

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

APRIL/MAY 2014

Your System Board:

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Regional Library Systems Configuration Task Force

State and federal budget cuts over several years and flat funding in recent years prompted discussions among regional library system directors, system board members, and Nebraska Library Commission staff to address funding constraints and regional organization. Those discussions resulted in formation of the Regional Library Systems Configuration Task Force. The Task Force recommended options for reducing the number of regional systems from the current six to five or four regions. The March 14, 2014 report of this task force can be accessed at: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/systems/>

At the end of this newsletter are the maps showing the proposed reconfigurations. In the five system model, the existing Meridian Library System will be divided among the other five systems. In the four system model, the current Meridian Library System stays almost entirely intact but adds a number of counties to the south that are currently in Republican Valley Library System.

The Nebraska Library Commissioners will vote on the reconfiguration at their May meeting. If they decide to reduce the number of systems, NLC and system staff will meet to begin the planning for the changes



Nebraska libraries are planning One Book One Nebraska programs and are anxious to use the recording, "The Canteen Spirit "(DVD, 2006, PBS Home Video, NET Television). Excerpts are available at <http://netnebraska.org/basic-page/television/canteen-spirit-0>. The DVD can be borrowed by your local library through ILL OR from the Nebraska Library Commission, by contacting the Information Services Team at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/mail/mail2staff.asp?ready>.

Books for Orphans in Africa

I had the privilege last month of delivering approximately 500 books to a school for orphans in Kama-la, Uganda. The books came from school and public libraries across Nebraska, as well as school libraries in neighboring states (from some of my out-of-state students).

The joy I felt at seeing these beautiful children enjoy BOOKS cannot be measured, and ranks as one of the top ten experiences of my life. You see, these children have had very little exposure to books and I wasn't sure what their reaction would be. Books are rare in this land of low literacy rates, high basic needs, and few resources. These children cannot go to public school because the government will not put resources into people they think will die by the age of 20 years.

BUT, I was pleasantly surprised. Surprised at seeing how well the children accepted the joy of books. Some had to be shown how to hold them, but others took to the books like ducks to water, and they did not come up for air for a long time. Some went off by themselves to read (yes, several could read pretty well), some paired up with a friend, and others got into groups and passed the books around. There were some who enjoyed gathering them up and putting them into piles by size and color. ALL thoroughly enjoyed experiencing piles and piles of books they had never seen before!

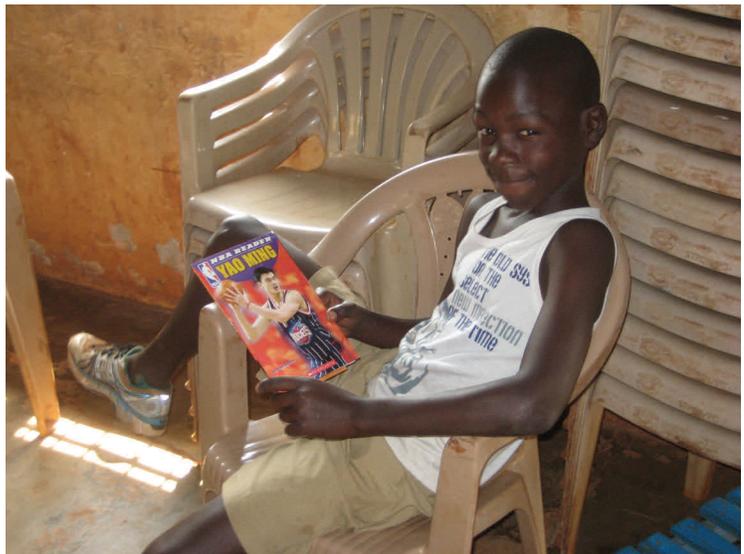
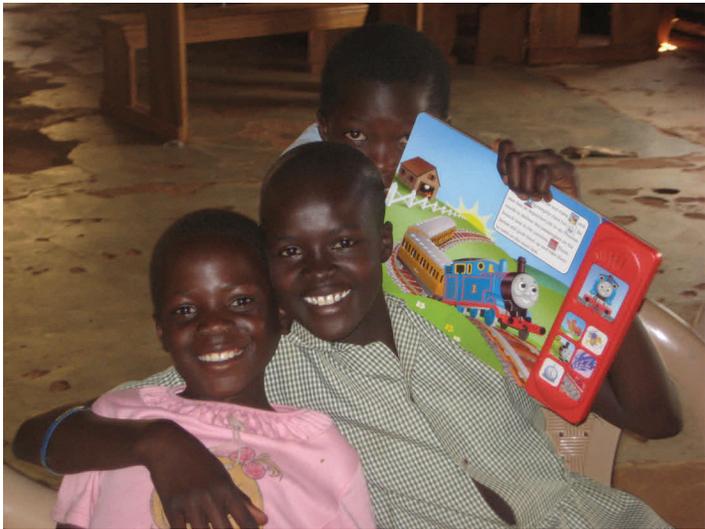
I say I was surprised but I should not have been. For years I have heard that exposing children to books--letting them "dive in" and choose their favorites--is one of the best ways to motivate them to read and learn. Researchers say that the pleasure humans derive from satisfying their own curiosity is directly connected to their drive for survival, and results in advantages such as increased knowledge, independence, and secure relationships (Ryan, Kuhl, & Deci, 1997).

Thanks for your generosity, school library professionals of Nebraska. For these children of Kampala knowledge is not only power, it is *survival*. If they do not develop the ability to read and seek information on their own, their lives will be difficult indeed. Because of you these precious, mostly-forgotten children were given a little more of a chance.

But truly, in this day and age of information technology, isn't that true for children everywhere?

Ryan, R. M., Kuhl, J., & Deci, E. L. (1997). Nature and autonomy: An organizational view of social and neurobiological aspects of self-regulation in behavior and development. *Development and Psychopathology*, 9, 701-728.

Dr. Sherry R. Crow
University of Nebraska Kearney



The NLA Scholarship and Awards Committee invites nominations for the 2014 Meritorious Service Award and the Mari Sandoz Award.

The **Meritorious Service Award** is given annually to a person, corporation or organization which has contributed to the improvement of library service in a local community, region, state agency, or in library legislation. It may be given to an individual or a group.

The **Mari Sandoz Award** recognizes significant, enduring contribution to the Nebraska book world through writing, film production or related activity.

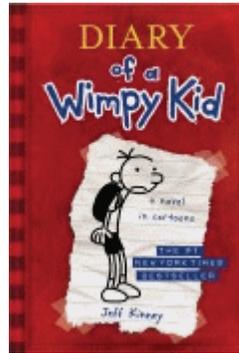
Nomination Procedures:

1. The original letter of nomination should include the nominee's name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, accomplishments, and any relevant supporting documentation. The letter should include the name, title, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person or group making the nomination.
2. At least four additional letters that support and endorse the nomination are required. Such letters may provide further information about the nomination.
3. More information and lists of previous recipients may be found on the [NLA web page](#).
4. Nominations not selected are carried over to the following year, and additional letters of support are welcome for those nominations.
5. Nominations and letters of support must be received by **May 30, 2014**.
6. Nominations may be submitted by e-mail to seerys@mpcc.edu or mailed to:

Sky Seery
North Platte Community College
601 West State Farm Road
North Platte, NE 69101

Sky Seery
For the Scholarship and Awards Committee

Wimpy Kid Webinar



Jeff Kinney and his publisher are celebrating "Wimpy Kid Month" and offering a Webinar on April 28 from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. This will include a review of the Wimpy Kid books, an interactive quiz, a draw-along, and sneak peeks at book #9, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck*. Kinney will be answering fans' questions throughout the webcast. Kids can also download a drawing prompt to create and submit their own renditions of Wimpy Kid covers. Register at the Wimpy Kid Website, which offers additional W.K. material. If you cannot make the live 'cast, it will be available at Wimpy Kids Videos.

Cutting Machines Schedule

April: Elm Creek Schools
May: Scotia Public Library
June: Open
July: Open
August: Lexington Public Library
September-December: Open

Contact the System Office if you would like to borrow.



Library & Information Services

Online Course Offerings

Summer, 2014

May 27, 2014 – August 1, 2014

Enrollment begins April 11, 2014

<http://www.cccneb.edu/degreesonline>

See: Library and Information Services

LIBR 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services

Marty Magee, Instructor

This course, the first in the Library and Information Services curriculum, provides introductory information in multiple areas.

- Foundational Principles and Code of Ethics
- Types of libraries and library departments
- Information Databases and the Internet

For information regarding course content, contact the instructor at mmagee@cccneb.edu

LIBR 2100 Reference Resources and Services

Marty Magee, Instructor

This course will include the theories, concepts and activities integral to reference.

- Resources and services in 21st Century libraries and information agencies
- Effective use of print & digital resources
- Legal & ethical responsibilities

Prerequisite: LIBR 1010 Foundations of Library & Information Services.

For information regarding course content, contact the instructor at mmagee@cccneb.edu

LIBR 2940 Library and Information Services Capstone Practicum

Erica Rose, Instructor

This capstone course is the last course in the Library & Information Services program and includes 40 on-site hours in a host library as well as a comprehensive review of LIS curriculum.

Prerequisites: LIBR 1010, 2100, 2150, 2210, & 2250

For information regarding this course, contact the instructor at erose@cccneb.edu

For information on 21st Century Librarian Scholarships, see Nebraska Library Commission website at: <http://nlc1.nlc.state.ne.us/nowhiring/Scholarships.asp>

"This project is made possible by a grant from The Institute of Museum and Library Services Librarians for the 21st Century Program, as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission."

For information concerning CCC Admissions or Registration, contact:

Dee Johnson

djohnson@cccneb.edu

402-562-1418 or Toll Free at 877-222-0780 extension 1418

NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 20th ANNUAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2014 / 8:30 A. M. - 4:00 P. M.

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE / LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER

801 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, NE

Funded by the Norfolk Library Foundation and the City of Norfolk

FEATURING:



KELLY DiPUCCHIO

2015 Golden Sower Award nominee for *CRAFTY CHLOE*



SHEILA TURNAGE

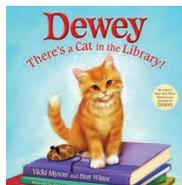
2015 Golden Sower Award nominee for *THREE TIMES LUCKY*



S. A. BODEEN

2015 Golden Sower Award nominee for *THE RAFT*

2012 Golden Sower Award winner for *THE COMPOUND*



VICKI MYRON

2012 Golden Sower Award winner for *DEWEY: THERE'S A CAT IN THE LIBRARY!*

Dennis Drevo Memorial Luncheon Speaker

ALSO: 2014-2015 Golden Sower Previews by Karen Drevo & Marci Retzlaff; Book Display & Discount Sales by Norfolk Public Library Foundation of titles by Kelly DiPucchio, Sheila Turnage, S.A. Bodeen, and Vicki Myron; Sales of Golden Sower Items; Autograph Session/Book Signing with Kelly DiPucchio, Sheila Turnage, S.A. Bodeen, and Vicki Myron; Door Prizes; 5 Continuing Education Hours (for all day attendance) from the Nebraska Library Commission for School & Public Librarians; 5 Professional Growth Points (for all day attendance) for Teachers/Staff employed by Norfolk Public Schools

Advance tickets are available at Norfolk Public Library OR by mail order. To order tickets by mail, **send a completed registration form with full payment** (write checks to "Norfolk Library Foundation--Literature Festival") to:

Literature Festival
Norfolk Public Library
308 W. Prospect Avenue
Norfolk, NE 68701

For more information, contact Karen Drevo at NPL by phone (402/844-2108) or e-mail kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us

20TH ANNUAL NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY LITERATURE FESTIVAL REGISTRATION/TICKET ORDER FORM

Youth and Adult walk-ins are welcome at full price the day of the Festival but lunch will not be available to walk-ins.

Name:

_____ (please print)

Address:

_____ Phone number:

Number of tickets you are ordering (ticket price includes lunch, options for vegetarians will be provided):

Youth (18 and under), \$15.00 each: _____ Adult, \$40.00 each: _____

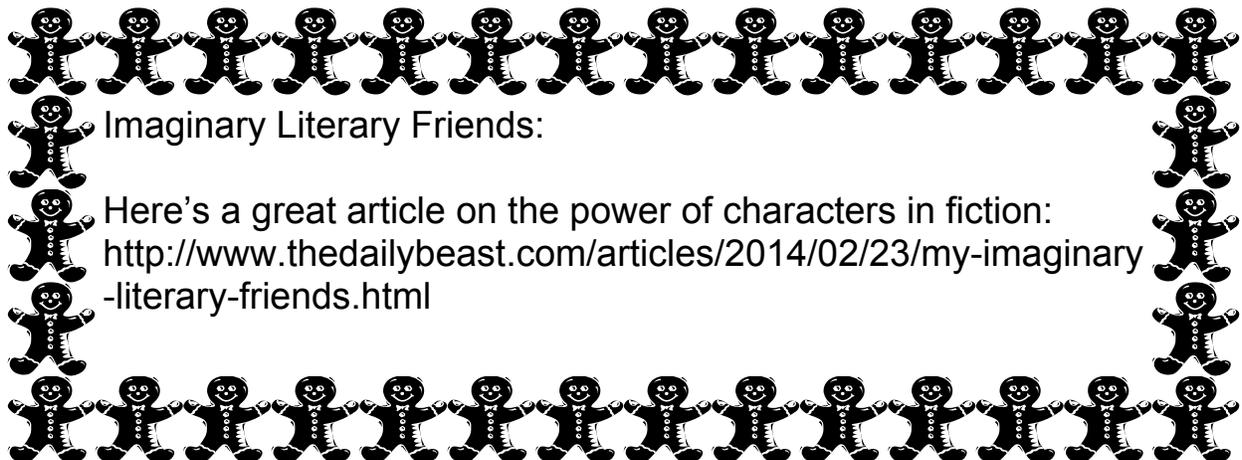
Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Advance tickets are available at Norfolk Public Library OR by mail order. To order tickets by mail, send a completed registration form with full payment (write checks to "Norfolk Library Foundation--Literature Festival") to:

Literature Festival
Norfolk Public Library
308 W. Prospect Avenue
Norfolk, NE 68701

If you want your tickets sent to you, provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
If no stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided, tickets will be held for you to be picked up the day of the Festival.

For more information, contact Karen Drevo at NPL by phone (402/844-2108) or e-mail kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us



Imaginary Literary Friends:

Here's a great article on the power of characters in fiction:
<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/02/23/my-imaginary-literary-friends.html>

Writing a Social Media Policy for Your Library

This webinar, sponsored by Infopeople and funded in part by U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, tackled a topic I had not thought much about up to this point. Does your library need a social media policy? Probably only if there are more than 1-3 people on your staff. The first part of the program focused on the rights of staff members to use social media and comment on the workplace and people in it. The second half dealt with what should go into a policy: 1. Be specific (clear and succinct so staff will actually read it!) 2. Write it in a friendly tone. 3. Consult a lawyer. Don't let them write it; just have them review it for any legal issues.

The policy should focus on the things that employees can do rather than what they cannot do. One thing is that they may need to include a disclaimer in their social media accounts that their comments do not necessarily reflect those of their employer and you may also require them to use their real name on their social media accounts.

Examples of some social media policies:

Zappos: Be real and use your best judgment.

Intel: Always think before posting. That said, reply to comments in a timely manner, when a response is appropriate. But if it gives you pause, if you're about to publish something that makes you even the slightest bit uncomfortable, don't shrug it off and hit "send." Take a minute to review these guidelines and try to figure out what's bothering you, then fix it. If you're still unsure, you might want to discuss it with your manager or legal representative. Ultimately, what you publish is yours – as is the responsibility. So be sure.

Remember, employers can monitor what you publish, so:

Be accurate. Make sure what you post is factually correct and cite sources.

Make it clear whether what you are saying is fact or opinion

Use good judgment.

Protect and respect your patrons and colleagues

Avoid fighting: no personal attacks or inflammatory remarks.

Be clear about consequences.

Ask staff to look for opportunities to show how the library provides value.

From IBM: Don't pick fights, be the first to correct your own mistakes, and don't alter previous posts without indicating that you have done so.

Resources to check out:

3 Great Social Media Policies to Steal From: mashable.com/2009/10/02/social-media-policies-examples/

Social Media Governance – Policy Database: socialmediagovernance.com/policies.php

Ten most challenged books of 2013 from ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom:

- 1) *Captain Underpants* (series), by Dav Pilkey
Reasons: Offensive language, unsuited for age group, violence
- 2) *The Bluest Eye*, by Toni Morrison
Reasons: Offensive language, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group, violence
- 3) *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie
Reasons: Drugs/alcohol/smoking, offensive language, racism, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
- 4) *Fifty Shades of Grey*, by E.L. James
Reasons: Nudity, offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
- 5) *The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins
Reasons: Religious viewpoint, unsuited to age group
- 6) *A Bad Boy Can Be Good for A Girl*, by Tanya Lee Stone
Reasons: Drugs/alcohol/smoking, nudity, offensive language, sexually explicit
- 7) *Looking for Alaska*, by John Green
Reasons: Drugs/alcohol/smoking, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
- 8) *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, by Stephen Chbosky
Reasons: drugs/alcohol/smoking, homosexuality, sexually explicit, unsuited to age group
- 9) *Bless Me Ultima*, by Rudolfo Anaya
Reasons: Occult/Satanism, offensive language, religious viewpoint, sexually explicit
- 10) *Bone* (series), by Jeff Smith
Reasons: Political viewpoint, racism, violence

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Minding the Manor: The Memoir of a 1930's English Kitchen Maid by Mollie Moran

If you are a fan of *Upstairs, Downstairs* or *Downton Abbey*, then this is the book for you. Mollie Moran spent the 1930's in domestic service, starting out in the lowest position of a scullery maid and working up to being a cook. The days were incredibly long and the work hard (no appliances to help with anything) but Mollie and her fellow kitchen maid Flo still managed to have fun in the few hours they had free. The writing style is easy to read and Moran's personality shines through. She does not hold back in showing how headstrong she was and some of the mistakes she made. Now 97 years old, Moran is probably the only living person who was in domestic service in those years. Recommended.

Murder at the Rocks by Jill Paterson

Laurence Hartford is murdered outside of the family jewelry business right after Nicholas Hartford, heir to the business, has an argument with him. Viewed by the police as the most likely suspect, Nick sets out to find out who and why his uncle was killed. There is no lack of viable suspects and all of the little details that come to light throughout the story play into the final solution.

I had been in a reading slump for a few days when I started this book and, to my delight, I fell right into the story. The writing is eminently readable and the characters interesting. The solution to the murder makes sense based upon what we find out. What is different about this book is that the police (Alistair Fitzjohn and his detectives) are quite secondary to the story. It's really Nick's story. Yes, the police find out information, but without Nick, vital information would not have come to light.

2014 SUMMER READING PROGRAM



Mad scientist Sally Snyder



Mary Matuszewski delighted attendees with easy and inexpensive ideas



Craft time!



Meridian Library System

Annual Meeting

July 28, 2014

11:00 a.m.

Lexington Public Library

Schedule:

11:00-Noon Business Meeting/Review of 2013-2014

Introduction of New Board Member

Noon Lunch catered by Madeline's in Lexington



REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Library: _____

Enclose \$10/person for lunch with registration form.

Mall to: Meridian Library System, 816 East 25th Street, #7

Kearney NE 68847 by July 21st.

