



Straight*talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

JANUARY, 2009 - Published by the Northeast Library System
Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

Be Creative - Summer Reading Program Workshop March 24



Be Creative is this year's theme for the Summer Reading Program. The Northeast Library System's SRP workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, at the Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, in Norfolk.

Sally Snyder, Youth Services Coordinator for the Nebraska Library Commission, will start our morning off with 'Be Creative Summer Reads', enthusiastic reviews of the best new books for all ages relating to this year's theme. Following a short break, Sally will continue with Express Yourself Summer Reads. Alice Boeckman, Children's Services Librarian for Bellevue Public Library, will give the latest tips and tricks with music and children. Both Sally and Alice will get our creative juices flowing by presenting ideas for Crafts and Reader's Theatre. There'll be no sitting down when Be Creative Games are presented.

The Accucut machines and paper will be available. This year's new dies include an electric guitar, a painting palette, a sea horse, a starfish, mini flowers, a baseball cap, a photo mat, and a camera book.

Registration will begin at 9:00 am with introductions and announcements following at 9:30. This year's workshop costs \$15 per person and registrations are due by March 20. For more information, see the registration form on page 15. If you have any questions, please call Kathy or Shelia at 1-800-578-1014.



NLS Grants Available

The Northeast Library System Board is pleased to announce that \$1,750 is available for Grants to member libraries and school media centers for projects and programs. For more information and the application form, see page 8.



In This Issue...

Summer Reading Program Workshop.....p.1

Virtual Worlds.....p.2.

Graphic Novel Websites..p.3

Public Library Statistics Report Program.....p.3

One Book One Nebraska.....p.4-5

Check Your Calendar.....p.6

New @ NLS.....p.6

Northeast News.....p.7

NLS Grant Application.....pp.8-10

NLA Scholarships.....p.11

USB Device Software....p.11

NLA Legislative Day.....p.12

The Reviewers Chair.....pp.13-14

One Book One Nebraska For Kids.....p.14

Summer Reading Program Workshop Registration..p.15



Virtual Worlds for Teen Tech Week March 8-14, 2009

Entropia Universe: (<http://www.entropiauniverse.com>) Ages: 12 and older. Terms of Service: <http://tinyurl.com/2fscvb>. System requirements: <http://tinyurl.com/2zz9nt>. Install required. Users can participate in activities such as hunting, mining, owning land, a store, designing and selling creations for their avatar, and more.

Gaia Online: (<http://www.gaiaonline.com>) Ages: 13 and older. Terms of Service: <http://tinyurl.com/2ec6wf>. No install required. If you have a strong anime/manga base at your library, teens might be attracted to Gaia as their avatars are made to look like anime characters. The forums board (<http://www.gaiaonline.com/forum/>) has discussions on where you can get a related item from the movie for your avatar, cosplay and writing contests, discussion of games, art, and manga.

Google Earth: (<http://earth.google.com/>) Ages: All. System requirements: <http://earth.google.com/faq.html>. Download required. A model of the planet from satellite photos that you can add onto such as creating more buildings, through Google SketchUp. School Library Journal (2007, April) published a great article on ways to integrate Google Earth with learning : <http://tinyurl.com/3x9y6x>.

Habbo Hotel: (<http://www.habbo.com>) Ages: 13 and older. Terms of Service: <http://tinyurl.com/2wlvpk>. Shockwave plugin required. "This busy site uses a hotel metaphor as its theme complete with a "lobby" gateway and private 'guest rooms.'" Singer Jordin Sparks and Jesse Hart are two of many celebrities that have been to Habbo. Residents of Habbo can ask them questions in real time-good skills to practice for an interview. Forums board: <http://hab-bocentral.us/forums/>.

The River City Project (<http://muve.gse.harvard.edu/rivercity-project/>) Grades: 6-9. Terms of Service: <http://tinyurl.com/2fxey3>. System requirements: <http://tinyurl.com/22qd8g>. Install required. "A Multi-User Virtual Environment for Learning Scientific Inquiry and 21st Century Skills." Students work with each other by interviewing and reading documents including newspapers and photographs to find a cure for a disease that hit this 19th century town.

Teen Second Life (<http://teen.secondlife.com>) Ages: 13-17 and adults with approved background checks. Terms of Service: <http://teen.secondlife.com/footer/tos>. System requirements: <http://teen.secondlife.com/whatis/sysreqs>. Install and frequent updates required. Recommended to run off a flash drive. Teens can create environments from scratch using such programs as Photoshop or Gimp, LSL the scripting language of Second Life, or various other software programs for making movies or designing objects.



Graphic Novel Websites & Electronic Discussion Lists

Great Graphic Novels for Teens is a list of recommended graphic novels and illustrated nonfiction for those ages 12-18, prepared yearly by YALSA. www.ala.org/yalsa/ggnt

Brodart's Graphic Novels website includes new titles, core lists and selection criteria. <http://www.graphicnovels.brodart.com/>

No Flying, No Tights: A website reviewing graphic novels for teens. <http://www.noflyingnotights.com/core.html>

GNLIB (Graphic Novels in Libraries) Yahoo! Group is for librarians talking about all aspects of managing a graphic novel collection. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GNLIB-L/>

ICv2 is daily news on anime, manga, comics, tabletop games, movies and t.v. shows based on anime and comics, etc. Great for staying informed of current trends and upcoming events. <http://www.icv2.com>

YALSA-BK contains discussion of all kinds of YA books, and the best place to get up-to-date information on anime subscriptions. <http://lists.ala.org/www/info/yalsa-bk>

Hero Machine lets you make your own superhero online. <http://www.ugo.com/channels/comics/heroMachine2/>

All the Rage: YA Graphic Novels is a summary of a TLA workshop on the topic. <http://geekyartistlibrarian.pbwiki.com/TLAconf2008-YAgraphicnovels>

Library Journal has reviews and recommendations for graphic novels in libraries. <http://www.libraryjournal.com/community/Graphic+Novels/47115.html>

The Question: Where Should I Shelve Graphic Novels? http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aaslpubsandjournals/kqweb/kqarchives/volume35/355/kqw35_5dickinson.pdf

Campbell County (Wyoming) Public Library has great policies. Here's there one on graphic novels: <http://www.ccpls.org/coldev/html/YA/xv-gn.html>.

Public Library Statistical Report Program Now Available

The Public Library Statistical Report for fiscal year 2008 is now available for data submission through Bibliostat™ Collect. The URL to access the program is <http://collect.btol.com/>. Please note that this is a new web address and a new version of the program. To be eligible for state aid, public library statistics for 2007-2008 must be submitted via Bibliostat™ Collect by March 31, 2009. Library directors can use the user ID and password assigned for previous surveys in order to access the survey. Individual notices about the survey with passwords will also be sent to library directors.

As mentioned, you will be using a brand new version of the program, so please don't hesitate to contact us for help. For more information about the annual survey contact John Felton at the Nebraska Library Commission or your system administrator.



One Book One Nebraska 2009: A Lantern in Her Hand, by Bess Streeter Aldrich

One Book One Nebraska 2009 invites citizens across the state to read *A Lantern in Her Hand*, by Nebraska author Bess Streeter Aldrich. Through a broad-based nomination process, the Nebraska Center for the Book board narrowed the choices, read all the finalists, and voted to select *A Lantern in Her Hand*, a classic story of a pioneer woman who withstands the adversity of existence on the prairie to triumph in the joy of everyday life.

One Book One Nebraska 2009 is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska Library Commission, and the University of Nebraska Press. This year the reading celebration is hosted by the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation, www.bessstreeteraldrich.org. The Foundation will sponsor activities throughout the year to help highlight One Book One Nebraska, including:

- Short Story Contest (<http://www.bessstreeteraldrich.org/contest.html>) for Nebraska authors (Adult, High School, and Middle School). Prizes will be awarded for original stories to winners in each age category. Deadline for submissions: February 17, 2009, Bess Streeter Aldrich's birthday.
- February 15, 2009: Bess Streeter Aldrich Birthday Celebration and Open House at the Bess Streeter Aldrich House, 204 East F Street, Elmwood, Nebraska to kick-off the yearlong celebration of One Book One Nebraska 2009: Nebraska Reads *A Lantern in Her Hand*.
- April 18, 2009: Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation Spring Banquet will feature Carol Miles Petersen's presentation of Bess Streeter Aldrich's story behind *A Lantern in Her Hand*. The winners of the Aldrich short story contest will be honored at the banquet.
- A Summer Event sponsored by the Elmwood Public Library will highlight the literary heritage of the area.
- Bess Streeter Aldrich Remembrance Day will be held in the fall. This day will be dedicated to celebrating the author's life.

Additional resources for One Book One Nebraska 2009: Nebraska Reads *A Lantern in Her Hand* are in development and will be available January 1, 2009, including:

- Book Club Kit, with discussion questions, book bags and books (courtesy University of Nebraska Press) for libraries to borrow, and suggested resources.
- Website, as part of the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation site, www.bessstreeteraldrich.org, and linked from <http://www.onebookonenebraska.org/>.
- Press kit, including news release, downloadable poster, Governor's Proclamation, and other materials.
- Access to special library-discount pricing on books from University of Nebraska Press at <http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/pages/OneBookOneNebraska.aspx>
- Support for programming from the Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC), including:

Carol Miles Petersen is available through the NHC Speakers Bureau for her program, "Bess Streeter Aldrich: Biography." This talk by Petersen is not a living history or Chautauqua-style presentation. See



Straight-Talk is published ten times per year by the Northeast Library System. Contact Kathy Ellerton or Sheila Cermak at the Northeast Library System Office from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. C.S.T. at 1-800-578-1014 (402)- 564-1586 (Voice) (402)-276-0583 (Cell) (402)-564-7977 (FAX).

Mailing Address:
 Northeast Library System
 3038 33rd Avenue
 Columbus, NE 68601.

Subscriptions to Northeast Library System **Straight-Talk** are \$10 per year (10 Issues).

To subscribe, send cash or check with mailing information to the System Office. Advertising: Businesses wishing to advertise in **Straight-Talk** should contact the System Office for current rate information.

ISSN 1064-9816
 Copyright 2009
 Volume 1, #1

Basic Skills Graduates

Pictured on the left are three recent graduates from the Basic Skills Program. They are (pictured from left) Margaret Saxon, Ponca Public Library; Linda Krukenberg, Wayne Public Library and Julie Pfanstiel from the Lied Randolph Public Library. Congratulations ladies!



the NHC website, www.nebraskahumanities.org/speakers/speakerscat.html, for information and steps to apply. A description of her program follows:

Bess Streeter Aldrich: Biography, by Carol Miles Petersen. Petersen, Bess Streeter Aldrich's biographer, explores the writer's life and career in this program. From 1899 to 1950, Aldrich wrote and sold more than one hundred short stories. Through books that depict rural life, she also recorded the cultural and historic heritage of Nebraska.

Other Speakers Bureau programs are available on pioneer life and the westward migration. Some of these are Chautauqua-style.

A Video History of Bess Streeter Aldrich. Biography of native-Nebraska author Bess Streeter Aldrich. To order videos directly from the Nebraska Library Commission, contact the Reference Desk , 402-471-4019, 800-307-2665.

Libraries, schools, and nonprofit organizations are welcome to apply for NHC mini and major grants to help support local One Book One Nebraska 2009 programming at <http://www.nebraskahumanities.org/speakers/hrcligibility.html>.





CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

Jan 21 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Battle Creek Public Library at 10am.

Feb 3 - **Workshops with Theresa Dickson** at Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College in Norfolk at 9:30am.

Feb 10 - **Library Legislative Day** in Lincoln. Details TBA.

Feb 13 - College of Dupage, **"Targeting the Ages: Programming That Hits the Mark"** at 11am.

Feb 20 - **Have an Arctic Blast!**, NLS Annual Winter Workshop at Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College, in Norfolk.

Mar 13 - **Nebraska Library Commission Meeting.** Time and location TBA.

Marc 18 - **NLA Paraprofessional 2009 Spring Meeting.** Video conference begins at 10am.

Mar 18 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Howells Public Library at 10am.

Mar 24 - **Summer Reading Program** Workshop at Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College in Norfolk. Details TBA.



NEW @ NLS

If you wish to read one of the following articles or check out a book or DVD, please contact Shelia at 1-800-578-1014.

"Online Fundraising Strategies for Small Budgets" by Samantha McGaving & Rachel Gouin. Grassroots Fundraising Journal, Jan/Feb 2009, pp. 8-11.

Online fundraising is one of the fastest growing strategies for increasing individual donor support for nonprofits. McGavin and Gouin offer some tips for how small organizations can begin or enhance their online fundraising.

"We Love Open Source Software. No, You Can't Have Our Code" by Dale Askey. The Code4Lib Journal, Issue 5, 2008.

Open Source Software created a huge buzz in Nebraska in 2008. Author Dale Askey

maintains that librarians are very strong supporters of open source software but are not great contributors of their code to open source projects. He has discovered six reasons why libraries are reluctant to share their code and offers a solution.

"Sharing the Buzz: Dangerous Ideas @ PLA" by Jan Sanders and Catherine Hany. Public Libraries, Nov/Dec 2008, pp. 11-13.

Authors Jan Sanders and Catherine Hany attended the PLA National Conference in Minneapolis. After returning to their library, they set up several sessions at their library based on the "Dangerous Ideas" program at the PLA Conference. This program challenged librarians to think outside the box, off the page and even beyond the universe. Staff discussed such questions as:

What if we earmarked a certain portion of our budget as a "risk taking" fund in order to try new or innovative ideas?

What if we all but eliminated signs and handouts on our public services desks?

What are we good at that Google isn't?





NORTHEAST NEWS

Youth Grants for Excellence were recently awarded and these Northeast Libraries received grants: Atkinson Public Library, Battle Creek Public Library, Central City Public Library, Neligh Public Library, Norfolk Public Library, Osmond Public Library, Lied Pierce Public Library, House Memorial Public Library (Pender), Ponca Carnegie Library, South Sioux City Public Library and Stromsburg Public Library. Congratulations everyone!

The Friends of the **Columbus Public Library** held a book sale January 15-18. Proceeds will go to Friends of the Columbus Public Library projects.

Hruska Memorial Public Library in David City will be hosting a Super Bowl Party on January 31. Attendees are asked to come in a sports jersey. Prizes will be awarded.

A big Northeast welcome to Barbara Stansberry, the new library director at the **Dakota City Public Library**. Barb Willoughby, the previous director, retired in December. Welcome Barbara!

Ted Smith, **Norfolk Public Library** Director's farewell reception was held on December 15. Ted has accepted a new position at the Newport Public Library in Oregon. We will miss you Ted!

Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World by Iowa author Vicki Myron is the 2009 selection for the One Book One Siouland initiative sponsored by the Sioux City Public Library and **South Sioux City Public Library**. The kick-off event will be held on Sunday, January 25th with Vicki Myron signing books at the library.

Congratulations to the **Gardner Public Library** staff and board for implementing the Follett automation system. Many staff and volunteer hours were put in to start up the new system.

Valentines Day Web Sites

It's that time of the year again when the colors red, pink and white are spotted everywhere. Here are some Valentine's Day Web Sites:

Games:

www.gamequarium.com/valentines.html

www.akidsheart.com/holidays/valentine/valmain.htm

www.kidsdomain.com/games/val.html

History:

www.history.com/minisites/valentine

www.pictureframes.co.uk/pages/saint_valentine

Resources:

www.lessonplanspage.com/Valentines.htm

lessonplancentral.com/lessons/Holidays/Valentines_Day



Carol Camp was decorated as a Christmas Tree during her weekly storytime at **Hartington Public Library**.



Northeast Library System Grants

The Northeast Library System Board is pleased to announce that \$1,750 is available for Grants to member libraries and school media centers for projects and programs. These grants may be used for any project in these subject areas: new services, collection development, or programs. Grant amounts range up to \$250. Due to the limited amount of funds available for grants, recipients will not qualify for another grant for three years.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Applications will not be considered unless all instructions are followed.

1. Complete and sign the following form.
2. Submit original. Be sure to make a copy for your own files.
3. Submit completed application to:

Northeast Library System
 3038 33rd Avenue,
 Columbus, NE 68601

Application must be received by the Northeast Library System with the postmarked date no later than March 13, 2009 or submitted electronically by 11:59pm CT on March 13, 2009. The Northeast Library System disclaims responsibility for applications received beyond the closing date. Recipients will be notified by April 1, 2009. Final reports are to be turned in by September 30, 2009.

NLS Grant Application Form

APPLICANT:

Organization Name:

Address:

Contact Person and Title:

Telephone Number:

E-mail Address:

Title of Project:

Summary of Grant Proposal: Provide a brief (150 words or less) summary of the project, including the estimated beginning and ending dates: _____



Intent/Purpose of the Grant: Describe your target audience and how the project addresses one or more of their needs.: _____

Grant Promotion. Describe how the project will be promoted in your community.

Budget. Please fill out the following budget form. You may add additional categories if needed. All grants require a 50% local match. This local match requires that 10% is a cash match. The remaining 40% of the local match can be in-kind costs and/or additional cash. For in-kind costs, consider staffing resources, copying, supplies, etc. Please note: the cash match can also be contributed by the local library’s friends group, foundation or any other source outside the library.

For example, a library requests a \$250 grant. The grant recipient needs to provide 50% of the match or \$125. The cash amount or 10% is \$12.50 and the remaining \$112.50 may be provided with in-kind contributions.

Category	NLS Grant Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds
Library Materials			
Personnel Costs			
Program Materials / Supplies			
Training			
Equipment			
Promotion			
Other - Please Specify			
Contracted Services*			
Estimated Totals			

*Contracted services pertain to personnel that are employed outside of the library, for example a speaker.

*I agree to send to the Northeast Library System Office by September 30, 2009 a report detailing how the purchases were used & what changes occurred as a result.

* I understand that if I receive a grant, I will not be eligible for another grant for three years.

Signature of library director or media specialist

Date

Signature of library board president or school administrator

Date



CE Opportunity: Autism & Libraries Video

For every 150 patrons at your public library, chances are that one has autism—and most librarians don't have the experience to deal with them. That's why the Scotch Plains Public Library and the Fanwood Memorial Library, both in New Jersey, produced a customer-service training video for its staffers to better serve those with autism and their families.

The video focuses on what librarians need to know about autism spectrum disorder and offers specific techniques on how to be more inclusive and comprehensive when interacting with this growing, yet underserved, population.

The two libraries featured in the video—as well as local school library media specialists—received training from experts such as Linda Meyer, executive director of the New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community; Jill Harris, director of Psychology and Coordinator of the Autism Center of Excellence at Children's Specialized Hospital; and Adrienne Robertiello, founder of Community Partnership for People with Autism.

As a result of this training, the two libraries now display “Libraries and Autism: We're Connected” decals on their front doors to alert the community to their staff's newly heightened awareness and willingness to provide more inclusive service. Additionally, the two libraries—which share a combined database—have developed a large, up-to-date collection of resources available to assist the many individuals, families, and professionals who have or are dealing with autism.

A Web site (www.thejointlibrary.org/autism) was created to share valuable information and tools. The video, also available on YouTube, is beginning to generate national and international attention from both libraries and those in the autism community.

(taken from School Library Journal, Dec 2008)



Nebraska Library Association Scholarship Opportunities

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org>

Would you like to attend graduate classes or training to increase your library skills? Here's your opportunity to apply for financial assistance.

These links include information on the Louise A. Nixon Scholarship (\$1,000.00) and the Duane Munson Scholarship (\$250.00). The application deadline is April 15th of the current year.

Louise A. Nixon Scholarship

Louise A. Nixon (1897-1989) worked constantly to enlighten the legislature about Nebraska's libraries' needs. She served as Assistant Director of the Nebraska Legislative Reference Bureau and as Legislative Council Librarian. Louise Nixon was head of the Nebraska Library Commission from 1950 to 1969. When federal funds were made available, she initiated bookmobile demonstration projects; public library construction; extension services; services to institutional residents and the physically challenged; and an inter-library communication network. Our lives have been enriched by her openminded, conscientious dedication to building library service in this state.

When Nixon reflected on her life for the Lincoln Journal, the paper wrote, "There is no single figure of greater 20th century significance in developing Nebraska's contemporary system of community libraries – facilities, collections, trained personnel, cooperative networking."

This scholarship was established to help each recipient reach for Nixon's goals of dedication and vision.

The application deadline is April 15th of the current year. Scholarship recipients will be announced in May.

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/nixonschol.htm>

Duane Munson Scholarship

Duane Munson, a well-known bookseller from Columbus, has been a long-time leader and solid supporter of library and educational activity in Nebraska. He desires to share his good fortune jointly with the NLA and NEMA communities. Munson has personally sponsored this scholarship since 1991.

The application deadline is April 15th of the current year. Scholarship recipients will be announced in May.

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/munsonschol.htm>

USB Device Problem?

Do you have too many USB devices connected to your computer and you can't tell which one is which when you wish to disconnect one? NirSoft publishes a free utility called USB Deview. It is available at www.nirsoft.net/utis/usb_devices_view. USBDeview lists all the USB devices that are connected (or have been connected) to your system by device name, description, device type and drive letter.



NLA Legislative Day

February 10, 2009

LIBRARIES MATTER!

Join your state senator and colleagues
to discuss the future
of Nebraska's libraries.

- ___ **7:30 -9:30** **Coffee and Doughnuts in Room 1023, State Capitol**
Start the day off with refreshments and a visit with our senators, staff members and other librarians.
Don't Come Alone: Invite your senator, trustees and city officials too!
- ___ **9:30** **Briefing at Lincoln Woman's Club – 407 S. 14th**
You will receive information on current legislation and library issues from Ken Winston, NLA's lobbyist. Nancy Busch, Kathy Tooker, & Brenda Ealey will discuss the 2008 Nebraska Library Futures event and its intention of bringing fresh perspective to Nebraska library service needs and fostering direction, partnerships and collaboration.
- ___ **Noon** **Lunch at the Cornhusker Hotel**
Invite your senator to a great lunch. The cost is \$20 per person. Please offer to pay for your senator's lunch AND make sure to escort him/her to the luncheon. If your senator is unable to attend, invite his/her legislative aide – they are important contacts in the lobbying process and you should get to know them. They will have received formal invites to Legislative Day, but need to have personal invites as well.
- ___ **1:15** **Afternoon Session** at the Cornhusker.

- ___ **\$20 for my participation**
- ___ **\$20 for the Senator's lunch**
- ___ **\$20 for each city official, trustee, or other participant**
- ___ **\$20 donation for honoree's meal or NLA Legislative Day expenses**
(no refunds after 01/28/2009)

Name _____ Library _____

E-Mail _____ State Senator _____

Library Trustee/Friend or City Official _____

**Make Checks Payable to: Nebraska Library Association Mail to: NLA Legislative Committee
c/o Eastern Library System, 11929 Elm Street, Suite 12, Omaha, NE 68144**

Registrations Must be Received by: February 5, 2009

**Please remember to invite your Senator or his/her staff to lunch.
You can find your senator's phone # at: www.nebraskalegislature.gov/. Click on: Senators.**



THE REVIEWERS CHAIR

Go Big or Go Home

By Will Hobbs

Brady narrowly escapes death when a meteorite crashes through the roof and goes through his bed. Shortly thereafter, Brady and Attila (the neighbor's very large dog) gain strengths and abilities beyond the norm! One would think that this is great. . .but it doesn't last long. Brady and Attila find themselves paralyzed to the point that people think they're dead. Will they be able to let anyone know they're alive? Can they do it before it's too late?

This is an enjoyable and quick read. I would especially recommend it to boys ages 9-14. The adventures that Brady finds himself in are fun to read about, and I think that young boys could easily relate.
-Charissa Loftis, WSC

Library Lion

by Michelle Knudsen

This is the story of a lion who goes into a library and learns to be helpful. The lesson in the story is that sometime it's OK to break rules—even in the library.

The pictures helped to understand the story. Kids ages toddler to 3rd grade would like to read or listen to this story. It would be good for any library.
~~Isaiah Reid, 1st grade Homeschool student and his mom, Omaha, NE

Pitching in for Eubie
by Jerdine Nolen

Eubie's dream is to go to college, and her family believes that dreams are meant to come true. Eubie received a scholarship to cover most of the costs of college, but still needs \$3,000.00. All of the family members take on extra work to generate more money. Lily is too young for most jobs, but attempts to make money by selling iced tea and night crawlers; her attempts are not prosperous. Instead of giving up in frustration, she starts a successful pet sitting service and is overjoyed with her ability to help pay for her sister's college expenses.

The inspiring story touches the heart. This book would be good for ages 6 – 10, and I would recommend this book for any public or elementary school library.
~~Karyn Bijlsma

Summer of the War

By Gloria Whelan

Belle is 14 the summer of 1942. Each summer she and her siblings go to their grandparent's home and spend the summer. But this year, their cousin comes as well since her Father

will be in Europe and her mother died when she was young. Belle expects that everyone will love the area as much as they do. She soon finds out that when Carrie arrives, she does have the same enthusiasm for the island and their summer activities.

Recommended for age or grade level: Middle School

Recommended for type of library: Any library.

Special features of the book:

Comparison to other books:

Comments: Summer of the War was interesting to read. I think young girls would enjoy more than boys. In fact, young teenagers could easily sympathize with Belle's feelings. It was easy to read and the story flowed very well.

~~Deb Daehnke

A Dog on His Own

By Mary Jane Auch

K-10 is a dog on his own making his escape from one owner to another and sometimes ending up in a shelter. The story is written from K-10 point of view and the reader will find himself hoping that K-10 finds food for his hungry stomach or wondering why he won't take a change at staying in a home that will provide his daily need.

The adventures of K-10 and the friends, Pearl, Peppy, Tucker, Rotter, and Adolph that he picks up make up this reluctant reader novel written for 3rd grade and up. The reader will be turning the pages to find out if K-10 will find a real home and learn to trust humans again. An



enjoyable book to be added to a children's collection in Public or School libraries.

~~ Pat Thompson, WSC

A Friendship for Today

By Patricia C. McKissack

Rosemary Patterson's life is about to change in a big way. The Supreme Court has just ruled that "separate" does not equal "equal" and her school-mates at Attucks Elementary are to be integrated into white schools next Fall. She and her best friend J.J. are to go to Robinson Elementary, along with Rosemary's nemesis, Grace Hamilton. Grace and her brothers and sisters come from a poor white family that lives near the Pattersons. They harass and torment Rosemary and J.J. mercilessly. Then the unthinkable happens. J.J. contracts polio, and will not be able to attend school in the fall. That means Rosemary will have to face an entire school full of white children by herself.

When children have to face daunting obstacles, they often cannot choose the moment, or the people who are involved. There are many stories of integration, some true, some fiction, but when told from the perspective of the children involved, there is a ring of truth that is hard to invent. Mississippi Bridge comes to mind, as well as Girl on the Outside, a 1982 book by Mildred Pitts Walker.

Patricia McKissack's fictionalized account of her own childhood

experience with school integration was impressive. I was glad she made no attempt to write Southern Black dialogue. It seemed more authentic that way. The unlikely friendship that develops between Grace and Rosemary seems possible, develops naturally, and becomes the positive note that gives everyone in the story hope for the future. As usual, children will lead the way. I recommend this book for both school and public libraries in 4th grade on up.

~~Gretchen Healy, Winnebago Public Library

Magic Kitten, a Summer Spell

By Sue Bentley

Flame is a lion prince in his own world. When he finds his life in danger from his evil uncle he transforms himself into a kitten and escapes to the human world. Lisa has been sent to spend the summer with her aunt while her folks visit the United States. Her summer changes for the better when she finds Flame and meets a John, a boy about her age. Together they work to find out who is hunting the deer. Reading level: 2nd through 4th grade Part of the "Magic Kitten" series, this is a fun little science fiction book which will have the young reader coming back for more.

-Diane Limoges, Eastern Township Library

The Cricket Winter

By Felice Holman

A boy and cricket communicate through morse code to solve problems in both their lives. This book has a great story line with cute illustrations and children would enjoy it. I would recommend it for both school and public libraries for middle and upper grade levels.

~~Sharon Kinnan, Winnebago Public Library

Do Kangaroos Wear Seat Belts?

By Jane Kurtz, Illustrations by Jane Manning

Do Kangaroos Wear Seat Belts is a fun story of a little boy's trip to the zoo with his mom. In a rhyming verse, the boy asks silly safety questions that his mom answers in a mischievous way. Do Kangaroos Wear Seat Belts is an enjoyable story

Green Glass Sea Book Sets Available

The **One Book for Nebraska Kids 2009** selection is The Green Glass Sea, by Ellen Klages, and is aimed at readers in grades 4-6. This book is about Dewey Kerrigan, 11, who travels to New Mexico in 1943 and meets up with her father, who lives on a secret base and is working on a top secret project.

Book sets with discussion questions are available from your system office. For more information, call 1-800-578-1014 and talk to Kathy or Sheila.



Be Creative - Summer Reading Program Workshop 2009

Tuesday, March 24, Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk



9:00am R&R-Registration & Refreshments

9:30am-10:30am Be Creative Summer Reads by Sally Snyder, NLC

10:30-10:45am BREAK

10:45-11:15am Express Yourself Summer Reads by Sally Snyder, NLC.

11:15-12:15 Alice Boeckman

12:15-1:00 LUNCH

1-2:00 Readers Theatre & Crafts with Alice Boeckman

2:00-2:15pm BREAK

2:15-3:15 Games with Alice Boeckman & Sally Snyder

3:15-3:30 Door Prizes, Wrap-Up & Evaluations

Name: _____

Library: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please send a check for \$15 per person, made out to: Northeast Library System, 2028 33rd Avenue, Columbus, NE 68601. Registrations Due: March 20. Please call 1-800-578-1014 if you have questions.

5.0 CE Hours are available for attending this workshop.

The Northeast Library System serves the following counties: Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Butler, Cedar, Colfax, Dakota, Dixon, Holt, Knox, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Polk, Stanton, Thurston, Wayne and Wheeler.

"It's so much easier to suggest solutions when you don't know too much about the problem."
~~Malcolm Forbes

Check out our web site at: <http://northeastlibrary.wetpaint.com>



**Northeast Library System
3038 33rd Avenue
Columbus, NE 68601**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbus, NE
PERMIT NO. 77**