



Straight*talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

Nebraska Library Futures @ Your Library

Many Nebraska librarians, staff, boards and others participated in either the Nebraska Libraries Future Search conference, or in focus groups for the conference. We certainly want to keep the conversation going and provide follow-up information on some of the ideas that have come out of that conference.

So, the Nebraska Regional Library Systems will share a topic a month based on **12 Vision Statements from that 2008 conference**. If you want to use these for conversations with library boards, friends, or your community that would be swell. Nebraska Library Commission will provide continuing education credits for library trustees if you put it on the agenda and discuss during a board meeting. A series of questions and activities to choose from in helping initiate the conversation will be listed below the vision statement. You can choose a few, many, or all – and utilize throughout 2009, as a way of continuing the Nebraska Libraries Future Search discussion.

Vision statement to consider: **The library is a vital hub, woven into the fabric of the greater community, responding to and empowering people through local and global connections.**

Questions:

- Talk about ways your library is a hub within the community, or services that might reflect the library's involvement in the community as a whole locally and beyond.
- Let's say a newspaper wants to do a story on the library and the role it plays in the community, what would you list? Provide examples of how library services impact library customers in their day to day lives. Talk about connections made locally, regionally, statewide and internationally.
- List community and customer needs that are prevalent today. Are there ways library services can assist in responding to those, or perhaps are already responding to?
- Library websites are one way of providing access to library services and information around the clock. Two of many are Holdrege Public Library at www.holdregelibrary.com or Bennington Public Library at <http://library.bennington-ne.co> where the possibility to chat or blog is available anytime.. Connecting the library to customers with particular needs such as English Language Learners or finding a job, as well as partnering with organizations like a literacy council or Nebraska Workforce are two examples of services provided to a direct response to a particular need while collaborating



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to make the most of community wide resources. List outreach services your library provides, or might consider developing, or partnerships with other organizations that reinforce the library as THE community center.

Activities:

- Nebraska libraries include the Library Bill of Rights as part of policy which lists service to all people of the community not restricting access based on origin, age, background or views. Review the Library Bill of Rights at: <http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/statementspols/statementsif/librarybill-rights.cfm>.

Veronda Pitchford, of the Urban Libraries Council, was the speaker at the Fall Colloquium October 2008. Their publication: Welcome, Stranger: Public Libraries Build the Global Village is a great resource for libraries of all types for strategies in welcoming and helping immigrants in transitions into the community. It also provides information on the major role libraries provide in this process. You can find copies of this publication to borrow, 17 pages, as well as the 25 page toolkit at the Nebraska Regional Library Systems' offices and the Nebraska Library Commission, or on the Urban Libraries Council website: <http://www.urbanlibraries.org/publications/print.html>. Review and discuss for insight in successfully serving a growing constituent in Nebraska.

Nebraska Regional Library Systems and Nebraska Library Commission have copies of Kathleen de la Pena McCook's book: A Place at the Table: Participating in Community Building. It outlines methods for ensuring that librarians are a part of community discussions, planning and problem solving with tools for strengthening community partnerships and connections while promoting the library's assets. Use the book to begin discussion for building community collaboration and empowerment through library services and involvement. Or take a look online at McCook's – A Librarian At the Kitchen Table - <http://www.urbanlibraries.org/publications/print.html>. The blog provides great articles for discussion and consideration, as well as timely information on libraries building community in a variety of settings.

Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community by Robert D. Putnam was a national bestseller and provided provocative ideas on social change focusing on American behavior increasingly disconnecting from each other and social structures. Listen to an interview with Professor Putnam on NPR's All Things Considered: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1074874>. Listen as a group and use for discussion. What do you agree or disagree with? This program and book were published in 2000, how are things different or the same in 2009? For more information on the book or Putnam go to: <http://www.bowlingalone.com/>.



ALA Programming Website Now Available

The ALA Public Programs Office is pleased to announce a new online resource to assist libraries of all types and sizes in creating cultural and community programs. The Web site, ProgrammingLibrarian.org, includes a resource library, live learning opportunities and a blog to keep librarians informed of upcoming opportunities and provide inspiration for new library programs. As the site continues to develop, users will find more resources, ideas, and opportunities to network with peers and programming experts.

The goal of ProgrammingLibrarian.org is to assist librarians in finding authoritative resources for cultural programming, train librarians in cultural programming techniques and involve library schools in examining the need for courses in cultural programming. In addition to finding ideas and resources, site users are welcome to contribute information and ideas from their own experiences in developing cultural programs for their communities. Live webinars will be held regularly to create not just a resource center, but a community of librarians committed to bringing increased access to literature, music, contemporary issues, art, history, poetry, scholars, writers and musicians to their communities.

Development of the site is funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS) to the ALA Public Programs Office, which fosters cultural programming as an integral part of library service. In keeping with that mission, ProgrammingLibrarian.org offers librarians timely and valuable information to support them in the creation of high-quality cultural programs for their communities.

ALA Releases Tough Economy Toolkit

A new web-based resource has just been released that will help library Advocates make the case for libraries during times of economic downturn. The "Advocating in a Tough Economy" toolkit is available at www.ala.org/tougheconomytoolkit.

"With city, county, state and federal budgets under increasing pressure, we need to be making the case for libraries more than ever. All too often, libraries are the first to receive budget cuts. Funders need to understand the essential role that libraries play in our society and economy, with usage up significantly, and increasing numbers of people coming to libraries for job-related services, for access to government assistance programs, and as a way of making their money go further." says Keith Michael Fiels, ALA Executive Director. "The new toolkit will arm librarians and library supporters with the facts and strategies they need to speak out effectively for libraries in this tough economy,"

The toolkit contains information on how to work with decision-makers, ways to work with the media, and talking points to help libraries articulate the role of libraries in times of economic downturn. Talking points on the economic value of libraries, with return-on-investment examples; libraries and the economy; and upswings in library usage are included. Users are also invited to share their stories of how they have successfully advocated. Recent media coverage of libraries is also featured.

This resource is part of the "Advocacy U", ALA's new initiative geared to providing tools, training and resources to library advocates achieve real advocacy goals in real situations at the local level. Learn more at www.ala.org/advocacyuniversity.

"The Advocating in a Tough Economy Toolkit" is also a work in process. Updates and improvements will be implemented as new information and new success stories become available.



Be Creative and Express Yourself @ Your Library - 101 Ideas

<http://www.wlearning.com/>

Looking for fresh ideas on how to bring early literacy skills to the parents and caregivers who visit your library? Check out Washing Learning System's website for free downloadable handouts with activities. Handouts are available in both English and Spanish. Summer Reading fun

<http://www.librarypalooza.com/>

Download free fonts, programming ideas and more just in time for summer reading! Author and storyteller Dianne de Las Casas' website features a new story each month that you can print and use in programs as well as fingerplays, games and other great activities.

<http://www.kids.gov>

This site features tons of links that are proven kid-safe. You'll find links about the government, education and schools that are geared to children grades K-5 and 6-8. Educators will also find links to lesson plans, activities and professional development.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/projectspartners/Kidsyourlibrary.htm>

Here you'll find lots of free ideas for programs and marketing for school age children at your library. There are puzzles, scavenger hunts and much more. In the tool kit section, check out musician Bill Harley's song written just for the campaign, download artwork for your own publications, use the templates to create your own bookmark contest or even find a reader's theater script!

<http://www.cbcbooks.org/naypl/index.html>

Jon Scieszka, author of several humorous children's books has been appointed the first National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Scieszka will be touring the country promoting the virtues of reading as well as being a presenter at the 2008 National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. Look for more from the Children's Book Council and The Library of Congress for updates activities.

<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/ecrr/ecrrhomepage.cfm>

Every Child Ready to Read @ Your Library is an ALSC/PLA initiative aimed at helping librarians prepare children to be ready to read when they start school. You'll find information about the six early literacy skills, handouts for parents and caregivers and other resources here.

INchildprog Listserv

<http://www.rif.org>

The Reading is Fundamental website features activity calendars in both English and Spanish, literacy games for kids and read-along stories.

<http://familycrafts.about.com/od/craftsbyproduct/a/trashcrafts.htm>

This website is dedicated to taking today's trash and turning it into tomorrow's treasure. Using the ideas presented here, you can transform baby food jars, paper bags, orphaned socks, and several other items into crafty masterpieces.

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/lists/>

Want to connect with other Nebraska children's librarians? Subscribe to the Nebraska Children's Programming listserv (CHILDLIB-L) to find out what's happening around the state and to reach out to others in the profession.



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Paraprofessional Spring General Meeting!

It's coming up fast! Celebrate the NLA Paraprofessional Section's 25th anniversary and earn Continuing Education credits at this year's Paraprofessional Spring Conference, which will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009, from 10 am to 1 pm, Central Time, followed by our section's annual Spring General Meeting. Both the conference and the general meeting will be telecast, as they are every year, to numerous sites around the state in addition to Lincoln and Omaha. Sites already planned include Ainsworth, Hastings, Fairbury, Norfolk, North Platte, Scottsbluff, and Sidney; other sites will be added upon request!

Our theme this year is Paraprofessionals Past, Present, and Future: Where the Paraprofessional Life Can Lead You.

On the program:

Session I--Past: "Carnegie's Library Legacy: The Good, the Bad and the Beautiful,"
presented by Lauren Riedesel, Beatrice Public Library

Session II--Present: "Connecting with Your Community,"
presented by Siobhan Champ-Blackwell, Creighton University Health Sciences Library

Session III--Future: "Libraries & Paras 2.0,"
presented by Christa Burns, Nebraska Library Commission

Enjoy this opportunity to learn new things, network with other library people, and earn CE credits, all at a convenient distance from your home!

Scholarships are available.

For more information and a registration form, see <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/paraspringmeeting.html> or contact Martha Grenzeback, Spring Meeting Chair, at graymatters@alltel.net or 402-250-7230.



New online tools available for National Library Week 2009

New online materials and products are available to help libraries reach out to their communities during National Library Week (April 12-18, 2009) from the ALA Public Information Office and the Campaign for America's Libraries.

Materials are available in both English and Spanish, focusing on the 2009 National Library Week theme, "Worlds connect @ your library." They include a proclamation, sample press release and letter-to-the-editor, as well as scripts for use in radio public service announcements (PSAs).

Libraries can download materials at www.ala.org/nlw.



CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Mar 7 - **Nebraska Storytelling Festival** at Southwest Church of Christ in Omaha. For more info, go to: www.ne-braskastoryarts.org.

Mar 12 - **NLA NMRT Spring Meeting** will be held at the Seward Public Library. For more information, visit the NLA web site.

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

Mar 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.

April 3 - College of DuPage Teleconference: Library Challenges & Opportunities: **Diversity Beyond the Obvious**

begins at 11am.

April 7 - **Basic Skills: Public Services class** to be held at the Norfolk Public Library at 10 am.

April 16 - College of DuPage Teleconference: Soaring to Excellence: **An Ounce of Prevention: Health Reference Basics** begins at 11am.

April 21-**Basic Skills: Public Services class** to be held at the Norfolk Public Library at 10 am.

April 28 - **Basic Skills: Public Services class** to be held at the Norfolk Public Library at 10 am.

May 1 - **NLA Public Library Section Spring Meeting** at Wahoo Public Library at 9:30am.

May 15 - **NLA C&U Spring Meeting**. Sara Martin, Associate Dean for Technical Services & Library Systems, Univ of Detroit will speak. For more info, see the NLA web site.

May 15 - **Nebraska Library Commission Meeting** at the Nebraska Library Commission in Lincoln at 9:30am.



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.

"Using Technology to Market Teen Library Programs and Services" by Linda W. Braun, *VOYA*, February 2009, pp. 510-511.

Educational consultant Linda Braun reviews all the different methods for libraries to market to teens from a web site to widgets to Twitter. She gives tips and ideas on which tool will give you the best results.

"Gaming @ your Library" by Dale Lipschultz, *American Libraries*, January/February 2009, pp. 40-44.

If you haven't tried gaming at your library, author Dale Lipschultz gives a great overview of all the reasons why a library should try it. Playing games in today's library is a social experience for customers of all ages. It doesn't matter if how dextrous your thumbs are but your willingness to learn and the supportive presence of friends.



NORTHEAST NEWS

The Flippin Family of Stromsburg was the subject of a recent program at the **Norfolk Public Library**. George Flippin was the first African-American athlete at Nebraska. Kathy Nelson from the Stromsburg Public Library has done extensive research on the Flippin family and gave a very enjoyable program.

If you've never had a chance to stop by and visit the **Pilger Public Library**, take a minute and watch their library tour on YouTube.

John Deere's birthday was recently celebrated at the **Neligh Public Library**. Kids of all ages enjoyed celebrating the birthday.

Congratulations to the **Friends of the Atkinson Public Library**. They were recently recognized by Friends of Libraries U.S.A. for their work in supporting the library and received a \$250 award.

Are you a chocoholic? If you are, then it's time to check out the Friends of the Library Chocolate Festival on Feb. 14th at the **Hruska Memorial Public Library** in David City. Those attending will vote for their favorite fudge, cheesecake, cupcake, cookie, brownies, pie,....

It was an exciting evening at the **Columbus Public Library** when stormchaser KHAS-TV StormChase Team Leader Eddy Weiss stopped by. His program was filled with science, adven-

ture, romance, comedy and danger as he shared from his life as a storm chaser and researcher. Eddy has been recognized for his work by everyone from rural Nebraska communities to President George Bush. Attendees enjoyed viewing his unique storm chasing vehicle parked out front.

"Peace Like a River" by Leif Enger is the book being discussed at the February Brown Bag Luncheon at the **Osmond Public Library**. Set in the Minnesota countryside and North Dakota Badlands of the early 1960's, "Peace Like a River" is a moving, beautifully told story about one family's quest to retrieve its most wayward member.

2008 Agricultural Books of the Year

The Nebraska Farm Bureau recently announced the 2008 Agricultural Books of the year. For grades K-3, 'Clarabelle' by author Cris Peterson depicts Clarabelle and her newborn calf on a Wisconsin dairy farm. Photographs were taken by David Lundquist.

'Farmer George: Plants a Nation' by Peggy Thomas and illustrated by Layne Johnson is the Grades 4-5 selection. This Besides being a general and the first president of the United States, George Washington was also a farmer and his efforts to create a self-sufficient farm at Mount Vernon mirrored his struggle to form a new nation.



Theresa Dickson, Associate Director of the Pioneer Library System in Norman, Oklahoma presented "Supervising Friends & Former Peers" and "Fifty Plus" at the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk. A great time was had by all.

Youth Book Awards

Newbery Medal:

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Newbery Honor Books:

The Underneath by Kathi Appelt

The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom by Margarita Engle

Savvy by Ingrid Law

After Tupac & D Foster by Jacqueline Woodson



Caldecott Medal:

The House in the Night illustrated by Beth Krommes, written by Susan Marie Swanson

Caldecott Honor Books:

A Couple of Boys have the Best Week Ever written and illustrated by Marla Frazee

How I Learned Geography by written and illustrated by Uri Shulevitz

A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams illust. by Melissa Sweet, written by Jen Bryant

Geisel Award:

Are You Ready to Play Outside? written and illustrated by Mo Willems

Geisel Honor Books:

Chicken Said "Cluck!" by Judyann Ackerman Grant, illustrated by Sue Truesdell

One Boy written and illustrated by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Stinky written and illustrated by Eleanor Davis

Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator by Sarah C. Campbell, with photographs by Sarah C. Campbell and Richard P. Campbell

Sibert Medal:

We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson

Sibert Honor Books:

Bodies from the Ice: Melting Glaciers and Rediscovery of The Past written by James M. Deem

What to Do About Alice: How Alice Roosevelt Broke the Rules, Charmed the World, and Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy! written by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham

Pura Belpre Author Award:

The Surrender Tree: poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom by Margarita Engle

Author Honor Books:

Reaching Out by Francisco Jiménez

Just in Case by Yuyi Morales

The Storyteller's Candle/ La Velita de los Cuentos, written by Lucía González" illustrated by Lulu Delacre

Pura Belpre Illustrator Award:

Yuyi Morales for Just in Case

Illustrator Honor Books:

Papá and Me by Rudy Gutierrez, written by Arthur Dorros

The Storyteller's Candle/ La velita de los cuentos" illustrated by Lulu Delacre, written by Lucía González

What Can You Do with a Rebozo? illustrated by Amy Córdova, written by Carmen Tafolla

Printz Award:

Jellicoe Road by Melina Marchetta

Printz Honor Books:

The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume II, The Kingdom on the Waves by M.T. Anderson

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks by E. Lockhart

Nation by Terry Pratchett

Tender Morsels by Margo Lanagan

William C. Morris Award (to a previously unpublished author) new this year; 5 finalists

A Curse Dark as Gold by Elizabeth C. Bunce <-- winner

Graceling by Kristin Cashore

Absolute Brightness by James Lecesne

Madapple by Christina Meldrum

Me, The Missing and the Dead by Jenny Valentine

Coretta Scott King Awards:

John Steptoe New Talent Award: Shadra Strickland illus. for Bird (written by Zetta Elliott)

Illustrator Award to Floyd Cooper for The Blacker the Berry (written by Joyce Carol Thomas)

Illustrator Honor Books:

We Are the Ship written and illustrated by Kadir Nelson

The Moon Over Star illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, written by Dianna Hutts Aston,

Before John Was a Jazz Giant: A Song of John Coltrane illustrated by Sean Qualls, written by Carole

Boston Weatherford

Author award: Kadir Nelson for We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball

Author Honor Books:

Keeping the Night Watch by Hope Anita Smith

The Blacker the Berry by Joyce Carol Thomas, illustrated by Floyd Cooper

Becoming Billie Holiday by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Floyd Cooper

Schneider Family Book Awards:

Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum written and illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker

Waiting for Normal by Leslie Conner

Jerk, California by Jonathan Friesen

Batchelder Award ("originally published in a language other than English")

Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit originally published in Japanese, written by Nahoko Uehashi and translated by Cathy Hirano

Batchelder Honor Books:

Garmann's Summer written by Stian Hole, translated by Don Bartlett

Tiger Moon written by Antonia Michaelis, translated by Anthea Bell



Odyssey Award (“for excellence in audio book production”)

Recorded Books for The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, written and narrated by Sherman Alexie

Odyssey Honor Books:

Curse of the Blue Tattoo by L. A. Meyer, narrated by Katherine Kellgren

Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis, narrated by Mirron Willies

I’m Dirty! by Kate & Jim McMullan, narrated by Steve Buscemi

Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale written and narrated by Carmen Agra Deedy

Nation by Terry Pratchett and narrated by Stephen Briggs

Margaret A. Edwards Award (“lifetime achievement in writing for young adults”)

Laurie Halse Anderson

Laura Ingalls Wilder Award (“substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children”)

Ashley Bryan, author and illustrator

Arbuthnot Honor Lecture Award

Kathleen T. Horning (author of From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and ...)

Carnegie Medal (for video)

Weston Woods Studios for "March On! The Day My Brother Martin Changed the World"

What’s Up Doc is a Blog

Times change, new technologies come along, and we use them to improve our services. What's up Doc?, our bimonthly newsletter listing state and federal publications received at the Library Commission, has gone 2.0! Sometimes doing something new means stopping doing something the old way. The print What’s Up Doc will cease publication with the November/December 2008 issue. The 2008 annual compilation of state documents will also be published soon. A new What’s Up Doc was launched as a blog in September 2008, and is accessible at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/whatsup-doc>

The new Doc features all of the information provided in the old Doc, and more. Blog format allows us to post lists of newly received publications, make announcements about state e-pubs that we have downloaded to our server, and blog about “documents in the news” more frequently than was possible with the bimonthly compilation. The publications lists include OCLC catalog numbers and hotlinks to downloaded copies of documents that any library can use to add them to their catalogs.

Doc is also broadening in scope to feature updates about other projects documents staff are involved with: Nebraska Memories, collaborative digitization projects, scanning materials from the NLC Archives, information services, etc.

We welcome feedback and comments about the new What’s Up Doc—pros and cons of making the change, need for future annual state docs compilations, comments on news postings, etc. Would you like to write a news article for us to post? Or contact Beth Goble, Government Information Services Director 402-471-4017 email bgoble@nlc.state.ne.us.

To sign up for What’s Up Doc via RSS go to the site and click on the RSS link .



THE READER'S CHAIR

Oliver Pig and the Best Fort Ever

By Jean Van Leeuwen

This is a very fun and applicable story (in easy reader format) about some ingenious fort building and a little lesson about including everyone.

As with all the "Oliver Pig and Amanda Pig" books, it is great for boys and girls who are reading a little on their own... maybe 1-2nd grade. But any preschooler or Kindergartener would like to hear the story too. It is recommended for any collection.

~~Heather Reid, Home school teacher/parent, Omaha, NE

Paper Towns

By John Green

Quentin Jacobsen can't believe his luck when the very popular Margo Roth Spiegelman selects him to help her enact her ingenious plan for revenge on several of her "friends." Not only is he in love with her, but the plan itself is so cool that it would make anyone jealous for not having thought of it themselves. The aftermath of the plan is two-fold: Q and

his band-nerd friends are now popular; and Margo disappears the next very next day. Margo's disappearance is nothing new. She's done this several times in the past and leaves vague clues for her parents in hopes that they will find her. This time she leaves the clues for Quentin. Will the clues lead him to Margo alive and well? Or, will they lead him to her body?

John Green also wrote the 2006 Michael L. Printz award winner, "Looking for Alaska." True to his writing style, he writes a fast paced book that is realistic in how teenagers talk and behave. I would highly recommend this for older young adult readers. The book has some foul language and deals with teen drinking and sex. School teacher librarians may need to occasionally defend this title to the overprotective parent, but it is well worth it.

~~ Charissa Loftis, WSC

The Truth-Teller's Tale

By Sharon Shinn

In The Truth-Teller's Tale, Eleda accounts the lives of herself and her twin, Adele, as innkeeper's daughters and the life of their privileged best friend Roelynn as they grow into adulthood. Eleda and Adele are mirror twins, identical twins who are complete reflections of each other. Even their gifts are reflections of each other. Adele is a Safe-Keeper who listens and keeps safe the secrets of anyone who tells her. Eleda, on the other hand, is a Truth-

Teller who can never lie to any question put to her. But what happens when someone mistakes the Truth-Teller for the Safe-Keeper and the Safe-Keeper for the Truth-Teller? It is all brought to the forefront when a handsome dancing master and his apprentice arrive at the inn in Merendon. A Safe-Keeper reveals a secret. A Truth-Teller lies. Nothing is what it seems. Or, is it? Everything is turned upside down in this tale of love, romance, magic, and mistaken identities.

I would recommend this book for middle school and lower level-high school students who enjoy romantic stories. It is especially enjoyable since the magical element gives a unique twist on the typical boy meets girl tale. Those who read The Truth-Teller's Tale will enjoy trying to unravel and decipher the adventures of Eleda, Adele, and Roelynn.
~~Valerie Knight, WSC

Cork & Fuzz: The Collectors

By Dori Chaconas

Cork and Fuzz are best friends, yet they are not exactly two of a kind. Cork is a muskrat and Fuzz is an opossum. They like, and are good at, different things but their friendship seems to work with these two different personalities. One common thing they do enjoy doing is collecting. Cork likes collecting shiny stones. Fuzz likes to collect shiny stones, and anything else he can find. Fuzz's passion to collect anything gets them into a little



trouble when the green stones he found turn out to be duck eggs. Mama duck is not happy when she comes back to the nest and finds Cork and Fuzz with babies. As mama duck rounds up her ducklings to put them in her nest, Fuzz gets mixed up with flock and it's Cork to the rescue.

There are a lot of words on a page. It would have to be a read aloud for the younger/beginning reader. I would recommend this book for public or school libraries for grades Kindergarten through 2nd grade. This book has detailed, colorful illustrations that work well with the text to tell the story. It has a good theme that friends don't have to be exactly the same to be friends. You will see they don't eat the same things, like exactly the same things, look alike...but in the end, you find, a good friend will come through for you.

~~Jane Dodson, North Park Elementary

The Cow that Laid an Egg

By Andy Cutbill

It's all about family, though illustrated through farm animals. Marjorie is a cow who feels inadequate when she compares herself to the other cows that can ride bicycles and do handstands. As a joke, the farm chickens secretly painted the egg with large black spots, much like the coloration of a Holstein cow, and put the egg under Marjorie. Marjorie thought she had laid an egg, and became the envy of all the

other cows. The egg hatched, and Marjorie became the proud mother of a chick which she named Daisy.

This is a funny book which will delight children. It would also be a good read-aloud book. I would recommend this book for ages 4-7, and any public or elementary school library.

~~Karyn Bijlsma, WSC

Alfred Digs

By Lindsay Barrett George

Alfred, the aardvark, lives on the "A" page of the dictionary with his mother and his pet ant, Itty Bitty. When Alfred discovers that Itty Bitty has escaped from his ant farm to visit the zoo, Alfred digs all through the dictionary to find Itty Bitty and rescue him from danger. This book could serve as lead-in to an introduction of the dictionary.

I would recommend this book for both school and public libraries for pre-kindergarten through second grade.
-Laticia Olson, Randolph Public School

The Midnight Twins

By Jacquelyn Mitchard

Meredith and Mallory Brynn are identical twins born on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. They are as different as two people can be but have a special bond that goes beyond that of normal identical twins. On their 13th birthday Mally's dreams that she dies in a fire.

For the first time since their birth Merry does not see Mally's dream. Suddenly their lives are turned upside down, Mally seeing the future and Merry seeing the past. When Mally dreams of terrible things that David Jellico (an older boy that Merry has a crush on) Merry does not want to believe her own sister. Will their lives ever be normal again?

Reading level: 8th grade and up
The first trilogy, the beginning (about the first 1/3rd) is slow going with too much unnecessary information. Once the story really begins there is a good storyline that will have the reader looking forward to what is to happen next to these two young girls.

~~Diane Limoges, Eastern Township Library

Rafi and Rosi: Carnival!

By Lulu Delacre

Set in Puerto Rico, "Rafi and Rosi: Carnival!" is an entertaining chapter book outlining the antics of two sibling tree frogs during the festive Latin American Carnival season.

The language, words and subject matter are all simple and easy to understand, and would appeal to young readers in grades 1-3. The author has included some Latin American words throughout the stories, introducing the children to some elementary Spanish. A glossary at the beginning of the book aids in pronunciation and meaning of words. Illustrations are numerous and very color-



ful and give glimpses into the dress and customs of the Latin American culture.

"Rafi and Rosi: Carnival!" would be appropriate for any public or school library, and should be recommended to children, parents and teachers alike.
~~Vickie Fritzges, St. Edward Public Library

Hot Lunch

By Alex Bradley

Normal Cassie and blue haired Molly attend a non-traditional high school. Forced into being partners for a class assignments it becomes apparent that the girls don't have a lot in common. When a food fight develops during lunch one day their punishment is to become lunch ladies in the school cafeteria until they can learn to put their differences aside and learn how to work together.

The book includes recipes and humor. I think it was an enjoyable book.

I would recommend this book for 7th-10th graders.

~~Carol Tramp, Wynot public School

Bird Lake Moon

By Kevin Henkes

It is hard being 12 year old Mitch and finding out that your mom and dad are getting a divorce. It's hard leaving behind your friends to spend the summer with Grandparent's who love you, but aren't ready for this much family closeness. It is

even tougher learning that the abandoned house next door, which Mitch has imagined as a "start over" home for his family, has instead become the home of another family. This engrossing short novel brings together two young boys, each dealing with their individual family struggles, which are challenges to look at life a little more deeply than through their own eyes.

I would recommend this book for school and public libraries for youngsters 10 yrs old and older.

Even though this is a book dealing with family suffering, it is neither extremely deep nor heavy; it is a great book to encourage readers to look at the positives while dealing with negatives in life. Although the story is open-ended, it leaves readers satisfied with the progression of the youth and their families.

~~MeMe Smith, Schuyler Public Library



Bone Crossed

by Patricia Briggs

Bone Crossed is the fourth book in the Mercy Thompson series. Mercedes Thompson is a walker with the ability to transform into a coyote, and is immune to magic. The area she walks is populated by magical creatures...so an immunity is key. It was during a struggle for power that made Mercedes and Marsilia, a powerful queen of the vampires, enemies. Mercedes' friends suggest she leave town until the powerful queen calms down.

Amber, a friend that lives in Spokane, has invited the troubled walker to help her investigate some spiritual activities in house. Mercedes learns that not only is the spirit real, but it is threatening Amber's son. Spokane is also in the grips of a powerful vampire that is capable of day-walking.

Briggs ties a bunch of subplots into a complicated knot, and slowly unravels it as Mercy discovers the answers to all the various mysteries. Briggs' smooth, detailed style is well-suited to Mercy's world, which is described with mellow humor. She never lets a tense plot get in the way of some tongue-in-cheek humour ("what kind of stupid person puts white carpet in a house frequented by werewolves?")

Recommended for public libraries and high school libraries that have many supernatural readers.

~~Kathy Ellerton, NLS



**Northeast Library System
Board Minutes
January 21, 2009**

The Northeast Board met at the Battle Creek City office on January 21, 2009 and was hosted by the staff of the Battle Creek Public Library. The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Dee Johnson. Board members present were Judy Hagen, Michele Hastreiter, Chris Chilcoat, Elaine Tobias, Sally Stahlecker, Joyce Sullivan, Jolene Klein, Kathy Ageton, Dee Johnson, and Kate Ostenrude. There were no alternates present. System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton, and Administrative Assistant, Shelia Cermak, as well as, Sally Snyder from the Nebraska Library Commission were also present.

The minutes were approved (MS: Chilcoat/Sullivan; approved).

Correspondence consisted of a thank you note from Ted Smith and many Christmas cards. Shelia Cermak gave the financial report. The next renewal date for CDs will be in March. The system received the quarterly payment from the commission. The current balance is \$55,760.59. The financial report was approved by a roll call vote (MS: Ageton/Klein).

REPORTS:

Commissioner- Pat Gross N/A

State Advisory Council- N/A

Nebraska Library Commission Report- Sally Snyder submitted the report from the library commission. There was discussion concerning the One Book One Nebraska program, LTA program and proposed tweaking of the accreditation process.

System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton reported on a wide range of activities she has completed in the past two months. She presented the board with a list of travel and activities. If you wish to know more about the system's activities and Kathy's report check out the web page <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel – no report

Budget – The Budget Committee was pleased to report that the system finances are where they should be this time of year.

Continuing Education – no report

Strategic Planning – no report

Continuing Education – no report

Technology Committee - no report

Grant Committee – Will meet in March.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Bylaws committee met and proposed several changes reflecting the change of the annual meeting to September. A motion was made to accept the committee's corrected report (MS: Chilcoat/Ageton approved).

NEW BUSINESS:

A tweaking of the accreditation standards was discussed. The majority of the discussion centered on the material budget requirements. It is a concern that the smaller libraries cannot meet the essential level of accreditation.

There were no Pat-on-the-Back Awards given.

A motion was made to accept the claims of the day (MS: Hastreiter/Klein; approved by roll call vote).

Meeting adjourned (MS: Hastreiter/Sullivan approved).

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Ostenrude

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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.

Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them,
and pretty soon you have a dozen.

~~John Steinbeck

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



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