

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

JUNE/JULY 2008

Your System Board:

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Sharon at play
at MPLA in Salt
Lake City.

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Two Great Conferences

It was a great privilege to attend two excellent conferences this spring: Mountain Plains Library Association in Salt Lake City and Book Expo America in Los Angeles.

At MPLA, the best session I attended was on Boys and Books. I have included the reading list from the session on the next page. I was delighted to sit next to author Carolyn G. Hart at a luncheon and chat about our favorite mystery books and authors. And, as always, there were the evening get-togethers!

This was my first visit to Book Expo America. What an experience to visit booths from just about every publisher. The best thing about Book America are the free books and the many autographing sessions. Each hour, there are 24 new authors in the autographing area. Additionally, many publishers have authors signing at their booths. I mailed back three boxes of books that I will be giving away in the coming months, many of them autographed. The authors were delighted to see librarians at the conference because they all want their books placed in library collections.

My special event at Book Expo was the Children's/Youth Author Breakfast. John Scieszka was the emcee and our speakers were Eoin Colfer, Sherman Alexie, Judy Blume and Neil Gaiman. It doesn't get much better than this! We were the first to see the trailer for Gaiman's *Coraline* that will be a stop action movie later this year.

The sessions I attended at Book Expo were on two topics: audio publishing and graphic novels. Publishers are very worried about what audio will change in their businesses. As we already know, graphic novels are hot right now. I received several good lists of top titles. I have included YALSA's top ten list elsewhere in this newsletter.

If you have never attended a regional or national conference, I would encourage you to do so. The Nebraska Library Commission's Continuing Education Grant cycle is currently open so now is the time to apply for attending a great conference next year!

Bridging the Gender Gap: Enticing Boys to Books

Presented by Carole D. Fiore

- Provide boys with lots of opportunities for sensory activities and experiences.
- Make sure your center, classroom, and library have print materials that will interest boys.
- Provide boy-friendly culminating activities after completing books.
- Once boys get started, they don't want to move from one activity to another.
- Allow boys more time to transition from one activity to another.
- Give boys frequent breaks from work.
- Provide boys with opportunities to engage in creative dramatics, to demonstrate their abilities.
- Allow boys to move about the classroom and library as they work and think.
- Provide literature circles and book discussion groups – and separate participants by gender.
- Read humorous poetry aloud.
- Share nonfiction as a read aloud and booktalk informational books.
- Give reluctant readers short passages to read.
- Use art as a way to respond to literature.
- Provide boys with some prior knowledge (background) before they begin to read or listen to a book.
- Allow boys to experience the actions in a book – before and/or after reading and listening.
- Provide more titles similar in theme to the one a boy has selected or one read aloud to them and enjoyed.
- Do not think of comic books or graphic novels as sub-literature.
- Provide a wide variety of reading materials at home and in the classroom/center.
- Encourage fathers to become active in their sons' reading.
- Model reading.
- Set aside a daily time when everyone reads – turn off the TV, video games, and the computer.
- Read the newspaper with boys.
- Allow boys to participate in choosing their

books.

- Support reading selections – no matter what they are!
- Participate in local, state, regional, and national young reader's award programs.



Learning Beyond the Classroom

ReadWriteThink.org is proud to announce that Learning Beyond the Classroom, our site designed to help children and teens continue to build their literacy learning outside of school, is growing.

The site now offers even more activities for children ages 4 to 18. In addition, the site includes booklists, reading logs, book review podcasts, and best practice videos to help caregivers and tutors make the most of summer reading and writing opportunities. To see all of these features and more, please visit www.readwritethink.org/beyondtheclassroom/summer.

ReadWriteThink.org is a nonprofit website maintained by the International Reading Association and the National Council of Teachers of English, with support from the Verizon Foundation and in association with the Thinkfinity.org program.



Puppet Tales Newsletter

With each issue of Puppet Tales librarians can click and print a new collection of great ideas, tips & tricks to enrich their storytelling. Puppet Tales showcases programs, products and ideas to jump-start your creativity and put spark in your StoryTime. You can even gather the issues together in a binder for a great reference all year long! Read online at: <http://www.misterandersons.com/puppettales/index.html>

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PURPOSE

Permissible Purposes

- Archiving, preservation, or restoration
- Research
- Scholarship
- Nonprofit educational institution
- Criticism
- Comment
- News reporting
- Commentary on current events or issues
- Remedial education for students with disabilities
- Parody

Typical Purposes

- Commercial entity
- Advertising/marketing
- Entertainment
- Research/development
- Demographic engineering/marketing

NATURE

Permissible Purposes

- Published works
- Creative or artistic work
- Materiality favored if material to critics

Typical Purposes

- Unpublished works
- Highly creative works
- Critical

AMOUNT

Permissible Purposes

- Small quantity
- Portion of work is not central or significant to the work
- Amount is appropriate for favored educational purpose

Typical Purposes

- Large portion of whole work is used
- Noncentral or central to work or "heart of the work"

EFFECT

Permissible Purposes

- Use does not displace market for original work
- Does not copy trademark
- No harm to artist or trademark holder or patent holder for copyrighted work
- No harm to artist or trademark holder by the copyright holder
- Lack of licensing mechanism

Typical Purposes

- Could replace sale of original work
- Significant impairment of potential market for original work or derivative
- Reasonable likelihood of existing or potential use of the copyrighted work
- Available from other available sources
- No market copies made
- You made it necessary for Web site to be available
- Repetitive or long-term use

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2008 Teen's Top Book Nominations

It's summer and teens are going to be reading. They might as well read the Teens' Top Ten nominations. What a great time to promote these Titles and buy them for your branch or school. Make sure you own all 26 titles so your teens won't be left out:

Before I Die by Jenny Downham
Betrayed by PC Cast and Kristin Cast
City of Bones by Cassandra Clare
Daemon Hall by Andrew Nance
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
Eclipse by Stephenie Meyer
Extras by Scott Westerfeld
Evil Genius by Catherine Jinks
Glass by Ellen Hopkins
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by JK Rowling
Ironside by Holly Black
Jango by William Nicholson
Jinx by Meg Cabot
The Luxe by Anna Godbersson
Maximum Ride: Saving the World and Other Extreme Sports by James Patterson
Saving Zoe by Alyson Noel
Sun and Moon, Ice and Snow by Jessica George
The Sweet Far Thing by Libba Bray
Tamar by Mal Peet
Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson
Unwind by Neal Shusterman
Vampire Academy by Richelle Mead
Wicked Lovely by Melissa Marr
Wildwood Dancing by Juliet Marillier



Mad Hatter Award Nomination Sought

The School, Children's and Young People's Section of NLA is accepting nominations for the Mad Hatter Award 2008. This award is given annually

to a member of the Nebraska Library Profession who has made an outstanding contribution to School, Children's and Young People's librarianship and library development. The recipient will be selected on the basis of all of the following criteria:

1. Imaginative interpretation of library services
2. Development of innovative and creative programming for children and young adults
3. Demonstration of professional contributions to regional, state, and national library organizations, publications, and/or presentations

The nominee MUST be a member of the School, Children's and Young People's Section of NLA.

The nomination form can be found at: <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/SCYP/MHnomform.pdf>

Send nominations to Marci Retzlaff (address below) by August 1, 2008.



Free reproducible language and early literacy activities

Developed by Angela Notari-Syverson, Ph.D. and colleagues

To download materials go to www.wlearning.com and click on the purple button that says "Free Parent Education Handouts" on the home page. Look for the "On the Go" file to download the materials in PDF format.

The new materials are designed to encourage parents to interact with their children while they are "On the Go" to facilitate language, early literacy, and positive parent-child interactions. The materials include 14 activities as well as accompanying hints for each of the activities about how to modify the activities to meet the specific developmental needs of the child.

For questions please contact:
Mary Maddox
Washington Learning Systems
2212 Queen Anne Ave. N. Ste. 726
Seattle, WA 98109
(206) 310-7401 FAX (206) 283-9243
mmaddox@wlearning.com



Statewide Community Resources At Your Fingertips Via 2-1-1

Want to know where to go in your community for human services? The answer is just a mouse click away at www.ne211.org. This Web site has information about programs in your community -- and across the state -- that provide such services as homeless shelters, transitional housing, health care, financial assistance, food banks, mental health care and counseling, crisis lines, utility assistance, substance abuse programs, recreation programs, mentoring programs, community services, volunteering, disaster relief, and much more!

At the ne211.org site, you may search for resources in a number of ways:

- o Type in a keyword, such as “emergency housing”
- o Browse the categories of human services and select the one that best fits
- o Use one of our “quick” searches
- o Look for an agency or program with the alphabetical search
- o Limit your search results by a miles radius from a zip code (for keyword, category, alphabetical, and “quick” searches)

For example, a keyword search for “library” returns over 50 results, including public libraries and agency-based resource centers. An ne211.org user can find out if a particular public library offers story time, GED classes in Spanish, public Internet access, or other services. Common keyword searches made on ne211.org relate to housing, health care, financial assistance, food, and mental health care.

Rather talk to someone on the phone? The ne211.org Web site is a companion to 2-1-1, the three digit phone service. Residents of 38 Nebraska counties and eight counties in southwest Iowa can dial 2-1-1. Just dial 2-1-1 on your phone to connect to a live, certified information and referral specialist. Interpretation assistance for more than 150 languages is offered to those calling the 2-1-1 call center.

Both the Web site and the call center are free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



The Regional Library System Administrators (l-r): Sherry Houston, RVLS; Kathy Ellerton, NELS; Brenda Ealey, SELS; Kathy Tooker, ELS; Sharon Osenga, MLS; Margie Harrison, PLS.



Author Ben Mikaelson recently presented a number of programs in Nebraska, including one at Broken Bow Middle School .

Practical Politics for Challenging Times

**Donna Jones Morris, Utah State Librarian
Pete Giacoma, former Director, Davis County Library**

April 30, 2008 11:00-12:00

Plan Your "Ask"

In advocate or lobbyist terms the "Ask" is used as a noun (rather than the usual action verb) to represent the question or need that a constituent has to "ask" of their legislator.

Your Ask Plan should include:

1) Develop a one-pager about your library (see reverse for example)

This one page summary about your library contains facts, stories and how your library helps your community - the community that your legislator represents. It should be eye appealing, as well as informative, readable and concise.

2) Brain storm your personal stories

Discuss with colleagues, board members and other constituents, what stories best represent the ASK that you have of your legislator. Compile stories that have impact and touch on the issues.

3) Learn about the legislative issues

Do your research and make sure you understand what the issues are concerning your ASK. Be sure you understand the issue in a national, state or local context, depending on the level of legislator you are asking.

4) Learn about your legislators

Do research on your legislator and learn about his/her areas of interests, expertise, and connections to your community, as well as his/her voting record on your issue. Also, learn about their staff if possible, since you may meet with staff rather than your legislator.

5) Coordinate your message

If more than one person is meeting with your legislator, make sure everyone has a significant piece of the total message to deliver to legislators, and don't hesitate to rehearse your meeting. It will probably be brief and fast paced, so be ready.

Material based on Advocacy Presentations by Stephanie D. Vance of AdVanced Consulting, for ALA's Washington Office, 1615 New Hampshire Ave, NW, First Floor, Washington, DC 20009 - 202-628-8419

INSERT YOUR LOGO / LETTERHEAD HERE!

SAMPLE ONE PAGER

Use this template for developing a one-page
leave behind about your library

Background on X Organization

- The X organization represents the interests of X people concerned about library issues in [name of city, community, state, geographic area of representation].
- Our mission is to: [fill in mission statement here].
- We have achieved these goals through a variety of means, including:
 - o List one or two HIGHLIGHTS of your work here. Try to limit it to two or three sentences.

Libraries in Our Community

Our library needs continued support from all sectors, citizens, businesses and government. As citizens, employees, trustees and supporters we are doing our part to ensure that all members of our community have access to the many benefits of library services. Currently, our services include:

- Make note of interesting programs in the library
- Provide details on how many people use the library
- Offer insights into how the community might suffer if library services were reduced or eliminated

Library Funding in Our Community

Funds from Federal library programs such as LSTA have been instrumental in supporting increased access to news, information and education in our community.

- Include facts regarding how federal, state and local dollars have been spent to help you provide better services and / or
- List one or two ways in which additional library-related funding can have a positive impact on the community
- Be sure to make note of how private and public dollars are leveraged by federal or state investment

How Congress Can Help

Funding levels for library services are absolutely critical to meeting the ongoing needs of our community. [Insert any information you may have about growing needs in your community]. The X library urges Congress/County Commission/City Council to continue to strengthen and protect all programs related to our libraries.

Insert YOUR contact information here, including websites, phone numbers,

**NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 14TH ANNUAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL
SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2008 / 9:00 A. M. - 4:00 P. M.
NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE / LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER
801 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, NE**

This year's Festival has been funded by the Norfolk Library Foundation, the City of Norfolk, & SCYP!
!Free admission for SCYP members!

FEATURING:

DOUGLAS WOOD

2009 Golden Sower Award nominee for NOTHING TO DO

Also author of OLD TURTLE—OLD TURTLE AND THE BROKEN TRUTH—A QUIET PLACE—
WHAT DADS CAN'T DO—WHAT MOMS CAN'T DO—WHAT GRANDMAS CAN'T DO—WHAT
TEACHERS CAN'T DO—THE THINGS TREES KNOW—HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

CYNTHIA LORD

2009 Golden Sower Award nominee for RULES

Also author of TOUCH BLUE

HAN NOLAN

2009 Golden Sower Award nominee for A SUMMER OF KINGS

Also author of WHEN WE WERE SAINTS—IF I SHOULD DIE BEFORE I WAKE—SEND ME
DOWN A MIRACLE—DANCING ON THE EDGE—A FACE IN EVERY WINDOW—BORN BLUE

ALSO: 2008-2009 Golden Sower Previews by Karen Drevo & Marci Retzlaff; Book Display & Discount Sales by Norfolk Public Library Foundation of titles by Wood, Lord, & Nolan; Sales of Golden Sower Items; Autograph Session/Book Signing with Douglas Wood, Cynthia Lord & Han Nolan; 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

TICKETS: Youth (18 & under): \$5.00/advance & \$7.50/door

Adults: \$20.00/advance & \$25.00/door

!Free admission for current SCYP members!

Advance tickets are available at Norfolk Public Library OR by mail order. To order tickets by mail, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with full payment (make checks payable to "Norfolk Library Foundation--Literature Festival") to:

Literature Festival
Norfolk Public Library
308 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

A wonderful way to spend a summer day FOR LITERATURE LOVERS OF ALL AGES!

EXCALIBUR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC LIBRARIAN



THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND TRUSTEE SECTION OF THE NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ACCEPTS NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXCALIBUR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC LIBRARIAN. THIS AWARD HONORS THE CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF A PUBLIC LIBRARIAN WHO HAS DEMONSTRATED AN OUTSTANDING RECORD OF SERVICE TO HIS/HER LOCAL LIBRARY AND TO THE LIBRARY PROFESSION. THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES SUGGEST AREAS IN WHICH THE NOMINEE MAY HAVE RENDERED SIGNIFICANT SERVICE. PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO THOSE NOMINEES WHO HAVE ACHIEVED EXCELLENCE IN MORE THAN ONE OF THESE AREAS:

- DEVELOPMENT OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN FIELD(S) OF EXPERTISE, E.G. REFERENCE, CHILDREN'S, TECHNICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE.
- INVOLVEMENT IN STATEWIDE LIBRARY SERVICE.
- RECORD OF LIBRARY LEADERSHIP IN LOCAL COMMUNITY, REGIONAL AREA OR IN THE NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.
- ENCOURAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY/INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE LIBRARY.

THE NOMINEE MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND TRUSTEE SECTION OF THE NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION. SEND A STATEMENT OF NOMINATION WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE NOMINEE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO ANY EXCALIBUR NOMINATION COMMITTEE MEMBER. SUPPORTING LETTERS OF NOMINATION AND OTHER MATERIALS MAY ALSO BE SUBMITTED WITH NOMINATION. DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS AUGUST 1.

PERSON NOMINATED _____

LIBRARY AND ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

NOMINATED BY _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

SEND NOMINATION FORMS BY AUGUST 1 TO:

2008 EXCALIBUR AWARD COMMITTEE:

DIANE DOWNER

DDOWNER@GERINGLIBRARY.ORG

(308) 436-7433

GERING PUBLIC LIBRARY

1055 P STREET

GERING, NE 69341

YALSA Top Ten Great Graphic Novels for Teens 2008

Abadzis, Nick. *Laika*. First Second, 2007. \$17.95 (ISBN13: 978-1596431010).

Carey, Mike. *Re-Gifters*. DC/Minx, 2007. \$9.99 (ISBN13: 978-1-4012-0371-9).

Fleming, Ann Marie. *The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam*. Penguin Group, 2007. \$14.00 (ISBN13: 978-1594482649).

Giffen, Keith. *Blue Beetle: Shell-shocked*. DC Comics, 2006. \$12.99 (ISBN13: 978-1401209650); *Blue Beetle: Road Trip*. DC Comics, 2007. \$12.99 (ISBN13: 978-1401213619).

Iwahara, Yuji. *King of Thorn, vol. 1*. Tokyopop, 2007. \$9.99 (ISBN13: 978-1-59816-235-6); *King of Thorn, vol. 2*. Tokyopop, 2007. \$9.99 (ISBN13: 978-1-59816-236-3).

Loux, Matthew. *Sidescrollers*. Oni Press, 2007. \$11.95 (ISBN13: 978-1-932664-50-8).

Mizushiro, Setona. *After School Nightmare, vol. 1*. Go Comi!, 2006. \$10.99 (ISBN13: 978-1933617169); *After School Nightmare, vol. 2*. Go Comi!, 2006. \$10.99 (ISBN13: 978-1933617176); *After School Nightmare, vol. 3*. Go Comi!, 2007. \$10.99 (ISBN13: 978-1933617244); *After School Nightmare, vol. 4*. Go Comi!, 2007. \$10.99 (ISBN13: 978-1933617336); *After School Nightmare, vol. 5*. Go Comi!, 2007. \$10.99 (ISBN13: 978-1933617480).

Mori, Kaoru. *Emma, vol. 1*. CMX, 2006. \$9.99 (ISBN13: 978-1-4012-1132-5); *Emma, vol. 2*. CMX, 2006. \$9.99 (ISBN13: 978-1-4012-1133-2); *Emma, vol. 3*. CMX, 2007. \$9.99 (ISBN13: 978-1-4012-1134-9); *Emma, vol. 4*. CMX, 2007. \$9.99 (ISBN13: 978-1-4012-1135-6); *Emma, vol. 5*. CMX, 2007. \$9.99 (ISBN13: 978-1-4012-1136-3).

Sis, Peter. *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*. Farrar, Strauss, Giroux, 2007. \$18.00 (ISBN13: 978-0-374-34701-7).

Tan, Shaun. *The Arrival*. Arthur A. Levine, 2007.

\$19.99 (ISBN13: 978-0439895293).

The full list can be found at www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists.



2008 Golden Sower Award Winners

Primary

Winner: *The Great Fuzz Frenzy* by Janet Stevens & Susan Stevens Crummel, illus. Janet Stevens

Honor:
Mrs. McBloom, Clean Up Your Classroom! by Kelly DiPucchio

Tooth Fairy's First Night by Anne Bowen, illus. Jon Berkeley

Intermediate

Winner: *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney

Honor:
The Stupendous Dodgeball Fiasco by Janice Repka, illus. Glin Dibley

The SOS File by Betsy Byars, Betsy Duffey, and Laurie Myers

Young Adult

Winner: *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan

Honor:
Uglies by Scott Westerfeld

The Perfect Shot by Elaine Marie Alphin

Patrons Judge Libraries by Their Covers

Before you step into the library, or one of the branches, for a board meeting take a minute to reflect on the message the building presents to the public. Are the grounds inviting? Is there a bench or two for those waiting for a ride or looking for a relaxing spot to read before venturing home?

As you move into the library, is it visually appealing or visually polluting? Are posters haphazardly taped on walls, doors, or pillars? Are all the community announcements organized on a bulletin board or scattered about? Is local artwork presented with information on those artists? Are the circulation and information stations professional in appearance for important person to person interaction?

Does the library show irony by filling the entry with donated and weeded books piled up for sale and then offering a world of information for free? The few dollars generated from those sales creates a poor image of who we are as librarians and what libraries are about. The "clearance sale" method may work in a retail store clearing out leftovers with a dollar value still attached, but libraries have other goals.

Many libraries cannot purchase new shelving to replace the institutional gun metal grey or washed out tan shelving that has served for decades. One inexpensive few sheets of pine or oak plywood and a volunteer or two who will fit them to the width of the shelves, sand and stain them, and bolt them to the unit end for an attractive, low cost update. Then you have a location for artwork, signage, or simple clean space. Do those miscellaneous racks and shelves for paperbacks, videos and books on tape fit the space, or are they just a forgotten carryover from another time?

A big investment is required when you look at the carpet, wall paint, and furni-

ture, but a coordinated investment with a contemporary look can show professionalism, and show the community that the library is vital, lively, and a welcoming community facility - all important to encourage future support.

I am not focusing on any particular library, but rather suggesting everyone look at how businesses, retail stores, and government offices present themselves to you as a consumer and how you react.

As one of the Ghostbusters said "no matter what happens let's look professional." We all need an occasional fresh look at ourselves. Patrons judge libraries by their covers. We all need an occasional fresh look at ourselves.

—Jerry Krois
Wyoming State Library
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BOOK OF THE MONTH

I am actually recommending an author this month: Amy Patricia Meade. She pens the Marjorie McClelland Mysteries set in Connecticut in the 1930's. Marjorie is a mystery writer who helps the local police along with British millionaire Creighton Ashcroft. Witty dialogue and not too much goes make these mysteries a delight for the cozy crowd.

Titles in the series are:

Million Dollar Baby
Ghost of a Chance
Shadow Waltz

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