



# **Straight** *talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor

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## **New Book Sets Available**

The System office has these book sets available for check-out. Each set has 20 copies, discussion questions, and can be checked out for 6-8 weeks. Call the system office now at 1-800-578-1014 to reserve a set now!

### **Yellow Flag** by Robert Lipsyte (Grades 6-10)

Born to a multigenerational racing family, 17-year-old Kyle Hillebrand gave up driving for his trumpet and his brass quintet. However, as his family struggles to get back into big-time racing, he is pulled between his love of music and his responsibility to his family.

### **Feathers** by Jacqueline Woodson (Grades 4-7)

Narrator Frannie is fascinated with Emily Dickinson's poem, "Hope is the thing with feathers/ that perches in the soul," and grapples with its meaning, especially after a white student joins Frannie's all-black sixth-grade classroom. The students struggle with what it means to be different.

### **Lawn Boy** by Gary Paulsen (Grades 4-7)

When a twelve-year-old boy receives an old riding mower from his grandmother, he hopes he can make enough money to buy an inner tube for his ten-speed. But when he cuts the grass for a stockbroker, he learns some very profitable ways to maximize his earnings. In a short time, this underage entrepreneur goes from riding his bike to riding the waves of the stock market. His hilarious climb into capitalism is both entertaining and educational.

### **The Wednesday Wars** by Gary D. Schmidt (Grades 7-up)

Holling, a Long Island seventh-grader, hates his weekly Wednesday tutoring sessions, until his teacher gives him Shakespeare and helps him discover his strengths. Holling's distinctive voice narrates this gentle, moving story, set during the Vietnam War.

### **Elijah of Buxton** by Christopher Paul Curtis (Grades 5 - up)

Eleven-year-old Elijah is the first child born into freedom in

Buxton, Canada, a settlement of runaway slaves just over the border from Detroit. He's best known in his hometown as the boy who made a memorable impression on Frederick Douglass. But things change when a former slave steals money from Elijah's friend. Elijah embarks on a dangerous journey to America in pursuit of the thief, and he discovers firsthand the unimaginable horrors of the life his parents fled.

### **Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf** by Jennifer L. Holm (Grades 5-7)

Ginny has ten items on her big to-do list for seventh grade. None of them, however, include accidentally turning her hair pink. Or getting sent to detention for throwing frogs in class. Or losing the lead role in the ballet recital to her ex-best friend. Or the thousand other things that can go wrong between September and June.

### **The Falconer's Knot** by Mary Hoffman (Grades 7-10)

An exciting tangle of murder, romantic intrigue, and run-ins with great artists provides the



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well-paced suspense in this historical novel, set in a fourteenth-century Italian friary.

### **Crossing the Wire** by Will Hobbs (Grades 5-8)

When falling crop prices threaten his family with starvation, fifteen-year-old Victor Flores heads north in an attempt to "cross the wire" from Mexico into the United States so he can find work and send money home. But with no coyote money to pay the smugglers who sneak illegal workers across the border, Victor must struggle to survive as he jumps trains, stows away on trucks, and hikes grueling miles through the Arizona desert.

### **The Book Thief** by Marcus Zusak (Grade 9 and up)

The Book Thief is narrated by Death, but revolves around 9-year-old Liesel Meminger who loses her family in Germany during World War II. At her brother's funeral, she steals a book from one of the gravediggers. Once she arrives at the home of her new foster family, she's taught to read from that book, and sets about gathering more books.

### **Petey** by Ben Mikaelson (Grades 7 and up)

At the age of two, Petey's distraught parents commit him to the state's insane asylum, unaware that their son is actually suffering from severe cerebral palsy. Petey avoids withdrawal and depression and, over the course of 60 years, a string of caretakers befriends but then leaves him. The point of view in part two shifts from Petey to

Trevor, an eighth-grader suffering from both lack of friends and lack of parental attention after a series of moves. Trevor forms an unlikely friendship with the 70-year-old Petey, who has moved to a nursing home.

### **The Sea of Monsters** by Rick Riordan (Grades 5-9 )

Percy, Poseidon's 13-year-old demigod son, is desperate to rescue his friend Grover, captive of the bloodthirsty Cyclops Polyphemus, and to retrieve the healing Golden Fleece. The sheepskin is needed to restore the protection around Camp Half-Blood, the only safe haven for the children of gods and humans, heroes-in-training in our modern world.

### **Rescue Josh McGuire** by Ben Mikaelson (Grades 6-8)

Ever since Josh's older brother died, his father has been drinking too much and taking his anger out on Josh. But when he orphans a bear cub on a hunting trip, it's more than Josh can stand. Josh insists on bringing the defenseless cub home-only to find out he must surrender it to game officials. Knowing the cub will be given to researchers, Josh makes a defiant choice.

### **Riding Freedom** by Pam Muñoz Ryan (Grades 4-6 )

Charlotte Parkhurst was a top-notch horse rider and "the first woman to vote in the state of California and probably the United States." Pam Muñoz Ryan wrote a story around the facts known about "Six-Horse Charlie," from her early life in an orphanage to driving stage-coaches in the gold rush era.



### **Nebraska Libraries Future Search Conference Vision Statements**

These vision statements were developed by participants of the Nebraska Libraries Future Search conference held June 9 and 10, 2008. The reason behind Future Search was to bring people together, especially non-librarians, in order to obtain a fresh perspective to Nebraska library service needs and fostering direction, partnerships and collaboration. Over 25% of the 80 participants were non-librarians. Facilitators, Becky Schreiber and John Shannon of Shannon

Schreiber Associates, guided the group through a process where the participants looked at the past then a scan of the today's environment and finally a look at the preferred future for libraries. The statements came from small group assignments covering topics that emerged from a trends discussion. A volunteer task force was formed which will look at future projects.

- A. The library is a vital hub, woven into the fabric of the greater community, responding to and empowering people through local and global connections.
- B. Service – Nebraska libraries lead a magnificent metamorphosis of superior customer service, humming with activities and learning, unencumbered by walls or political boundaries.
- C. Embrace the richness of a global community.
- D. My library provides an inviting and welcoming front porch where the community comes to learn, play and investigate. People come first in this nurturing and enriching gathering place for all.
- E. Increasing the visibility of Nebraska libraries through listening, communicating, and delivering services to enhance our communities.
- F. Core Values – The library champions universal access to information for purposes of personal and community empowerment through communication, collaboration and customization.
- G. Going green starts @ your library: the library models environmentally sustainable practices, places and policies, and shares these with the community.
- H. The staff is key to the success of the library: cultivate our staff.
- I. Facilities and Buildings – A convenient, vibrant place to discover life's possibilities.
- J. Education – Our library is an innovative, vibrant place of discovery where collaborative learning spaces encourage sharing of ideas between all ages and languages while promoting lifelong learning, literacy, and leisure, thereby enabling users to succeed anytime, anyplace, on any path at any pace.
- K. Your library: the "easy button" to timely, relevant resources for all your information needs. (Substitute "Quick easy fix button" for "easy button" in case of copyright problems.)
- L. Technology – We are a technological hub, committing ourselves to providing seamless connection and equitable access to high quality virtual resources.



## 2007 Most challenged books

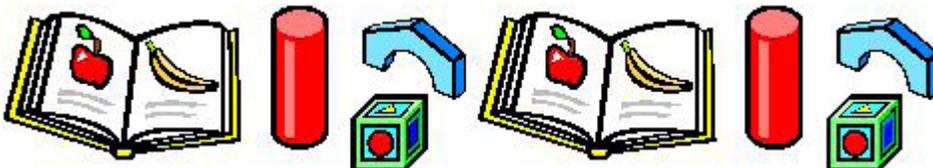
For a second consecutive year, Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell's award-winning "And Tango Makes Three," a children's book about two male penguins caring for an orphaned egg, tops the list of American Library Association's 10 Most Challenged Books of 2007.

Three books are new to the list "Olive's Ocean," by Kevin Henkes; "The Golden Compass," by Philip Pullman; and "TTYL," by Lauren Myracle.

The "10 Most Challenged Books of 2007" reflect a range of themes, and consist of the following titles:

1. "And Tango Makes Three," by Justin Richardson/Peter Parnell  
Reasons: Anti-Ethnic, Sexism, Homosexuality, Anti-Family, Religious Viewpoint, Unsuitable to Age Group
2. "The Chocolate War," by Robert Cormier  
Reasons: Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Violence
3. "Olive's Ocean," by Kevin Henkes  
Reasons: Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language
4. "The Golden Compass," by Philip Pullman  
Reasons: Religious Viewpoint
5. "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," by Mark Twain  
Reasons: Racism
6. "The Color Purple," by Alice Walker  
Reasons: Homosexuality, Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language,
7. "TTYL," by Lauren Myracle  
Reasons: Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Unsuitable to Age Group
8. "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," by Maya Angelou  
Reasons: Sexually Explicit
9. "It's Perfectly Normal," by Robie Harris  
Reasons: Sex Education, Sexually Explicit
10. "The Perks of Being A Wallflower," by Stephen Chbosky  
Reasons: Homosexuality, Sexually Explicit, Offensive Language, Unsuitable to Age Group

Off the list this year, are two books by author Toni Morrison. "The Bluest Eye" and "Beloved," both challenged for sexual content and offensive language.





**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).

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*"Diamonds are forever."* - Ian Fleming

*"Diamonds are forever, my youth is not."* - Jill St. John

*"I never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back."* - Zsa Zsa Gabor

*"Diamonds never leave you...men do!"* - Shirley Bassey

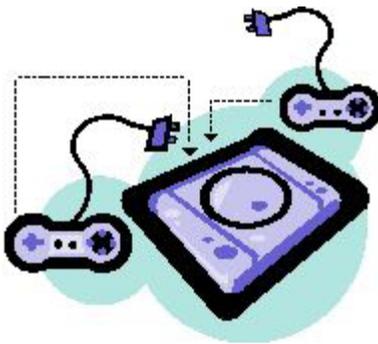
*"Big girls need big diamonds."* - Elizabeth Taylor

Ladies, need a little sparkle and pizzazz in your life? Gentlemen, looking for a gift that never goes out of style?

The Regional Library Systems will be raffling a pair of diamond studs at the Fall Conference in October and you could be the lucky winner of some prime bling. You can contact your system office for tickets or get some at the conference. \$3 each or two for \$5. Please make checks payable to NRLS.



### Check out the NRLS Gaming Blog



Have you checked out the Systems Wii Gaming Kit or tried a gaming program? If so, take a moment and visit the NRLS Gaming Blog at: <http://nrlsgaming.blogspot.com>. Read the latest posts and see what's happening in Nebraska libraries and gaming.

To comment: click on comments and you will be allowed to comment on the latest entry.

"Space Invaders proved so addictive that it not only inaugurated an entire video game paradigm, it caused a nationwide coin shortage in Japan"

~~Chris Green



## ROI Training - Sign Up Now!

August 20-- Norfolk Public Library

If you have wondered how to calculate the return on the investment your community makes in your local library, this training is for you. Return on Investment (ROI) information can be an extremely useful tool for communicating the role the library plays in the economic and social health of the community.

### NOTE:

Please plan to attend this training as a community team and register team members individually.

\*There is no charge for this training.

\*Lunch will be provided to all participants.

\*Mileage reimbursement will be provided for team carpools.

\***Register:** [www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp), search on ROI

### About the Workshop:

Keith Curry Lance will tour Nebraska, offering four one-day workshops on how to conduct a return on investment (ROI) study for your public library. This event will review ROI studies completed for other states and communities, showcasing what they have in common as well as what sets each apart. Participants will receive confidence-building, hands-on training in how to collect and analyze local data on several aspects of contingent valuation, including: cost to use alternatives, value of lost use, direct local expenditures, compensation of library staff, and halo spending. Participants will be introduced to several interactive online tools, and will be guided in how to assemble required library data and how to begin customizing an ROI patron survey to their own local needs and clientele. Recommended strategies for sampling library users and administering the patron survey will be shared, and participants will begin to consider how to implement them in their own communities. An Excel spreadsheet to facilitate necessary calculations based on local library data and patron survey results will be introduced. Examples of options for reporting and using the local library's ROI study results will be presented. After the workshop, Lance will be available to advise and assist staff at any participating library that chooses to conduct its own ROI study.

This training is funded through a "21st Century Librarian" grant to the Nebraska Library Commission from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. It is designed to help generate local support and employment opportunities for the next generation of Nebraska librarians.

### About the Presenter:

Keith Curry Lance is a Consultant with the RSL Research Group based in suburban Denver, Colorado. He was the founding Director of the Library Research Service of the Colorado State Library and the University of Denver Library and Information Science Program. For more than twenty years, he has conducted internationally-recognized research on the impact and value of library services; advised state and federal agencies on library data collection; and taught LIS courses, conference sessions, and continuing education workshops on research and statistics-related topics.

### ALSO PLEASE NOTE:

The 2008 Rural Philanthropy Conference, presented by the Nebraska Community Foundation, September 10-12 in Nebraska City would be a great follow-up to the ROI training. The Nebraska Library Commission will fund a few library/community teams to attend this conference. For more information see [www.nebcommfound.org/RPC/2008RPC.htm](http://www.nebcommfound.org/RPC/2008RPC.htm) or contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us).



Aug. 11 - **Change: Nebraska Library Leadership Institute Reunion** at St. Benedict Center near Schuyler. Contact Kathy at 1-800-578-1014 for more information.

Aug. 12 - **NEBASE Annual Meeting - East** at Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln.

August 20 - **ROI Training** at Norfolk Public Library, 10am-4pm.

Sept. 1 - **Labor Day Holiday**. System office closed.

Sept. 10 - **Nebraska Library Commission Meeting** at NLC starting at 9:30am.

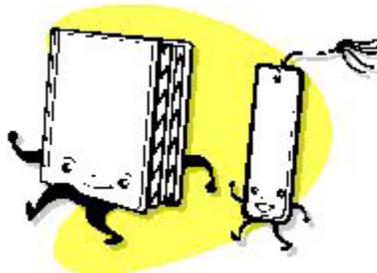
Sept. 17 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at Elgin Public Library at 10 am.

Oct. 9--11 - **Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival**, Concordia University, Seward. For more information, go to: <http://www.cune.edu/about/2040/>

Oct. 15 - **The 4 Rs: Robots, Romance, Revolvers & Recipes**, a NLA pre-conference at the Bennet Martin Public Library. Contact Kathy at 1-800-578-1014 for registration

information.

Oct. 16-17 - **"Nebraska Libraries: Vision for the Information Age"**, NLA Annual Conference at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln. For more information, go to the NLA website: <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2008/index.html>.



**NEW @ NLS**

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

**"Welcoming Homeschoolers to the Library"** by Nann Blaine Hilyard, Public Libraries, May/June 2008, pp.17-27.

More than a million children in the United States are homeschooled and the public library is the obvious place for families to get materials to support the curriculum. This article describes programs and partnerships that have helped homeschooled students as well as the library staff who have worked with them.

**"SPI: Successful Partnership Investigation"**, DVD, 25 min, Library Video Network, 2008.

SPI: Successful Partnership Investigation follows a highly-skilled team of partnership investigators as they travel the country to find successful library partnerships. The team visits the Boulder Public Library, Laramie County Library System, Baltimore County Public Library, Middle Country Library System, and Harford County Public Library to learn how they created successful partnerships.

**"From Awareness to Funding: A Study of Library Support in America"**, OCLC, 2008.

The latest report from OCLC explores attitudes and perceptions about library funding. Among the findings are: library funding support is only marginally related to library visitation, perceptions of librarians are an important predictor of library support, and voters who see the library as a 'transformational' force as opposed to an 'informational' source are more likely to increase funding. The entire report is available for downloading at: <http://www.>





### NORTHEAST NEWS

The next time you stop by the **Neligh Public Library**, be sure to take a moment and admire the library's Community Pride trophy for a float in the 4th of July parade.

A handmade tree is growing by leaps and bounds at the **Bloomfield Public Library**. For every book read during Summer Reading, a leaf is placed on the tree. For every 100 leaves that are put on the tree, a real tree will be planted in Bloomfield.

Fireflies were every recently at the **Clearwater Public Library**. Older children helped younger ones dress for the Firefly Ball. Once everyone was in proper 'firefly' attire, the kids paraded through town.

July 31 was Bob Trautweins last day as director of the **Columbus Public Library**. He retired after 28 years as director. Bob plans on traveling to Spain and go on a 450 mile hike. And lets give a big welcome to the new director, Jill Owens. Jill is very excited about her new position and the challenges ahead.

It was a little sticky recently at the **Hartington Public Library**. One of their crafts was gum art. Kids chewed gum for 15 minutes, then placed the gum on an index card, and used toothpicks to design a bug!

Curious about owls and other birds of prey? If you dropped by the **Lied Randolph Public**

**Library** on August 7th, you saw Raptor Recovery of Nebraska present a program about saving injured or orphaned birds.

It's back to school time already at the **Hruska Memorial Public Library**. Author Shelly Burke will discuss her new workbook, " Make it Happen! YOur Guide to Setting and Reaching GoalsThat Will Change Your Life!" at the Back to School Brunch on Saturday, August 23rd.

The Friends of the **Atkinson Public Library** are raising money to pave the west parking lot of the library. One event recently held was the Biennial Garden Walk on July 19th.



### Have you given a Pat-on-the-Back?

The Pat on the Back award from the Northeast Library System are given to acknowledge the extra mile efforts of library promotion and commitment to making libraries the best they can be.

If you would like to give a Pat on the Back to someone special at your library, call Shelia or Kathy at 1-800-578-1014. An award will be mailed out to you promptly.

### September is Library Card Sign-up Month

The American Library Association is pleased to announce that Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the NBA's all-time leading scorer and a prolific author, has been named honorary chair of Library Card Sign-up Month.

Held in September, Library Card Sign-up Month is a time to remind parents and children that a library card is the most important school supply of all.

The master of the sky hook, the 7-foot-2-inch Abdul-Jabbar led UCLA to three consecutive NCAA titles and the Milwaukee Bucks and the Los Angeles Lakers to six NBA championships. But Abdul-Jabbar's achievements go far beyond the court. He has written several books, including "On the Shoulders of Giants: My Journey Through the Harlem Renaissance"; "Giant Steps"; "Black Profiles in Courage"; "A Season on a Reservation"; and "Brothers in Arms." Four of his books reached bestseller lists.

Abdul-Jabbar said, "The library has always been my own personal time machine. I can walk through the doors and land in any place, any time period in history. I didn't have to wonder what their worlds were like; I could experience it firsthand."

For more information on Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, go to his Web site, <http://www.kareem-abduljabbar.com/>.



## Save Energy - Stop Your Screensaver!



In case you didn't already know, screensavers have been around almost since the dawn of personal computing. In the early days, monochrome cathode ray tube (CRT) monitors were susceptible to "phosphor burn-in" if left displaying the same image for too long, eventually leading to a permanent shadow or ghost image on the screen. Screensavers were developed to automatically change the images on CRT monitors during periods of user inactivity, saving their screens from permanent damage.

Modern CRT computer monitors are much less susceptible to phosphor burn-in than older models due to improvements in phosphor coatings and also because the images they display are generally much lower in contrast than the stark text and graphics of earlier monochrome displays. LCD monitors, which have all but supplanted CRT monitors nowadays, are not susceptible to phosphor burn-in because their images are not directly produced by phosphors.

For these reasons, computer screensavers today serve no real practical purpose. With very few exceptions, they have become nothing more than a form of decoration or entertainment. But not only are they obsolete, worse still, their continued use is actually harmful to the environment. You see, contrary to popular belief, screensavers do not save energy. In fact, those seemingly innocuous graphics zipping around your screen consume as much processing power as you actually doing work. And not only do screensavers needlessly draw power while they are running, but they may also prevent your system from going into a low-power sleep mode when not in use.

A typical computer with a screensaver running can use well over 100 watts of power, compared with only about 10 watts in sleep mode.

How big is the problem? Well, figuring that a typical CRT monitor uses 60 to 120 watts of electrical power, depending on its screen size, the University of New Hampshire once estimated that if their 5,000 computers ran screensavers an average of 20 hours a week (including nights and weekends), the annual power consumed by those screensavers would cost \$28,000 and produce atmospheric emissions of 750,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, 5,858 pounds of sulfur oxide, and 1,544 pounds of nitrogen oxide ([http://www.energy.unh.edu/Tips\\_ScrnSavrs.htm](http://www.energy.unh.edu/Tips_ScrnSavrs.htm)). Considering that there are around 600 million PCs in use today, we are talking some big, ugly numbers.

In fact, according to NREL, every time you leave on a computer when it is not in use, you are wasting energy ([http://www.nrel.gov/sustainable\\_nrel/energy\\_saving.html](http://www.nrel.gov/sustainable_nrel/energy_saving.html)). They recommend turning off your PC, monitor, and other peripheral devices "at night and during any prolonged absence such as weekends or vacation time.... Contrary to popular belief, turning equipment on and off does not shorten the life span of computers or related equipment." (Please note that as an alternative to simply shutting down your PC, you can set it to hibernate, which stores whatever is currently loaded into memory onto your hard drive and then shuts down the PC. That way when your PC comes out of hibernation, it returns quickly to its previous state.)

During the day, NREL recommends limiting screensaver use and setting your computer's power-management features to turn off your monitor after 10 minutes and your hard disks after 20 minutes. Studies have found that hard disks are not affected by frequent shutdowns and may actually last longer due to reduced heat stress and mechanical wear. (Please note that NREL's recommended power management settings are generic and that you should adjust the settings to accommodate your own computing requirements. In particular, their recommended settings may not be best for frequently used public access computers or servers that must run all the time.) Lastly, NREL recommends purchasing LCD monitors, which use significantly less energy than CRT models and are easier on the eyes as well.

(Taken from TANG Tech Tips by Mike Buras)



**13th Annual Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival**

Thurs, Oct. 9 - Seward Schools Day  
 Friday, Oct. 10 - Children's Day for commuting schools  
 Sat Oct. 11 - Adult Conference Day

This year's guests are:

**Joan Bauer**  
 Speaking Oct. 9-11

Her books have won numerous awards, among them the Newbery Honor Medal, the LA Times Book Prize, the Christopher Award, and the Golden Kite Award of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. Rules of the Road was chosen as one of the top young adult books of the last 25 years by the American Library Association.

**Cynthia DeFelice**  
 Speaking Oct. 9-11

It wasn't until 1987 that she decided to try writing a book for children. Cynthia was working as an elementary school librarian, and loved reading aloud to children, telling them stories, recommending books for them, and hearing their responses when they brought the books back. She said to herself, "I would be so happy if I could write a book that would make kids' faces look like that!" Now, 21 years, 15 novels and 10 picture books later, she feels like the luckiest person in the world.

**Gail Gibbons**  
 Speaking Oct. 9-11

Gail studied graphic design at the University of Illinois, then moved to New York City, obtaining a job doing artwork for television shows. Eventually Gail was asked to do the artwork for a children's show. While doing that show, some of

the children asked her if she had ever thought of doing children's books. An idea for a book was put together and right away a publisher bought it. That book was called Willy and His Wheel Wagon. Over 135 non-fiction books have been written and illustrated by Gail.

**Mike Graf**  
 Speaking Oct. 9-11

Mike Graf has taught gifted classes in elementary schools, been a TV weatherman, and presently teaches at Chico State University. When Mike visits schools he gives presentations on weather, national parks, caving, writing children's books, the writing process, science, and gifted education.

**Mo Willems**  
 Speaking Oct. 9-11 (Saturday luncheon speaker)

#1 New York Times Bestselling author and illustrator Mo Willems is best known for his Caldecott Honor winning picture books Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!, Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale, and Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity.

**Hans Wilhelm**  
 Speaking Oct. 10-11

With over thirty five million books in print, Hans Wilhelm is one of America's foremost author/illustrator of children's books. Many of his 200 books have been translated into twenty languages and have become successful animated television series that are enjoyed by children all over the world.

**Matt Mason**  
 Speaking Oct. 10

His first full-length collection, Things We Don't Know We Don't Know, was released in 2006 and won the 2007 Nebraska Book

Award for Poetry. Mason also won the 2006 Nebraska Book Award for Anthology for co-editing Slamma Lamma Ding Dong: an Anthology of Nebraska's Slam Poets.

**Lois Lowry**  
 Dinner keynote speaker Oct. 11

She is the author of more than thirty books for young adults, including the popular Anastasia Krupnik series. She has received countless honors, among them the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award, the California Young Reader's Medal, and the Mark Twain Award. She received Newbery Medals for two of her novels, NUMBER THE STARS and THE GIVER. Her first novel, A SUMMER TO DIE, was awarded the International Reading Association's Children's Book Award.

**David & Yvonne Freeman**  
 Speaking Oct. 11

Both are interested in second language acquisition, literacy, bilingual education, and dual language for English language learners. The Freeman's have published articles and book chapters jointly and separately on the topics of second language teaching, biliteracy, bilingual education, linguistics, and second language acquisition.

**Anita Silvey**  
 Speaking Oct. 11

The author of 100 Best Books for Children and 500 Great Books for Teens, Anita Silvey has devoted 35 years to promoting books that will turn the young -- and families -- into readers.

For registration information, go to the Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival website, <http://www.cune.edu/about/2040/>



Early registration for the Annual NLA/NEMA Conference is due August 31, only a few short weeks away. Check out these pre-conferences and events listed here and on the insert.

### **Serving Library Customers with Disabilities**

Wednesday, October 15, 1pm-4pm  
Cornhusker Marriot Hotel, Lincoln, NE

Increase your understanding and awareness of how disabilities affect library users' access to information. This engaging and interactive workshop will provide hands-on demonstrations of the obstacles various disabilities can place in the way of your users, illuminate the challenges our differently-abled customers face in their day-to-day lives, and propose simple solutions for improving the experience of disabled users. Dress comfortably for this hands-on and interactive presentation.

Kathleen Newman, MA COMS, is an experienced Special Education instructor for university and college teacher preparation programs and has over 30 years experience working with children and adults with visual and/or multiple impairments.

### **What is a Book Worth? Determining the Value of a Book**

Wednesday, October 15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

A pre-Conference presented by  
Dr. Sidney Berger  
Library Director, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA

Books come to libraries from different sources, in different conditions, and with different values. Often a librarian is perplexed in deciding which books to keep, and why, and which books should be passed on to others or even sold. What is meant by the "value" or "worth" of a book? Is it dollar value, or intrinsic, research value? What are the variables in determining the value of a book?

What tools are available for making the determination? Is there a difference in the insurance value of a book and in the replacement value? Should books be purchased from eBay, or relatives, or thrift shops? Why do different copies of the same title vary in value?

Dr. Berger will assist participants in learning the answers to these questions and more during this all-day event. Participants are invited to bring a book or two to assist in the learning process. This is the same workshop offered by Dr. Berger at the UIU-C GSLIS Book Arts program. All this for only \$40, including lunch (MPLA members can register for \$30). Registration is limited to 40 participants.

### **Casino Royale**

Bring your money, your skill, and your luck for a night of fun that benefits the Legacy Fund. Thursday night after the Banquet, or at 9 p.m., whichever's earliest, come join us in the Arbor Room to play poker, roulette, bingo, craps, and blackjack. pull out your ritziest evening wear, your exotic foreign accents, and come try your luck! Of course you're welcome to come mingle and be one of the beautiful people even if you don't want to play. It will be \$5 for 25 chips with similar rules to last year's gaming event. A cash bar will be available.

**The Big Field**

By Mike Lupica

Keith Hutchinson better known as Hutch has always played the shortstop position on his ball team until the arrival of Darryl "D-Will" Williams who takes that spot. Now Hutch is training to take over 2nd base position with the Boynton Beach Post 226 Cardinals and they are going into the summer league championship.

Lupica has two stories going through this book. The story line about best friend Cody and the baseball team includes many details plays of the game and the race for the championship. The other story line is of Hutch's family whose father was a professional shortstop until injuries caused him to retire and now The Big Field has trouble holding a job. There is friction between father and son as Dad give playing tips to D-Will. As the story, unfold detail of Dad's past life help Hutch come to an understanding that help with the father-son relationship.

Written for 5th grade readers on up this story will be especially interesting to guys who are into the sport.

~~Pat Thompson--WSC

**Sunshine Makes Seasons**

By Franklyn M. Branley

This is a GREAT book to help early elementary (and maybe some bright preschoolers) understand a little bit of the science behind the seasonal changes. It features some activities that could be done in a classroom or for a lesson as well to help with that understanding. But if not, the illustrations really do tell the whole story. It is a fantastic book for any library collection and would be a great homeschool book too.

~~Heather Reid, homeschool teacher/parent, Omaha, NE

**The Crimson Comet**

by Dean Morrissey

In this fantasy tale by Dean Morrissey, two children, Nora and Jack, discover the moon has gone out. Determined to investigate, they fire up their Crimson Comet rocket and go to take a look. They run right into the moon, not being able to see it.

On the moon, they meet the man-in-the-moon who tells them he needs a jump-start to make the moon run again. Jack agrees to try with the Crimson Comet. Just as Jack decides his comet isn't powerful enough to jump-start the moon, it lights up. Leaving the moon and heading for home, Jack and Nora discover they are out of fuel. Fortunately, Nora remembers stars she has pulled out of the sky and tries those for fuel. They work! The

Crimson Comet makes it home. This story is beautifully illustrated and any child, preschool through elementary, would love to pour over the pictures.

**A Crash Course for Molly**

by Eva Eriksson

This is a cute book about a girl learning how to ride a bike. Recommended age level would be K-2nd grade.

I recommend this title for public and school libraries.

Comments: My little girl thought this book was funny. She really enjoyed it. I would recommend it!

~~L. Morrow

**Space Travelers**

by Seymour Simon

This is a great book for young minds to read and learn more about what scientists are trying to accomplish in space. Very informative about life for an astronaut and what they had to wear.

Recommended age level would be 6-10 years old. I recommend this title for public and school libraries. This book has special features including great photos and many dates. I haven't read many other books like this but I would this again for curious minds and information on space and astronauts.

Comments: Great book overall "Exciting."

~~Susan, Luke, and Grant Swenson

**Squirrel World**

by Johanna Hurwitz

Lenox and Lexi are squirrels who live in Central Park in New York City. Both were named after city streets and one day the two of them decide to find the streets they were named after. They think these streets may be better places than the park but they encounter unsuspected dangers as they set off their quest.

Recommended age level would be K-2nd grade. I recommend this title for public and school libraries. It was a fun read. A special book feature was the map of the streets surrounding Central Park. Compared to other books this book was a fun read with no questionable subject matter for young readers.  
~~ Deb Daehnke

**Night Boat to Freedom**

By Margot Theis Raven

This is a story of a twelve year old boy who secretly rows slaves to the other side of the river to freedom. His grandmother has asked him to do this and she always asks him what color the slaves were wearing.

I would recommend the book for lower elementary to upper elementary. I would recommend this book for any library purchase. This book would work nicely into a unit on history or slavery. Compared to other books I think this book has a good story line.  
~~ Sharon Kinnan

**Sketches**

By Eric Walter

Sketches is a really intense, and deep, and colorful book. I say "colorful" because it painted pictures about life on the street into my head. The story is about 3 teens: Dana, a suburbs art lover; Ashley, a brave girl; and Brent, the only man who protects the girls. The kids live out on the streets and Dana struggles the most because she just recently ran away. Then & Sketches comes into Dana's life and changes it along with the other two. Read along as these street kids struggle down a long path to a "happy ever after". I would recommend this book for ages 14 and up.  
Comments: This book is a true page turner. I really enjoyed reading this book.

~~ Felicia Keiser, 9th Grade

**Little Brother**

by Cory Doctorow

In the wake of a devastating terrorist attack on San Francisco, the Department of Homeland Security detains hundreds of Americans, interrogating and intimidating them. One of the people they seize is Marcus Yellow, a seventeen year old kid who's a little too smart for his own good. Marcus should be a familiar character to readers: he takes things apart, builds new things in his bedroom, and he lives another life online as "w1n5t0n". After detaining Marcus and his

friends for days, the DHS lets him go. That was their second mistake. Soon Marcus finds himself as the leader of a new online movement to thwart the government's draconian civil rights crackdown. His friends are terrified, his father is happy that the government is trying to keep them safe, and Marcus is rapidly learning that "revolutionary" is often synonymous with "martyr".

In the story, many issues are raised such as: How much freedom are you willing to give up for security? Does giving up freedom actually make us more secure? How do we balance our rights to free speech and privacy with our need to feel safe? How literally should we take the Declaration's statement that we have the right to "alter or abolish" the government?

Every high school student should read this book. I recommend this book for all high school libraries and public libraries. It's not every day that a book comes along that is a great read and thought-provoking.

~~ Kathy Ellerton, NLS





## **Northeast Library System**

Board Minutes

July 16, 2008

The Northeast Board met at the Hartington Public Library on July 16, 2008 and was hosted by the staff of the library. The meeting was called to order by President, Sharon Jones. Board members present were Judy Hagen, Michele Hastreiter, Sharon Jones, Chris Chilcoat, Elaine Tobias, Sally Stahlecker, Joyce Sullivan, Kay Schmid, Dee Johnson, and Kate Ostenrude. There were no alternates present. System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton, and Administrative Assistant, Shelia Cermak were also present. The minutes were approved (MS: Sullivan, Johnson; approved).

Correspondence consisted of an invitation to Bob Troutwine's retirement party and a thank you from Kay Schmid.

Shelia Cermak gave the financial report. The next CD will not be renewed until October. Mileage reimbursement is increasing from 50.5 cents to 58.5 cents per mile. The financial report was approved by roll call vote (MS: Johnson, Chilcoat).

### REPORTS:

Commissioner- Pat Gross N/A

Kathy Ellerton spoke for State Advisory Council- Gretchen Healy. The Council did meet; there was no report. Gretchen will be retiring this fall.

Nebraska Library Commission Report- N/A

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. Kathy also presented the end of the year report. 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 – The Personnel committee will report during executive session.

Budget – The Budget Committee will present the budget during new business.

Continuing Education – no report

Strategic Planning – no report

Continuing Education – no report

Technology Committee - no report

Grant Committee –

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The 2008-2009 Budget was presented by the Budget Committee. After review, a motion was made to accept the budget as presented (MS: Hastreiter, Ostenrude; approved roll call vote).



The annual meeting was not a financial success. There was a discussion of alternate dates. According to comments, Dusters was a good place to meet, the two-day event was not as well received.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The new committee assignments for the following year are as follows:

Personnel- Kate Ostenrude, Sharon Jones, Dee Johnson

Budget Committee- Dee Johnson, Shelia Cermak, Michele Hastreiter, Sharon Jones

Continuing Education- Sally Stahlecker, Jolene Klein, Kathy Ageton

Strategic Planning- Dee Johnson, Sharon Jones, Joyce Sullivan, Lynn Manhart

Technology Committee- Jolene Klein, Michele Hastreiter, Elaine Tobias, Judy Hagen

Grants Committee- Kay Schmid, Jolene Klein, Chris Chilcoat

Nominating Committee- Dee Johnson, Ann Bachman, Kate Ostenrude

The board retired for executive session:

A 2.5% salary increase for system's personnel was approved by roll call vote (MS: Ostenrude, Sullivan).

The board photo will wait until everyone is present.

Board members shared activities going on in their libraries.

A Pat-on-the-Back award was given to Meadow Grove Public Library to distribute.

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

Motion to adjourn (MS: Schmid, Stahlecker; approved).

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Ostenrude

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"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."  
- William Butler Yeats

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



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