

Straight talk

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

MAY, 2007 - Published by the Northeast Library System
Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

iPods, Playaways and CE by DVD

Have you heard the news? The Northeast Library System has several new types of technology available for system members to check out. The more we learn about the technologies that our customers and young people are using, the better equipped we are to find ways to provide the materials they want.



If you are interested in portable audio, there is an MP3 player and an Ipod for you to borrow. Each player contains a selection of digital audio books - just turn it on and listen. You can learn about the next generation of audio books. Some libraries are beginning to offer downloadable audio books as part of their collection. This will give you an opportunity to find out how it works. In addition, you may find that downloading and listening to podcasts of training sessions is a way to learn "on the go!"



In addition to iPods, the system office has Playaway books for you to check out. Each book is a self contained audio player that can fit into your pocket. Put on the ear buds, push play, and listen to the book! No downloading required! For your commuters, there is an FM transmitter that allows you to play the Playaway in your car. The System office has assorted titles for various ages including Inkheart by Cornelia Funke, Marie Antoinette by Antonia Fraser, Julie Dove, Queen of Love / The Monster's Ring by Bruce Colville and Dead Famous by Carrol O'Connell.

You may have noticed that the Nebraska Library Commission is producing both Continuing Education Videos and DVDs. The system office now has a portable DVD player that you can check out along with the DVD! For example, if you wish to watch Patrick Jones presentation on dealing with teenagers, you could check out both the DVD and the player. Instead of hooking up the VCR and the TV for board continuing education, you simply place the dvd into the player and press play! Currently these programs are available for ce credit: Patrick Jones Workshop, An Evening with Jamie LaRue, Writing Grants for Youth Projects, Joseph Janes, and Terrific After-School Projects for K-grade 5.

For more information, contact the Northeast Library System office at 1-800-578-1014 and talk to Kathy.

In This Issue...

iPods, Playaways and CE by DVD.....	p.1
Mad Hatter Nom.....	p.2
Eight Mystery Blogs.....	p.2
Golden Sower Winners...	p.3
Norfolk Literature Festival	p.4
Paraprofessional of the Year Nominations.....	p.5
Check Your Calendar...	p.6
New @ NLS.....	p.6
Northeast News.....	p.7
Developing Web Pages.....	pp.8-11
Invisible Ink Recipe.....	p.11
Reviewer's Chair...	pp.12-13
Father's Day Books....	p.13
Northeast Library System Board Minutes.....	pp.14-15



Nominations Sought for Mad Hatter Award

The Mad Hatter Youth Service Award, presented by the School, Childrens and Young Peoples Section (SCYP) of the Nebraska Library Association, recognizes an individual in the Nebraska library profession who has made an outstanding contribution to librarianship and library development for young people.

Nominees must be members of SCYP. Nominations may be made by librarians, administrators, principals, or members of the Nebraska Library Association. The nomination form is available on the Mad Hatter website: www.nebraskalibraries.org/SCYP/MadHatter.html

The nomination form and supporting materials must be returned to Kathy Schultz, Hastings Public Library, 517 W 4th St, Hastings NE 68901, by August 1, 2007.

Eight Top Mystery Blogs

Confessions of an Idiosyncratic Mind
www.Sarahweinman.com/confessions

Insightful comments from the Baltimore Sun's crime fiction columnist on the latest book deals, awards, people and trends.

Crime Fiction Dossier
www.crimefictionblog.com

Critic David Montgomery on publishing, authors and reviews.

EuroCrime
eurocrime.blogspot.com

Keep up with the latest UK and European mysteries on this blog run by a British librarian.

Hey, There's A Dead Guy In My Living Room
heydeadguy.typepad.com/heydeadguy

Mystery publishing from idea to bookshelf with comments from authors, editors, publishers and publicists.

Poe's Deadly Daughters
poesdeadlydaughters.blogspot.com

Writers Julia Buckley, Lonnie Cruse, Sandra Parshall, Sharon Wildwind and Elizabeth Zelvin give their take on the mystery scene.

Reviewing the Evidence
www.reviewingtheevidence.com/default.html

This mystery review site archives thousands of online reviews searchable by author, title, reviewer or keyword. Also has links to authors web sites.



2007 Golden Sower Award Winners!

Primary Winner:

My Lucky Day by Keiko Kasza

Primary Honor:

Pinduli by Janell Cannon

The Toughest Cowboy: Or How the Wild West Was Tamed by John Frank, illus. Zachary Pullen

Intermediate Winner:

The Old Willis Place: A Ghost Story by Mary Downing Hahn

Intermediate Honor:

The Million Dollar Strike by Dan Gutman

Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins

Young Adult Winner:

Perfect by Natasha Friend

Young Adult Honor:

So B. It by Sarah Weeks

The Pack by Elisa Lynn Carbone

All three of the winners are planning to attend the NLA/NEMA Conference in Kearney Friday, October 26, 2007, to receive their awards!

CAPSTONE	ROURKE PUBLISHING CO.
HEINEMANN LIBRARY	LERNER PUBLISHING CO.
COMPASS POINT	FACTS ON FILE
COMPLETE LINE OF LIBRARY BOOKS L.B.S.S.	
Duane Munson	
2315 29TH STREET, BOX 624, COLUMBUS, NE 68601	
TELEPHONE 402-564-3073	
FAX 402-564-9730	
CELL PHONE 402-910-0772	
ECONO-CLAD	MARSHALL/CAVENDISH
CHILD'S WORLD	SALEM PRESS
REFERENCE BOOKS	COMPTON'S ENCYCLOPEDIA



NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 13TH ANNUAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2007 / 9:00 A. M. - 4:00 P. M.

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE / LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER

801 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, NE

This year's Festival has been funded by the Norfolk Library Foundation, the City of Norfolk, & SCYP

FEATURING:



KAREN KAUFMAN ORLOFF

2008 Golden Sower Award nominee for *I WANNA IGUANA*

Also author of *IF MOM HAD THREE ARMS*



TRINKA HAKES NOBLE

2008 Golden Sower Award nominee for *THE SCARLET STOCKINGS SPY*

Also author of *APPLE TREE CHRISTMAS/THE DAY JIMMYS BOA ATE THE WASH*

THE LAST BROTHER/MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH



RICK RIORDAN

2008 Golden Sower Award nominee for *THE LIGHTNING THIEF*

Also author of *THE SEA OF MONSTERS/THE TITANS CURSE*

ALSO: 2007-2008 Golden Sower Previews by Karen Drevo & Marci Retzlaff; Book Display & Discount Sales by Norfolk Public Library Foundation of titles by Orloff, Noble, & Riordan; Sales of Golden Sower Items; Autograph Session/Book Signing with Karen Kaufman Orloff, Trinkia Hakes Noble & Rick Riordan; Door Prizes; 5 Continuing Education Hours (for all day attendance) from the Nebraska Library Commission for School & Public Librarians; 5 Professional Growth Points (for all day attendance) for Teachers/Staff employed by Norfolk Public Schools

TICKETS: Youth (18 & under): \$5.00/advance & \$7.50/door Adults: \$20.00/advance & \$25.00/door *!Free admission for current SCYP members!*

(Continued on the top of page 5)



Straight-Talk is published ten times per year by the Northeast Library System. Contact Kathy Ellerton or Shelia 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 2007
Volume 1, #5

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

Literature Festival
Norfolk Public Library
308 Prospect Avenue
Norfolk, NE 68701

For more information, contact Karen Drevco at NPL by phone (402/844-2108) or e-mail kdrevco@ci.norfolk.ne.us

Paraprofessional of the Year Nominations Sought

The Paraprofessional Section of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) accepts nominations for the Paraprofessional of the Year Award each year. This award is given annually to a paraprofessional who must be a member of the Paraprofessional Section of NLA who has demonstrated outstanding service in a library setting.

The recipient will be selected on the basis of all of the following criteria:

1. Innovative programs that the nominee has worked with which have resulted in new or improved library services.
2. Exceptional volunteer work in library service or related field.
3. Exceptional use of library resources, local or otherwise.
4. Significant involvement or leadership in NLA Paraprofessional Section (i.e., holding office, member of a committee, or workshop or conference presentation).

The Paraprofessional of the Year may receive:

1. A one-year paid membership to NLA, in the Paraprofessional Section.
2. Fifty dollars.

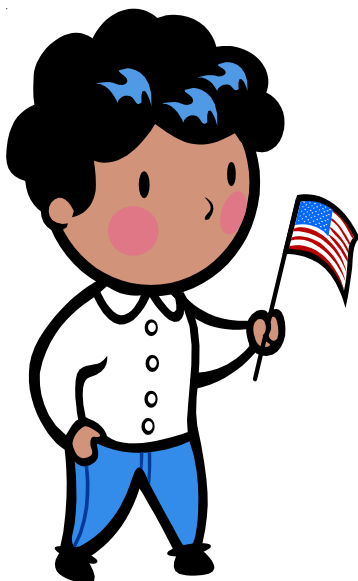
Visit: <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/paranomform.html> for the nomination form.

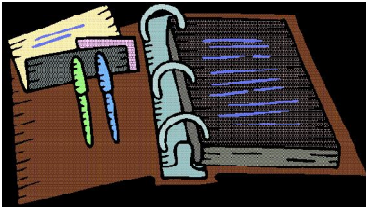
Nominations are due on July 31, 2007.

You can send the nomination form to:

jwrampe@nlc.state.ne.us

Jennifer Wrampe
Paraprofessional Publicity/Citations Chair
Nebraska Library Commission
1200 N St, Ste 120
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-471-2083 (fax)





Check Your Calendar

May 16 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Stanton Public Library at 10am.

May 18 - **C&U/TSRT Joint Spring Meeting** at Union College, Lincoln.

May 23 - **Brave New World: Cataloging with MARC in the Digital Age** at the Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, in Norfolk from 10-3pm.

May 28 - **Memorial Day** Holiday. Office closed.

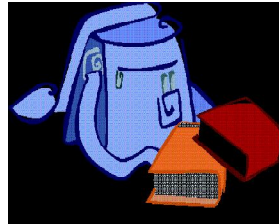
May 30 - **NLC Planning Meeting** at Raymond Whitwer Tilden Public Library at 3:30pm.

June 7 - **NLS Annual Meeting & Institute** at Wayne State

College. For more information, call Kathy at 1-800-578-1014.

July 4 - **Independence Day Holiday**. Office closed.

July 9-13 - **Nebraska Library Leadership Institute** at St. Benedicts, Schuyler.



NEW @ NLS

Please call the system office at 1-800-578-1014 to check out one of the following items:

"The C's of Our Sea Change: Plans for Training Staff, from Core Competencies to LEARNING 2.0" by Helene Blowers and Lori Reed. Computers in Libraries, Feb 2007.

Trainers Lori Reed and Helene Blowers of the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County discuss the core com-

petencies to support staff dealing with the change that has already occurred. At the other end of the spectrum, the authors discuss a discovery learning program that encourages self-exploration with up-and-coming technologies.

"Beyond Barney: What Makes a Good Dinosaur Book?" by Danielle J. Ford, Horn Book Magazine, May/June 2007.

Author Danielle Ford discusses how good dinosaur books are careful to represent dinosaurs in shapes and colors that are as accurate as possible. The dinosaurs are in the proper time period and present different aspects of scientific theory. A bibliography follows the article.



On April 24, Governor Heinemann proclaimed 'Adopt-a-Library Day'. This effort was lead by Northeast's own Gretchen Healy, Little Priest Tribal College. Pictured from left to right are: Gretchen Healy, **Little Priest Tribal College**; Beth Goble, NLA President; Governor Heineman; Brenda Ealey, Southeast Library System Administrator; Kathy Ellerton, **Northeast Library System** Administrator and Richard Miller, Nebraska Library Commission.

Northeast News

The **Bloomfield Public Library** held its annual Scholastic Book Fair and it was bigger and better than ever. This year's theme was "Catch the Reading Wave" and kids designed their own surf boards, beach balls, life savers and umbrellas. The Library will be able to increase both their children's and Young Adult sections with over \$1,000 worth of books!

The card sharks were out at the **House Memorial Library's** 2nd Annual Bridge Bash. Also, the library has recently received a \$5,000 donation.

Check out this latest blog from the Tilden Library Lady at: tildenpubliclibrary.blogspot.com. Dixie Kucera, library director of the **Raymond A Whitwer Tilden Public Library**, keeps her public up to date with the latest library happenings. In

addition to setting up her blog, Dixie is busy preparing for the Smithsonian Exhibit, *Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation Exhibit*—which the library is hosting from June 28 -August 10.

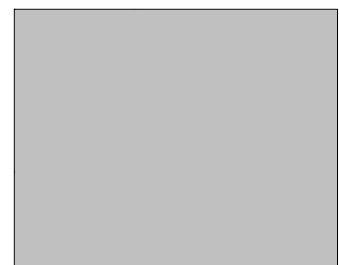
Elgin Public Library celebrated National Library Week with an open house showcasing the new books they received from the Libri Foundation.

The needles are flying at the **Orchard Public Library**. A knitting group meets once a week in the evenings.

The new library project in Shelby has received some fantastic news. The United Farmers Co-op is moving to York has decided to donate their building to the city for a new **Shelby Public Library**. Laura Alt, the library director, is ecstatic because the building is much larger than they had planned to build.

Library Friends Groups books sales are popping up all over Northeast Nebraska. May 3-6, the Friends of the **Wayne Public Library** are holding their sale. May 31-June 2nd are the dates set for the Friends of the **Columbus Public Library**.

Nebraska Farm Bureau recently announced their 2006 Agricultural Book of the Year winners. They are: **Fantastic Farm Machines** by Cris Peterson. This K-3 book introduces readers to twelve big pieces of farm machinery. For grades 4-5, the book, "**C is for Cornhusker**" travels from the Missouri River to the towering geologic landmarks in the West. The Nebraska Ag Promotion Committee plans to purchase 25 of each book and provide them to their educational 'Learning Barns' which travel across the state.



Recent graduates from Basic Skills include: (from left to right) Rita Wemhoff, **Schuyler Public Library**; Ruthann Bargmann, **Bancroft Public Library**, and Barb Willoughby, **Dakota City Public Library**. Congratulations on a job well done!



Developing Accessible Web Pages: WAI and Section 508 Compliance Tips

By Karen Hein, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Criss Library & John Seyfarth, Sump Memorial Library - Papillion

Library Web sites continue to serve important roles in meeting the needs of patrons. They provide information about the library's collections and resources, the services available, and are often the first introduction end users have to the organization. Given the various needs a Web site can fulfill, it is important to design it for as wide an audience as possible, including those with disabilities. In techie terms, this is designing for accessibility.

As you may or may not be aware, a significant issue for persons who are blind or visually impaired is their access to the Internet and Web pages themselves. Adaptive technologies, such as screen reading or text-enlargement software, are now being configured to better assist in viewing / reading Web pages. Many of our population in Nebraska now have access to software such as JAWS®, produced by Freedom Scientific (<http://www.freedomscientific.com/>). This software package reads the text on the Web page and transforms it into sound that the person with visual impairment can hear. Unfortunately, this technology may not work as effectively as it could, given the design of the site, and the result is poor service and frustration.

To help alleviate these problems, there are several organizations that provide guidelines, suggestions, tips, and tools to help those creating Web pages. Of these, the most well known are the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and the Federal Government. The W3C has organized a group called the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) to lead accessibility design efforts. The WAI offers a quick reference guide at <http://www.w3.org/WAI/quicktips/>.

The ten basic tips they present are:

1. **Images & animations:** Use the **alt** attribute to describe the function of each visual.
2. **Image maps.** Use the client-side **map** and text for hotspots.
3. **Multimedia.** Provide captioning and transcripts of audio, and descriptions of video.
4. **Hypertext links.** Use text that makes sense when read out of context. For example, avoid "click here."
5. **Page organization.** Use headings, lists, and consistent structure. Use **CSS** [cascading stylesheets] for layout and style where possible.
6. **Graphs & charts.** Summarize or use the **longdesc** attribute.
7. **Scripts, applets, & plug-ins.** Provide alternative content in case active features are inaccessible or unsupported.
8. **Frames.** Use the **noframes** element and meaningful titles.
9. **Tables.** Make line-by-line reading sensible. Summarize.
10. **Check your work.** Validate. Use tools, checklist, and guidelines at <http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG>.

WAI, Quick Tips to Make Accessible Web Sites
<http://www.w3.org/WAI/quicktips/>

The Federal Government has codified accessibility standards into law — Federal Law 29 U.S.C. 794d, Section 508. As with most federal laws, the language is very complicated. Fortunately, a web page, quoted below from Fresno State University clears up the requirements,

"Section 508

Explanation

(a) A text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided (e.g., via "alt", "longdesc", or in element content).

Assistive technology cannot describe pictures, but can convey text information associated with a picture. When an image tells you to do something, such as move to the next page, or explains page content, associated text must describe the purpose and meaning of the image. This allows someone who cannot see the screen to understand the content and navigate the page. Not all images must have associated text. According to the standards, "The types of non-text elements requiring identification is limited to those images that provide information required for comprehension of content or to facilitate navigation."

When audio or video presentations are included, alternative text must also be provided. For audio clips this can be accomplished by providing a link to a transcript of the audio. For video, captioning must accompany the video clip.

Note: The "longdesc" markup tag which allows for lengthier alternative descriptions may not be available on most browsers.

(b) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.

This means, for example, that captioning for a video presentation must be real-time, synchronized with the presentation, not a transcript provided later. In the case of Webcasts, audio or video, real-time captioning would be necessary.

(c) Web pages shall be designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color, for example from context or markup.

This doesn't prevent the use of color, just color as the sole source of information. For example "Push the green button to start".

(d) Documents shall be organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.

Style sheets can be a wonderful boost to accessibility and use of them is not prohibited. However, pages created using style sheets must be read accurately by browsers which do not support style sheets.

(e) Redundant text links shall be provided for each active region of a server-side image map.

A "client-side" image map associates the destination URL with the image, which can be read by a screen reader. A "server-side" image map will only show the coordinates of the image. Thus, the destination must be provided some other way.

(f) Client-side image maps shall be provided instead of server-side image maps except where the regions cannot be defined with an available geometric shape.

Because of the difficulties listed in (e), client-side maps should be used wherever possible. In addition, it is important that alt text be used to describe the link.

(g) Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.

(h) Markup shall be used to associate data cells and header cells for data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers.

These paragraphs do not prohibit the use of tables, but require that tables be coded correctly. In particular, the table summary attribute should be used to describe the table contents. If the table data is complex it may require the inclusion of an alternative form of the presentation. As noted in the standards, "the Board will be developing technical assistance materials on how tables can comply with this section."

(i) Frames shall be titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation.

Frames can help accessibility when used correctly and if the labels are clear. For example, don't label a frame "Left side" or "Center frame". Title them "Navigation bar" or "main content".

(j) Pages shall be designed to avoid causing the screen to flicker with a frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.

Screen flicker refers to the use of blinking or flashing elements on a page. Until browsers provide users the ability to control flickering, the use of blinking or flashing elements should be avoided.

(k) A text-only page, with equivalent information or functionality, shall be provided to make a Web site comply with the provisions of this part, when compliance cannot be accomplished in any other way. The content of the text-only page shall be updated whenever the primary page changes.

If all other attempts to make a page accessible fail, an alternate page can be offered. It must contain the same information and be updated at the same time as the main page.

(l) When pages utilize scripting languages to display content, or to create interface elements, the information provided by the script shall be identified with functional text that can be read by assistive technology.

Scripts allow more work to be done by the user's computer, speeding up processing time and reducing the number of screen refreshes necessary. As described in the standards, "when authors do not put functional text within a script, a screen reader will often read the content of the script itself in a meaningless jumble of numbers and letters." If functional text cannot be provided, the information must be provided in another way, such as redundant text links.

(m) When a Web page requires that an applet, plug-in or other application be present on the client system to interpret page content, the page must provide a link to a plug-in or applet that complies with §1194.21(a) through (l).

When a Web page requires a plug-in or applet, such as RealAudio or PDF, they must provide a link to the plug-in/applet that meets the requirements. This requires Web page designers to make sure any plug-in/applet is accessible before requiring it to access the content on their page.

(n) When electronic forms are designed to be completed on-line, the form shall allow people using assistive technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.

Forms on-line are wonderful, but the ability of a screen reader to read the form depends on how the form was designed. This rule requires designers to make sure their forms are accessible. If inaccessible scripts are used for a form, another method of completing the form must be provided.

(o) A method shall be provided that permits users to skip repetitive navigation links.

If the top of every page starts with a list of the same links, it gets tedious to hear it over and over.

(p) When a timed response is required, the user shall be alerted and given sufficient time to indicate more time is required.

Some pages require a response within a certain time, or log the user off if nothing is typed for a specified time. Some disabilities make it difficult to respond quickly. Therefore, users need to be notified that they are going to be logged off and given enough time to respond that more time is needed."

California State University, Fresno; *Web Access @ Fresno State*
<http://www.csufresno.edu/webaccess/508/508explained.htm>

For those designing Web pages, it is important to consult the sources described above so that your pages are truly available to the widest possible audience. Web site designers may also want to use tools such as WebXACT from WatchFire — available at <http://webxact.watchfire.com/>. The tool, formerly known as Bobby, allows coders to check their Web sites by inputting a URL. The page is checked for *Quality* (broken links, browser compatibility, etc.), *Accessibility* (compliance with W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines), and *Privacy* (encryption and cookies).

In addition to Web pages, a question that comes up frequently is "What about Portable Document Format (PDF) files (those with .pdf extensions)?" Freedom Scientific says that their JAWS® software, version 6.0 and newer, which has been out for well over a year, reads these files through Adobe Reader® versions 6, 7, and 8 without a problem. If there are graphics in the .pdf file, they should be captioned, as explained in the Section 508 Guidelines above.

Those creating PDF files may also want to consider using the Paper Capture feature of Adobe Acrobat. This performs Optical Character Recognition (OCR) on the document. OCR embeds the plain text of the document into the file which can then be read by the adaptive technology. In addition, search engines and users can then search the file to locate information by keyword.

While Section 508 applies to federal agencies, and others that receive federal funds for support of their activities, and the guidelines produced by the Web Accessibility Initiative are only guidelines, the effort to design for accessibility is worthwhile for anyone authoring a Web page. There is always a percentage of the population that is blind or visually impaired who use the Internet. Furthermore, the requirements outlined in the Web page explanation are logical and are not difficult. Librarians who are involved in Web page authoring should take the time to comply with the requirements.

Summer Reading Program Idea Making Invisible Ink

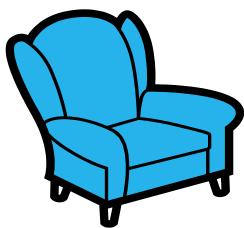
Materials: Baking Soda
Water
Cotton Swabs
Small Cups
White Paper
Paintbrushes
Blow Dryer
Purple Grape Juice



Instructions:

1. Combine 1 tablespoon of baking soda and 1 tablespoon of water in a cup.
2. Dip cotton swabs into the mixture and make designs on sheets of white paper.
3. When papers are completely dry, paint over the papers with purple grape juice. The designs will change from being invisible to visible.

Note: Using a blow dryer will speed the drying time.



The Reviewer's Chair

Different Like Coco
By Elizabeth Matthews

What an inspirational book for young girls! Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel combination of a creative mind and sewing talent makes her a success as an independent working woman in the early 1900. Her life story of overcoming being poor, skinny, and an orphan will delight all readers. The authors wonderful illustrations brings to life Coco strutting around feeling good about herself. Coco was a woman that didn't mind being different and her energy, style and boldness made her stand out in a crowd.

This book written for 3rd and up will help to develop confidence in the most timid girl. Yes, I would recommend this book as a part of all public and school libraries.

~~Pat Thompson, Wayne State College

Bartleby of the Big Bad Bayou

By Phyllis Shalant

Bartleby, a red-eared-turtle, and Sneezer, his alligator best friend, travel from New York to the bayou country of the Mississippi. Searching for Sneezer's family and old home, they encounter surprises and must learn to live in an unfamil-

iar, hostile environment. Through their true friendship, and that of other bayou animals, they overcome many obstacles to find a true home.

This book is recommended for children in grades 4-6. I never thought a turtle as a main character would be fun, but it is. Children will probably relate easily to Bartleby.
~~Deb Daehnke, Wayne State College

The Turning
By Gloria Whelan

From the jacket: "In the spring of 1991, a Russian ballerina dreams of leaving for the troupe's Paris tour. Once there, she will try to escape the watchful eyes of the KGB agents, defect to France and leave the complicated politics of the Soviet Union behind." Through her grandfather, Tatiana becomes involved in the struggle for democracy, and becomes hopeful for the future of her country, and the idea of leaving becomes harder to justify. And then there is Peter, a talented young artist copying icons to make money to buy medicines for his ailing grandmother, who loves her. What will she decide?

This book is good for readers 7th grade and up and for any library collection. This book is classified as having an Accelerated Reader Level 5.8 and also contains a glossary of French ballet terms and Russian words. Like *The Queen's Own Fool*, Tatiana's story is historical

fiction rich with details and believable characters. Whelan brings the tempestuous chaotic period of the fall of the Soviet Union to life with recognizable historical figures and events. From the beginning *The Turning* captured me and suspended time. It was easy to identify with Tatiana and her family and friends. In many ways, what happened in the Soviet Union was much like what was happening in the United States, and continues today. It was a fun, suspenseful read.

~~Gretchen Healy, Little Priest Tribal College

Nosy Rosie
By Holly Keller

This is the story of a little fox who has a special ability to smell well and find things. This earns her a name she hates and in the end her friends decide to honor her name and enjoy her talent.

The illustrations are very fun and the message about teasing and name calling is appropriate for kids ages preschool to early elementary. This could be a great addition to any collection.
~~Heather Reid, parent, Omaha, NE

First Grade, Here I Come
By Nancy Carlson

After his first day of 1st Grade Henry tells his mother he didn't like it at all. However, after he recounts the day's events, Henry realizes that he does in



fact love 1st Grade after all.

This book is an excellent reminder to parents and children that even though their child may say he\she doesn't like school or didn't learn anything that is often not truly the case. A gentle probing will often reveal that children are mastering their new challenge.

~~Latricia Olson, Randolph Public School

September Roses

By Jeanette Winter

Looking back, the author writes what images she has of the aftermath of September 11, 2001. She went to Union Square and saw people, anguish, and roses. All the memories help to ease the pain of the awful event. The author has written and illustrated a small book of pain and beauty.

This book is good for readers ages 7-15 and for all library collections. I thought this was a great book of hope for children. It is also a good way to show future generations what happened on that fateful day.

~~Karma Ragland, Red Cloud, NE

A Place Called Kindergarten

By Jessica Parker

Every morning Tommy would come to the barn and feed the animals. Apples for the horse, a biscuit for the sheep, corn for the hen, and dandelions for the cow. But one day Tommy didn't come to feed them. The

dog said Tommy had gone to Kindergarten on a big yellow bus. Lomdergarten? What's That? Check out this book and learn how the animals found out about Kindergarten and the alphabet. You'll like this story. This story is recommended for children between the ages of 4-7.

~~Joan Chilvers, Pierce, NE

Scarlett

By Cathy Cassidy

Twelve-year-old Scarlett is in trouble once again. After being kicked out of her third school, Scarlett's mom refuses to try to get her into another. She is being sent to live with her father in Ireland. Living with a father who abandoned you is bad enough-being forced to learn Gaelic and deal with a stepmother and younger stepsister is practically unbearable. Convinced she can't handle it, Scarlett runs away. But when she meets Kain and his horse Midnight, her perspective begins to change. With his help, she is able to let go of her anger, begin to make friends, and accept her new family.

Written with wit and humor, Cassidy has written a book that any 9-12 year old will enjoy.

~~Amanda Limoges, Eastern TownshipLibrary

Tell Me My Story, Mama

By Deb Lund

This is a story about a child's "story". It is a neat way to tell a child what it was like while he/she was in the mother's

tummy.

This is a good book for Kindergarten readers up through 2nd graders. This book is great for any library collection. This book contains different illustrations compared to other books with the same story line. This book is very cute and makes the child ask his/her mom what his/her "story" is!

~~Angie Vavra, Pierce, NE



Father's Day Books

Bigger Than Daddy by Harriet Ziefert.

Little Edward gets a chance to pretend that he is a grownup when his single father offers a bit of role reversal.

I'm a Duck! by Teri Sloat.

A proud duckling finds life swell after he grows up and sees his new family hatch.

Miracle of the Bears by Wolf Erlbruch.

A young bear wants to become a Papa but is now sure how. He asks other animals and gets lots of silly answers.

My Father, the Dog by Elizabeth Bluemle.

Did you know that dads and dogs have lots of things in common?



**NORTHEAST LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD MEETING
March 21, 2007**

The Northeast Library meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. at the Stanton Public Library, Stanton, Nebraska by President Lauran Lofgren. Board Members present were Joyce Sullivan, Linda Risinger, Sharon Jones, Lauran Lofgren, Kate Ostenrude, Kay Schmid, Sally Stahlecker, Laurie Rehnstrom, Jolene Klein, Marilyn Liedorff, Ann Bachman and alternate Duane Munson, Dee Johnson and Michelle Hastrieter were not present. Also present were Kathy Ellerton and Sheila Cermak of the Northeast Library System and Carol Armbruster and Laura Hess of the Stanton Public Library.

Alternates were approved (MS: Klein, Ostenrude)

President Lofgren notified those present that Nebraska Statute 84-1412(8) requires that the public be informed about the location of posting information regarding the Open Meetings Act and drew their attention to the copy available in the meeting room and accessible to all members of the public.

There were no additions to the agenda and the minutes from the January 17, 2007 meeting were approved as submitted. (MSA: Risinger, Schmid)

Correspondence was noted and passed around for all present to review.

Sheila Cermak gave the financial report: total combined balance of the checking, savings, and Money Market account, as of 03/06/2007 is \$30,785.06. It was noted that there was a profit of \$256.87 from the Winter Workshop. The next disbursement from the Nebraska Library Commission is expected in April. Currently no Certificates of Deposit are due. The next Certificate of Deposit maturity date is 06/01/07. The financial report was approved. (MS: Liedorff, Sullivan - unanimous roll call vote approval)

REPORTS:

Commissioner Report - Pat Gross was not in attendance - no report.

State Advisory Council Report – Gretchen Healy was not in attendance. Kathy Ellerton reported that the Commissioners have agreed to give financial assistance to libraries affected by the ice storm. The budget for the Commission is expected to increase slightly.

Nebraska Library Commission Report – no representative from NLC in attendance. Kathy Ellerton reported that Michael Sauers has been hired as the Commission's new Technology Innovation Librarian. No one has been hired for the Panhandle Library System Administrator position to date. LSTA Long range planning is in progress for the NLC.

System Administrator Report – Kathy Ellerton: System activities in the past two months consisted of the NLS Winter Workshop, the Really Good Library Group meeting, State Advisory Council meeting, Library Improvement Grant review teleconference, visits to the following libraries: Lakeview High School Library, Central City, Neligh, Newman Grove, Osceola and Verdigre Public Libraries. Travel was not as extensive for due to weather, illness and vacation time. The Winter Workshop evaluations determined that participants do not want repeating sessions as had been scheduled at the past winter workshops. Upcoming events include the Summer Reading Workshop, FOLUSA Workshop, Customer Centered Library presentation, Basic Skills Classes and the NLS Annual meeting. Additional events that are being planned are a Follett Workshop and finalizing details for the NLS Annual Institute. For more complete information, contact the systems office or visit the website at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast>

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel Committee– no report.

Budget Committee – no report.

Continuing Education Committee – no report – upcoming events are listed on the meeting agenda.

Strategic Planning Committee – no report.

Nominating Committee - members of this committee will be determined at the May board meeting. They put together a list of nominees for the Northeast Library System board. A total of three members will be going off of the board. Two have completed serving their second term and Linda Risinger announced that she has chosen not to run for a second term.

Technology Committee – Technology Plan is written and has been approved for three years.

Grants Committee – Northeast Library System received fifteen grant applications for the grant monies made available to libraries in the system. Applications were received from one special library, five school libraries and nine public libraries. Requests for monies ranged from \$125 to \$1000 dollars. It was noted that in the future, we make a point to the specifically inform unaccredited libraries that they are welcome to apply for system grants.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Pat Wagner Workshop - The Northeast Library System will collaborate with the Republican Valley System on completing a continuing education grant application, for monies to be used for this workshop. Grant request amount will be approximately \$2000 to \$2500. Finalizing topic and date.

NEW BUSINESS:

Library Leadership Institute Scholarships – The system has two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) in the left in the budget portion allocated to scholarships. It was suggested that we give two, one hundred twenty-five dollar scholarships to individuals desiring to attend the Library Leadership Institute. Motion was made, seconded and approved. (MS: Ostenrude, Klein - unanimous roll call vote approval)

Board members shared some of the many activities going on in their individual libraries.

Several Pat-on-the-Back Awards were proposed:

*Doris Schutt – for her assistance with the Library Rejuvenation Project at the Meadow Grove Library.

*Tom and Sue Lodge – for their assistance with the Library Rejuvenation Project at the Meadow Grove Library.

*Tony Dohmen – Norfolk Public Library Janitor – for all his hard work and “going the extra mile”.

All awards were approved. (MSA: Liedorff, Ostenrude)

CLAIMS OF THE DAY:

Claims of the Day were approved. (MS: Klein, Liedorff – unanimous roll call approval)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

-The next Northeast Library Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 16th at the Huska Memorial Library, David City, Nebraska.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned. (MSA: Liedorff, Ostenrude)

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Bachman
Secretary Pro Temp



**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.**

"Living at risk is jumping off the cliff and building your wings on the way down."
~~Ray Bradbury

Check out our web site at: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/northeast/nesys.html>



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

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

