



**Straight** *talk*  
News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

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**Green Libraries: What Libraries Can Do**

by Kathy Tooker

Twelve vision statements came out of the Future Search Conference held in July 2009. To keep the vision alive and developing, the Regional Library Systems are highlighting the visions in their newsletters with the purpose of encouraging continued discussion among librarians, library staff, boards and their communities. A vision that generated a lot of interest and discussion was that of eco-friendly "green libraries" plus it ties in with Earth Day, April 22.

**Vision statement to consider: Going green starts @ your library®: the library models environmentally sustainable practices, places, and policies and shares these with the community.**

It has become one of the hot topics in library literature. Libraries by virtue of their position in their community should be seen as a model for others. As Laura L. Barnes says in the Illinois Library Association Report of October 2008, "The good news is that the library's core services are already eco-friendly because they encourage people to borrow rather than buy materials." Libraries can demonstrate environmental awareness by doing small changes in their buildings as well as by thinking green in the design of a new or remodeled building. Other ways of going green are by having a green core collection and by encouraging people in the community to pay attention to their green footprint by reducing, reusing, repairing, and recycling.

Library Buildings

Places good place to go for information on green buildings include:

Green Libraries ([www.greenlibraries.org](http://www.greenlibraries.org)) which lists books and web sites for green libraries that have already been built with green sensibilities.

Leadership in Energy and Environment Design, (LEED) at [www.usbgc.org](http://www.usbgc.org) was established by the U.S. Green Building Council and provides standards for environmentally sustainable construction, evaluating projects within six categories: site development, energy efficiency, materials selection, water efficiency, indoor environmental quality, and innovation in design.

Most libraries must work with existing the buildings, but there are many smaller changes that can be made to reduce the environmental impact.



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- Have an energy audit of the building to look at lighting, windows and doors, heating and cooling.
- Replace old electronic equipment with more energy efficient ones.
- Provide bike and skateboard racks.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with energy saving ones.
- Install occupancy sensors to turn off lights when room not in use.
- Use green cleaning products.
- Use reusable cups, plates, etc in stead of disposable ones.
- Check out free software from GreenPrint ([www.printgreener.com](http://www.printgreener.com)) to avoid printing blank pages.
- Print on both sides of the paper.

### Your Collection

Business and home owners need information on how to do it. Have books, magazines, DVDs and web sites accessible in the library's collection that will encourage your customers to think green when it comes to purchasing, living, and working. Library Journal, February 1, 2009, has a bibliography of green resources in their Collection Development section with starred items as being essential for most collections. This is available through Library Journal Online at [www.libraryjournalonline.com/article/CA6630783.html](http://www.libraryjournalonline.com/article/CA6630783.html).

### Community

Libraries can take the lead in the community by encouraging and educating the public on ways they can integrate green measures into their lives.

- Collaborate with local environmental groups to be a community recycling drop-off site for batteries or used electronics.
- Establish an environmental book club. Novels with an environmental theme could be used.
- Plan a program for children and teens on reducing our environmental foot print by creating a craft out of discarded or junk materials. Sites such as [holidays.kaboose.com/earth-day](http://holidays.kaboose.com/earth-day) gives ideas using recycled items. A great place for ideas for older kids and teens is The 6R Movement: Reduce, Reclaim, Redesign, Recycle, Renew (VOYA October 2008).
- Advertise that the library is a green library and display library materials that relate to the environment and green technology.
- Hold a community forum to discuss steps to take to incorporate eco-friendly measures into daily lives.

Remember that "greening the library" improves not only the quality of life, but can also save money.



## 2009 Edgar Nominees



### Best Novel Nominees

- \* Missing by Karin Alvtegen
- \* Blue Heaven by C.J. Box
- \* Sins of the Assassin by Robert Ferrigno
- \* The Price of Blood by Declan Hughes
- \* The Night Following by Morag Joss
- \* Curse of the Spellmans by Lisa Lutz

### Best First Novel By An American Author

- \* The Kind One by Tom Epperson
- \* Sweetsmoke by David Fuller
- \* The Foreigner by Francie Lin
- \* Calumet City by Charlie Newton
- \* A Cure for Night by Justin Peacock

### Best Paperback Original

- \* The Prince of Bagram Prison by Alex Carr
- \* Money Shot by Christa Faust
- \* Enemy Combatant by Ed Gaffney
- \* China Lake by Meg Gardiner
- \* The Cold Spot by Tom Piccirilli

### Best Fact Crime

- \* For the Thrill of It: Leopold, Loeb and the Murder That Shocked Chicago by Simon Baatz
- \* American Lightning: Terror, Mystery and the Birth of Hollywood, and the Crime of the Century by Howard Blum
- \* Havana Nocturne: How the Mob Owned Cuba and Then Lost It to the Revolution by T.J. English
- \* The Man Who Made Vermeers: Unvarnishing the Legend of Master Forger Hans van Meegeren by Jonathan Lopez
- \* The Suspicions of Mr. Whicher by Kate Summerscale

### Best Critical/Biographical

- \* African American Mystery Writers: A Historical and Thematic Study by Frankie Y. Bailey
- \* Hard-Boiled Sentimentality: The Secret History of American Crime Stories by Leonard Cassuto
- \* Scene of the Crime: The Importance of Place in Crime and Mystery Fiction by David Geherin
- \* The Rise of True Crime by Jean Murley
- \* Edgar Allan Poe: An Illustrated Companion to his Tell-Tale Stories by Dr. Harry Lee Poe

### Best Juvenile

- \* The Postcard by Tony Abbott
- \* Enigma: A Magical Mystery by Graeme Base
- \* Eleven by Patricia Reilly Giff



- \* The Witches of Dredmoore Hollow by Riford McKenzie
- \* Cemetery Street by Brenda Seabrooke

### Best Young Adult

- \* Bog Child by Siobhan Dowd
- \* The Big Splash by Jack D. Ferraiolo
- \* Paper Towns by John Green
- \* Getting the Girl by Susan Juby
- \* Torn to Pieces by Margot McDonnell



### **NLS Annual Meeting Date Changed**

The Northeast Library System's Annual Meeting date has been changed to Wednesday, September 16 at the Lifelong Learning Center at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

During the last few years, it has become harder and harder for librarians to attend the annual meeting during the first week of June. Students get out of school by mid-May and by the first week of June Summer Reading Programs are in full swing. Librarians cannot get away to attend the Annual Meeting between limited staff and their big summer reading programs. Attendance has dropped at the Annual Meeting for the last several years.

After much discussion, the Northeast Library System Board voted to move the meeting date to September. The day will be full of workshops and wonderful continuing education opportunities for librarians and trustees.

See you there!



**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  
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### New ALA Traveling Exhibit Connects Harry Potter's World with Real World Sciences

The ALA Public Programs Office, in cooperation with the National Library of Medicine (NLM), announces a new small format traveling exhibition to libraries, "Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine." Public, academic (university, college and community college) and medical libraries may apply to host the banner exhibition by downloading an application at [www.ala.org/harrypotter](http://www.ala.org/harrypotter). In order to be considered, applications must be received at ALA by May 1.

Using materials from the NLM's History of Medicine collections, the exhibition explores Harry Potter's world, its roots in Renaissance science and the ethical questions that affected not only the wizards in J.K. Rowling's books, but also the historical thinkers featured in the series. Exhibition panels feature the works of 15th- and 16th-century alchemists, naturalists and occultists, and explore the intersection between the Harry Potter novels and Renaissance thinkers, lore and practices. More information about the exhibit, including educational resources, is available at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/harrypottersworld/index.html>.

Following the application process, 12 libraries will be selected to host the exhibition for a four-week display period between September 2009 and November 2010. All libraries on the tour will be expected to pay for incoming shipping for the exhibition, which will range from \$250 to \$450, depending on the distance between sites. The exhibition is composed of six fabric panels mounted on self-supporting stands and measuring 7 ft. high x 3 ft. wide x 15 in deep; panels are printed only on one side. It requires 30 linear feet of space, or 300-400 square feet. For more information on "Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine," or to obtain an application, visit [www.ala.org/harrypotter](http://www.ala.org/harrypotter).

### Bess Streeter Aldrich Video Available

Diane Johnson, Stromsburg Public Library Director, recently announced that the Stromsburg Public Library has purchased a copy of Bess Streeter Aldrich's video biography, *A Video History of Bess Streeter Aldrich*. Diane went on to say that the library is willing to loan the video to any library that would like to use it with this year's One Book One Nebraska program. Diane can be reached at [stromsburgpl@alltel.net](mailto:stromsburgpl@alltel.net). The Nebraska Library Commission also has a copy of this video available for loan.





### Camera Memory Book Project

Using the system office's new camera book die, kids can quickly create a picture perfect memory book.

Instructions:

1. Cut two camera covers one for the front and one for the back using the camera book accucut die. Cut 3" white circle. Adhere to lens on front cover.
2. Cut mini symbols to illustrate what the book is about. A dog or cat could be about pets, a butterfly about insects or a car about a favorite trip. Adhere to white circle as shown.
3. Cut white flash rectangle with camera die. Trim along flash perforations. Adhere to rectangle on cover in upper left corner.
4. Outline camera front and back covers with black marker.
5. Cut white inside pages. Line up between covers. Punch holes in binding, insert metal rings for brads.
6. Tie ribbons and yarn around rings.
7. Use rub-ons, computer printing or handwriting on front for titles.

Now your book is ready to be filled with your memories!



### Northeast's Starred Libraries

Recently, Library Journal performed a survey of libraries judging them on public service. They used the annual library survey to answer such questions as: How many times a year did the average person take out a book, audio book, DVD, or other item from the library? How many times did they come to the library? Attend a program? Use a public access computer?

Ten Nebraska libraries were named on the list of which 5 were from the Northeast Library System!! Congratulations to **Central City Public Library, Atkinson Public Library, Hartington Public Library, Neligh Public Library** and **Lied Pierce Public Library!**

### Autism Handouts Available

Autism Action Partnership, a foundation to provide services to assist and support children with autism, has put together packets of brochures and magnets for libraries across Nebraska.

These packets were handed out at the Summer Reading Program Workshop in Norfolk. If you missed the workshop or would like additional brochures or magnets, please give the system office a call at 1-800-578-4014. These packets are available on a first come, first served basis.

### New Wii Game Available

The system office recently purchased a copy of 'Super Monkey Ball Banana Blitz' for the Wii Gaming Kit. Gamers will find themselves competing in a traditional game of ring toss, fighting aliens in space with "Alien Attack," or even smacking pesky moles in a game of "Whack-a-Mole. There are fifty mini party games for your user's enjoyment. Call the system office now to check it out!

Between every two pines is a doorway to a new world.  
~John Muir



### **Middle School Library Quiz Answers!**

Information on dragons can be found by asking one of them in the office.

The purpose of OPACs is to say how much to sell crude oil for.

Fiction books are just a lot of stories, so they don't get a rating number.

You can find words with similar meanings in Rogers Brontasaurus.

Boolean operators are telephone sellers in other countries.

A bibliography is the cast of characters in the Bible.

Books with the letter R on the label are only for people over 18 years old.

You can use an author search if you don't know who wrote the book your looking for.

Copyright is using the photocopier the right way.

The Great Library of Alexandria was destroyed by vandals with chewing gum and spray paint.

The New York Public Library has two lions outside the front door to stop people stealing books.

Standing on the shoulders of giants is important in research for getting the books off the top shelf.

You shouldn't put your real name and address on library cards because an orthodontist might see it.

If I see stuff on the Internet that makes me uncomfortable, I should tell all my friends where the web-site is so they don't get scared when they go there by mistake.

(Taken from the Warrior Librarian Weekly)

Tacky the Penguin Reader's Theatre at the Summer Reading Program Workshop.





### CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

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.

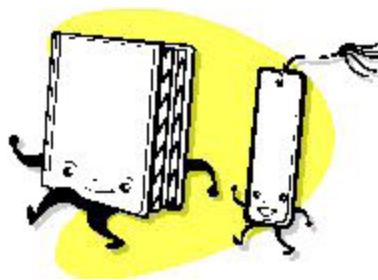
May 1 - **NLA Public Library Section Spring Meeting** at Wahoo Public Library at 9:30am.

April 30 - **Glennor Shirley Correctional Libraries Workshop** at Milo Bail Student Center, UNO, Omaha from 9am - 4pm. See flyer on page 12 for more information.

May 1 - **Glennor Shirley Correctional Libraries Workshop** at Milo Bail Student Center, UNO, Omaha from 9am-12pm. See flyer on page 12 for more information.

May 8 - **Nebraska Library Commission Meeting** at the Nebraska Library Commission in Lincoln 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.



**Targeting the Ages: Programming That Hits the Mark**, College of DuPage Teleconference, 2009. 90 min.

Any library, whether it is school, public, academic, or special, is many things to the community it serves. A library offers the information patrons need to improve their quality of life. A library provides open access to technology and the world of online information, as well as guidance on navigating that world. A library also gives their community something that is less tangible, yet just as essential to improving their patrons' lives: nourishment not just for the mind, but the spirit as well.

How do libraries do that? Through the programming opportunities they create.

In this program you will look at

some of the innovative programming libraries today are creating to meet the evolving needs of their patrons. We will also provide a basic primer for anyone who has always wanted to plan a program, but didn't know where or how to begin.

**Virtual Reference Best Practices: Tailoring Services to Your Library** by M. Kathleen Kern, ALA, 2009.

When it comes to virtual reference, one size doesn't fit all. What works in one library won't necessarily work in another. How do you figure out what to do? Kern, a leading virtual reference expert, outlines the tools and decision-making processes that will help you and your library evaluate, tailor, and launch virtual reference services that are a perfect fit for your community and your library.

Moving from general guidelines to making concrete decisions about integrating virtual with traditional reference, Virtual Reference Success:

- # Provides a handy checklist of issues to consider
- # Suggests plans for sustainability of services
- # Offers activities and discussion points that support decision making
- # Shares proven sample policies and materials currently in use
- # Summarizes practical one-page "Research You Can Use".





## NORTHEAST NEWS

**Schuyler Public Library** celebrated Teen Tech Week 2009 with the theme Press Play @ your library. Teens came to the library to participate in three contests: YouTube Swap, Morph Your Face and Best Things in 2008. Teens used morphing.com to morph their faces with different artists and characters.

Congratulations to the following libraries for being awarded a Libraries Improvement Grant: **Neligh Public Library** for disaster preparation programs, **Lied Pierce Public Library** for a microfilm reader/scanner, **Ponca Carnegie Library** for a HDTV for the community room, **Lied Randolph Public Library** for a Netlibrary shared collection, **Schuyler Public Library** for a microfilm reader/scanner and **Verdigre Public Library** for a microfilm reader/scanner.

On April 5th, local school children presented the timeline of Laura Ingalls Wilder's life with the proceeds going to the Friends of the Library Foundation for the **Atkinson Public Library**.

Dr. Bill Path will give a presentation about his new book Moments of Forever: Discovering the True Power and Importance of Your Life on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at the **Norfolk Public Library**.

Two Worlds Theatre and Claire Roche provided an evening of drama and music in an after-hours concert on March 27th at the **South Sioux City Library**. Roche and Two Worlds Theatre work together to share some ancient Irish stories. In addition, Roche played the Irish harp, sang and led the audience in singing-along to popular Irish tunes.

## Advocacy Resources

ALA has two good toolkits to help library advocates make their case at the local level. In addition to the Advocating in Tough Economic Times Toolkit, there is one aimed toward librarians involved in youth development and education — Add It Up: Libraries Make the Difference in Youth Development and Education.

Check out the toolkit, located at [www.ala.org/issuesadvocacy/advocacyuniversity](http://www.ala.org/issuesadvocacy/advocacyuniversity), for reliable data to support your advocacy message. Select by age group, pre-school, Kindergarten– Middle School, and Teens. Talking points are given for both public libraries and school library media programs.



Summer Reading Program Workshop attendees had lots of fun learning the moves to a song.



Mad Hatter Award 2009

Presented by Child’s World and the School, Children’s and Young People’s Section of NLA

PURPOSE To recognize an individual member of the Nebraska Library Profession who has made an outstanding contribution to School, Children’s and Young People’s librarianship and library development.

CRITERIA Individual nominated should have demonstrated achievements in the following areas:

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

\*Nominee MUST be a member of the School, Children’s and Young People’s Section of NLA.

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Present address)

Nominee’s library affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach sheets describing the achievements of your nominee. **All three criteria listed above must be addressed in your nomination.** You should include documentation in the form of several support letters from staff, parents, board members or others, each letter identifying the writer as to what role they play in libraries and their relationship to the nominee. It is highly recommended that photos of the person working with patrons be submitted as well as samples of programs, creativity, etc. that this person has done. Any documentation or detail that you can send supporting your nominee’s qualifications and that assist the Mad Hatter Committee in making a judgment will be very helpful. Make sure all professional leadership is noted, especially SCYP membership. Using letter or essay format, follow these three headings:

1. Interpreting library services to the community
2. Developing innovative programming
3. Demonstrating professional leadership

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: I am a \_\_\_\_\_ Member of NLA \_\_\_\_\_ School Administrator  
\_\_\_\_\_ Public Library Administrator

**Please return the nomination form and supporting materials by August 1, 2009, to Patty Birch, North Platte High School, 1220 West 2nd Street, North Platte, NE 69101**



## THE REVIEWER'S CHAIR

### **Sophie's Dance**

By Mandy Schlundt

Sophie and her grandmother Elizabeth get to spend the evening together while Sophie's parents attend a party. Sophie convinces her grandmother they should also get to go out and enjoy the evening at a dance. While getting all dressed up for the outing, they discuss inner and outer beauty, and Sophie becomes more and more excited about spending the evening with grown-ups. At the dance, Grandma Elizabeth met someone special who told Sophie she was as pretty as springtime. Sophie was so overjoyed with delight, she thought she could touch the stars.

A good age group for this book would be 5-8, and it would make a nice addition to any elementary school or public library. This is a wonderful book for a little girl's self-esteem.  
-Karyn Bijlsma

### **Jellicoe Road**

By Melina Marchetta

This multi-layered book was recently awarded the 2009 Michael L. Printz Award for good

reason. Taylor Markham was abandoned by her mother at a Seven-Eleven. The woman (Hannah) who picked her up and took her to the Jellicoe School is the only adult in her life that has stayed by her side. Taylor's world is turned upside down when Hannah leaves with no word. She's also been charged with leading the Jellicoe students in the territory wars between the "Cadets" and "Townies." To make matters worse, the leader of the Cadets is someone who betrayed her in the past. One of the Townies knows more about her history than she does. Bit by bit, Taylor begins to learn about her past, her parents, Hannah, and others who have come in to her life.

My only problem with the book is that it's written by an Australian author and the spelling of many common words is different than the U.S. spellings. I kept thinking the editor didn't do his/her job! But, if you can get past that, Marchetta spins an exciting tale that's hard to put down. As with any good young adult book, the teens are involved in typical teen behavior. . . .running off, breaking the rules, and having sex. This would make a great addition to any public or school library for an older, young adult reader.  
- Charissa Loftis, WSC

### **Keeker and the Pony Camp Catastrophe**

By Hadley Higgonson

This book is an entertaining story of ten-year-old Keeker

and her "sneaky" pony Plum. Keeker's disappointment over her best friend's summer trip to France soon turns to excitement when her own parents arrange for her to spend a week with Plum at Camp Kickapoo, a camp for young riders and their ponies.

"Keeker" is a chapter book appropriate to young readers in middle elementary grades, and the subject matter would appear to appeal more to young female readers. The author's use of humor, and her knowledge of horses and riding techniques, makes this book a fun and interesting read. Her language and vocabulary are simple to understand while teaching the reader some terms and facts about horsemanship. It also contains lessons about dealing with rivals and making new friendships. The black and white illustrations are numerous and add detail to the story. "Keeker and the Pony Camp Catastrophe" is book 5 in the Keeker series. This and the other titles in the series would be an excellent addition to any public or school library.  
-Vickie Fritzges

### **All We Know of Love**

Nora Raleigh Baskin

Natalie Gordon decides to locate the mother who left her life four years, four months and fifteen days ago. She boards a bus which is heading to Florida, taking only her cell phone and some money. She is determined to repair the holes in her relationship with her mother, and



along the way she encounters several people who teach her about different types of love.

Recommended for ages: 11 and up and for both school and public libraries. I thought this book explored the different types of love but alluded to too much. The issues of friendship, single parent households, teen pregnancy, running away, disobedience, premarital sex, alcoholism, and depression were addressed in this novel. I felt that the author needed to clarify the parallel stories of the other characters to make it more accessible to younger readers. This would be a good novel to foster discussion among adults and children due to the many different issues subtly presented in this work.  
-Kasey Payne, Wayne State College

**Lincoln and His Boys**  
By Rosemary Wells

Based on historical fact this book was created from a 200-word fragment written by Willie Lincoln that the author came across while doing research for a Civil War novel. The reader is quickly caught up in the book as tales of Lincoln's rambunctious sons adventures unfold. One quickly comes to an understanding that Lincoln loved his sons dearly and was an indulgent parent.

The story begins with Willie and Lincoln making a train trip to Chicago where it is decided that Lincoln will again make a bid for the White House. Upon

moving into the White House the boys quickly discover the roof as a great place for a fort. They have ready access to their father often interrupting important cabinet meetings to be with him. The reader comes to understand Lincoln's sadness over the Civil War starting and the loss of life that comes with war.

The volume is complimented with beautiful colored illustration by Irish artist P. J. Lynch. A great book for a reluctant reader and of interest to boys and girls, this volume would enhance any school and public library collection.  
-Pat Thompson WSC

**Postcards from No Man's Land**  
By Aidan Chambers

This book has two parallel plots, set 60 years apart and both in the Netherlands. The first story line takes place during the final year of World War II beginning with the British plan to capture the bridge at Arnhem. Local Dutch people interact with British soldiers both during and after the battle. The second story line takes place in present day Amsterdam when the grandson of a British soldier (from the other story line), visits the Netherlands to meet the family of the people who cared for his grandfather in 1944.

I recently spent time in Amsterdam and North Holland and found the descriptions of the country and the people to be appropriate. The author

captured the atmosphere of Amsterdam and the attitudes of the Dutch people beautifully. Some people may be uncomfortable with the Dutch tolerance for alternative lifestyles, but that is an accurate portrayal of the culture. Readers who have enjoyed Anne Frank's diary will appreciate the references to the book and to the Anne Frank house.

I loved getting to know the characters and appreciated the life decisions each had to make. The book also gave me the opportunity to further my personal knowledge of World War II, the hardships of those years, and the sacrifices common people had to make. I would recommend this book highly.  
-Marilyn Mudge, WSC

**Baby Dragon**  
By Amy Ehrlich

This is a sweet little story of a little dragon whose mom leaves for a bit with instructions given. He obeys for awhile, then disobeys and has to work through things before finally welcoming his mom home.

It's a great book to reinforce obedience for preschool and early elementary students. The illustrations are adorable. This does have a scary moment with an alligator that might scare some younger kids. It would be good for any collection.  
-Heather Reid, homeschool parent/teacher, Omaha, NE



**Star Climbing**

By Lou Fancher

This is a wonderful fiction book about the constellations. There is an appendix in the back that describes each of the constellations mentioned in the book in more detail. Just a delightful book about a little boy tiptoeing through the galaxy. To be enjoyed by a story hour or on someone's lap. Recommended for Preschool-3rd grade.  
-Carol Tramp, Wynot Public School

**You Can't Go to School Naked!**

By Dianne Billstrom

A little boy doesn't like to wear clothes. He thinks he would like to go to school naked. This story tells about his debate on whether he should wear clothes or not.

Kids will love this book. It was funny. I recommend this book for school and public libraries for 2-3rd grade.  
-Lara Morrow, Emmet Public School

**Chico**

By Sandra Day O'Connor

This book relates what life would be like for a ranch child. It tells of the devotion of Sandra to her horse and the way they took care of each other. (He would wait for her to remount when she fell and she protected him from the rattlesnake. The beauty of the ranch land, antelope, thunderstorms,

new calves and the excitement of ranch life are described in the story.

This book would be enjoyed by people who like horses and outdoor life. This book is written with simple sentences, descriptions and vocabulary which would be interesting and easily understood by young people. The illustrations are appropriate to life when Sandra O'Connor would have been a girl. I would recommend this book for both school and public libraries for kindergarten through 3rd grade.  
-Kathy Muller, Gardner Public Library

**Tech User Test**

Curious about what kind of tech user you are? Pew Internet has developed a quick online test for you to take. After answering a series of questions, you will be told what kind of user you are such as: Drifting Surfer, Information Encumbered, Roving Node, Desktop Veterans or Media Mover.

The test can be found at:  
<http://pewinternet.org/Participate/What-Kind-of-Tech-User-Are-You.aspx>

**YART Meeting**

All interested Youth Services Librarians attend a YART (Young Adult Round Table) organizational meeting on Sunday, April 19th at 11:00 a.m. for a meeting about: current issues in young adult librarianship, activities for young adult librarians involving professional development, networking, and communications vehicles for our YART group.

The meeting will be held at the Mahoney State Park Lodge (on I-80 between Lincoln and Omaha) and will include brunch. To ensure we reserve enough space for the meeting, please RSVP to Susan Steider at [s.steider@lincolnlibraries.org](mailto:s.steider@lincolnlibraries.org) by Wednesday, April 15th if you plan to attend .

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## **Northeast Library System**

Board Minutes  
March 18, 2009

The Northeast Board met at the Howells Public Library on March 18, 2009. The board was hosted by the staff and trustees of the Howells Public Library. The meeting was called to order by President, Sharon Jones. Board members present were Judy Hagen, Michele Hastreiter, Chris Chilcoat, Elaine Tobias, Sally Stahlecker, Joyce Sullivan, Jolene Klein, Kay Schmidt, Dee Johnson, and Kate Ostenrude. Marilyn Quance was present as an alternate. System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton, and Administrative Assistant, Shelia Cermak were also present.

Marilyn Quance was approved as an alternate (MS: Stahlecker, Klein; approved).

The minutes were approved (MS: Johnson/Hastreiter; approved).

Correspondence consisted of a thank you for using a book set.

Shelia Cermak gave the financial report. There was discussion on the length of CD renewal due to the lessening on interest. The financial report was approved by a roll call vote (MS: Hastreiter/Chilcoat).

### REPORTS:

Commissioner- N/A

State Advisory Council- N/A

Nebraska Library Commission Report- A written report was submitted. It was noted that Elaine Tobias won as MP3 player as part of the Nebraska Learns 2.0.

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 – will be meeting soon to begin on the 2009-2010 budget.

Continuing Education – March 24th SRP workshop; April 3rd "Diversity Beyond the Obvious", College of DuPage; Basic Skills;"Health Reference Basics": College of DuPage; May 1st NLA PLTS Spring Meeting.

Strategic Planning – Report during business meeting

Technology Committee - no report

Grant Committee – Will meet after regular meeting.

Nominating Committee- Dee Johnson reminded everyone that we will need a strong slate of officers this year due to the change in administration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Winter Workshop update. No final report as the final receipts have not been received.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Annual Meeting was discussed. The meeting will be one day, in the Lifelong Learning Center at Northeast Junior College on the date that suits the college schedule (MS: Ostenrude/Quance; approved).

The strategic planning committee will meet and complete the long range plan before Kathy Ellerton leaves.

Chris Chilcoat nominated two volunteers for Pat-on-the-Back awards (MS: Hastreiter/Manhart; approved).

The board adjourned into executive session to discuss personnel matters (MS: Hastreiter/Manhart; approved).

The board reconvened (MS: Chilcoat/Manhart; approved).

A motion was made to accept the claims of the day (Johnson/Quance; approved by roll call vote).

Meeting adjourned (MS: Sullivan/Manhart; approved).

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Ostenrude



Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission, making silly faces during the Summer Reading Program Workshop.



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