

MERIDIAN MONITOR

MERIDIAN LIBRARY SYSTEM

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2006

Your System Board:

*Ruth Campbell
Maxine Erpelding
Gail Irwin
Penny Jeffrey
Mary Koch
Laura Martinsen
Kristina Owen
Michelle Self
Stacy Vogel
Joan Davis, Board Member
Emeritus*



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Literary Ireland Tour

The two week Literary Ireland Tour sponsored by the Regional Library Systems was both fun and educational. Following an overnight flight, our group of thirteen was met by one of our tour operators and we were introduced to our guide and bus driver Bernard. Bernard turned out to be a real gem! His love of his native land constantly came through as he shared Ireland's turbulent history and he often added short side trips to some of his favorite sights. He had a great sense of humor that came in handy on some days!

We spent two days in Dublin. After a city tour of Dublin, we visited Trinity College and the Book of Kells. Although the line was long, it was well worth the wait. As you know, only one page of the illuminated book is shown each day. However, the real treat for a group composed mainly of librarians was the library's Long Room. This massive hall with floor to ceiling bookcases literally took our breath away. The books appear to be ancient. One of the librarians explained that books are organized by size on the shelves - each assigned a position in a certain section, shelf and slot on the shelf. Only trained archivists are allowed to work with these materials. The National Writer's Museum has a display on each of the major Irish authors: Joyce, Synge, Swift, Kavanaugh, Wilde, O'Casey, Shaw, Yeats, Beckett, etc. The National Library had a special Yeats exhibit that some of us took the time to visit. The National Museum of Art had two special exhibits on display: Samuel Beckett: A Passion for Art and art works by Jack B. Yeats (brother to W.B. Yeats). Several of us also visited the National Museum of History featuring an exhibit of bog bodies. The Guinness Storehouse was a favorite. The tour explains the history of Guinness and ends with a drink in the tower lounge that overlooks all of Dublin. Our evening Literary Pub Tour included short excerpt performances from the works of several Irish authors as we toured around their favorite pubs.



We departed Dublin headed to Northern Ireland. We traveled through the Mountains of Mourne via Newry and stopped for lunch in the beautiful seaside resort of Newcastle. This is a place I could easily return to for a leisurely week or so. After lunch, we stopped in Downpatrick and toured the Cathedral and St. Patrick's Centre. The center tells the story of Patrick's life. Raised in Britain, he was captured by Irish slave traders and turned into a shepherd. While serving in Ireland, he found God. After six years, he escaped, walking over 200 miles to the seacoast where he found passage back to Britain where he trained as a priest. He later felt the need to return to Ireland where he died. Almost every town in Ireland has at least one church named after Patrick.

Signs of the recent "troubles" still abound in Belfast with wall murals, the gates which used to be closed and locked and barbed wire and cameras around all the police stations. There is still a lot of partisanship in the cities of Northern Ireland. We passed some cities where the British side rules and others that favor the Republic. The economy is on the rise and tourism is becoming big business. We saw the enormous shipyards where the Titanic was built. We were surprised that there is no monument or any type of tourist attraction regarding the Titanic in Belfast. The Linenhall Library is a private subscription library. It houses many rare old books that we were allowed to touch! It also houses "The Troubles" collection; the most complete set of documentation on Northern Ireland's history anywhere. Access to this collection is extremely limited even today. Our evening literary pub crawl took us to a number of the pubs frequented by Ireland's literary great. These varied from small dark older pubs to light and airy modern pubs.

We departed Belfast, driving along the beautiful Antrim Coast ending up at the Giants Causeway, that strangely beautiful set of stepping stone rocks. After hiking down and back up the hill to visit the Causeway, we stopped at the Old Bushmills Distillery for a tour. Two of our group were chosen for the whiskey tasting and did us proud with their aptitude for drink! After the tour, we moved on to the seaside town of Portrush for

the evening. A lovely dinner and a walk on some very nice beaches ended our day.

The next day we moved on to Londonderry and spent some time touring the local sites, including the old city walls. Some of our group were allowed to see and touch special books (first edition of the King James Bible printed in Ireland) in St. Columb's church. Then it was on to Belleek Pottery. The tour was fascinating as we watched the pottery in all stages of production. Each person is paid by the piece and there are no seconds. Anything less than perfect along the way is destroyed. Since each piece is entirely made by hand labor, it is no wonder that it is costly! Eighty-five percent of Belleek Pottery is sold to U.S. and Canadian citizens.

After an overnight in Belleek, we headed on to Sligo, Yeats country. We also stopped by the National Museum of Country Life with exhibits showing the lifestyle of Irish citizens through the last centuries. Driving on through the bog lands of County Mayo, we ended the day at Achill. It used to be an island but is now connected to the mainland by a causeway. This wild and windy outpost was a nice change to the cities we had seen and our hotel was right on the beach.

Next day we headed down through the Connemara area containing some of the most beautiful scenery in Ireland with towering hills, waterfalls and loughs. The afternoon was a boat ride from Killary Harbor up Ireland's only fjord. One of our party had an accident on the boat which required medical care, so we skipped the remainder of our day's itinerary and headed straight for Clifden. Clifden, like all of Ireland these days, is seeing a huge building boom. It doesn't begin to resemble the sleepy town I visited seven years ago! I stopped in at the local public library and had a lovely chat with the library director who has the same issues we have here in the States.

After a short stop in Galway, we headed on towards Dingle. This was our longest travel day. We stopped at the Cliffs of Moher which were incredibly windy (and crowded!) and then headed by ferry over the River Shannon.

Our hotel in Dingle was centrally located so we could walk to all the restaurants, pubs and shops. The next morning we headed out to drive around the stunning Dingle Peninsula, including the Blasket Islands and Skellig, stopping at the eighth century Gallarus Oratory and the Blasket Island Historical Center. The rest of the day was free for touring.

On our last full day, we visited Limerick and had a walking tour of Frank McCourt country. Our day guide knows the McCourt brothers and attested to the fact that the events in the book are true. We headed on to Bunratty for last minute shopping and our last hotel. The next morning we were off to the airport and winging back home!

It's very hard to do justice to such a trip in this short space. Ireland is a beautiful country with an interesting history and friendly people. I can only encourage you to try a visit there someday. I don't think you will be disappointed!



Lauralee Grabe and Kimberlee Osenga pose with a W.B. Yeats statue in Sligo



Guard post in the old walls surrounding Londonderry

Wondrous Journey

The program at our annual meeting this year, Wondrous Journey by Dean Jacobs, was just that. From the smallest child to the oldest adult we sat spellbound as Dean entertained us with stories and photos of his two year odyssey around the world. Below are comments on the program from three of those in attendance:

“The Wondrous Journey was just that!! The delivery was contagious and the use of the English language was a delight. This program had me wishing it would not end. The manner in which it was presented had everyone's attention. I was more than impressed with the young boys and their keen interest and knowledge. The presenter had a way of including all of us in his story. Those of us who have "itchy feet" would love to take the back pack and follow the leader to parts unknown. In other words, it was a great program for all ages. My thanks to you for securing it for the meeting. “

“I thought that the program was great. I hate to fly but after hearing Dean Jacobs tell us of his travels I might have to brave the skies and go to some of the exciting places of the world. He gave me the itch to travel and see new things. It is nice to know that people from other nations are so kind and sharing to Americans. His stories made me feel as if I was right there with him on his journey. The youth enjoyed the program as much as the grownups. I liked the part that dreams can come true if we just give it a try. If I had the chance, I would go and hear Jacobs speak again!”

“The trip around the world with Dean Jacobs made me want to pack my backpack and travel on my own journey. It was really neat to see the young boys in the audience relate to Mr. Jacobs. We have him booked to come to Bassett in September so our students can take a virtual journey around the world too. “

For more information, please check out Dean's website at: www.travel4life.org

**Meridian Library System
Board Meeting Minutes
Conference Call July 20, 2006**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Gail Irwin at 9:03 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Board members answering roll call were Gail Irwin, Maxine Erpelding, Penny Jeffrey, Laura Martinsen, Stacy Vogel, Mary Koch, and Darlene Catlin for Kristina Owen. Administrator Sharon Osenga and Sally Snyder from the Library Commission were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A report from Sally Snyder was added to the agenda following the treasurer's report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Stacy moved and Penny seconded a motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: A thank you note was read from Joan Davis for the gift and for the opportunity to have served on the Meridian System Board.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sharon reported \$5,000 had to be moved into the checking account because the money from the Commission was late in arriving because of the July 4th holiday. Mary made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and the bills through the end of the fiscal year. Darlene seconded. Motion carried.

COMMISSION REPORT FROM SALLY SNYDER: Sally suggested we check out the new training portal on the Commission's website. Reported that three positions are open at the Commission with application closing dates and interviews at various times. The Commission has contracted Pam Scott to continue working on various projects through Dec. 31, 2006. Rod Wagner is working on the budget. Accreditation letters mailed to 83 libraries on July 15th. The eastern NEBASE annual meeting will be Aug. 8th in Lincoln. They are in the midst of doing the Database Roadshows. CE and training grants are due August 1st.

Sally has finished her Master's Degree. She is currently working on a statewide program for Grades 4-8 much like the One Book, One Nebraska program for adults. Sharon had suggested this and Sally is aiming for next year as a starting point for the program. *Rescue Josh McGuire* by Ben Mikaelson has been selected as the first book to be read. It was a Golden Sower so Sally believes most libraries will already have it.

SYSTEM BUSINESS:

Approval of Technology Plan: Sharon has updated the Technology Plan which has already been approved by the Commission. Updating the inventory was the main change made. Future plans are to replace a desktop computer with a laptop computer being replaced the following year. Stacy made a motion, seconded by Penny to approve the Technology Plan. Motion carried.

Board Member Emeritus: Sharon said Joan Davis had expressed an interest in serving as Board Member Emeritus. Joan has served two double terms and is well acquainted with Board issues and would be willing to serve as a substitute whenever needed. Maxine made a motion to approve Joan as Board Member Emeritus, seconded by Laura. The motion carried. Gail will send a letter to Joan informing her.

Vacation Time for Administrator: Sharon will have worked for the Meridian System for 16 years on November 1st and requested an increase in her vacation time from 3 weeks to 4 weeks. Vacation time is currently covered in Sharon's yearly contract and we discussed the need to include the amount of vacation time allotted in the policy manual. We decided to look at inclusion in the policy manual at the January meeting. Penny made a motion, seconded by Stacy, to increase Sharon's vacation time from three weeks to 4 weeks. Motion carried.

Sharon requested that Board Members who attended the Annual Meeting send her comments on Dean Jacob's *Wondrous Journey* program so she can include them in the newsletter. She also reminded us she will be gone on the Ireland literary trip the next two weeks but will be back in the office Aug. 7th.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be October 6th at 10:30 a.m. at the Burwell Library.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Koch
Meridian Library System Board Secretary



The System Office now has four Portable Audio Devices to lend out for three month loan periods to libraries and media centers. This demonstration project is designed to familiarize staff with this new technology. We also hope that you decide to loan the players out to your customers. A loan agreement for customers will be provided with the player. To sign up, please contact the System Office. Training on how to use the player will be given upon delivery.

Below are the titles of unabridged books on each player.

Player One

1776 by David McCullough
 Boone's Lick by Larry McMurtry
 Dark Tort by Diane Mott Davidson
 Mayflower by Nathaniel Philbrick
 Prey by Michael Crichton
 Skinny Dip by Carl Hiassin
 The Greatest Western Stories
 The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
 The Stolen Child by Keith Donohue
 Undead and Unreturnable by Mary Janice Davidson
 Unnatural Exposure by Patricia Cornwell
 Avalon High by Meg Cabot (T)
 Twilight by Stephanie Meyer (T)
 A Hat Full of Sky by Terry Pratchett (T)
 The Chronicles of Narnia (7 books) by C.S. Lewis (C)
 Antarctic Antics by Judy Sierra (C)

Player Two

Blue Stones & Happiness by Alexander McCall Smith
 Death at Wentwater Court by Carola Dunn
 Heaven's Prisoners by James Lee Burke
 On the Street Where You Live by Mary Higgins Clark
 Phoenix Rising by John J. Nance
 Sackett's Land by Louis L'Amour
 The Fifth Horseman by James Patterson
 The Alchemist's Daughter by Katharine McMahon
 The Border Legion by Zane Grey
 The Red Tent by Anita Diamant
 The Secret History of the Pink Carnation by Lauren Willig
 The Stupidist Angel by Christopher Moore
 Inkspell 1, 2, and Inkheart by Cornelia Funke (T)
 Baree the Wolf Dog by James Curwood (C)
 Curious George Rides a Bike by H.A. Rey (C)
 Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli (C)
 Witch Week by Diana Wynn Jones (C)

Player Three

Faithful Spy by Alex Berenson
 Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden
 Holmes on the Range by Steve Hockensmith

Life of Pi by Yann Martel
 Twelve Sharp by Janet Evanovich
 The Great Fire by Shirley Hazzard
 Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card
 Pilgrim of Hate by Ellis Peters
 Shackleton's Way by Margot Morrell
 The Green Mile by Stephen King
 Prom by Laurie Halse Anderson (T)
 Magyk by Angie Sage (T)
 Hatchet by Gary Paulsen (T)
 The Cat in the Hat and other Stories by Dr. Seuss (C)
 A Bear Called Paddington by Michael Bond (C)
 The Bronze Bow by Elizabeth Speare (C)
 Soup by Robert Newton Peck (C)
 Betsy and the Boys by Carolyn Haywood (C)

Player Four

Stationary Bike by Stephen King
 Gentlemen and Players by Joanne Harris
 The O'Hurley Collection (4 books) by Nora Roberts
 The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom
 Freakonomics by Steven D. Levitt
 Night by Elie Wiesel
 The Cath Who Wasn't There by Lilian Jackson Braun
 Telegraph Days by Larry McMurtry
 The Dante Club by Matthew Pearl
 My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult
 Girls in Pants by Ann Brashares (T)
 Holes by Louis Sachar (T)
 Girl, 15, Charming but Insane by Sue Limb (T)
 Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne (C)
 Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl (C)
 Saving Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (C)
 Crispin by Avi (C)

T = Teen Book

C = Children's book



Judy Freeman to Appear at Retreat

Judy Freeman, a nationally known speaker and writer on reading aloud, storytelling, booktalking and all aspects of children's literature will be at the Annual Youth Services Retreat sponsored by Eastern and Southeast Library Systems at Camp Carol Joy Holling on Thursday, October 12. Judy, a former school librarian, will be presenting starting at 10:00 a.m. You can register to attend on Thursday only for \$25 and that includes lunch. Registration can be found at: www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/eastern

I will be driving to Ashland to attend on Thursday and have space for a few passengers in my car. Please contact the System Office if you are interested in car pooling.

TEEN READ WEEK/TEEN TECH WEEK

YALSA has released information about Teen Read Week 2006. The theme is "Get Active @ your library" and Teen Read Week will be October 15-21.

For more information, see the Teen Read Week web site:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/trw/trw2006/trw06.htm>

Mark your calendars now for the first ever Teen Tech Week - March 4-10, 2007 - also sponsored by YALSA/ALA -- more information on it will be coming later in the year. For now, visit:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teentechweek/ttw.htm>



Fundraiser for NLA Scholarship Committee

Win Husker Football Tickets!!

What: 1 pair of Husker football tickets, Huskers vs. Nicholls State, September 9, time TBA

When: Raffle runs from July 1 to August 19. The winner will be announced and tickets will be sent to the winner during the week of August 21.

Cost: Every \$5.00 donation entitles you to one (1) raffle chance. Send your check made payable to the NLA Scholarship Committee to: Maggie Harding PO Box 98 Crete, NE 68333

Who: Sponsored by the NLA Scholarship Committee. Tickets are a donation to the scholarship committee courtesy of The Clark Enersen Partners of Lincoln.

For further information, contact Kathy Jacobs, Scholarship Committee Chair, 402-494-7545 or kjacobs@southsiouxcity.org

MINI GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIBRARIES

Ezra-Jack-Keats Foundation

The Ezra-Jack-Keats Foundation is accepting applications for its Minigrants to Libraries Program. The purpose of this initiative is to provide libraries with the resources for programs that encourage literacy and creativity. Previously funded programs include guest author and illustrator programs, puppet shows and plays. The Ezra-Jack-Keats foundation emphasizes community and parent involvement and programs should reflect that commitment. Eligible applicants include school and public libraries. Deadline is September 15, 2006. For complete program information and application guidelines, please visit

<http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/programs/minigrants.htm>



Economical Earbuds?

Have you decided to become a part of the downloadable audio world? Are you looking for cheap earbuds to sell to your patrons? Playaway Books sell the earbuds that come with their books separately. They are 79 cents each. Staff at RVLS tried them and they work perfectly with iPods with perhaps some loss in sound quality. The ear buds can be ordered from Howard Alston, Playaway Books, 877-893-0808.



ALEX KAVA VISITS

Author Alex Kava will be visiting the following libraries in the Meridian Library System to talk about her book *One False Move*:

Grand Island Public on 9/21 from 10AM-Noon

Broken Bow Public on 9/21 from 7-9 PM

Kearney Public on 9/22 from 7-9 PM

Blockbuster Marketing with



PRECONFERENCE

Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association
(NLA/NEMA) 2006 Conference

October 25, 2006 • 9:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. CT
1316 Jones Street • Omaha, Nebraska

...featuring Ann Seidl, the writer and producer of a documentary film, *The Hollywood Librarian: Librarians in Cinema and Society*. Seidl's presentation will cover the purpose and progress of this unique film project and look at its implications for library customer service and marketing.

Join us to:

- ◆ Explore the diversity of library staff and the roles that everyone in the library can play in marketing and customer service.
- ◆ Learn about historical and current attitudes toward (and images of)

library service careers by analyzing how movie clips and other media present librarians.

- ◆ Explore strategies to increase public awareness of the complex nature of librarianship and how to help library staff redefine themselves, with a focus on professional image and self-esteem.
- ◆ Identify what library staff and supporters can do to promote library services and library service careers.
- ◆ Learn more about Nebraska Library Commission recruitment tools and activities, funded through the federal

Institute of Museum and Library Service Librarians for the 21st Century project.

Cosponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission; the Paraprofessional Section; the Trustees, Users, and Friends Section; the New Members Roundtable; and the Diversity Committee of the Nebraska Library Association.



This Preconference is FREE of charge!

Tear off/fill out/return to:

Maria Medrano-Nehls
Nebraska Library Commission
The Atrium, 1200 N St., Suite 120
Lincoln, NE 68508-2023
FAX: 402-471-2083
e-mail: mnehls@nlc.state.ne.us

- Yes, I will attend the **Hollywood Librarian Preconference**.
- Please order a vegetarian lunch for me.

Deadline for registration:
October 20, 2006

Register: <www.nlc.state.ne.us/comp/para/2006preconf/2006preconference.html>

Name _____
Library _____
Address _____

Phone _____
E-mail _____
Comments _____

Pre-Conference Program Sponsored by
the Nebraska Regional Library Systems

October 25, 2006, 9:30am-5:00 pm ~ \$20 (includes lunch + wine tasting) ~ 5.5 CE



**EXCURSION TO
HISTORIC BROWNVILLE, NEBRASKA:
BOOK TOWN, U.S.A.**

Visit historic Brownville and hear the story of how it became an international Book Town in the movement founded by Richard Booth, Hay-on-Wye Wales, Oxford graduate and self proclaimed "King of Books". Jane Smith, The Lyceum/Bookstore & Café, will present on Brownville's designation as a Book Town, one of three in the United States, after which there will be time to tour the shops before visiting the Whiskey Run Creek Winery and perhaps take a stroll along a river walking path. Transportation will be provided round-trip from Omaha.

AGENDA

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 9:30 | Depart from Omaha |
| 11:00 | Jane Smith, Presenter |
| 12:00 | Lunch |
| 1:00-3:00 | Free for shopping and touring |
| 3:00 | Whiskey Run Creek Winery, Wine tasting; tour of the 1886 brick cave and 110-year-old barn positioned over a creek |
| 4:00 | Depart Brownville for Omaha |

EXCURSION TO HISTORIC BROWNVILLE, NEBRASKA: BOOK TOWN, U.S.A.
Pre-Conference Program Sponsored by the Nebraska Regional Library Systems

Name: _____

Library: _____

E-mail Address: _____



Please send registration form + \$20 fee (checks payable to NRLS)
by Wednesday, October 18 to:

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

An Evening with

Jamie LaRue

Author of *The New Inquisition*



Fall Colloquium 2006

Join us for a stimulating presentation by Jamie LaRue—
An Offer They Can't Refuse: Community Based Librarianship

Most libraries provide well-managed services: staff & collections, reference & research, reader's advisory, youth services, etc. But despite the quality of these services, it is unlikely that the library will grow much beyond half the local market of potential users. More active libraries promote activities & services of the library; however, PR doesn't really expand the market, just pulls in those already so inclined.

The rarest libraries understand that to reach a commanding percentage of the market takes work; it requires that librarians leave the library & directly engage with the community to *solve its problems* and thereby to solve its own. LaRue talks about powerful & practical techniques to make your library indispensable to its community.

Thursday, September 14th, 5:30-9:30 p.m.
at The Cornhusker Hotel
Renaissance Room, 2nd Floor
333 S. 13th Street, Lincoln, NE

Schedule of Events

5:30 – 6:30	Social hour, cash bar
6:30 – 7:30	Dinner
7:30 – 8:30	Presentation by Jamie LaRue
8:30 – 9:30	Discussion

Option 1: Seafood Newburg

Scallops, shrimp, whitefish, mushrooms, and red onion tossed with a white cream sauce; served over rice pilaf, with garden salad, vegetables, rolls and butter.

Option 2 (Vegetarian): Tortellini Rosa

Cheese-filled tortellini tossed in a tomato cream sauce with sun-dried tomatoes and sautéed mushrooms. Served with garden salad, vegetables and rolls and butter.

Both options include choice of coffee, tea, or milk, with wild berry sorbet for dessert.

The Fall Colloquium is sponsored jointly by: the Eastern Library System, & the Southeast Library System with cooperating partners: Omaha Public Library and the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

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

YES! I want to participate in the Fall Colloquium 2006: Jamie LaRue

Name _____ Library _____

Work phone _____ Work email _____

Meal Selection (circle 1): Option 1: Seafood Newburg Option 2 (Vegetarian): Tortellini Rosa

Send completed registration form and payment of \$35.00 to: Southeast Library System, 5730 R Street, Suite C-1, Lincoln, NE 68505 Deadline: **Tuesday, September 5, 2006.**



Meridian Library System has 10 collections of Audio Books that rotate to libraries for 3 month periods. Each set has approximately 30 books for adults and children. A complete list of each set is available on the Meridian website. Call 1-800-657-2192 or email meridian@frontiernet.net to have your library added to the rotation schedule.

People are listening to audiobooks while woodworking, quilting, hunting, sewing, cleaning, making jewelry—just to name a few. With the use of MP3 players and similar technology, this resource is even more portable and available.

Series available in MLS audiobook sets:

Jan Karon
Harry Potter
Lemony Snicket
J.R.R. Tolkien
Anne of Green Gables
J.A. Jance
Laura Ingalls Wilder
Artemis Fowl

"In our area there are many people who travel out-of-town every day for work and radio is hard to get out here. Audio books are a life-saver for them. This is probably the fastest growing service that we provide."

-Julie Pfeiffer, Hooker Co. Library

"I hear from parents who listen as a family on automobile trips, and I also hear from teachers who tell me kids love hearing books read to them. Audiobooks open the door to reading all kinds of things. It cracks the nut to get kids to open a book."

- Carl Hiaasen, author of *Hoot and Flush*
Interview in *Booklist* May 1, 2006



September is Library Card Sign-up Month

September is Library Card Sign-up Month (LCSM) - a time when the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country remind parents that a library card is the most important school supply of all. As we all know, libraries play an important role in the education and development of children. Studies show that children who are read to in the home and who use the library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning.

The ALA is in the process of contacting members of Congress to request that they use LCSM language in public remarks given during back-to-school events.

As the ALA reaches out to legislators on the national level, we hope we can count on you to reach out to your local leadership (i.e. aldermen, mayor, governor and state legislators) and ask them to mention LCSM in their back-to-school remarks.

To assist with your efforts, the ALA has Library Card Sign-up Month talking points, fact sheet and proclamation available for download at <http://www.ala.org/librarycardsignup>.

Thank you in advance for your efforts and support. Please tell us of your success, so that we can add the names of your local elected officials to our LCSM thank you board that will be posted on the Library Card Sign-up Month Web page on September 15. Please send information to Macey Morales, ALA PR Coordinator at mmorales@ala.org.



Host a September Project Discussion in Your Library

Let's Bring People Together This September. Host or attend free civic events about freedom, democracy, and citizenship. On or around September 11, 2006, people worldwide will attend activities of discussion, dialogue, and reflection in public, academic, and school libraries. Come together and learn from your community and from your world. See who is participating. Connect with the community on the project listserv or RSS feed. Find out what libraries are plan-

ning.

Nebraska libraries are invited to participate in The September Project, a grassroots effort to create a day of reflection on or around September 11 through thought-provoking discussion, inspiring artworks, and other creative expressions about freedom, democracy, and citizenship. All September Project events happen at libraries across the world, and all support and encourage the powerful results when people come together, face-to-face, and learn new perspectives.

Since 2004, The September Project has engaged communities in all fifty states and in over 35 countries, confirming that all people are eager to learn from each other and better understand what it means to be a part of this changing and growing planet. Libraries in small towns and big cities have planned programs that reflect the diversity of the communities they serve; from public forums to children's art projects, the variety of programs are vast and inspired. As the project has grown, some libraries have used technology to invite people from other countries to connect the global conversations.

Please visit The September Project web site <http://www.theseptemberproject.org> to learn more about the libraries that have participated in the past and the growing number who plan to participate this year. If you are interested in participating, please sign up your library here: <http://www.theseptemberproject.org/venue.aspx> You can view past and current participants here: <http://www.theseptemberproject.org/map.aspx>



NLA/NEMA CONFERENCE 2006

Theme: Libraries: Vital, Vibrant, Visionary

Date: October 25-27

Location: Qwest Center, Omaha

Mark your calendars for the premier library event of the year! The Nebraska Library Association and Nebraska Educational Media Association cordially invite you to Omaha's beautiful Qwest Center to hear a wonderful lineup of conference sessions, visit our great exhibits, and have a great time with your colleagues! For

more information go to the conference web site www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference and click on the 2006 conference.

Thursday Keynote: Stephen Abram, MLS

Stephen is Vice President, Innovation for SirsiDynix. He is president elect of SLA and is the immediate past president of the Canadian Library Association and an SLA Fellow. He is also the past president of the Ontario Library Association. In June 2003 he was awarded SLA's John Cotton Dana Award and the University of Toronto's Jubilee Award. Stephen is one of the first of Library Journal's Movers and Shakers.

Web 2.0: the Library 2.0 in Your Future There is a global conversation going on right now about the next generation of the web. It's happening under the name of Web 2.0. It's the McLuhanesque hot web where true human interaction takes precedence over merely 'cool' information delivery and e-mail. It's about putting information into the real context of our users' lives, work and play. Concurrently, a group of information professionals are having a conversation about the vision for what Library 2.0 will look like in this Web 2.0 ecosystem. Some are even going so far as to talk about Web 3.0! Web 2.0 is coming fast and it's BIG! What are the skills and competencies that Librarian 2.0 will need? Hear what adaptations we'll need to make to thrive in this future scenario.

Friday Keynote: Nancy Pearl, MLS

Nancy is the former director of the Washington Center for the Book at the Seattle Public Library. She speaks to library and community groups across the country and reviews books regularly on NPR's Morning Edition, Wisconsin, Seattle, and Tulsa public radio stations. She is the author of *Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Reason* (Sasquatch Books, 2003); *More Book Lust: 1,000 New Reading Recommendations for Every Mood, Moment, and Reason* (Sasquatch Books, 2005). Among her many honors and awards are the 2004 Women's National Book Association Award, the 2004 Louis Shores Greenwood Publishing Group Award for excellence in the reviewing of books and other materials for librar-

ies, the 2004 Media and Communications Award from the Ontario, Canada, Library Association, the Public Library Association's 2001 Allie Beth Martin Award. In 1998, Library Journal named her Fiction Reviewer of the Year. Many of us also know Nancy as the model for the Librarian Action Figure. Nancy will give a talk entitled

The Pleasures and Perils of a Life of Reading. Nancy will talk about her relationship to reading, how she came to write *Book Lust* and *More Book Lust*, and some of the perils she's discovered in her love affair with books. Along the way she will, of course, be recommending some good books to read.

Wednesday Events

Recruiting the Next Generation of Librarians at the Movies Daylong preconference sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission, Bus Tour of Historic Brownville. Daylong excursion sponsored by the Nebraska Regional Library Systems.

Screening of the Hollywood Librarian Movie Tour of Washington Branch Library sponsored by the NLA Diversity Committee. 7:00-9:00 pm

Accommodations

A block of rooms is reserved at the Hilton Hotel, connected by walkway to the Qwest center. Conference rates are \$124 double, \$134 triple. Reserve online at www.hilton.com or call 1-800-HILTONS. Specify the conference rate and reserve early to ensure receiving the conference rate.



Cutting Machine Schedule

August: Lexington Public Library
September: Comstock Public Library
October: Ansley Public School

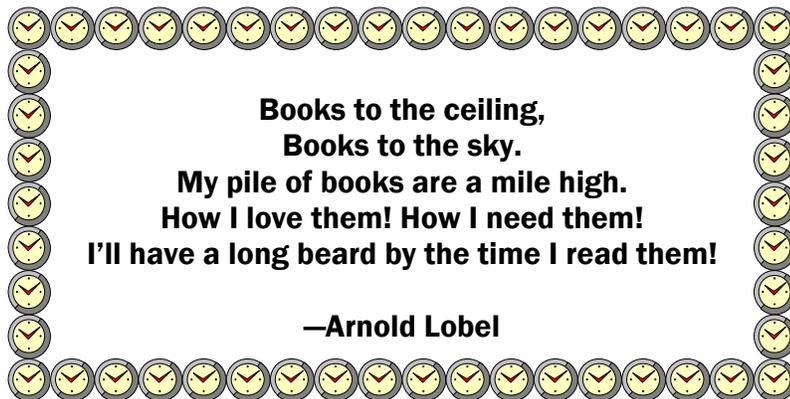
Both machines are free from November on. If you wish to sign up for one or both, please send an e-mail to meridian@frontiernet.net.



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