



Straight*talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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

Ten Top Reasons for Teens to Read for the Fun of It

10. Books don't get caught in braces.
9. Unlike gym, you don't have to shower afterwards.
8. Reading won't cause pimples.
7. It'll help you forget what they served in the cafeteria.
6. Magazines don't "crash".
5. Graphic novels look good with whatever you're wearing.
4. It's cheaper than a new video game.
3. You can drown out your parent's cheesy music listening to an audio book.
2. You'll learn words even your teachers don't know.
1. It'll confuse your parents.



Celebrate Teen Read Week October 14-20, 2007!



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Library of Congress Sponsors National Reading and Writing Contest for Young Readers

Letters about Literature is a national reading and writing promotion program for young readers in grades 4 through 12, sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target. To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author, explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Young readers can select authors from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. The contest is sponsored in Nebraska by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, Houchen Bindery Ltd., and Lee Booksellers.

For more information and to access the required entry coupon and copy of the "how to enter" guideline; see <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/publications/lal/aboutcontest.html>. Contact lal@epix.net for free teaching materials (including lesson plans, blackline masters, writing samples, and assessment checklists) for schools, libraries, and home school partnerships. Deadline for entries is December 14, 2007.

We The People Grant Available

The American Library Association (ALA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) would like to invite public and school (K – 12) libraries to apply for the fifth annual We the People Bookshelf grant. Part of the NEH's We the People initiative, the Bookshelf is a grant program that encourages young people to read and understand great literature while exploring themes in American history.

This year, ALA and NEH are offering 3,000 sets of classic books for young readers on the theme "Created Equal." To apply, simply complete the online application by describing how your library will create a theme-related program that highlights the Bookshelf titles. The application is available at www.ala.org/wethepeople and should take less than one hour to complete.

Applicants have the option to submit an application on behalf of a single library, or to apply on behalf of multiple locations within a system or district. Guidelines, programming, ideas, and the online application are available at the web site above until January 25, 2008.



Copyright Law– Part 2

Copyright law has its base in the United States Constitution, "The Congress shall have Power . . . To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries . . ." (United States Constitution, Article I, Section 8) Title 17 of the United States Code incorporates the Copyright Law of the United States of America as enacted as Public Law 94-553, 90 Stat. 2541, on October 19, 1976. To assist in the goal of promoting "the progress of science and useful arts", the Copyright Law not only protects the rights of the author or inventor, it contains provisions for rights of the users.

Often educators determine that since schools are not for profit institutions, thus they have cart blanche in using copyrighted materials. Educators do have expanded rights to use copyrighted materials as defined as Fair Use. "Fair use" has been interpreted to include those limited uses which are not likely to deprive a publisher or an author from income (Dr. Ken Crews). Educators must have an instructional objective aligned with the materials used in a face-to-face classroom setting.

The term Fair Use appears in Section 107 of the Copyright Law which follows:

Copyright Law of the United States

Section § 107. Limitations on exclusive rights: Fair use

Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 106 and 106A, the fair use of a copyrighted work, including such use by reproduction in copies or phonorecords or by any other means specified by that section, for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research, is not an infringement of copyright. In determining whether the use made of a work in any particular case is a fair use the factors to be considered shall include-

- (1) the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
- (2) the nature of the copyrighted work;
- (3) the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole;
- and
- (4) the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

The fact that a work is unpublished shall not itself bar a finding of fair use if such finding is made upon consideration of all the above factors.

Section 107 has evolved into the Four Factor Fair Use Test:

- * What is the purpose and character of the use?
- * What is the nature of the work to be used?
- * How much of the work will you use?
- * What effect would this use have on the market for the original or for permissions if the use were widespread?

All four factors must be considered to satisfy the Fair Use Test.

Dr. Ken Crews has developed a very helpful checklist for determining if the Fair Use Concept applies. It is available online at <http://www.copyright.iupui.edu/checklist.htm>.

Copyright and Fair Use in Education, NLAQ NLA Quarterly, Vol. 34, No. 4, Winter 2003, page 25-30, <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/nlaquarterly/2003-4-Brunken.htm>

Please send an email to me if you want a complete bibliography of my recommended copyright law resources or have a copyright law question. Phyllis Brunken pbrunken@cox.net I am not an attorney and this article may not be substituted for formal legal advice from an attorney well versed in school law and copyright law. The next article – Fair Use and the Public Librarian will be in the next issue.



2007 Fall Colloquium

Librarian 2.0



What?

Librarian 2.0 is a “strategy guide” for helping users find information, gather knowledge and create content. The most important traits of Librarian 2.0 include: Librarians 2.0 plans for their users ~ Librarian 2.0 embraces Web 2.0 tools ~ Librarian 2.0 controls technolust ~ Librarian 2.0 makes good, yet fast decisions ~ Librarian 2.0 is a trendspotter ~ Librarian 2.0 gets content ~ Librarian 2.0 also listens to staff and users when planning, tells the stories of successes and failures, learns from both, celebrates those successes, allows staff time to play and learn, and never stops dreaming about the best library services.

How? Why?

Join your peers – discuss & discover.

Michael Stephens, Ph.D, is an Assistant Professor at the Dominican University Graduate School of Library and Information Science in River Forest, IL. A frequent, and sometimes keynote, speaker at library and technology conferences around the world, he was named a Library Journal Mover and Shaker in 2005. He serves on the editorial boards of several major journals and is a prolific author. Michael authored *Web 2.0 for Libraries: Best Practices for Social Software*, and writes a monthly column in Library Journal with Michael Casey entitled "The Transparent Library." His blog, Tame the Web, is read avidly by many librarians.

Thursday, November 29, 2007 5:30-9:30 p.m.
at The Cornhusker Hotel
Yankee Hill 1 & 2
333 S. 13th Street, Lincoln, NE

Schedule of Events

5:30 – 6:30	Social hour, cash bar
6:30 – 7:30	Dinner
7:30 – 8:30	Presentation by Michael Stephens
8:30 – 9:30	Discussion

Dinner: Arbor Buffet

Fresh garden salad, fresh seasonal fruit, fresh vegetable tray with dip, Chef’s potatoes or rice, two Chef’s fresh vegetables, rolls and butter, coffee, tea, and milk. with Stuffed Lemon Artichoke Chicken and Seafood Newburg for entrees.

The Arbor Buffet also includes assorted Cornhusker cakes and pastries.

The Fall Colloquium is sponsored jointly by: the Eastern Library System & the Southeast Library System.

This project was supported in part by state aid funding appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

YES! I want to participate in the Fall Colloquium 2007: Michael Stephens

Name _____ Library _____

Work phone _____ Work email _____

Send completed registration form & payment of **\$35.00** to: **Eastern Library System**, 11929 Elm Street, Suite 12. Omaha. NE 68144. **Deadline: Tuesday, November 20, 2007.**



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).

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Equipment For Sale

The Northeast Library System has used equipment for sale. If interested please submit your bid by November 15th by email or call Shelia at 1-800-578-1014. If your library's need is critical but your budget is limited, please send a short letter stating your library's need and how this equipment could enhance your library's services. Equipment may be awarded to libraries with a critical need. The Northeast Library System board will review the bids / statement of need letters at their November 21st board meeting.

Equipment is as follows:

1 Black Dell Inspiron 4100 Laptop, 256 MG Ram, 40GB Harddrive, Windows XP, Floppy & CD Drive, Wireless & Modem card, 8 cell battery and comes with a computer bag. Minimum Bid: \$50.

1 Gateway 4100, Pentium 4 Processor 2.4 Ghz, 533 Mhz, 512 MG Ram, 80 GB Harddrive, CD & floppy drive; Windows XP, USB ports in front & back, keyboard and mouse, NO monitor. Minimum Bid: \$50.

1 Gateway "Gates" computer, Pentium 4 Processor 2.0 Ghz, 512 MG Ram, 80 GB Harddrive, CD , Floppy & Tape drives, Windows XP, USB ports in front , keyboard and mouse, NO monitor. Minimum Bid: \$50.

1 Olympus Camedia C-2040 digital camera, 2.1 Megapixels, 3.X optical zoom, 2.5 X digital zoom, and camera case. Minimum Bid: \$15.

HP7100 color printer. This is a fax, printer, scanner, and copier combined printer. Comes with 6 ink cartridges, USB cable and telephone cable. Occasionally power needs to be reset. Minimum Bid: \$25.

HP Photosmart 1115 printer. Can print directly from a memory card Comes with PhotoImpression 3.0 photo editing software, USB and phone cables, and 5 ink cartridges. Minimum Bid: \$25.

1 19" Emerson Color TV with VHS recorder, remote control and caption decoder. Minimum Bid: \$15



CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

Oct. 14-20 - **Teen Read Week.**

Oct. 22-26 - **Thinking Outside the Borders: Library Leadership in a World Community** at the Cornhusker, Lincoln.

Oct. 24-26- "**Charting Paths to the Future**", NLA Annual Conference, Kearney Holiday Inn & Convention Center.

Nov 8-9- **Gates Technology Training** at Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College, Norfolk. Contact Jeanette Powell at 1-800-307-2665 to register.

Nov. 12-18 - **Children's Book Week.** For more information, go to: www.cbcbooks.org/cbw/

Nov. 13 - **Basic Skills:** Collection Development at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk from 10am - 3pm.

Nov 16 - **State Advisory Council on Libraries Meeting** at Grand Island Public Library.

Nov. 20 - **Basic Skills:** Collection Development at Lifelong Learning Center, NECC, Norfolk from 10am to 3pm.

Nov. 21 - **Northeast Library**

System Board Meeting at the Lied Randolph Public library at 10am.

Nov. 22-23 - **Thanksgiving Holiday.** Office closed.

Nov. 29 - **SELS/ELS Fall Colloquium** with Michael Stephens at the Cornhusker, Lincoln.



NEW @ NLS

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

"Valuable Volunteers: How to Find, Use, and Keep Them" by Sue W. McGown, LMC, Oct. 2007, pp. 10-13.

Author Sue McGown discusses using volunteers in a school resource center. How to find volunteers, using volunteers, rewarding volunteers and solving volunteer problems are discussed. The author notes that recruiting and working with volunteers requires a time investment, but pays off in big dividends by building advocates for the library program.

"Extending the Five-Foot Bookshelf" by Cathi Dunn Macrae, VOYA, Oct. 2007, pp. 298-299.

This professional reading list targets the best books that

would assist librarians in their understanding of teenagers and how to serve them. The list includes titles such as: Get Connected: Tech Programs for Teens; My Space Unraveled: A Parent's Guide to Teen Social Networking; Cyberbullying and Cyberthreats: Responding to the Challenge of Online Social Aggression, Threats and Distress; and Serving Teens Through Readers' Advisory. The majority of these titles are recommended for school media specialists, public librarians and educators.

Northeast News

On Sept. 8, the **Springbank Township Library** in Allen held a book sale at the Senior Center. They raised \$291 and received \$200 more in supplemental funds from Thrivent. Congratulations on a job well done!

Buckets, buckets and more buckets were recently found at the **Walthill Public Library**. A program based on the book, "Have You Filled A Bucket Today: a Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids", and every child received a bucket with their dinner in it. After eating dinner, the kids decorated their bucket, watched a movie and had a great time.

Congratulations and a big Northeast welcome to Holly Troup, the new director for the **Clearwater Public Library**. She plans on building up the Nebraska collection, nonfiction collection and the large print collection.



Buying and Selling on Ebay is the October class at the **Hartington Public Library**. Taught by Dawnn Tucker, Pierce Public Library director, this class will show you how to get setup and sell your items.

The Monster Mash Bash is coming to the **O'Neill Public Library**. Kids are invited to wear their costume, strut their stuff in the Costume Runway Walk, listen to scary stories and play musical bones!

Mr. Reptile, also known as Benjamin Gall, recently visited

the **Lied Randolph Public Library**. He brought a collection of reptiles for kids to ooh and aah over and answered everyone's questions about snakes, turtles and lizards.

The **Dakota City Public Library** recently held a joint fundraiser dinner with the Dakota City Parks & Recreation Dept. Funds raised will go towards new playground equipment for the parks and new resources at the library.

Kids filled every chair at the recent chess tournament held at

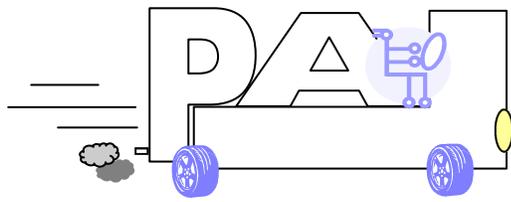
the **Madison Public Library**. Everyone got a chance to play and for those who didn't know how, an expert was on hand to help them get started.

Congratulations to the recipients of the Northeast Library System's NLA/NEMA Scholarships. They are: Jill Owen, **Columbus Public Library**; Laura Bass, **South Sioux City Public Library**; Laura Lofgren, **Wayne Public Library**; Melissa Baumert, **Clarkson Public Library** and Judy Hagan, **Atkinson Public Library**.



Your 2007-2008 Northeast Library System Board

Front row: Kay Schmid, Hruska Memorial Public Library in David City; Joyce Sullivan, Elgin Public Library; Jolene Klein, Wakefield Community Schools; Michele Hastreiter, Humphrey Public Library; Second Row: Kate Ostenrude, Neligh Public Library; Kathy Ageton, Lutheran High Northeast; Elaine Tobias, Pilger Public Library; Ann Bachman, House Memorial Library in Pender; Third Row: Chris Chilcoat, Stanton Community Schools; Sally Stahlecker, Norfolk Public Library; Sharon Jones, Genoa Public Library and Fourth Row, Kathy Ellerton, System Administrator. Lynn Manhart, Central City Public Library not pictured.



On Our Way to PLA 2008!

OF COURSE THERE'S A BUS TRIP!

This will be the fourth annual Road Trip– we're heading up north for the Public Library Association 2008 Conference.

March 24-March 29, 2007

Use the bus trip to network with your peers, catch up on your sleep, finish that book, or watch a movie. But most of all, use the bus for the opportunity to attend a regional conference for **FREE!** That's right, thanks to the Nebraska Regional Library Systems, and to a grant* from the Nebraska Library Commission, there will be no cost for the bus ride. (Riders are responsible for their own hotel arrangements and conference registration.)

The PLA National Conference has a reputation for excellence and offers attendees more than a hundred high-quality educational programs, world-class speakers, a bustling exhibits hall, and countless networking opportunities and social events, making the conference one of the most popular and successful events for the public library world.

The 2008 conference promises more of the same in Minneapolis, a city that continually tops travel destination lists for its cutting-edge architecture, vibrant arts scene, award-winning theatre, tax-free shopping, and renowned restaurants.

Bookmark www.placonference.org and check back often for updated information on registration, conference programming, special events, travel, and insider tips on everything Minneapolis has to offer. **John Wood**, former executive with Microsoft and founder of Room to Read, will help kick off the conference with an inspirational account of how he left his corporate job to change the world. **Kevin Nealon**, of 'Hanz & Franz' fame, will do the closing keynote.



Early Bird registration **for the PLA conference** ends January 18, 2008.

Pick-ups for the bus will be in Lincoln, Omaha, & South Sioux City.

So sign up today to join Road Trip 2008!

Please let us know your serious interest as early as possible, so that if we need to reserve a larger bus we can!

Sign up deadline: March 3rd, 2008

Contact Jenni Puchalla, 5730 R St., Ste. C-1, Lincoln, NE 68505
jennip@alltel.net or 800-288-6063/467-6188

*This project was supported in part by a Continuing Education and Training grant, awarded by the Nebraska Library Commission.

**If space permits, each rider may bring a non-library affiliated guest, who, according to grant stipulations, would be required to pay \$100.



How to Read a Software or Hardware Review : Get tips on how to be a discerning reader of advice

By: Michael Gowan

When it comes time to buy new software or upgrade your computer, you know the drill. Before you lay your money down, you perform your due diligence: gather options, read reviews, look at prices, and read some more reviews.

In many cases, the reviews are the deciding factor. The nuggets of information from people who have laid their hands on a product can help cut through the dry specs and puffed-up marketing materials offered by product manufacturers.

But are you evaluating the reviews you read with the same scrutiny you would have for the product itself? Not all opinions should be considered equal, nor given the same weight in helping you make a decision. Can you trust what you're being told? To be sure of the advice you're getting, take into account the following tips and considerations.

Advertiser Influence.

Just as it's helpful to know if a politician is under the influence of lobbyists, you want to find out who is paying the bills behind a review. A few publications, such as Consumer Reports, accept no advertising and are funded solely by subscriptions from readers. This model is meant to assure that no undue influence comes from the products' manufacturers.

Many magazines and Web sites are funded by advertising, however. That doesn't mean you can't trust what they say, but you have to keep it in mind. Since advertising rates are based on the number of people who see the publication, catering reviews to meet advertisers' needs would be a short-term business proposition — after all, if the readers don't trust what's written, they aren't going to be readers very long. On the Web, you may see sites with advertising that the publication itself doesn't control. Because services such as Google's AdSense will handle the ad placement for the site, the publisher can't control what ads show up.

Most publications have a page that states who is responsible for the production and editing. You'll find that page near the front or back of magazines. On Web sites, this page is often located on a page called "About Us." If you can't find this information, you should question the publication's integrity.

Check multiple sources for common themes.

There's one way to overcome doubts you may have about a review — don't rely on just one. You should try to find at least three reviews of the product, and more if you have the time. If enough publications bring up the same negative points, you'd be wise to pay attention. Likewise if you read enough raves, the product likely has merits. This was true with initial reviews of the iPhone — almost every review liked it overall but panned the AT&T network and some missing features.

If you've found a review from a publication you are not familiar with, try to read other reviews from that same source. That may help you gauge the competency and trustworthiness of the publication. If you find the quality of reviews varies dramatically, that should raise red flags.

Timeliness.



A review is only as pertinent as it is timely. If a review is several years old and has never been revised, the product may have been updated or bugs could have been fixed. Additionally, if a product was hot stuff when it first came out, newer competing products may now be available that make the older product feel like day-old bread. But some sites such as CNET will post updates to a review as new information or improvements happen — which makes the review even more useful.

Run the numbers.

Some technology magazines such as PC Magazine and Macworld Magazine will run products through standardized tests called benchmarks. Benchmarks are a fairly objective way to measure a product's performance. The test scores are compared to a baseline product's performance, offering you a numeric way to compare one product against others. When reading benchmarks, look for a key that indicates what the baseline score is, whether larger or smaller numbers are better, and other notes that will help you interpret the scores.

People's choice: user reviews and blogs.

If one person's opinion is valuable, then hundreds must be worth a mint, right? Not always. You'll find so-called user reviews on dedicated user review sites like Epinions.com, on shopping sites like Amazon.com, and on publications sites like CNET. The idea is that the voice of the masses can help you decide the value of a product. If you're willing to sift through many reviews, you can find a lot of good information — especially about what works great and what doesn't work at all. People don't tend to spend the time to write a review if they have no strong feelings. Professional reviewers have the advantage of experience and editors; user reviews are more emotional, and you really don't know who you can trust.

What to make of blogs, then? Anyone can create a blog and post his or her opinion on a product, and you may come across it through a search engine. Treat new blogs with the same suspicion you should have with user reviews; but once a blog has proven that it is trustworthy, it can be as valuable as any traditional publication.

Appropriate audience.

What kind of user are you — novice, expert, somewhere in between? The reviews you read should take your level of expertise into mind. If a magazine targets IT professionals and you are a communications manager, then the review of a product in that magazine may not hit points relevant to you. A majority of publications target the middle ground, which is great if you fall into that group, but probably won't offer enough details for the advanced guru.

Reputable Sources

Now that you're a discerning review reader, where should you turn for the best reviews? This list will get you started.

Consumer Reports

For \$26 a year or \$5.95 a month, you can access Consumer Reports' reviews of everything — including kitchen sinks, as well as hardware, gadgets, and some software products. Consumer Reports is generally held as the model of objectivity since they don't accept ads. The site offers frequently updated reviews, comparisons, detailed test reports, and more.



CNET

CNET covers everything you can think of: computers, software, PC products, Mac, Linux, TVs, even cars. They review products quickly and in-depth, and they update the reviews as needed when new information becomes available. Plus, the active community of users add insights, offering the best of both worlds — reputable expert opinions and the many opinions of real users.

PC World and PC Magazine

Targeted mainly at business users, these magazines and their Web sites offer in-depth reviews of software and hardware in easy-to-understand language. They also offer benchmarking on many reviews and will often feature large roundups of products within a category to make it quick to compare.

Macworld

Focused solely on products for the Mac OS, Macworld is a one of the best resources for Mac users, and especially for graphic designers and other creative professionals. Like PC World and PC Magazine, they offer benchmarks and comparison reviews.

Tom's Hardware

Tom's Hardware is for the serious tech types. The detail and focus of their reviews make them ideal for those who need to know the ins and outs of every feature, but may be over the head of the average user.

Gizmodo and The Unofficial Apple Weblog

In addition to showcasing the latest tech toy announcements, these blogs also provides valuable first-hand assessments of products. Over time, I've found merit in the opinions expressed by the authors.

(article courtesy of Techsoup.org's Creative Commons)

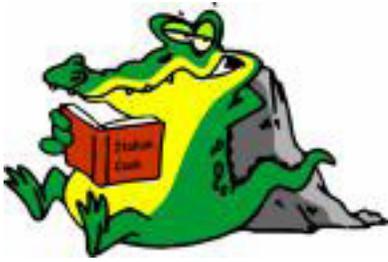


Suggested Web Sites

It's a bit early to start planning for next year's summer reading program, but I couldn't resist spreading the news about this web site: **Library Palooza**, <http://www.librarypalooza.net>. 2008 is the year of the bugs for Nebraska's Summer Reading Program and this site is chock-full of insect inspired ideas and links to Bug party ideas, insect games, creepy-crawly treats, songs and more!

Legends of America: This western U.S. "travel site for the nostalgic and historic minded" features illustrated essays on topics such as American history, ghost towns, historic people, roadside attractions, and Route 66. Includes articles (many of them historic) on subjects such as Native Americans (such as Cochise and Sitting Bull), women (such as Ida B. Wells and Calamity Jane), explorers (such as John C. "Grizzly" Adams), the American cowboy, railroad building, and more. Includes links to related sites. URL: <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/>

Cool Quiz! An entertainment site that claims to be largest trivia repository on the Internet. Features primarily humorous quizzes and games for teens and adults. Searchable. URL: <http://www.coolquiz.com/>



THE REVIEWER'S CHAIR

The Ears of Corn: An Ike and Mem Story

By Patrick Jennings

Meet Ike and Mem a brother and sister who intend to spend the weekend with Grandpa and Grandma. Sure you have fun at grandparent's homes, but are you expected to work so hard while you are there? Even at home they don't work that hard! While picking a basket of corn Mem shouts to the whispering corn, "Our grandparents are the worst in the world." The corn picks this up and repeats it. That evening Mem feels sad she said that and makes Ike go to the corn field with her to make the corn stop saying something so harmful. Read what happens in this family oriented fiction book.

Grades 2-4

~~Carol Tramp, Wynot Public School

Catching the Moon

By Myla Goldberg with pictures
by Chris Sheban

This is a very interesting tale of an old fisherwoman who fishes only by night with a mouse as bait. Turns out that she's visited by the man in the moon who learns she wants to catch

him and stop the wear and tear the tides cause on her home. He comes up with quite an interesting solution. This book is recommended for early elementary students and for a public library collection.

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

Playing Dad's Song

By D. Dina Friedman

Gus wishes he could compose a new life for himself. He wouldn't live in his sister's shadow. He'd have a dog. His classmate, Ivan (the Terrible), would leave him alone. And most important, his dad wouldn't have died September 11.

Unfortunately, Gus' life is far from his dream. His sister is the smart, talented one. Ivan's purpose in life seems to be to torment Gus. His dad is still dead, and his only interaction with a dog is guessing the name of one he walks past. Things begin to look up for Gus, though, when he starts taking oboe lessons. Suddenly, he is in control. And when he composes his own music, he's finally able to remember his father in a way that would have made him proud.

In this funny, at times, poignant book, Friedman explores the process of loss, grief, and acceptance. Any 4-7th grader would enjoy this book.

~~Amanda Limoges, Eastern Township Library

Carousel Cat

By Robert J. Blake

The carousel cat is a stray cat that hangs around an old fashioned amusement park, known as the Pavilion of Fun. When the park is forced to close, Dan (the carousel operator) continues to feed the stray who eventually turns up missing much to everyone's dismay. The search and recovery of the cat is the climax of the story.

How the cat is rescued along with her kittens will keep young readers and listeners on the edge of their seats. I recommend this book for public and school libraries.

Grades K-3

~~Latricia Olson, Randolph Public School

Mr. Katapat's Incredible Adventures

By Stephane Barroux

Mr. Katapat looks like an ordinary man but he has wonderful adventures. How does he accomplish that? I'll tell you-he goes to the library and reads and reads and reads. Some days he is a sheriff out west. Another day he spends with President Abraham Lincoln. One book he read took him to sea and he was a pirate!

I like this story because it emphasized how important the library is to all of us. I recommend this book to both school and public libraries ages 4 through 7. Accelerated Reader 2.3.

~~Joan Chilvers, Pierce, NE



No Laughter Here

By Rita Williams-Garcia

Akilah and Victoria are best friends. Akilah can't wait until Victoria and her family come back from their summer trip to their homeland of Nigeria. When they return, Victoria, is very different. She doesn't laugh, talk, or participate in class in like she used to. Akilah is very concerned and tries to draw her friend out. Finally, Victoria quietly tells Akilah what happened to her in Nigeria. Akilah promises not to tell anyone about it.

She sits by Victoria and protects her from a bully in their class, thereby getting into trouble by doing so. Then her mother finds out what happened to Victoria and causes more trouble.

This story tells about a sensitive issue and differences between cultures and opinions. It has a mature theme for older girls. Yet, it has information that African girls around the age of seven should know about. Mothers and daughters may care to read it together. Accelerated Reader Level 4.4
 ~~Claudette Wielechowski, North Platte, NE

Star of the Week

By Barney Saltzberg

Stanly is excited to be the 'student of the week.' This means he gets to be the center of the class attention for a week. He finds out that being the stu-

dent of the week has ups and downs.

This would be a great book to bring up a child's self-esteem. I recommend this book to both school and public libraries grades 2 to 3.
 ~~Lara Morrow, Emmet Public School

The Crow: The Third Book of Pellinor

by Allison Croggon

At the end of Book 1, The Riddle, Hem is reunited with his lost sister, Maerad. But Maerad has a destiny to fulfill, and Hem is sent to the golden city of Turbansk. The Crow begins as Hem is slowly adjusting to life in Turbansk where he learns the ways of the Bards and befriends a mysterious white crow. When the forces of the Dark threaten, Hem flees with his protector, Saliman, and an orphan girl named Zelika to join the Light's resistance forces. While spying on the enemies mysterious children's armies, Hem learns that he, too, has a part to play in Maerad's quest to solve the Riddle of the Treesong.

This book suffers slightly from 'middle bookitis' and moves slowly in the beginning. I recommend that fantasy fans read the first two books before tackling this one. This book is recommended for young adults and older.
 ~~Kathy Ellerton, NLS



Apple Basket Raffle

How many different ways can you enjoy an apple? The Nebraska Library Systems are selling tickets for a huge Apple Basket. The basket is stuffed full of apple items such as:

- Apple iPod shuffle
- Apples to Apples game
- Apple scented candle
- Apple Dumpling Gang DVD
- Apple pillow
- Autumn apple soap
- Apple plaque
- Apple potpourri
- and much, much more!!!

Raffle tickets are on sale RIGHT NOW; the cost is \$3 each or \$5 for two. Contact the Northeast Library System office to buy your raffle tickets or visit the Nebraska Regional Library Systems booth at NLA.

The winner of the apple basket will be drawn and announced at the NLA/NEMA conference in Kearney on October 26, 2007. Need not be present to win!

The proceeds will go toward continuing education opportunities for the six Nebraska Regional Library Systems.



Northeast Library System
Board Minutes
September 19, 2007

The Northeast Board met at the Stromsburg Public Library on September 19, 2007 and was hosted by the staff of the library. The meeting was called to order by President, Sharon Jones. Board members present were Ann Bachman, Michele Hastreiter, Sharon Jones, Dee Johnson, Jolene Klein, Chris Chilcoat, Kathy Ageton, Elaine Tobias, Sally Stahlecker, Joyce Sullivan, and Kate Ostenrude. There were no alternates present. System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton, Administrative Assistant, Shelia Cermak, Angela Vrtiska our accountant and Laura Johnson from the Nebraska Library Commission were also present.

The minutes were approved (MS: Johnson, Sullivan; approved).

Shelia Cermak gave the financial report. During this time, Angela Vrtiska went through the biannual audit with the board. Shelia is working on a financial policy that will include procedures. All libraries need to have a financial policy. The board decided to instruct the budget committee to renew our upcoming CD's at the best rate (MS: Bachman, Johnson, approved by a roll call vote).

REPORTS:

Kathy Ellerton spoke for State Advisory Council- Gretchen Healy: she reported that it was "the same stuff"; their next meeting will be in Grand Island. The committee enjoyed the opportunity to tour the UNL library.

Nebraska Library Commission: Laura Johnson spoke about revising the basic skills classes. E-rate training for our area will be January 4. She encouraged us to take advantage of the internship grants. Laura hopes to see us all at NLA.

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. The system received unused LSTA money and used that money to replace dated computers and purchase a new digital camera. If you wish to know more about the system's activities and Kathy's report check out the web page <http://www.northeastlibrary.wetpaint.com>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel –

The personnel committee had issues they were not ready to discuss. The board retired to convene in executive session. The board meeting was resumed (MS: Johnson, Chilcoat, approved) Sheila is to keep her 97 hours of accrued vacation time through the end of August and keep accruing vacation hours at a rate of 10 hours per month until the personnel committee presents to the board and the board approves the vacation formula (MS: Bachman, Sullivan, approved)

Budget – no report

Continuing Education – no report



Strategic Planning –

The Strategic Plan was accepted as presented (MS: Ostenrude, Klein, accepted.)

Continuing Education – no report

Technology Committee - no report

Grant Committee – no report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

The equipment that has been replaced will be advertised in the newsletter as is. Kathy will request a sealed bid or a letter demonstrating need. Kathy will set a time limit.

The Grant to support Pat Wagner workshops was denied. It was decided to pay Pat Wagner up to \$1,500.00 for her traveling costs and fees (MS: Ostenrude, Hastreiter; approved.)

Board members shared activities going on in their libraries.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Ostenrude

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The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes,
but in having new eyes. ~Marcel Proust

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



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