



Straight*talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

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Kathy Ellerton - System Administrator/Editor



THE NEBRASKA
CENTER FOR
THE BOOK

Nebraska Book Festival

October 17-18, 2008
Lincoln, Nebraska

Kent Haruf will open the Festival with an address on Friday. A former member of the Nebraska Wesleyan University faculty. Haruf now lives in Colorado. He is the author of *Eventide*, *Plainsong* and other novels set in the High Plains. His presentation will be followed by a reception at the Lincoln Woman's Club, honoring all Nebraska writers taking part in the Festival.

The Festival is free and open to the public with no pre-registration required except for the luncheon. It will include panel discussions, writing workshops, round table discussions, poetry and prose readings, book sales, and other events for adult readers and writers. These will be held at various locations in downtown Lincoln.

The Lincoln Children's Museum will host a program for children, developed by Erika Hamilton, of the Nebraska Humanities Council, which features storytellers and hands-on writing experiences.

The Festival will close Saturday evening with a reception at the Great Plains Art Museum honoring Professor Paul Johnsgard, author of more than fifty books on birds and the Nebraska ecosystem.

The Nebraska Book Festival is sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Commission, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For more information see www.nebraskabookfestival.org or contact Michael Cartwright, at 1-800-307-2665 or by email: mcartwright@nlc.state.ne.us.

Youth Library Usage Poll Taken

Harris Interactive® conducted the study online within the United States between June 13 and 21, 2007 among 1,262 youth, aged 8 - 18. Young people were asked if they had a library card and when was the last time they visited their local library. 78% responded they had a library card and the same percentage said they had visited their library in the last year. To see more results, go to: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/HarrisYouthPoll.pdf>.



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National Friends of Libraries Week October 19-15,2008

Friends of Libraries groups now have their very own national week of celebration! Use the time to creatively promote your group in the community, to raise awareness, and to promote membership.

Here are some promotion ideas:

- * Assist the Friends in getting the proclamation signed by your city or campus official.
- * Offer a prominent location in the library where the Friends can coordinate a display and/or a membership table during National Friends of Libraries Week.
- * Include information in the library's newsletter.
- * Look for opportunities to promote the Friends on an ongoing basis, including membership, programs, and fundraisers. Consider a bulletin board in a prominent location, brochure holders at the circulation desk, bookmarks distributed by the circulation staff, and other ways to promote the Friends to all patrons.
- * Tell your city or campus officials how important the Friends are to the ongoing success of the library. Use this opportunity to convey to officials how the Friends raise money, promote the library, and volunteer in many ways.
- *If you submit a monthly article or information to the mayor, city council, or college officials, be sure to talk about the contributions of the Friends. Make it personal and quantify the support whenever possible (amount of money donated, number of volunteer hours, number of programs supported and number of people who attended, etc.).
- *Submit an article to a citywide or campus-wide publication. Tell the personal story of a longtime volunteer with the Friends, the impact of Friends support on programs, services, and/or collections, or how the Friends supported the library in another way.
- * Create a large "Thank You" card to post near the display or membership table coordinated by the Friends (if they decide to do this). Ask staff to personalize the card and/or sign their names.
- * Ask staff to write "Love Letters" to Friends that can be posted throughout the library showing their support. Include quotes in the library's newsletter and/or on the library's website. Personal recognition makes volunteers feel appreciated!



The Best Graphic Novels of 2007

Abadzis, Nick. **Laika**. First Second. 2007. 208p. bibliog. Triumph and tragedy co-mingle for the Russian space program and for Earth's first space traveler, the lovable mutt sent around the world in the Sputnik 2 satellite.

Espinosa, Frank (text & illus.) & Marie Taylor (text). **Rocketo. Vol. 2: Journey to the Hidden Sea**. Image Comics. 2007. 212p. A vividly told epic adventure on a post-apocalyptic Earth, starring a disgraced navigator attempting to regain both his dignity and his special powers.

Modan, Rutu. **Exit Wounds**. Drawn & Quarterly. 2007. 172p. In a tragicomic triumph, an unlikely bond develops despite social prejudice, suicide bombers, and families behaving badly.

Mori, Kaoru. **Emma. Vol. 2**. CMX: DC Comics. 2007. 200p. tr. from Japanese by Sheldon Drzka. Beautifully illustrated manga romance between a pretty maid and a rich society gentleman, set in class-conscious late 19th-century England.

O'Malley, Bryan Lee. **Scott Pilgrim Gets It Together**. Oni Pr. 2007. 216p. Fourth volume of this irresistible martial arts romantic comedy, wherein bass-playing slacker Scott battles the seven evil ex-boyfriends of Ramona Flowers, the girl he's fallen for.

Shimoku, Kio. **Genshiken. Vol. 9**. Del Rey. 2007. 208p. Touching final-volume farewell to a group of Japanese college students, as they not only geek out but also deal with real life.

Simone, Gail (text) & Neil Googe (illus.). **Welcome to Tranquility. Vol. 1**. Wildstorm: DC Comics. 2007. 160p. Aging superfolks battle mortality and, unfortunately, each other in this amusing, poignant, and deftly plotted send-up of numerous comics clichés.

Among reissues, **The Complete Terry and the Pirates, Vol. 1** and Jack Kirby's **Fourth World Library Movie Quiz**

Match the actors to the films in which they portrayed librarians:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Renee Russo | A. The Mummy |
| 2. Katherine Hepburn | B. Major League |
| 3. Penelope Ann Miller | C. Joe Versus the Volcano |
| 4. Swoozie Kurtz | D. Shawshank Redemption |
| 5. Tom Hanks | E. Desk Set |
| 6. Rachel Weisz | F. Black Mask, AKA Hak Flap |
| 7. Jet Li | G. The Gun in Betty Lou's Handbag |
| 8. Tim Robbins | H. Party Girl |





DIGITAL TALKING BOOKS: A PROGRESS REPORT

The nationwide talking book program is transitioning away from analog cassette tape to flash memory digital cartridges. Planning for this move goes back a remarkable 17 years, so it is gratifying to announce that Library of Congress has recently signed four contracts related to digital conversion:

- 1) Plextor will produce the digital players.
- 2) LC Industries will produce the mailing containers.
- 3) SI International will develop training strategies for network talking book libraries.
- 4) Northstar Systems will produce the digital cartridges.

Network talking book libraries will be able to purchase mailing containers and blank cartridges from these same producers. Our Nebraska Collection consists mostly of books recorded in our own studios and emphasizes Nebraska authors or books about the Great Plains. Also, Nebraska's Talking Book and Braille Service is one of the nation's largest network producers of volunteer-narrated magazines, with 20 magazines and newsletters of regional interest (143 issues) recorded annually.

Beyond offering our Nebraska books on flash memory cartridges, we wish to continue the ongoing task of selecting titles from a Library of Congress retrospective download site, where network talking book libraries can choose from among 10,000 titles. This first year, our allotment of cartridges from Library of Congress for this purpose was 1854. Next year there will be 8000 more retrospective titles on this site. Library of Congress will again provide us with cartridges, though fewer than this year. To take advantage of the wealth of titles on this site, we need to purchase additional cartridges. We would like to begin circulating our Nebraska magazines on flash memory in order to take advantage of this new medium.

It was reported that the Library of Congress budget for digital conversion was signed into law at \$12.5 million per year for 6 years; however, the budget has not yet passed the Senate and is currently subject to continuing resolution. The final outcome could be a three-year conversion, for which there is considerable support among federal legislators, or a four- year or six-year conversion. Once the federal budget is settled, we expect that new talking books from Library of Congress will arrive at our library on flash memory.

Dave Oertli, Director
Talking Book and Braille Service

Weeding Wiki

The Green Weeding Wiki at <http://greenweeding.pbwiki.com/FrontPage> has suggestions for disposing of (selling, donating, or recycling) weeded books.





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Thoreau Reader

Learn about Henry David Thoreau and his writings at The Thoreau Reader, a comprehensive website featuring online versions of many of his books and lots of links and annotations about his literary works. The website is located at: <http://thoreau.eserver.org/>

Library Newsletter Software

Do you want to create letterhead for your library, or lay out a monthly newsletter or report? Send thank-you cards to donors? Create an invite for your next event?

All these tasks fall under the umbrella of page layout.

What Makes a Good Page Layout?

Page layout involves the arrangement of design items - text, images, colors, lines - to create materials such as newsletters, posters, reports, invitations or more. It's what makes a magazine page, for example - with a story, photograph and caption, headline and other elements such as pull quotes or sidebars - more visually interesting and appealing than just a page of straight text.

Word Processing Applications

If your needs are straightforward - for instance, a text-based poster or a report layout - the package you already use for word processing might work fine. Most libraries already have one of these software packages, like Microsoft Word, OpenOffice.org Writer, or Apple Pages, and they provide more control over layout than you might think.

All three allow control over font style and size, header colors, columns and lines. You can insert images and have some basic control over how the text flows around them. They allow you to export your documents to PDF format - an industry standard for sharing designed documents.

These packages also provide preformatted templates for everything from business letters and stationery to calendars, reports, invitations, newsletters and more. Templates make the design easier by giving you the basic formatting, which you can customize to fit your needs. Despite their relative ease of use, predesigned templates can lack creativity, and the final products can tend to look "canned."

Word-processing software can do a lot, but it's not really designed for complex, highly designed documents. If you find yourself working on layouts that require complex multicolumn layouts or text routing, or a high degree of control over how text and images interact, word processing applications likely won't suffice. In particular, there are a few things word-processing applications simply won't do:

* Bleeds. Many professionally designed layouts have color blocks



or other visual elements that run to the edge of the page, called bleeds. Most word processing programs don't allow this. Every layout must have a white margin all the way around each page.

* Font and word spacing control. Professional layout programs offer a high degree of control over text, with the ability to "squish" words or lines slightly to make them fit, have text flow around images that aren't square and more. Word processors are much more limited in this area.

* Color separations. If you plan on using a professional printer, these applications won't suffice. To ready files for press, offset printers break images down into four separate colors and print each individually. This process is not supported by word processing software.

Specialty Page Layout Software

Unlike word processing applications, layout software treats pages as a series of distinct elements, which lets you format, edit or rearrange them independently of one another. Users have much more control over text and graphical objects. Being able to completely control the final layout rather than just approximating it to the limits of the software leads to a more polished, professional product.

But the complex menus and tools make these packages difficult to learn. In many cases, you'll need a solid foundation in graphic design lingo to understand the terminology they use. You'll almost certainly need to invest in a good book, or you might be able to find a class at a continuing education program nearby. If your organization's needs are ongoing rather than one-off, the initial investment in training is likely to pay off over time.

And, of course, knowing how to use the software is useless without a basic knowledge of graphic design skills - or at least a good eye. A good option is to hire a freelance designer to build a few simple templates for your organization - say, for a regular newsletter or a monthly flyer - and have them train someone on staff in the basic skills needed to update them.

So what packages are available?

Microsoft Publisher

Considered an "entry-level" layout package, Microsoft Publisher bridges the gap between word processing and high-end layout software. Design elements are more manageable than in Word, and there are libraries of templates and predesigned color schemes, eliminating some of the guesswork.

For projects like creating stationery or letterhead, business cards or simple text-based layouts, Publisher is a viable option. Beyond that, however, it falls short. It handles PDF files awkwardly. And the latest version of Publisher supports color separation, but historically, the software has not been well received by printers - file types are unsupported and incompatible with other software. Extracting information like text and images from Publisher files can be difficult or impossible. If you plan to use Publisher, make sure in advance that anyone who needs to edit the file can work with it in Publisher. Publisher retails for \$169, but is only \$7 for nonprofits through TechSoup Stock.

Adobe InDesign

Adobe is a force in the graphic design software marketplace. Its Creative Suite bundles InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator - Photoshop is the photo editing package, while Illustrator is a vector graphic and drawing package useful for logo creation or complex typesetting work, and probably best-suited for use by professionals. InDesign, the layout package, is powerful but complex. It was designed to produce the page layouts required by magazines, newspapers, catalogs and similar printed materials.



If you're familiar with Photoshop or Illustrator, InDesign will feel familiar. However, nearly everyone will require at least a book, and likely a class, to effectively use the complicated feature set.

In addition to the cost of the software, you'll need to consider the hardware on which you'll load it. InDesign is compatible with multiple operating systems, including Mac and Windows, and can run on Linux with a little work. However, it requires a fairly up-to-date computer, with about a gigabyte of RAM at a minimum, and benefits from even more RAM or an advanced video card. InDesign retails for \$699, or is \$60 for nonprofits through TechSoup Stock.

Scribus

Scribus is an open-source page layout application for multiple platforms, including Linux/Unix, MacOS X, OS/2 and Windows. It supports press-ready output and other professional publishing features, such as color separations and PDF creation. What this means, essentially, is that Scribus offers many of the same features as InDesign, but for significantly less money - in fact, it's free.

Scribus is under active development, and improves with each regular release. It's stable, and because of its wide user base, support can be found in online forums. Several large corporations have invested in its development, and it has a large following among fans of community-based open-source software.

Making a Decision

For some libraries, software is not the solution to their graphic design needs - hiring a designer on a per-project basis is.

For others, software is exactly what the doctor ordered. Just like many offices have an accidental techie - someone whose computer skills are better than average who finds themselves either volunteering or drafted for advanced computer-related projects — some offices also have an accidental designer. Make it more official, and invest a little time and money in resources and materials to help that person do a better job.

Maybe the best option is hiring a designer to create a few templates and teach you or someone on staff how to update, customize and maintain them. It's easier than starting from scratch and will produce more polished end results at a more affordable cost.

Figure out what your needs are now and in the future, and hold them up against other factors like budget, staff and timeframe. You'll figure out which is the best solution for your library's's graphic design needs. Whether you choose to purchase dedicated software or learn to bend existing applications to your needs, in the end, your materials will look better — and, by extension, so will your organization.

Choosing a Color Scheme

There are a number of Web sites that can help you choose a color scheme for your designs:

- * kuler.adobe.com
- * www.wellstyled.com/tools/colorscheme2/index-en.html
- * www.colorschemer.com/schemes/
- * www.websitetips.com/colortools/sitepro/

(Taken from "A Few Good Page Layout Tools for Nonprofits" by Chris Bernard, TechSoup, CC license)



CHECK YOUR CALENDAR

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>.

Oct. 18 - **Nebraska Book Festival Luncheon and Awards Ceremony**, UNL Culture Center, Lincoln.

Oct. 30 - **Fall Colloquium - An Evening With Veronica Pitchford** form 5:30pm at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln. For more information contact Kathy Tooker at 1-800-627-7884 or Brenda Ealey at 1-800-288-6063.

Nov. 6 - **Nebraska Library Commission Meeting**, Lincoln at 9:30am.

Nov. 14 - **State Advisory**

Council on Libraries Meeting at the Benson Branch, Omaha Public Library, starting at 9:30am.

Nov. 18 - **Basic Skills: Public Library Administration** class from 10am-3pm at the Norfolk Public Library.

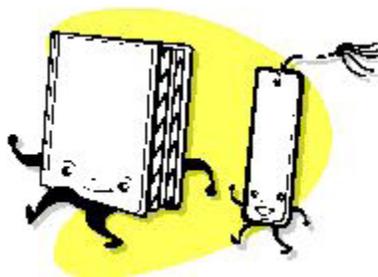
Nov . 19 - **Northeast Library System Board Meeting** at the Central City Public Library.

Nov. 19 - **Library Camp Nebraska** , UNL, Lincoln Union, from 9am-4pm.

Nov 25 - **Basic Skills: Public Library Administration** class from 10am-3pm at the Norfolk Public Library.

Nov 27 - **Thanksgiving** holiday. Office closed.

Dec 2 - **Basic Skills: Public Library Administration** class from 10am-3pm at the Norfolk Public Library.



NEW @ NLS

The Library Security & Safety Guide to Prevention, Planning & Response by Miriam B. Kahn, ALA, 2008.

This new book outlines hands-on plans to:

- *Identify potential security problems
- *Put prevention strategies in place
- *Create guidelines for libraries and staff in case something does happen
- *Minimize risk, whether to building, collections, patrons, staff, or computers.

Case studies, along with 20 checklists and 10 sample policies and forms, are the basis for organizing and evaluating security plans tailored to your library.

Managing Money: A Guide for Librarians by Anne M. Turner, McFarland Publishing, 2007.

Library directors today must create and maintain an intricate and continually challenging budget.

Compiled from firsthand experience, this easy-to-read guide contains information regarding the financial management of libraries. Beginning with creating an operating budget, the work discusses various revenue sources which may be useful. Additional topics include building library facilities, the practical side of auditing, strategies for dealing with a limited budget, and dealing with budget cut requests.





NORTHEAST NEWS

Congratulations to Beth Foulks, library director of **Ponca Public Library** and media specialist at **Ponca Public School**. She is the winner for the NEMA sponsored trip to attend the School Library Journal Leadership Summit in Hollywood, FL, Nov. 14-15. Twenty-eight NEMA members submitted their name for this drawing.

Albion Public Library is celebrating it's 100th anniversary with an Open House on October 19th, from 2-4pm. Mari Hosford, library director, invites everyone to stop by and help them celebrate.

After 17 years of service, Gretchen Healy, library director at **Little Priest Tribal College/Winnebago Public Library** has retired. We will certainly miss you Gretchen. Mary Austin will be the new director. Welcome Mary!

Nichole Lawless is the new director at **Madison Public Library**. Welcome Nichole!

Congratulations to the **Ewing Township Library** and the **Stuart Township Library**. Both libraries recently received an Connectivity Upgrade Grant. In addition to receiving a shiny new computer, the grant covers the cost of Internet access through broadband.

Are you ready for Halloween? If not, stop by the **Lied Randolph Public Library** on October 20th for their "Halloween Spa Afternoon". Activities include dance aerobics to fun Halloween themed music, pumpkin pedicures and pumpkin polish, plus pumpkin sugar cookies, apples with pumpkin dip, pumpkin paraffin wax treatment and even a spider headband.

NEMA is pleased to announce the recipients of this fall's scholarship winners!

Continuous Education Scholarship:
Stacy Ray of Logan View Public Schools

Duane Munson Scholarship:
Audrey Loosvelt of **Madison Public Schools**

Workshop/Conference Scholarship:
Sandra Meyer of **West Holt Public Schools**

It pays to take the time to apply for a NEMA scholarship..... just ask Stacy, Audrey, and Sandra! Congratulations, ladies, on receiving these well-deserved scholarships.

NLS Board 2008-2009

Back row, left to right: Joyce Sullivan, **Elgin Public Library**; Michele Hastreiter, **Humphrey Public Library**; Dee Johnson, **CCC**; Kay Schmid, **Hruska Memorial Public Library**; Kathy Ellerton, System Administrator. Middle Row, Jolene Klein, **Wakefield Community Schools**; Sally Stahlecker, **Norfolk Public Library**; Elaine Tobias, **Pilger Public Library**; Sharon Jones, **Genoa Public Library**; Lynn Manhart, **Central City Public Library**; Kathleen Ageton, **Lutheran High Northeast**; Front Row: Kate Ostenrude, **Neligh Public Library**; Chris Chilcoat, **Stanton Community Schools**; Judy Hagan, **Atkinson Public Library**.





LIBRARY JARGON

One of the first frustrations new trustees encounter is likely to be figuring out what the library director and the more seasoned trustees are talking about. As with all professions, librarianship is wrought with its own special language—language that can be quite confusing to the uninitiated—rife with specialized meanings and acronyms. While the best advice is to simply ask what something means, below is a quick matching game to identify some frequently heard terms spilling from the lips of librarians.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1 Intellectual freedom | a Americans with Disabilities Act |
| 2 CE | b customers |
| 3 WiFi | c older youth |
| 4 ILL | d services offered outside the library |
| 5 CEO | e remove outdated or shabby materials |
| 6 ADA | f children between the ages of 9 and 12 |
| 7 Patrons | g continuing education |
| 8 Stacks | h revenue |
| 9 Tweens | i Online card catalog |
| 10 YA | j Nebraska Library Commission |
| 11 Inventory | k library director |
| 12 Income | l book cases |
| 13 LSTA | m checking out library materials |
| 14 Weed | n wireless fidelity |
| 15 Circulation | o controlled growth of materials |
| 16 NLC | p borrowing items from another library |
| 17 NLA | q Library Services and Technology Act |
| 18 Outreach | r holdings or collection |
| 19 Collection Development | s right of a person to read what s/he wants |
| 20 OPAC | t Nebraska Library Association |

(Taken from T3: Trustee Training Tips, KDLA)



THE REVIEWERS CHAIR

Chancey of the Maury River

By Gigi Amateau

This book is written from the viewpoint of the horse. Very enjoyable story, that makes one aware that horses have feelings and are smarter than most people give them credit. I would recommend this story for any library that has horse lovers as their patrons.

Chancey is an albinio appaloosa who was told by his mother that on the night he was born, a very bright fire star streaking across the sky signifying that he was to do great things. Chancey lived on a farm where Chancey could look at the Blue Mountains. He was living a happy normal life, until one day when the man owner suddenly died and the woman owner had to sell everything. Being Chancey was an albinio, no one wanted him. The farm was sold and Chancey was allowed to stay, only until someone bought him. He suffered through a

hard winter, with no one to feed him or watch out for him. The next spring he is finally sold to Mrs. Maiden, who runs a riding school. Here Chancey has a chance to recover and strive for the greatness his mother had predicted he would obtain. The text being written from Chancey's thoughts, which makes for an interesting read, a different approach to how a horse could really feel and how hard a horse will work to become a part of something worthwhile and prove his love for the ones who show love to him.

-Marilyn Quance, WSC

Tiny Goes Camping

By Cari Meister

This is a fun, VERY easy to read book about a boy and his NOT-so-tiny dog who have a fun backyard camping adventure. The text is extremely easy and the illustrations are simple and colorful.

This is recommended for Pre-K-1st graders who need an easy, fluency building book to read themselves. Good for a public or school library especially.
-Heather Reid, home school parent/teacher, Omaha, NE

Don't Talk to Me about the War

By David A. Adler

Thirteen-year-old Tommy Duncan, who lives with his parents in the Bronx, just wants to listen to his favorite team, the Brooklyn Dodgers on the

radio. It's 1940 and there is a war going on in Europe and his friend Beth only wants to talk about the war. Tommy's world is changing as his mother's health, the war news permeates his life and his friend Sarah has relative caught in the Nazi fight.

While I enjoy reading about this time period this book did not grab my interest. There was no plot or excitement and consisted of a narration of a year in Tommy's life. I can say that there was no subject matter in the story that would be controversial.

Written for 12 and up I really wouldn't recommend that any library order Adler's latest book.
-Pat Thompson, WSC

Alice's Birthday Pig

By Tim Kennemore

This is a chapter book about Alice who cannot say the word animal correctly.

This book is appropriate for grades in middle to upper elementary. It is an interesting chapter book and would be good for teaching about animals or family relationships. The story line of this book would be appealing to children. I do recommend this book as a worthwhile purchase for a children's collection.
-Sharon Kinnan, Oakdale, NE

The Fold

By An Na



Joyce really likes John Kang, the most popular guy in school. So she asks him to sign her yearbook. But he mistakes her for someone else. So when her aunt somehow wins the lottery and offers Joyce to get eye plastic surgery to make herself more noticeable she considers it.

I recommend this book to teens 14 and up!

I enjoyed this book very much. This book was a definite page turner.

-Felicia Keiser, Wayne High School

Margret and Flynn: 1875

By Kathleen Duey

The year is 1875 and Margret and her sister Libby are orphans who have found themselves staying with elderly Mrs. Fredriksen in rural Littleton, Colorado. Over the years they have stayed with many families. Whenever Margret gets close to someone or something, Libby, who trusts no one, has them on the move once again. But Margret does not want to move again. When a tornado moves through the countryside an injured horse shows up at the farm and Margret claims it at hers. She tends to it, bringing it back to health. Naming the horse Flynn she now, more than ever, wants to stay where they are. Can she convince her sister that this is the best place for them?

This book is appropriate for grades 5th through 8th grade.

Though fictional, readers will get a real feel for what it was like to grow up while our country was being developed in the 19th century. You will also attract horse lovers to this and all the "Hoofbeats" series.

I do recommend this book as a worthwhile purchase for a children's collection.

-Diane Limoges, Eastern Township Library

Queen of the Class

By Mary Engelbreit

Queen of the Class is an adorable story of a girl, Ann Estelle, who has a great disappointment. Ann Estelle's class is putting on a play, and Ann Estelle has her heart set on playing the part of Queen. She practices at home and waits for her teacher to announce her name for the role. Unfortunately, her teacher names another student as Queen and gives Ann the part of Stage Manager. With a few questions and without complaining, Ann Estelle works hard at being stage manager and learns that every part is important to the play.

-Samantha Bye, Fort Polk, LA

Time's Memory

By Julius Lester

Amina's West African village is raided by the white slave traders. Her husband and father had been killed. Her father had been "Hogan" or spiritual leader of their tribe. Before her father dies, he breathed his "nyama, or life force" into her. While on board the slave ship carrying

her to another land, she finds out that she is mysteriously pregnant. She hasn't been before the attacks.

The captain of the ship is mourning his wife, who had died. A strange voice asks him to take care of Amina and her baby. He takes her to his home near Charleston, South Carolina.

A full grown man, Ekundayo, which means Sorrow Becomes Joy, is born. This story tells about Ekundayo's journey from Amina to other bodies. The creator god and master of life and death wants Ekundayo to help find resting places for all the spirits of the slaves, who have died in terror and pain.

Thus starts an amazing journey and stories of the people. Claudette Wielechowski, North Platte, NE

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, Fremont, NE

Thirteen Reasons Why

by Jay Asher

In addition to positive reviews from Booklist, Kirkus, SLJ, and Publishers Weekly, I would like to add my praise for this great book. The premise of the story may seem strange; a young girl who has committed suicide sends 7 cassette tapes to a young man who is supposed to listen to them and then pass them on to the next of the thirteen people she has pinpointed as sharing some responsibility for her suicide. But, while the story itself is really different, I found that the characters were remarkably believable.

I believe that young adults will really relate to the characters in this story because they speak and act like real teenagers. The overall message is really positive too--be careful how you treat one another.

Jennie Schneider, O'Neill St. Mary's



FREE BOOKS FOR YOUR LIBRARY

Are you looking for a way to get some FREE books for your library? Wayne State College has a way for you to do this. We receive about 1000 new books a year from children's publishers. WSC library agrees to display these books, agrees to review as many as possible and to publish these reviews. So this is where you come into the picture. We NEED reviewers to help fulfill our obligations to these publishers, by supplying reviews.

How this works is that you sign up to be a reviewer for WSC, during which you specify what type of books you are interested in reviewing, how many books you would like at a time, how often you want books sent to you, and when you want them. We then select titles based on your preferences and mail them to you along with a postage paid return envelope. You read the book, write a review of the book (we can even supply a form or sample review to follow), then return everything back to WSC in the prepaid postage envelope, and the library staff will do the rest.

When we receive the books and reviews back, we put a copy of the review inside the cover of the book, put the review into our electronic database, where it is connected to the title. Then when anyone searches for the titles on the library page, there is a link provided which links to the review.

So why should you help us out? This gives you an opportunity to review new titles, so you can decide if you want to purchase and add to your collection. The biggest bonus is once a year WSC will send you a new book or books (depending on how many reviewers and how many books we have available) of our choice, for you to add to your collection or donate to your local library. We do encourage you to place the free book in a library, not keep for your personal use.

If you are interested in this chance to receive a FREE book or books, you can call 402-375-7474 or 402-375-7732. My email address is: maquanc1@wsc.edu.

Scary Fun Web Sites

The Cryptoid Zoo: A Menagerie of Cryptozoology by Jamie Hall. This site features an encyclopedia of rare or legendary creatures. Found at: www.newanimal.org.

Goosebumps Home, this site features "Goosebump" plot summaries, games and writing activities. Found at: www.scholastic.org/goosebumps.



**Northeast Library System
Board Minutes
September 17, 2008**

The Northeast Board met at the Elgin Public Library on September 17, 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, Jolene Klein, Lynn Manhart, Kathy Ageton, and Kate Osterude. There were no alternates present. System Administrator, Kathy Ellerton, and Administrative Assistant, Shelia Cermak were also present.

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

Correspondence consisted of several thank you notes to Kathy and the system.

Shelia Cermak gave the financial report. The audit review was postponed due to illness. The board will receive the auditor's review at the next meeting. Shelia will e-mail the board for approval of the CD renewal. There was a great deal of discussion having to do with the interest rate the system can expect. The financial report was approved by roll call vote (MS: Hastreiter, Schmid approved).

REPORTS:

Commissioner- Pat Gross N/A

Kathy Ellerton spoke for State Advisory Council- Gretchen Healy Kathy reported for Gretchen who will retire this month. The Council met in Chadron in July. They examined plinket templates for website creation for the state's libraries. This is a simple format that will allow all libraries to have web pages. Richard Miller will be in charge of LTA and accreditation.

Nebraska Library Commission Report- Kathy discussed the next round of Gates computers. These computers will require matching funds and will be far from free.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel – no report

Budget – no report

Continuing Education – no report

Strategic Planning – no report

Continuing Education – no report

Technology Committee - no report

Grant Committee – no report



UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business was reported.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting and Bylaws— the discussion was to eliminate one board meeting per year to save funds. The bylaws will allow this. The discussion was to have the May meeting coincide with the Annual Meeting. Eliminate one meeting per year (MS:Manhart/Chilcoat) Passed with one dissent. Annual meeting combined with one of our regular meetings (MS: Chilcoat/Hastreiter) passed. Annual Meeting to be combined with the May system's meeting (MS: Klein/Ageton) Defeated. The Annual Board meeting will be combined with the September board meeting beginning with the 2008-2009 year. Passed. Kathy reminded us that she would not be here next September. President, Sharon Jones appointed a committee to amend the bylaws to reflect the change in the annual meeting. Judy Hagen, Michele Hastreiter, and Kay Schmid will report to the board on recommended changes to the bylaws.

The board photo was taken outside the Elgin Public Library.

There were no 'Pat-on-the-back' awards given.

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

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Ostenrude

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"The sweet calm sunshine of October, now
Warms the low spot; upon its grassy mold
The purple oak-leaf falls; the birchen bough
drops its bright spoil like arrow-heads of gold."
~~William Cullen Bryant

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



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