

February/March 2005



PLS Coordinator's Message

"Who Are You?" pulses in the background of the television show "CSI." The same question seems to apply to those working in libraries. We hear about library school directors debating the relevance of coursework for MLS students. Should they be turning out technology specialists or humanists? Library directors compare the merits of quick and confidential self-checkout systems against the personal interaction with patrons. Nancy Pearl's shushing librarian action figure makes fun of a bygone era of library silence, while others yearn for a refuge from the bustle of the world. Tech savvy patrons applaud us for the remote access that means they never have to leave their homes or offices, at the same time that monumental library buildings are being constructed. Letters to library journals reflect the tensions between older and younger staff, whose differences are deeper than age, and who both want to be respected for their approach to library work. During the planning process we are told to ask communities what they want us to be. Can we possibly please everyone? What DO they want? And does it look anything like what we thought we wanted to do when we chose a library career?

Here are excerpts from what people across the country wrote in the 1500 nominations for a Library Award sponsored by the New York Times. "The library is the center of our cultural, musical, artistic, and community life"; "a place that expands my world"; "enables me to have an intellectual and imaginative life"; "a place to find my passion"; "the cultural hub of the city that responds to the needs of the community while nourishing the human spirit"; "a place for reading and recommendations, listening, viewing, research, learning, technology"; "a place to get knowledge in context, not just data"; "schools teach children to learn to read; the library teaches them to read to learn"; "(the librarian) shares a wealth of knowledge, makes the library a welcoming place for people of all levels and needs, is an unofficial mentor, a powerbroker to the disenfranchised."

Feel better?

Cherie Longmuir

Information from "What Users Want" by Francine Fialkoff. Library Journal, Dec.2004.

PLS UPCOMING EVENTS

February 18, 2005 College of DuPage "Library Marketing"

Panhandle Sites: Chadron State College, ESU 13
Scottsbluff, WNCC-Sidney

Time: 10:00 a.m. to Noon (MT)

PLS will tape

Register with the PLS office.

February 23, 2005 NLA Legislative Day

See flyer in this newsletter or go to

www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/repUBLICan/LegDay05.pdf

March 11, 2005 College of DuPage

"Reference Tools..."

Panhandle Sites: Chadron State College, ESU 13
Scottsbluff, WNCC-Sidney; 10 a.m. -noon (MT)

PLS will tape

Register with the System office.

March 15, 2005 PLS Board Meeting

Location: Bluffs Business Center, Lower level
conference room.

Time: 10:00 a.m.

March 16, 2005 PLS – Summer Reading Workshop

Presenter: Patti Sinclair

Location: Scottsbluff Public Library, 1809 3rd Avenue

Time: 9:30-12:30; 1:30 to 3p.m.

Lunch on your own.

Register by March 10, 2005 with the System office.

See flyer

March 18, 2005 College of DuPage

"Library Transformation"

Panhandle sites: Chadron State College, ESU 13-
Scottsbluff, WNCC-Sidney

Time: 10 a.m. to Noon (MT)

PLS will tape

Register with the System office.

March 29, 2005 PLS Library Safety and Security Workshop

Presenter: Cherie Longmuir

Location: Gering Public Library, 1055 P Street, Gering
Time: 10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Lunch on your
own.

Register by March 21, 2005 with the System office –
see flyer.

March 29, 2005 PLS Job-A-Like

Location: Bluffs Business Center, Main floor
conference room

Time: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

"My Antonia" book discussion.

Cost: \$ 6.00

Register by March 19, 2005 with the System office.

April 10 – 16, 2005 National Library Week

See www.ala.org for more info.

April 7, 2005 Academic Integrity Copyright

Training. ESU 13, Scottsbluff. 9:00-noon. **Register by
March 24** with Sandy White: 308-254-4677;
swhite@panesu.org

April 20, 27 and May 4, 2005 Basic Skills: Public Services Classes

Location: Scottsbluff Public Library

Time: 10 a.m. to Noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Lunch on your
own.

Register with Jacque Crocker at Nebraska Library
Commission, 800-307-2665, jcrocker@nlc.state.ne.us

April 29, 2005 College of DuPage

"Library Hot Topics"

Panhandle sites: Chadron State College, ESU 13
Scottsbluff, WNCC-Sidney

Time: 10 a.m. to Noon (MT)

PLS will tape

Register with the System office.

INSIDE OUR LIBRARIES

Elaine Lake and **Bernie Littlejohn** began working at the “new” **Garden County Elementary School** (formerly Oshkosh Grade School) on Sept. 1. After familiarizing themselves with the collection, they started the Follett automation process. They asked for parent volunteers to come over on a weekend to put barcodes on the books. Bernie and Elaine used Alliance Plus to enter books into the computer. Working between classes a few hours a day, they finished by Dec. 15. It was fun “beeping” out that first book, and the children are excited about the new system. They are now working on Lewellen Jr. High and hope to finish by May 1.

During Christmas vacation, **Chris Plantz** and her staff at **Rushville PL** held a craft day. Seventeen children showed up to do a variety of fun projects. Because of a busy after-school program, kids are used to looking to the library to fill their spare time. Chris said her town of 1000 checked out 9000 books last year. There is no fine for overdue materials, but the “donation” jar on the counter can be used to ease guilty consciences and support special activities. Another idea she has is putting a library brochure at tourist locations so they know they can stop in and check their e-mail, and maybe buy a used book for the road. Chris is looking forward to applying for accreditation next year.

The Smartest Card. Get it. Use it.

@ your library®

Sioux County PL has added a new computer at the front of the library. But

walk to the back and the “C” word is comfort. A beautiful thick rug between overstuffed chairs, an inlaid table, tall shaded lamp, antique oak cabinets – it just puts you in the mood to relax and read. All of this, plus the original local art on the walls, is on loan from local library supporters. A generously stocked shelf full of new books sits beneath large southern exposure windows that let in cozy warmth on a cold winter afternoon. Library director **Vickie Dunn** doesn’t spend all her time inside, though. Last July, when her summer reading kids exceeded their reading goal, she delighted them by dyeing her hair purple for the local parade.



Jan Varn, Gordon HS, and Ruby Tiensvold, Rushville HS, are taking a proactive approach to the impending consolidation of their two schools. No matter how or when the changes are made, they know that school administrators won’t have time to consider the impact of a move on the two elementary and two 7-12 school libraries involved. So they are meeting together to talk about AR records, database contracts, automation systems, and collection shifting. They will present their list of concerns to administrators so that they can be involved in making decisions that will be least disruptive to both schools.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Corrections: the list of future “classics” in the last newsletter contained errors. The Tenth Good Thing about Barney is

Written by Judith Viorst; Zazoo is written by Richard Mosher; Owl in Love (not Owl) is by Patrice Kindl. Also, in the list of “Changes,” at Gering PL, Sandy Strey was promoted to the position of Public Services librarian.

For patrons interested in **genealogy** research, direct them to this site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~negenweb/index.html>. Click on the Resource Center button to find a Basic Helps section to assist researchers in getting started.

Also, the **West Nebraska Family Research and History Center**, located at 16th Street and Ave.A in Scottsbluff is a new library with staff ready to provide assistance to people tracing their family lineage in this area.

The Advisory Committee of the Nebraska Library Commission **Talking Book and Braille Service** is seeking to fill two vacancies. The purpose of the committee is to represent the needs of talking book borrowers and to make recommendations concerning policies, services, and programs. Members may include TBBS users, educators, health care providers, or other individuals who understand the needs of individuals with disabilities. The committee meets twice a year. Deadline to apply is March 1. For more information, call 800-742-7691 or email: talkingbook@nlc.state.ne.us.

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Information about the 2005 NLA/NEMA conference: <http://www.nla-nema2005.info/>



The winner of the 2005 **Caldecott Medal** is Kitten's First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes. Honor books are The Red Book by Barbara Lehman, Coming on Home Soon by E.B. Lewis and Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems. The **Newbery Medal** was awarded to Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata. Honor books were Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko, The Voice That Challenged a Nation by Russell Freedman, and Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary Schmidt.

A new **Follett** regional rep has been assigned to our area. Stan Winters is located in central Washington and will try occasionally to visit our area. He can answer questions to help you make decisions about software, the conversion process, etc., drawing on his background in libraries. You can reach him at 800-323-3397 ext.7937 or at swinters@fsc.follett.com.

By the way, Follett is buying surplus used textbooks. You receive credit to purchase Follett products and clean out your textbook storeroom at the same time. For details, call 800-621-4272, option 2, promotion code 1290436.

The genealogy database **HeritageQuest Online** has been added to the Nebraskaccess database on a trial basis until June 30th. Continuation of the program depends on amount of use and available funding.

BITS AND PIECES

Goodall City Library has made some **policy changes** that it hopes will make the library more patron friendly. There will be no more daily fines, though if a patron keeps an item 30 days overdue, a bill will be sent for the cost of the item, and borrowing privileges suspended until the item is returned or paid for. The regular check-out period will be 3 weeks for books and magazines, and 7 days for videos. The total number of items a patron may have is 20, including a limit of 5 videos.

Staff changes: The new youth services librarian at Goodall City Library is **Suzi Ruhlman**. **Echoe Shriver** will be leaving her position at Potter PL in March with the arrival of a new baby and her husband's transfer to Cheyenne. **Jude Walker** and **LaVern Allbaugh** have retired from Scottsbluff PL. **Sue Murphy** has joined the staff in Alliance.

If your Library Board needs a form to use for **evaluating the library director**, the PLS office has a variety of samples on file.

If you have **Reader's Digest Condensed** books in good condition (undamaged spine) that you would like to discard, an organization in Florida is collecting them and using the covers to create personal books. They pay 50 cents per book, plus shipping. For details, call the PLS office for information.

A free **reader's advisory** tool similar to Novelist is **Gnooks**: <http://gnooks.com>. It recommends new authors based on your current favorites.

The **Library Technology Assistant** (LTA) community college program is growing rapidly. The courses are primarily online, with each school across the state taking responsibility for developing one area. As of January, there were 3 courses being offered. Students include school and public library workers. The cost is reasonable, plus the Nebraska Library Commission is offering scholarships for ½ the cost of tuition. Contact Pam Scott, continuing education coordinator at the Commission for more information: 800-307-2665.

Alliance PL is cleaning its store room, and has **books to give away**. These are current, in good condition, primarily adult fiction in hard cover and paperback. There are also some children's videos and adult audio books.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, 6th in the series by J.K Rowling, is scheduled to be released on July 16, 2005. Published by Scholastic, the price will be \$29.99. When Order of the Phoenix was released in June of 2003, it was the fastest selling book in history on the first week of its publication.

The U.S. **Government Printing Office** (GPO) is responsible for the production and distribution of information products for all three branches of the federal government. More than 250,000 titles are available to the public via the Internet at www.gpoaccess.gov. Printed copies of everything from Supreme Court opinions to reports from the Bureau of Labor Statistics may be ordered at www.gpo.gov or by calling 1-866-512-1800.

February begins the year of the rooster.

Time to do some crowing!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Here are details about upcoming opportunities to learn and earn credits. On Wednesday, March 16, the theme will be “Dragons, Dreams, and Daring Deeds,” as we get ready for the **summer reading program**. Patti Sinclair, the editor of the summer reading manual, will join Sally Snyder, NLC youth coordinator, to present ideas, crafts, and books. In the afternoon, librarians will share plans for their own programs. Bring an idea to show and tell so that we can get each other pumped up for the summer program. Patterns and a die-cut machine will be available. BYO paper.

On Tuesday, March 29 (note date change) we will review issues that could be included in **policies and procedures** relating to **emergencies and safety**. This is a new requirement in the revised Public Library Accreditation Guidelines. Tips and techniques for writing policies will be covered.

On Thursday, April 7, Phyllis Brunken, Nebraska educator and **copyright** authority, will work with school library media specialists, administrators, and other staff, to understand how to deal with the problem of students using research materials inappropriately. She will help us work together to develop policies and alternative learning experiences that discourage **plagiarism**.

We are also working on plans for a 2-hour **computer/media workshop** that afternoon. Watch for details coming soon.



ONE BOOK ONE STATE

Citizens across the state will become a community of readers when they join “Nebraska Reads **My Antonia**.” Libraries are encouraged to promote the activities associated with this state-wide program. Copies of the novel may be purchased at a discount from the University of Nebraska Press. The Willa Cather Pioneer Foundation is celebrating its 50th year, and The Center at Red Cloud will host Cather scholars and student writers at an April 29-30 event. Additional information can be found at: www.willacather.org

LIBRARY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Remember that **state law 51-213** has been changed and now reads as follows: “The library board shall, on or before the **second Monday in February** in each year, make a report to the city council or village board or to the county or township board on the condition of its trust on the last day of the prior fiscal year. The report shall show all money received and credited or expended; the number of materials held, including books, video and audio materials, software programs, and materials in other formats; the number of periodical subscriptions on record including newspapers; the number of materials added and the number withdrawn from the collection during the year; the number of materials circulated during the year; and other statistics, information, and suggestions as the library board may deem of general interest or as the city council or village, county, or township board may require. The report shall be verified by affidavit of the proper officers of the board.”



POLICY PATROL

Library policy manuals generally include some of the basic principles on which libraries are founded. Documents produced by the American Library Association include The Library Bill of Rights, The Freedom to Read Statement, and the Code of Ethics. Occasionally reading these documents reminds us why we do what we do.

American Library Association Code of Ethics

As members of the American Library Association, we recognize the importance of codifying and making known to the profession and to the general public the ethical principles that guide the work of librarians, and other professionals providing information services, library trustees and library staffs.

Ethical dilemmas occur when values are in conflict. The ALA Code of Ethics states the values to which we are committed, and embodies the ethical responsibilities of the profession in this changing information environment.

We significantly influence or control the selection, organization, preservation, and dissemination of information. In a political system grounded in an informed citizenry we are members of a profession explicitly committed to intellectual freedom and the freedom of access to information. We have a special obligation to ensure the free flow of information and ideas to present and future generations.

The principles of this Code are expressed in broad statements to guide ethical decision making. These statements provide a framework; they cannot and do not dictate conduct to cover particular situations.

I. We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.

II. We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources.

III. We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.

IV. We recognize and respect intellectual property rights.

V. We treat co-workers and other colleagues with respect, fairness and good faith, and advocate conditions of employment that safeguard the rights and welfare of all employees of our institutions.

VI. We do not advance private interests at the expense of library users, colleagues, or our employing institutions.

VII. We distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties and do not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions or the provision of access to their information resources.

VIII. We strive for excellence in the profession by maintaining and enhancing our own knowledge and skills, by encouraging the professional development of co-workers, and by fostering the aspirations of potential members of the profession.



Bulletin Board Ideas

Thanks to the members who shared their creative ideas to give the rest of us some inspiration!

Fantasy theme: "Catch a Dragon by the Tail"; "Find Your Fantasy...Read"; "Books are Magic" – all from Jan Vern at Gordon Schools.

Winter: "Chill Out and Read"; "There's Snow Better Time to Read"; "Winter is for the Birds" – all from Barb Brandt, Ogallala Middle School.

Movie Tie In: "Movies Straight from your Library Books to the Big Screen" – from Allison McBride, Alliance High School.

Winter: "Snow is Falling, Books are Calling" – from Beth Trupp, Gering PL.

Winter: "Books are SNOW Much Fun" – Deb Carlson, Scottsbluff PL

Winter: "Warm Up With a Great Book"; "A Blizzard of Good Books" – from Vickie Retzlaff and Peg Finegan, Grant County PL.

And a clever idea for a learning display: a poster of Arthur (Marc Brown) and his family, and copies of an Arthur book title page, spine, copyright page, etc., with paper arrows labeled "title page," "author," etc. The students take the arrows out of a pocket on the bulletin board and attach them next to the correct item. From Bernie Littlejohn and Elaine Lake at Garden County Elem. School.

More Winter Warmups

Here are some books to use with those snowy bulletin boards:

Flannel Kisses – Brennan; The Biggest, Best Snowman – Cuyler; Snowballs – Ehlert; Six Snowy Sheep – Enderle; Snow Day – Fain; When It Starts to Snow – Gershator; When Will it Snow? – Hiscock; The Winter Day – Komoda; Snip, Snip...Snow! – Poydar; Snow – Shulevitz; Millions of Snowflakes – Siddals; The Jacket I wear in the Snow – Neitzel; Sadie and the Snowman – Morgan; The Snowy Day – Keats; Sledding – Winthrop; Katie and the Big Snow – Burton; Ice Cream is Falling – Watanabe.

Fun Facts for February

An unusual source for a variety of information is the U.S. Census Bureau, which contained these Valentine treats: www.census.gov (facts for features).

Romantic Places: Valentine, Nebraska; Lovelady, Texas; Romeoville, Illinois.

Marriages: 2.2 million per year; 6000 per day.

Candy Stores in the USA: 3,782

Per Capita Consumption of Candy by Americans: 24.6 pounds

Roses: The wholesale value of cut roses in 2003 was \$52 million.

Jewelry: In February, 2004, jewelry stores sold \$2.4 billion worth of merchandise.



ESPECIALLY FOR SCHOOLS

Trina Schart Hyman, award-winning author and illustrator of books such as St. George and the Dragon (1984) and Merlin and the Making of the King (2004), has died at age 65.

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) has sent a brochure entitled “**Your School Library Media Program and No Child Left Behind**,” to middle and elementary school principals. It explains the importance of school library media specialists in meeting the requirements of NCLB. You can download a copy from this site: www.ala.org/ala/aaslbucket/aaslncblb-brochure.htm.

Author Pete Hautman won the **National Book Award** for his young adult novel Godless. It is about a teenage boy who invents his own religion. If you are interested in other award-winning books for youth, including all of the state book awards (similar to our Golden Sower), go to: <http://www.cynthialeitichsmith.com/newreadingd.htm>.

Here’s a resource to pass along to your **social studies** teachers: (soc_stud) www.pbs.org/teachersource/soc_stud.htm. It contains lessons based on PBS programs such as “The American Experience,” that can be used with or without the video. Each includes a link to state standards. Select a grade level and topic and click “go.” More exemplary lesson plans from the U.S. Dept. of Educ: www.thegateway.org/browse.

Are you thinking of transferring your school’s videos to DVD format? According to Carrie Russell, the American Library Assn.’s copyright specialist, this probably does not meet the fair use guidelines. When you encounter sticky copyright questions, you may want to borrow the new book **Complete Copyright** from the PLS office.

Here is a site that provides direct links to federal, state, and private **grants** available to schools and school districts, plus grant-writing suggestions: www.schoolgrants.org.

A group of students in New Jersey along with their librarian are trying to get a new word added to the Oxford English Dictionary: **cybliography**. It refers to citations for digitized documents and Internet sources used in a report.

An alternative to a full-service and full-price computer for students who are learning keyboarding and word processing, but don’t need the Internet, is the **AlphaSmart Neo**. It costs \$250, and is completely portable – no power required: www.alphasmart.com.

The Educational **Software Preview Guide** is a free list of favorably reviewed software for K-12, compiled by representatives of computer education organizations across the country. Entries include a brief description, grade level, publisher info., and can be searched by several criteria: <http://www-ed.fnal.gov/espq/>

Book Reviews

Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan: ISBN – 0439296919 – 216 pages. Gr.5 up.

“Koly, you are thirteen and ...it's time for you to have a husband.” I kept coming back to this first sentence because this book takes place in modern-day India. Koly endures being sold for marriage because her parents are too poor to care for her. She endures being a hated daughter-in-law with horrendous daily ridicule. And she finally lives to enjoy praise for her artistic talent from someone who loves her. This would be a great book to illustrate how horrible the living conditions of the Tsunami victims were before the Tsunami. It might open up some great discussions of how the people of India and Asia are surviving now. Homeless Bird is written in a calm, flowing manner and could be enjoyed by anyone. Review by Elaine Lake, Garden County Elementary, Oshkosh.

The Wedding by Nicholas Sparks: ISBN – 0446693332 – 304 pages. Adult.

I read this book over Christmas vacation. It is an easy read – the sequel to The Notebook. It is a romance novel with a twist. It continues Noah and Allie's saga, told from the point of view of their oldest daughter's 50-something husband who is trying to rekindle a love he fears is lost. It is about forgotten anniversaries, regrets, and efforts to overcome subtle indifferences which have built up over years of marriage. There are many transformations taking place simultaneously: physically (the old home place and garden); emotionally (between Noah and his grown children, and between Wilson and his wife); spiritually (as Wilson rejects his atheistic upbringing). It sounds like a book only for those stuck in a middle-aged rut, but I think everyone can find something hopeful and endearing in its pages. Review by Carla Foland, Bayard Elem. School, Bayard.

The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place by e.l. konigsburg: ISBN – 0689866364. Gr.6-9.

Margaret Rose Kane is a 12-year-old with eccentric great uncles. She had hoped to stay with them during the summer while her parents were in Peru. But when she finds out that is not an option, Margaret decides to go to a summer camp. The events that take place in camp with an overbearing camp director and prankster cabin mates, result in a humorous rescue by her uncles. Now there is no choice but to stay with them for the rest of the summer. Her uncles have spent over forty years building 3 towers in their backyard. The towers have no monetary value, but have great personal meaning for the family and their friends. With the redevelopment in the neighborhood, the Home Owners Association now considers the towers eyesores. Margaret finds out by accident that the towers are to be destroyed and her uncles have gone as far as they can to save them. Margaret needs to come up with a plan to save the towers without involving her uncles. The plan, the antics, and the people add to the humor of this novel. It is one of the 2005-6 Golden Sower Nominees for gr. 6-9. Reviewed by Laurie Bauer, Bayard Jr/Sr High School.

Quote from the book Why Read? by Mark Edmundson: “Through reading and studying great books, students have a chance to learn how to make a difference in the world – rather than just learning how to make a living.

SPEAKING OF LIBRARIES...

A quote from an interview with author Mark Salzman, in Public Libraries, Nov/Dec 2004: "From very early on, when I first got interested in Chinese philosophy, martial arts, culture, and art, there weren't any classes in my junior high school certainly, and we didn't have any books at home about it. And what my dad would do...every day, on his way home from work, he would stop at our local library and he would just find stuff, anything about China, that he could. So from the start, having access to books that there was just no way I would ever get ahold of, libraries have played a huge role in giving me the opportunity to find out about things. For each book I write, I do all my research at libraries. I really love having whole books to work with, to be able to pore over them. I prefer that to reading off a screen."

And from Jerry Kline, CEO of Innovative Interfaces, Inc., in speaking about the importance of library as "place": "We'll never out-Google Google, or out-Amazon Amazon, although we can learn from both. But neither can these companies ever be part of the community like the library is. That's how we compete. By doing what we've always done, just better." Library Journal, Sept. 1, 2004, p.39.

Paralibrarian Stacy Smith of Colorado writes: Recently I went to pick up a pizza at a local restaurant and was waited on by a young man of high school age. As he rang up my charge, he smiled and said, "I remember you. You're the library lady! You used to come to my elementary school way back when I was little. I came to the library a lot after that." American Libraries, Jan.2005, p.57.



NEW RESOURCES

These items have recently been added to the Panhandle Library System collection. Call or e-mail the office if you would like to borrow them. Remember that we have video tapes of all College of DuPage sessions, also, which are very good "at home"classes.

What Do I Read Next? A Reader's Guide to Current Genre Fiction. Gale, 2003.

Funding Sources for K-12 Education. Oryx Press, 2003.

Teaching the Internet in Libraries. Rachel Singer Gordon. ALA, 2001.

These new items may be borrowed from the Nebraska Library Commission:

Call **800-307-2665**

The Essential Friends of Libraries: Fast Facts, Forms, Tips – Z681.7 .U5 D65 2005

The Library Compensation Handbook – Z682.3 .B35 2003

One Person Puppetry: 38 Folktale Scripts – PN1980 .F74 2005

The Concise AACR2. 4th Edition. – Z694. 15 .A56 G67 2004

LOOKING FOR A TAX DEDUCTION?

A donation to the Louise Nixon Scholarship Fund, which Nebraskans working on library degrees, if made between January 1 and March 31, will give the donor more than a tax deduction. You'll be entered into a drawing to receive two tickets to the Berkshire Hathaway Annual Meeting on April 30th, 2005. Each \$5 gets you one chance. In addition to seeing Warren Buffett, guests typically are treated to special receptions and tours. Make your check payable to **NLA-Nixon Fund**, and mail it to:

Maggie Harding, NLA Executive Director Louise Nixon Scholarship Fund

P.O. Box 98, Crete, NE 68333-0098.

PRIME TIME FOR FAMILIES AT THE LIBRARY

The name tags read Angel, Soledad, Isaiah, Alexis, Cyrus, Malachai, Landon, Kaleb, Ruby – and many more. Moms and dads with 3 or 4 youngsters trooped into the crowded noisy meeting room at Scottsbluff Public Library. They were following the smell of homemade tostados and rice, prepared by volunteer Rita Brown and her son Joel, paid for in part by a \$100 gift from the local Kiwanis group. Dessert was provided by Taco John's. Servers were Library Board members, plus other volunteers and staff. At least 50 were in attendance for the Prime Time reading program on this chilly November evening (the last event in December attracted over 90, with enough donated Kentucky Fried Chicken for everyone). After sharing a meal together – certainly one of the important parts of the night – Bev Russell welcomed returning and new participants, and turned the show over to Nancy Escamilla and storyteller Maureen Roller. Deb Carlson and a crew of teen volunteers took the “age 4 and under” group to another room for stories and crafts. Those 5 and older sat on the floor or stayed at tables, while the adults moved in behind them. Carlos, a father from the audience, volunteered to read the Spanish text of a folktale in tandem with Maureen's animated rendering of the English words. Although the story was twice its normal length with two readers, the children never stirred, seemingly fascinated by the juxtaposition of the two languages, and the events spilling from the pages. Afterwards, Nancy queried the audience about the tale. After a few basic questions about the lamb and the coyote, things got a bit more serious with speculation about how it feels to be tricked – do good people always get rewarded?

The good people attending this program did get rewarded. They received a packet with books to take home each week, which allowed the experience of this night to continue – in English or Spanish or both. They spent an evening together as a family – with other families, laughing, talking, sharing food, and enjoying stories. They got to express some ideas and feelings. They found out that English and Spanish are both legitimate and beautiful (and very similar). They had fun with books.

The Prime Time program is sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council. It targets at-risk readers, identified through the schools and social service agencies. But the energy and enthusiasm have to come from a very committed library staff. The staff at Scottsbluff Public Library put a huge amount of time into planning and organizing the meals and activities – and just being there to participate in every aspect. The relationships they built with the community are invaluable. Local businesses contributed \$8000 to fund the program. And judging by the number of participants, the library clearly identified a need and found a way to meet it. The final tally was 25 unique families, all of whom have obtained library cards and become regulars at other library activities. The hugs and smiles are just a bonus.

Prime Time has been offered in several libraries across Nebraska, with Scottsbluff PL providing the first program in the Panhandle Library System. If you are interested in this program for your community, contact Peter Beeson at the Nebraska Humanities Council.

PANHANDLE LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD MINUTES

November 9, 2004

Bluff's Business Center Conference Room, Scottsbluff.

The Board of the Panhandle Library System met November 9, 2004 at the Bluff's Business Center in the upper level conference room. President Maryruth Reed called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present : Maryruth Reed, Dena Crews, Ruth Walker, Jill Ellis, Carolyn Brown, Lillian Diedrichson, Diane Downer, Allison McBride, Vickie Retzlaff, Kathy Terrell, Cherie Longmuir, Debbie McCall, Sharon Ulbrich, Bev Russell, and Pam Scott.

The agenda was amended to add correspondence. The minutes were approved as written.

The round table reports were given by Maryruth, Carolyn, Vickie, Diane, and Dena.

Maryruth reported that in her statistical report she had discarded more books than she had purchased. Carolyn reported that she has signage to direct people to the library from the highways. Vickie reported that her fund raiser was a great success. There have been 20 participants in her story hours. Diane reported that Gering is working on a teen space. They have a grant and a teen advisory board to help with the teen space. Dena reported that last Monday was her first day in her new position at Alliance. She said she had been placed in a good situation.

Bev Russell reported on the MPLA Pre-Conference. Highlights: The most important part of a library is that it exists. There are library users and library supporters, and they aren't always the same. Users need to become active supporters. To market a library you need to repeat yourself to get your point across. Influence decision makers and build from the bottom up. Literacy statistics are on health web sites.

Cherie presented her report. She will be sending a poster to all system members. There will be computer classes coming up. Cherie has been very busy visiting, training, attending meetings, consulting, doing promotions and many other activities.

The new auditor has completed the audit and it was presented at the meeting.

Cherie is still checking on the board insurance to see what is needed and what is covered under the policy. The cost is \$800.00 per year for officers insurance.

The annual meeting committee reported that they are looking into having a program from the North Platte Valley Museum to be held at ESU # 13 on July 22, 2005.

The continuing education committee reported that they recommended programs on library safety, cleaning VCRs and other equipment, as well as book reviews and a member helplist.

The adult author tour had a poor turnout, although the programs were excellent. The committee is trying to come up with other program ideas for adults in the community.

Pam Scott gave the Nebraska Library Commission report. There will be an online class on customer service and how to deal with difficult customers. There was a great turnout for the Gates-like training. There will be more grant funds for computer support. Statistical reports are due at the end of January. There are three library courses in the Library Technical Assistant program. There are scholarships available for these classes that would pay for half of the cost of the course. The Trustee survey has been mailed out.

There was a report from several members on the NLA/NEMA Conference. Pat Gross won the Sound-Off Award. There were lots of interesting things that were learned at the conference and it was very worthwhile for those who attended. The pre-conference was very impressive.

Upcoming events include a strategic planning workshop for public librarians. The next PLS Board meeting will be January 11, 2005.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Ruth Walker

Secretary

Baright Public Library—Dee Huff
555 So. 77th Street
Ralston, NE 68127



Where's the Dragon?
Illustrated by **Richard Hook**
Written by **Jason Hook**

This book is both beautiful to look at and to read. The pages are filled with embossed pages and shiny laminations. The images pop out at you as you go on a dragon hunt with Mr. Jones and his grandson George. Mr. Jones loves dragons and it shows in the stories he tells and the woodcarvings he makes. Unfortunately, Mr. Jones has never actually seen a dragon. Mr. Jones and his grandson George decide to search for a real live dragon. They take you along in their adventure and you can use your sense of sight or touch to make the many dragons in the pictures come alive. Most important in your search is that you believe that you are going to find a real fire-breathing dragon. This wonderful story can be shared with children of all ages, as it is a lovely story and an equally lovely visual.

This is an example of clipart from the 2005 *Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds* manual.



HeritageQuest Online

Available In NebraskAccess



The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to announce that the genealogy database HeritageQuest Online is being added to the statewide NebraskAccess program through June 30, 2005. If response to HeritageQuest Online is positive and funding remains available, our intention is to continue providing statewide access to it during FY 2005/2006 and beyond.

- Nebraska Libraries can look forward to having access to HeritageQuest Online beginning February 1, 2005.
- During the month of January, Nebraska Library Commission Network Services staff will be working with ProQuest to set up access to HeritageQuest Online for all Nebraska libraries. They will also be working to integrate HeritageQuest Online into the NebraskAccess web site. Remote access to HeritageQuest Online will also be available at this time.
- Passwords will be emailed in late January to the database contacts of libraries registered for NebraskAccess resources.
- HeritageQuest Online contains a unique, growing collection of resource materials for tracing family history and American culture. It combines digital, searchable images of U.S. federal census records with the digitized version of the popular UMI® Genealogy and Local History collection. This online database is an essential collection of unique material for both genealogy hobbyists and professionals.

For more information on how to join the NebraskAccess4Lib mailing list visit:
www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox/maillinglist.html

NebraskAccess



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Dena Crews, President
Ruth Walker, Secretary
Jill Ellis, Treasurer
Carolyn Brown
Lillian Diedrichsen
Diane Downer
Allison McBride
Vickie Retzlaff
Kathy Terrell

Serving libraries in these counties:

Arthur, Banner, Box Butte,
Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel,
Garden, Grant, Keith,
Kimball, Morrill, Scotts
Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux
Counties

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Panhandle SUN is published 6 times a year by the Panhandle Library System. This publication was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the state of Nebraska through the Nebraska Library Commission.

February / March 2005