Nebraska institutions and make them available to researchers of all ages via the Internet. Nebraska Memories is brought to you by the Nebraska Library Commission. The Nebraska Memories site is now available at: <http://www.memories.ne.gov>

The primary source materials available through Nebraska Memories are owned by a variety of institutions across the state. Participants work with the Library Commission to digitize the items and create metadata records. Currently 2,333 items are available in the database which will continue to grow as participants add more items. Ten groups have contributed materials. The collections are:

- Butler County Gallery (Hruska Memorial Public Library & Boston Studio Collection)
- Hastings Public Library
- High Plains Historical Society (McCook Public Library & High Plains Historical Society and Museum)
- Keene Memorial Library (Keene Memorial Library & Dodge County Historical Society)
- Nebraska State Historical Society
- Nebraska Library Commission
- Omaha Public Library

- Polley Music Library - Lincoln City Libraries
- Sarpy County Historical Museum (Sump Memorial Library & Sarpy County Historical Museum)
- Wayne State College

In addition four other groups are preparing items to be added. They are:

- Bellevue University
- Crawford Public Library & Historical Society
- Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room
- Raymond A. Whiter Tilden Public Library & Antelope County Historical Society

After you have looked at the Nebraska Memories website, please take a few minutes to tell us what you think by completing the short survey that is linked off of the front page of the website. If you are interested in participating in Nebraska Memories please view the participants' information at: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskamemories>

A digital project you might be interested in - The Black Abolitionist Archive.

Sara Martin, Associate Dean
Technical Services and Library Systems
University of Detroit Mercy
313-993-1074
martinsjk@udmercy.edu

Here is the URL: http://research.udmercy.edu/resources/special_collections.php

In addition to the images of the speeches and transcriptions, I'm in the process of recording volunteers reading the speeches.

This is another site that lists several interesting digital projects that libraries within our consortia are producing. <http://www.dalnet.lib.mi.us/projects.php>

GOT JEWISH BOOKS?

The Kripke Jewish Federation Library in Omaha is celebrating the 34th annual Jewish book Month and will have a book fair running through December 21st plus several interesting events for adults and children.

For more information on Jewish Book Month, contact Gary Katz at 334-6462 or gkatz@jewishomaha.org.

NLA/NEMA 2006 Annual Conference

This year's conference, held at the Quest Center Omaha, was a mix of vendors, sessions, displays, expensive parking, and some great silent auction items. The Eastern Library System Board out-did themselves in creating this basket of goodies for each month of the year. It realized \$125 for NLA scholarship fund.



The next conference is October 24-26, 2007, in Kearney. Plan to attend. If you have never attended a conference check out the ELS scholarship application on our webpage <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/eastern/ScholarshipPolicy.htm> Following are reports from our two scholarship winners this year.

Attending NLA/NEMA Conference by Angela Kroeger, UNO

As a first time attendee of an NLA/NEMA conference, I was a bit awed by the scale and excitement of the event. But the experience was fantastic in every way. For me, the highlights were the two keynote speakers, Stephen Abram and Nancy Pearl, and their respective breakout sessions. It would have been hard to come by two more different views of the library, with Abram's technology-focused Library 2.0 contrasted with Pearl's *Book Lust*, but actually the pairing worked very well to paint a widely varied, and thus more complete, portrait of librarianship.

As Pearl exhorted us to not lose sight of programming and books in our increasing devotion to technology, Abram asserted that the book is not at risk. Publishing is up, readership is up, book sales are up, and so on, so rather than focusing on protecting the book, which is holding its own, we should focus on the role of libraries and librarianship in society. This, in turn, dovetailed with Ann Siedl's preconference presentation on the *Hollywood Librarian*, in which we saw the often quite negative way librarians are viewed by citizens at large. Siedl advised us to be "warm," to have empathy for our users, and to fix the broken systems that stand in their way. Likewise,

Abram counseled us to "create an experience" for our users, to improve the quality of their questions. This brings us back to Pearl's suggestions on reader's advisory, which should spring from a true dialogue with the user, and not be a mere recommendation from the librarian on high. All of these presentations, though very different in content and direction, had the same underlying message. **Focus on the user.** And that, to my mind, was the unifying theme of the conference. I'd like to sincerely thank the Eastern Library System Continuing Education Committee for awarding me the scholarship to attend the conference.

NLA/NEMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE Oct 25-27 2006 by Karla Shafer, Hooper Public Library

This year, I made sure I could go to the annual conference held by the Nebraska Library Association. My registration was paid for by the library funds, but not my meals and lodging. The rest was up to me. Thankfully there was a scholarship available from the Eastern Library System to help me with my two night stay. I appreciated the help so much.

I arrived at the Qwest Center in Omaha, early Wednesday to board the bus on its way to Historic Brownville. This Pre-Conference tour was amazing and exciting. I cannot tell you the refreshment I felt deep within, on that misty autumn day. We first enjoyed the restful setting of used and loved old books surrounding us as we enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Lyceum. The "King of Book Towns" from Wales spoke to us, and left us enthused and enriched with perspective on the treasure of books. Of course, there were some books that followed me home!

It would seem hard for the actual conference to compete with such a delightful start, but the people who prepared the conference had done a good job, and was it ever wonderful! I was so thankful for the many vendors, and all their help, information, and service. Happily, I went to as many workshops as possible. Among those I attended were: "Get a Clue At Your Library", "Googling At Your Library", "So You Want To Be a Storyteller", "Grant Writing with Nancy Bolt", "The Great Library Safari", "Nancy Pearl Reader's Advisory", and "Picture This Graphic Novels". Wow! So much great information and inspiration, I thought I couldn't get home to my library fast enough to start in with what I had learned! And then, sitting on front row, listening to Nancy Pearl as keynote speaker....WONDERFUL! I laughed, I cried, I was shaken, and inspired! Well, I can assure you, the next NLA/NEMA Conferences to come, will have this Librarian in attendance!

Worth Checking Out

Internet Important to Public Libraries

A national report released in September 2006, titled *Public Libraries and the Internet 2006*, reveals that 99% of public libraries provide free public access to computers wired to the Internet, compared to 25% 10 years ago. Librarians overwhelmingly (71%) report that the most important impact of this service is providing Internet service to those who otherwise would not have it. This is the first time that the impact has been quantified on a national scale.

The report also revealed that despite increased demand for library computers, libraries typically have not seen a corresponding increase in enough connection speeds to meet demand.

This study was conducted by the Information Use Management and Policy Institute at Florida State University and funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the American Library Association.

-From the ALA Washington Office Newslines

“**Come Together @ your library**” has been named the 2007 National Library Week theme. The annual event will be celebrated April 15-21. The theme incorporates ALA’s Campaign for American’s Libraries “@your library” brand, Guidelines are available on the campaign website at <www.ala.org/@yourlibrary> under the “Download Logos” section.

The Chicago Manual of Style first published in 1906 is now in its 15th print edition. The University of Chicago Press has launched the digitization version, both as a searchable online database and a CD-ROM, incorporating all the novelties introduced in the 15th edition and offering a whole lot of new ones. There is a “Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide” offering the basics of the Chicago-style citation, and much more. The site will be available to individuals by subscription at an introductory price of \$25 for the first year, with an annual renewal rate of \$30. Group rates, corporate rates, and library and institutional rates are available as well. For more information or to get a quick tour of the site, visit <www.chicagomanualofstyle.org>.

Find Deleted e-mails

If you need to recover some deleted e-mails one of these programs may help you recover them. Download a free trial of one of the following programs:

- OutlookFix—<www.cimaware.com/main/products/outlookfix.php>

- E-Recovery for Outlook Express—<www.dtidata.com/e-recovery_outlook_express.htm>
- Recovery 3—<www.iolo.com/sr/3>. OutlookFix only works only on Outlook and E-Recovery only works on Outlook Express. Recover 3 will recover Outlook Express, Outlook, Eudora and Netscape Manager. [Seen in *Library Media Connection*, November/December 2006]

New Video Ready for Loan

Please join ALA President Michael Gorman and a panel of distinguished practitioners and educators in a national discussion and open forum as they discuss these questions:

Are today’s library education programs doing an adequate job of training the next generation of librarians? Is there really a crisis in library education?

Whether you are a library educator, a library administrator seeking qualified candidates, a recent library school graduate looking for that first job, or a current or future library school student, we invite you to share your unique perspective on this topic that is of vital interest to our profession.

Contact the system office to interlibrary borrow this video tape.

Just for a Laugh

Top Ten Great Things About Being a Librarian

10. More fun that being a janitor and pays almost as well.
 9. Appointing yourself chair of the Chips & Salsa Committee, then claiming it in you annual review.
 8. Much less dangerous than being a public school teacher.
 7. Lunatics and freaks treat you with respect if they know you’re in charge of ordering all the Stephen King books.
 6. All the book paste you can eat.
 5. Watching patrons grovel for forgiveness of a 50 cent fine.
 4. On Friday, you don’t have to wear your hair in a bun.
 3. Beheading your enemies (Oops! That’s one of the top ten great things about being Conan the Barbarian with vendors at ALA Mid-Winter.)
 2. Moshing with vendors at ALA Mid-Winter
 1. Fighting censorship....and getting paid for it!
- [From a T-shirt, University of South Florida Student chapter of the American Library Association, 1997. Seen in *the Unabashed Librarian*, Number 140]

Eastern Library System Board Meeting

September 15, 2006

Lyons Public Library

Present: Denise Lawver, Nina Little, Carrie Turner, John Seyfarth, Wendy Anderson, Sam McMullen, Dorothy Willis, Kathy Tooker, Nancy Meyer, Mary Jo Mack, Kenny Oyer and Robin Bernstein. **Guests:** Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission. Mary Fritz, director of Lyons Public Library. Samantha Butler, media specialist at Lyons Decatur Schools.

Denise Lawver, President, called the meeting to order. Introductions and brief comments were made.

The minutes from the July 21, 2006, meeting were reviewed. Three minor changes were made to the minutes. The corrected minutes will be filed.

The treasurer's reports for July and August 2006 were reviewed. No corrections were noted and the reports will be filed for audit.

Administrator's Report: See written report. Kathy shared some highlights from the literary tour that she attended in Ireland. Brief updates were given regarding: Dollar General Grant for reading group book bags, the colloquium with Jamie LaRue, i POD project. Funds are being requested for 2 System projects: a bus for the MPLA conference in Albuquerque and for a customer service workshop. A brief discussion was held regarding the Scholarship Policy. It was determined that the planning/executive committee would review the policy.

John Seyfarth reported on the State Advisory Council on Libraries.

Committee assignments were confirmed. Kenny Oyer volunteered to serve on the Technology Committee.

Old Business: Following a discussion about selling advertising in the Systems Newsletter, Ken Oyer made a motion to sell advertising space for business card-sized ads at the cost of \$25.00 per issue. John seconded and the motion carried.

New Business: NLA Scholarship Silent Auction donation: it was decided that the Board would put together a gift basket. Board Members signed up for a month and will get the items to Kathy as soon as possible so that John can get pictures of the basket on the website.

Ask a Geek: Tech Support in Nebraska: ITART is going to offer tech support to Libraries that do not have a technical advisor. This is going to be a free service. ITART is also going to offer computer tech workshops in the near future.

Book repair kit: Kathy stated that the Nebraska Regional Library Systems are going to purchase a book repair kit. This kit will be available for lending to libraries.

Sally Snyder handed out material about the "2006 Nebraska Book Festival" and "Letters about Literature." Sally mentioned that Linda Jensen is the new staff member hired at the Library Commission.

Ken moved and Wendy seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Next meeting:
November 17, 2006
Creighton Health Sciences Library
Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Mack, secretary

?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
?	Did you know?										?
?	•	that all board meetings are open to any interested party									?
?	•	that ELS board members also serve on working committees									?
?	•	that board members represent all types of libraries									?
?	•	that there are also library users on the board									?
?	•	that serving on the ELS board is informative and fun									?
?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

New Book Club Kits Add to the Nebraska Library Commission Collection

Lisa Kelly, Nebraska Library Commission

We are excited to announce several new titles have been added to our book group collection! In addition to listing the titles at the link below, I'd like to highlight various kits and make suggestions for your book group, or maybe even ideas for growing a book group. First up is an older title, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* by Rebecca Wells c1997. I read this book shortly after it was released at the encouragement of my then 79-year-old neighbor. My neighbor was preparing for a reunion of some long-time female friends and this book helped to set the tone for their gathering. When I finished the book, my neighbor and I talked about it and after she met with her friends, we talked again. What stories she had to tell. I recently read the interview in *Oprah* magazine about the friendship between Oprah and Gail and there is truly a phenomenon of soulful sisterhood – women who are soul mates in each other's life. This book certainly focuses on women who sustain each other through a myriad of situations, some celebratory and some heartbreaking and all the many occasions in-between. The book begins with a fall-out between mother and daughter and the Ya-Yas work to reconcile the two. As with many fiction novels, place is a character in this book. Louisiana can easily be celebrated by incorporating Cajun food and music to elicit the senses before and during your meeting. Imagine playing blues and Cajun music while smelling gumbo simmering on the stove. As with many authors, Rebecca Wells has a website: www.ya-ya.com. At the Gumbo Ya-Ya board you can find tried and true recipes and even locate Ya-Ya groups around the world.

Another way to add dimension to your discussion is to watch the movie together and compare the two sagas. I found the movie more fascinating after reading the book as the background stories in the book were a bit lengthy but helped make the movie more meaningful. I went to the movie with another woman friend of mine who said the movie touched her more deeply than the book. When the credits rolled, she was crying, having experienced some very difficult times with her own daughter. Book groups that both read a book and watch an accompanying movie can provide some terrific conversations and even entice reluctant adult readers. Many of the book groups I've belonged to were all female. This title



would be perfect for that kind of membership. Conversation focusing on the friendship amongst women through time and stages of life would be enriched with the participants own stories. One of the book groups I belonged to served food that reflected elements from the book. Here's a recipe from the website to whet your whistle to consider this southern title for your next book gathering. I'd be interested in hearing how things go!

Hon, iffin you want a gumbo, you must try Fedup's gumbo!

FedUp2Here's Gumbo (feeds 4 Cajuns or 6 Yankees)

1/2 cup flour
1/2 cup veg/saffola oil (that's the roux)
1/2 chopped onion
1/2 chopped green bell pepper
as much garlic as you can stand
Worcestershire sauce
salt
pepper
green onion tops (4 or 5, chopped)
smoked sausage, sliced into circles

various chicken parts - about 5 or 6 six thighs is good.

In a small saucepan warm the oil on medium heat, pour in the flour and stir, stir, stir till it's dark brown (like mahogany) that's the roux. While that's goin', in a large pan brown the sausage until it's good and juicy in there - let the sausage stick a little - it'll add more flavor. Next, add your chicken parts - and a little salt/pepper to taste - brown that too. When the roux is the right color, add the onion, bell pepper and garlic - sauté til wilted. Add the whole mess to the pot of browned meat; add enough water to cover all the meat - and the Worcester-shire - 1 tablespoon or 3 good shakes! Stir it up until everything is mixed well - no lumps from the roux - it should be really soupy/watery. If it's not dark enough, add a little kitchen bouquet to darken it. Bring it to a boil. Lower to simmer, cover and cook for about 40 minutes. Add green onion tops, cover and cook about 10 minutes. Serve over rice in a bowl, like soup - not like gravy!!! My mama used to make potato salad with it - but that's a lot of starch for one meal, so you could just make a green salad - this is a heavy meal, so you don't need a lotta sides.... Bon Appetite!!!

For a listing of book club kits available from the Nebraska Library Commission and rules for using these kits, go here:

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/bookclubkits.html>

Upcoming Events

December 1 - DIRECT Meeting, La Vista Public Library, 9:30 am

December 25-26 OFFICE CLOSED

January 12 - Blogs and Web Pages Workshop (see flyer in this issue)

January 19 - ELS Board Meeting - Papillion La Vista South High School

February 5 - CLICK Meeting, La Vista Public Library, 9:30 am

February 14 - NLA Library Legislative Day

February 23 - Summer Reading Program Workshop, Keene Memorial Library, Fremont

March 13-17 - MPLA Road Trip 2007 (see flyer in this issue)

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



from Kathy & Nancy

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