

# Republican Valley Library System



# VALLEYTALK

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Featured Librarian: **Linda Baxter, Media Specialist**  
**Sandy Creek Public Schools**



When one thinks about Sandy Creek Public Schools, the word “merge” comes immediately to mind. Twenty years ago, the schools from Glenvil, Fairfield, and Edgar merged to become Sandy Creek Public Schools with a central high school and an elementary school in each town. Then in 1995, a new elementary was built at the high school site which is along Highway 14 south of Clay Center. Since each of the schools had a library, **Linda Baxter**, who worked for 12 years as an aide in Glenvil and kept taking classes until she had her media endorsement from Kearney State (UNK), worked to combine the three libraries into one lovely media center. She said they had 300 boxes of books and worked six months with extensive weeding to create the new media center. Relative calm reigned for more than 4 years, but then the schools from Nelson and Lawrence decided to unify with Sandy Creek. Since Mary Steele was the Media Specialist at Lawrence and had more seniority, Linda taught a

4<sup>th</sup> grade class for 4 years. Mary retired so Linda is back as the media specialist, but now her week is one day in Nelson, one day in Lawrence and 3 days in Sandy Creek. All of these are K-12 schools. Nelson and Lawrence have two more years in the unification and then they will decide whether to merge, dissolve or change their status in some way...and Clay Center is now a part of the mix. Clay Center voted to become part of the Sandy Creek system in another year. What all this means for Linda and the Media Center remains to be seen. Linda radiates calm when thinking about all these changes. She has helped move every library except for Lawrence and has touched every book for one reason or another so thinking about adding another library or school is just standard operating procedure. She said “Thank goodness for good aides”.

Linda creates detailed lesson plans to teach library skills in the different schools, and the schools are very different. Nelson does not have an automated system so Linda types cards for the card catalog, but Sandy Creek has an automated catalog, so Linda must switch gears when she goes from one school to another. She likes the diversity though and says she knows everyone in the whole district and has many friends in the different schools. There are two different ball teams to support, Sandy Creek and Lawrence/Nelson so she is careful to be non-partisan. Now, Linda

has a granddaughter, Atley, in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Sandy Creek, but her husband, who retired from his job in Hastings, is the janitor at Nelson...so her allegiance is definitely split. One curriculum item that is done throughout the entire district is DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read) which is 15 minutes of reading each day in every classroom, K-12. This program has significantly increased library circulation in all the schools. Linda tries to purchase books and materials that reflect the needs of the students in the particular school and even though the schools are close in proximity, the cultures of the communities create demands for different materials in each school. Linda does take books and materials from one site to another whenever there is need. Linda says librarians shape their customers thinking with the purchases they make and the marketing they do to their individual patrons whether they are 1<sup>st</sup> graders or adults.

Linda had a teacher who impacted her life when she was a student. Linda says she was a terrible reader when she first started school and a teacher kept her in from recess every day and worked with her on reading. Thanks to her, Linda is a librarian today, but her heart is still in the elementary. She loves seeing the faces of the students when she has story time, and she helps students who struggle like she did; whenever she can. She loves her job, but she says she must be versatile. It will be interesting to see what Sandy Creek School system looks like in 5 years. I am sure the Media Center will be up to any change as **Linda Baxter** will create a place for children that will be open, inviting, and loving. The very place all kids need!



**NLLI**  
**Nebraska Library Leadership Institute**  
**St. Benedict's, Schuyler, NE**  
**July 20-23, 2009**  
**Applications must be postmarked by April 17, 2009.**

**Purpose:**

**The purpose of the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute 2009 is to provide future Nebraska library leaders a structured professional opportunity to:**

**Examine in depth their own leadership styles.**

**Gain knowledge and skills needed for effective leadership in a rapidly changing environment.**

**Identify their professional and personal goals.**

**Develop a network of professional peers with whom they will continue to work for years to come.**

**Interact with a select group of outstanding library leaders who will serve as mentors.**

**Applicants must have:**

**Outstanding leadership potential.**

**Excellent communication skills.**

**Successful library employment experience.**

**Initiative, commitment and reasonable risk-taking.**

For the brochure and applications:

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/flyers/NLLI09%20app.pdf>

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/flyers/NLLIBrochure2009.pdf>



# RVLS NEWS

RVLS was fortunate to have two volunteers recognized at **Library Legislative Day** in Lincoln on Feb. 10, 2009 at the Cornhusker Hotel. Pictured below are 2 Senators from the RVLS area, Dennis Utter and Mark Christensen.



**Pat Hoban** has been a volunteer at **North Platte Public Library** since



2004 with the Teen Café. Senator Tom Hansen honored her with a rap created by the Teen Advisory Board from North Platte. Congratulations Pat. We are so happy to have you as part of RVLS.



**Florence Sidlo** is a 94 year young volunteer at the **Blue Hill Public Library**. She has volunteered for five years filing and cataloging 100 years of local newspaper information for the Blue Hill genealogy section at the Public Library. Congratulations Florence. May you volunteer for the next hundred years!



**Teri Johnson's** article, titled **Cemetery Tour** in the October 2008 **VALLEYTALK** is now on the **American Library Association's** website called **I Love Libraries** (<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/>).

The goal of the website is to educate the general public about today's libraries and encourage them to become library advocates.

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## We are Looking for RVLS Board Members

Would you like to be a member of the Republican Valley Library System Board, or do you know someone in your community who has interest in libraries and would like to be a member of the RVLS Board?

We meet 5 times a year for approximately 2 hours at different sites around RVLS. A term is three years, and you could serve for two terms. We pay mileage for your travels, and we always have coffee and rolls. If you or someone you know, who lives within RVLS would like to be on our ballot, please submit your nomination by **May 1, 2009** to:

**Judy Grandstaff**, RVLS Board President; Blue Hill Public Library, P O Box 278, Blue Hill, NE 68930, Phone 402-756-2701 or e-mail her at [bhpublibr@gtmc.net](mailto:bhpublibr@gtmc.net)

OR

**Sherry Houston**, RVLS Administrator, RVLS, 2727 West 2nd St. Suite #233, Hastings, NE 68901, Phone 402-462-1975 or e-mail Sherry at: [rplsadmin@inebraska.com](mailto:rplsadmin@inebraska.com)

The elections will be held at the RVLS annual meeting scheduled for June 5, 2009.

## Folkmanis Puppet Order

RVLS will be placing a Folkmanis puppet order the end of April. Please submit your orders to RVLS before April 24th, 2009.



You may visit the Folkmanis website at [www.folkmanis.com](http://www.folkmanis.com) or request a current catalog by calling 510-658-7677.

Please send your order before April 24, 2009, to:

[rplsasst@inebraska.com](mailto:rplsasst@inebraska.com) or [rplsadmin@inebraska.com](mailto:rplsadmin@inebraska.com) or  
Republican Valley Library System  
2727 W. 2nd St. Suite #233  
Hastings, NE 68901

**Superior Public Library** celebrated their 125th year during the month of March.



**NORFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 15TH ANNUAL**  
**LITERATURE FESTIVAL**

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2009 / 9:00 A. M. - 4:00 P. M.  
 NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE / LIFELONG LEARNING CENTER  
 801 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, NE

Funded by the Norfolk Library Foundation, the City of Norfolk, & SCYP

**FEATURING:**

**\*HENRY COLE\***

2010 Golden Sower Award nominee for *ON MEADOWVIEW STREET*

Also author and/or illustrator of *CHICKEN BUTT—KATY DUCK—OINK?—SHIVER ME LETTERS—BIG CHICKENS*

*AND TANGO MAKES THREE—CLARA CATERPILLAR—NAUGHTY LITTLE MONKEYS—<http://www.henrycole.net>*

**\*JACQUELINE DAVIES\***

2010 Golden Sower Award nominee for *THE LEMONADE WAR*

Also author of *THE BOY WHO DREW BIRDS—WHERE THE GROUND MEETS THE SKY—THE HOUSE TAKES A VACATION—THE NIGHT IS SINGING—<http://www.jacquelineDavies.net/>*

**\*CYNTHIA KADOHATA\***

2010 Golden Sower Award nominee for *CRACKER!: THE BEST DOG IN VIETNAM*

Also author of *WEEDFLOWER—KIRA-KIRA (winner of the 2005 Newbery Medal)—<http://www.kira-kira.us/>*

**ALSO:** 2009-2010 Golden Sower Previews by Karen Drevo & Marci Retzlaff; Book Display & Discount Sales by Norfolk Public Library Foundation of titles by Cole, Davies, & Kadohata; Sales of Golden Sower Items; Autograph Session/Book Signing with Henry Cole, Jacqueline Davies & Cynthia Kadohata; Door Prizes; 5 Continuing Education Hours (for all day attendance) from the Nebraska Library Commission for School & Public Librarians; 5 Professional Growth Points (for all day attendance) for Teachers/Staff employed by Norfolk Public Schools

**TICKETS:** Youth (18 & under): \$5.00/advance & \$7.50/door **Adults:** \$20.00/advance & \$25.00/door

***!Free admission for current SCYP members!***

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

Literature Festival  
 Norfolk Public Library  
 308 W. Prospect Avenue

# It's Your Move

## Advocating in a Tough Economy

A new web-based resource has just been released that will help library advocates make the case for libraries during times of economic downturn.

The "Advocating in a Tough Economy" toolkit is available at

[www.ala.org/tougheconomytoolkit](http://www.ala.org/tougheconomytoolkit).



Check it out! NebraskaAccess, the portal to information databases for Nebraska residents since 2003, has a new look and a new URL: <http://nebraskaccess.ne.gov>.

The new NebraskaAccess site integrates the statewide subscription databases with the web resources selected by librarians, formerly found in the Nebraska Library Commission's "Best of the Web." Topic headings lead users to both free and subscription resources.

The Librarian's Toolbox, which contains promotional and training material for library staff, will remain on the Nebraska Library Commission home page. It is located at: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskaccess/toolbox>.



The ALA Public Programs Office, in cooperation with the National Library of Medicine (NLM), announces a new small format traveling exhibition to libraries, **"Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine."** Public, academic (university, college and community college) and medical libraries may apply to host the banner exhibition by downloading an application at [www.ala.org/harrypotter](http://www.ala.org/harrypotter). In order to be considered, applications must be received at ALA by May 1.

Friends of **Hastings Public Library** are presenting "Black & White & Read All Over" a salute to Journalism. Omaha World Herald columnist Robert Nelson will be the speaker. Tuesday, April 28th at 6 PM, Hastings City Auditorium. Dinner will be prepared by CCC Culinary Arts club. More information and tickets available at Hastings Public Library 517 W. 4th St. Hastings, NE 402 461-2346

New online materials and products are available to help libraries reach out to their communities during

## National Library Week

April 12-18, 2009

from the ALA Public Information Office and the Campaign for America's Libraries.

Materials are available in both English and Spanish, focusing on the 2009 National Library Week theme, "Worlds connect @ your library." They include a proclamation, sample press release and letter-to-the-editor, as well as scripts for use in radio public service announcements (PSAs).

Libraries can download materials at [www.ala.org/nlw](http://www.ala.org/nlw).

If you are interested in going back to school and haven't attended for the past 24 months, you may be eligible for a PEO Continuing Education Grant. You must be female. Contact Mary Nelson, 1 Plum Creek Canyon D, Elwood, NE 68937 308.785.2193 or [marynelson@amykirchnerdesign.com](mailto:marynelson@amykirchnerdesign.com) for more information.

## Start Weeding Today

If you need to weed your collection and don't know where to begin, the 2008 *Crew: a Weeding Manual for Modern Libraries* is now online: [www.tsl.state.us/ld/pubs/crew/](http://www.tsl.state.us/ld/pubs/crew/) or the link is on the RVLS website.

# On the Bookshelf



The following items have been recently added to the RVLS Collection:

- ***The Associate*** by John Grisham
- ***Becoming Enlightened*** by Dalai Lama
- ***Breaking Dawn*** by Stephenie Meyer
- ***Eclipse*** by Stephenie Meyer
- ***Eclipse*** by Richard North Patterson
- ***Heart Shaped Box*** by Joe Hill
- ***Hold Tight*** by Harlan Coben
- ***The Hour I First Believed*** by Wally Lamb
- ***Moscow Rules*** by Daniel Silva
- ***New Moon*** by Stephenie Meyer
- ***Plum Spooky*** by Janet Evanovich
- ***Skeletons at the Feast*** by Chris Bohjalian
- ***Still Alice*** by Lisa Genova
- ***Testimony*** by Anita Shreve
- ***Texas Lucky*** by Sandra Brown
- ***Twilight*** by Stephenie Meyer

## Ellison On the Move

Here's the schedule for the Ellison, if you want on the schedule please contact us, or if it is

April 1st—Wallace Public Schools

May 1st—Blue Hill Public Library

June 1st—Hastings Memorial Library—Grant

July 1st—Oxford Municipal Library

October 1st— Sutton Public School

March 1st, 2010— Central Community College, Hastings



## 2008-2009 RVLS Board Meetings

**President** -Judy Grandstaff

**Vice-President** -Patty Hall

**Secretary** -Suzann Christensen

**Members:**

Tony Anderson, Pat Bonge, Vicki Casper,

Laura Cundiff, Beth Falla, Jane Hilton,

Terri Johnson, Sylvia Person, Nancy Sherwood



**All meetings begin at 10 am.**

**Your attendance is encouraged and welcomed!**

**Friday, June 5, 2009—Annual Meeting,  
Burchell's Whitehill Farmhouse Inn,  
Minden, NE**

# Asking the *Right*



**Stacey Aldrich**

**Spring Colloquium 2009**

**April 13, 2009 Lincoln NE**

Stacey Aldrich, Deputy State Librarian for California State Library in Sacramento, formerly assistant director at Omaha Public Library, wants to know:

When it comes to the future, which kind of person are you?

- A. One who **lets** it happen?
- B. One who **makes** it happen?
- C. One who **wonders** what will happen?

Come find out which crystal balls and questions Aldrich uses to help her divine the future of library services. Aldrich insists that, "The best way that we can predict the future is to be an active part of its creation."

**Monday-April 13, 2009 5:30-9:30 p.m.**  
**at The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel 333 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln, NE**  
**Yankee Hill I & II**

Schedule of Events

5:30 - 6:30	Social hour, cash bar
6:30 - 7:30	Dinner
7:30 - 8:30	Presentation by <b>Stacey Aldrich</b>
8:30 - 9:30	Discussion

**Dinner: Seafood Newburg, Maple Grilled Pork Loin, or Champagne Pasta**  
 All entrees include garden salad, chef's potatoes, fresh vegetables, rolls & butter and coffee, tea, or milk.

The Fall Colloquium is sponsored jointly by: **Bellevue University, Creighton University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Eastern Library System & Southeast Library System.**

YES! I want to participate in the Spring Colloquium 2009: Stacey Aldrich

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Library \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please choose one:  Seafood Newburg  Pork Loin  Pasta

Send completed registration form & payment of **\$35.00** to: **Southeast Library System, 5730 R St., Ste. C-1, Lincoln, NE 68505. Deadline: Wednesday April 8, 2009.**

# RVLS Calendar

## APRIL

- 1-3— MPLA in Wichita, KS. Keynote presenter, Will Manley
- 2— International Children’s Book Day
- 7, 14, 21—Basic Skills, North Platte, Wells Fargo Bldg.
- 8—Letters About Literature Luncheon, Lincoln, NE
- 10,17,24—Basic Skills, Kearney, NE
- 12-18— National Library Week—"Worlds connect @ your library" (See pg 5)
- 13—Spring Colloquium, Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, NE (See pg. 7)
- 14—National Library Worker’s Day (<http://www.ala-apa-.org/about/ideas.html/>)
- 15—Vote for Golden Sower Award
- 22—Earth Day (traditional)
- 28—Black,& White & Read All Over, Hastings City Auditorium ( See pg. 5)
- 30—El Dia de los Ninos/El dia de los Libros

## MAY

- 1, 6, 7— PLTS Spring Meetings (See pg. 15)
- 5-7—Computer Classes, North Platte Community College with Michael Sauers  
[www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/print.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/print.html) )
- 11-17—2009 Children’s Book Week (<http://www.bookweekonline.com/> )

## JUNE

- 5- Annual Meeting Burchell’s White Hill Farmhouse Inn north of Minden (See pg. 14)

## JULY

- 9-15— ALA in Chicago
- 19-24— Leadership Institute 2009




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## RVLS Has Scholarship Money Available

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Up to \$100.00 per event for registration, mileage, meal, etc.

Only one scholarship per person per fiscal year

All member libraries eligible

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Library \_\_\_\_\_

Event \_\_\_\_\_

Date of event \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship requested for \_\_\_\_\_(meal, room, etc.)

Amount requested \_\_\_\_\_

Other information:



Send to: Republican Valley Library System  
 2727 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> # 233  
 Hastings, NE 68901

**Republican Valley Library System Board Meeting**  
**10:00 a.m. March 6, 2009**  
**Butler Memorial Library 621 Penn Cambridge NE 69022**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pat Bonge, Vicki Casper, Suzann Christensen, Beth Falla, Judy Grandstaff, Patty Hall, Jane Hilton

**ABSENT:** Tony Anderson, Laura Cundiff, Terri Johnson, Sylvia Person, Nancy Sherwood

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sherry Houston (System Director), Mary Nelson (Nebraska Library Commissioner), Deb Young (Butler Memorial Library Director)

**MISCELLANEOUS:** Thank you to Deb Young for providing wonderful refreshments! A prior-to-the-meeting litany of ailments, surgeries, accidents, broken limbs, and body-parts-gone-bad ensued.

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** President Judy Grandstaff called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. Roll call was taken.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes for the January 9, 2009 meeting will stand approved as read.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Updated financial reports were distributed and explained. We are in great shape financially at this point. Sherry has purchased 2010 Book Lovers' calendars as (holiday) library gifts. Judy commented that we manage money well without skimping on services. Mary thinks that librarians do miracles with money. The financial reports were filed for audit as we all polished our little halos.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Thank you messages were shared with the group. Scholarship recipient Judy Grandstaff, who neglected to write a thank you, exhibited a moment of humility.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** *[A detailed copy of the administrator's report is in each board member's packet.]* Sherry reported on her favorable meeting with Sherry Crow, UNK Assistant Professor of Library Media. Sherry feels the need to reevaluate cross-country trips (with multiple speaking engagements) for state speakers, as it is too grueling for one person. Two RVLS library volunteers were recognized at Legislative Day. Mary Nelson felt that there was a good response from RVLS senators for Legislative Day. All were represented and given placemats and bookmarks. Mary urged board members to contact their senators regarding NLC's budget and gave instructions for what to say and do to make the most impact.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Workshops/Locations and Dates**

**Summer Reading:** The workshop will be held in Elwood on March 13 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

**Colorful Creature Contest:** Morrill Hall (UNL) is currently sponsoring a contest. Children in pre-school through fifth grade are invited to participate in a special challenge to create the most wildly colorful version of their favorite ancient or modern creature. All submitted artwork goes on exhibit this spring. <http://www-museum.unl.edu/>

**Annual Meeting:** Meridian Library System will not be meeting with us. The annual meeting will be held on June 5 north of Minden at Burchell's White Hill Farmhouse Inn. Maps will be provided prior to the meeting. A Nebraska Humanities Council speaker will provide a biographical talk about Bess Streeter Aldrich and a tour of the White Hill Farmhouse Inn grounds will be given. Rod Wagner will attend on behalf of the Nebraska Library Commission. A CE discussion was held.

**Conventions:** Sherry will be driving to MPLA (Wichita), leaving Tuesday, March 31 and returning Friday, April 3. Over twenty persons have registered to ride the bus and attend ALA June 9 – 14. Sherry reminded us that scholarships are available.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Basic Skills/Public Service:** Basic skills classes will be held April 7, 14 and 21 in North Platte and Kearney. Sherry Houston and Sharon Osenga will be the instructors. Discussion was held regarding online versions of the classes (and technical difficulties).

## Workshops

**NLLI:** The Nebraska Library Leadership Institute will be held in Schuyler at the St. Benedict Center on July 20 – 23.

**NLA Spring Meetings:** Sherry shared a handout with information about spring meetings. They will be held May 1, 6 and 7 and there is a date conflict with Michael Sauers's computer classes. One of the topics at the spring meetings is Open Source. Sherry serves on NLC's grant committee and told the group that the Open Source pilot project consortium is requesting funding from NLC. All automation grants are on hold until the funding is determined.

**Valley Visits:** Two visits have been held. Discussion topics were the Gates Grant/equipment inventory and Nebraskard. Hastings Public Library Director Amy Greenland was able to attend the second Valley Visit and gain some insights. RVLS plans to offer three Valley Visits each year. For the next Valley Visit, Sherry hopes to invite David Oertli, NLC Director of the Talking Book and Braille Service, to discuss the digital conversion and readers. Discussion was held regarding school personnel and school topics.

**Board Member Nominations:** Pat Bonge and Laura Cundiff will be leaving the board. Sherry urged us to submit names of nominees.

## Board Meetings 2009-2010:

The following dates/places are tentative (until we obtain permission from hosting libraries)

September 11, 2009 Curtis, NE

November 6, 2009 Alma, NE

January 8, 2010 Hastings, NE (RVLS office)

March 5, 2010 Imperial, NE

June 4, 2010 Annual Meeting TBD

**NLC Representative Report:** Richard Miller (in absentia) shared information about the following topics on a blue handout: ARRA and Libraries, Commission Response to State Auditor's Report, Basic Skills: Public Service, Nebraska Learns 2.0, One Book One Nebraska Title **A Lantern in Her Hand**, Central Community College and the LTA Program, One Book for Nebraska Kids, Youth Grants for Excellence, New Cataloger at the Commission, New Special Projects Associate/Research Analyst, Library Improvement Grants, NCompass Live, What's Up Doc?, Gates Grants, Video List Updated, Nebraska State Historical Society Renovation, Books Honored by Nebraska Center for the Book, and NLA Legislative Day (Tuesday, February 10, 2009). [Secretary's Note: Richard, your presence is missed. The minutes are not nearly as much fun to write without your comments . . .]

**NLC Commissioner Report:** Mary Nelson spoke about Legislative Day (see Administrator's Report) and the redesigned NebraskAccess. NLC's audit report (headed by Mike Foley) and its repercussions (e-mails, letters to editors, letters of response, blog postings) were discussed. Mary shared her letter of response to Mr. Foley. Mr. Foley contacted Mary by phone and asked to make a presentation to the Commissioners at their meeting on March 13. Mary indicated that plans are in place for his presence and that Commissioners are hoping this will bring an end to the audit discussion. Mary showed a flyer of statistical information about Nebraska libraries, which may be shared in communities. Mary has been asked to be a mentor at the Nebraska Library Leadership Institute. She also gave information to the group about a service organization project designed for women entitled Program for Continuing Education Grant. Mary's term as Commissioner is nearing its end. She was lauded by the group as a marvelous spokesperson and incredible advocate for libraries. Mary shared the protocol for recommending someone as a Commissioner to the governor and shared some of the responsibilities of a Commissioner.

The meeting adjourned when the noon whistle blew.

Suzann Christensen, Recording Secretary



# Excalibur!

John Seyfarth has appointed a great committee to consider nominations for the Excalibur award. Chair is our last year's winner, Steve Fosselman, Director of Grand Island Public Library. Also on the committee is Patsy Arnold, of Grand Island Public and Pam Soreide, Director of the Holdrege Area Public Library.

**The deadline for nominations is August 1st.** Nominations should be sent to Steve (e-mail:sf.gi.lib.ne.us). If you're going to submit a nomination, consider having some of your colleagues send supporting letters to Steve as well. They are very helpful to making sure that the best candidate receives the award.

## NOMINATION FORM FOR PLTS EXCALIBUR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC LIBRARIAN

The Public Library and Trustee Section of the Nebraska Library Association accepts nominations for the Excalibur Award for Outstanding Public Librarian. This award honors the career accomplishments of a public librarian who has demonstrated an outstanding record of service to his/her local library and to the library profession. The following categories suggest areas in which the nominee may have rendered significant service. Preference will be given to those nominees who have achieved excellence in more than one of these areas:

- Development of outstanding service in field(s) of expertise, e.g. reference, children's, technical, administrative.
- Involvement in statewide library service.
- Record of library leadership in local community, regional area or in the Nebraska Library Association.
- Encouragement of community/institutional support for the library.

The nominee must be a member of the Public Library and Trustee Section of the Nebraska Library Association. Send a statement of nomination with a description of the nominee's contributions to any Excalibur Nomination Committee member. Supporting letters of nomination and other materials may also be submitted with nomination. Deadline for nominations is August 1.

Person Nominated \_\_\_\_\_

Library and Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated By \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_



# ALA Midwinter Conference Report

By Susan Franklin

Thank you to the Republican Valley Library System for awarding me a 2008-2009 Scholarship to attend the ALA Midwinter Conference (Denver) in January. It was a remarkable conference, for several reasons, including that it was my first Midwinter and I was participating as one of American Library Association's Emerging Leaders 2009. The Emerging Leaders program, now in its third year, "enables newer librarians from across the country to participate in problem-solving work groups; network with peers; gain an inside look into ALA structure; and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity" (<http://wikis.ala.org/emergingleaders>).

The EL experience kicked off with a 10p.m. reception in ALA President Jim Rettig's Presidential Suite (waaaaay past my bedtime!) on Thursday night and then resumed with a full day of training on Friday, the bulk of which was provided by ALA Past President Leslie Burger; Executive Director, Central Jersey Regional Library Cooperative Connie Paul; and organizational consultant Maureen Sullivan.

The 107 participants gained insight into best practices of leadership, including: challenging the status quo; inspiring a shared vision; enabling others to act; modeling the way; and encouraging the heart. The presenters emphasized that the Emerging Leaders program was intended to facilitate leadership improvement on three levels: individually, as an EL team member, and on the national library scene. The presenters encouraged us to find mentors locally, to keep them apprised of what we're doing, to connect to ALA leadership, and to remember to take time for ourselves.

A Town Hall Meeting for all Emerging Leaders, past and present, was held on Saturday. Pat Wagner (Nebraskans should recognize Pat and her work in libraries!) of Pattern Research, Inc. relayed to the group what she called The Five Rules of Networking:

1. Be useful to others (and allow them to be useful to you).
2. Don't be boring.
3. Listen.
4. Ask questions.
5. Play the wild card (the least likely person might be able to answer your question/help you and, conversely, you may be useful to the least likely person.)

Pat argued that being mindful of these "rules" allows us to be skillful "weavers," or people who are good at creating connections and advocating for both individual interests and the interests of others.

Part of the Emerging Leaders commitment includes working virtually on a group project between the Midwinter and Annual conferences. Assignment of projects and group members occurred prior to Midwinter. The projects, wide-ranging in scope and type of library, provide an opportunity for ELs to collaborate with others virtually; build our strengths and capabilities; develop and carry out a meaningful project within ALA; learn more about a part of ALA; and get to know an ALA staff member and a mentor.

My three other Team D members (we're in three different time zones!) and I have been charged with "Ensuring Usability of the ALA Website." In meeting with our ALA liaison and mentor at Midwinter, we narrowed down our scope to developing, conducting and providing recommendations to ALA about its new website. Our survey will be distributed by ALA to two segments, NMRT members and ALA Councilors. Team D has been meeting weekly in a Meebo chat room to "work" to this end. For more details and Minutes of our meetings, please refer to [http://wikis.ala.org/emergingleaders/index.php/Project\\_D\\_%282009%29](http://wikis.ala.org/emergingleaders/index.php/Project_D_%282009%29). The Emerging Leaders will reconvene in Chicago on Friday, July 10 during Annual Conference for more training and the presentations of our projects.

The service component of the project comes in the form of committing to serve a two-year term on an ALA or ALA-affiliated committee. We were invited to choose three committees we would be interested in serving on prior to Midwinter. In February, I was invited to serve on the *American Libraries* Advisory Committee, so I am excited about this opportunity that will connect me to ALA in a new way.

In addition to the excitement of meeting a cohort of "emerging leaders" from across the nation, receiving training, and starting on our group projects, the Midwinter conference afforded other valuable experiences: exhibits, meetings, networking opportunities and receptions. The experience was positive and energizing. I would highly recommend the Emerging Leaders program to anyone who is interested and am looking forward to Annual Conference!

# Mad Hatter Award 2009

Presented by Child's World and the School, Children's and Young People's Section of NLA

**PURPOSE** To recognize an individual member of the Nebraska Library Profession who has made an outstanding contribution to School, Children's and Young People's librarianship and library development.

**CRITERIA** Individual nominated should have demonstrated achievements in the following areas:

1. Imaginative interpretation of library services
2. Development of innovative and creative programming for children and young adults
3. Demonstration of professional contributions to regional, state, and national library organizations, publications, and/or presentations

\*Nominee **MUST** be a member of the School, Children's and Young People's Section of NLA.

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Present address)

Nominee's library affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach sheets describing the achievements of your nominee. **All three criteria listed above must be addressed in your nomination.** You should include documentation in the form of several support letters from staff, parents, board members or others, each letter identifying the writer as to what role they play in libraries and their relationship to the nominee. It is highly recommended that photos of the person working with patrons be submitted as well as samples of programs, creativity, etc. that this person has done. Any documentation or detail that you can send supporting your nominee's qualifications and that assist the Mad Hatter Committee in making a judgment will be very helpful. Make sure all professional leadership is noted, especially SCYP membership. Using letter or essay format, follow these three headings:

1. Interpreting library services to the community
2. Developing innovative programming
3. Demonstrating professional leadership

Nominated by \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

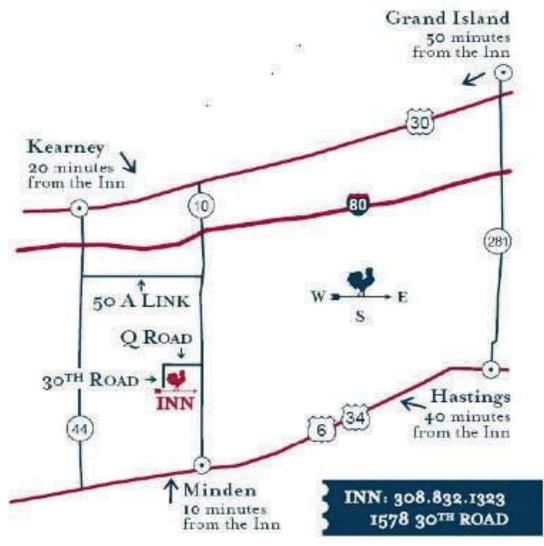
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: I am a \_\_\_\_\_ Member of NLA \_\_\_\_\_ School Administrator  
\_\_\_\_\_ Public Library Administrator

**Please return the nomination form and supporting materials by August 1, 2009, to  
Patty Birch, North Platte High School, 1220 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, North Platte, NE 69101**



The Inn is located at 1578 30th Road. Five miles north of Minden on Highway 10, two miles west on Q Road and 1/4 miles south on 30th Road. Map available at: [www.burchellfarmhouseinn.com](http://www.burchellfarmhouseinn.com)



## 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

Republican Valley Library System

June 5th

**Burchell's White Hill Farmhouse Inn  
Minden, NE**

- 9:30** RVLS Board Meeting
- 11:00** RVLS Annual Meeting
- 12:00** Lunch and Tour of Grounds
- 1:45** NE Library Commission Report  
Rod Wagner
- 2:00-3:00** **Bess Streeter Aldrich: Biography**  
Carol Miles Petersen

**Registrations Due: Friday: May 29, 2009**

Registration Form

Republican Valley Library System

2009 Annual Meeting—June 5th, 2009

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Library: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this registration form and \$15 per person to:

Republican Valley Library System  
2727 West 2nd Street, Suite #233  
Hastings, NE 68901

3 c. e. Units

## NLA Public Library and Trustee Section (PLTS) 2009 Spring Meetings

The 2009 Spring Meetings are being brought to you by the Public Library and Trustee Section (PLTS) of the Nebraska Library Association. Our host libraries this year are the Wahoo Public Library (May 1st), the Bridgeport Public Library (May 6th), and the Lexington Public Library (May 7th)). **Please join us May 1st, 6th, or 7th from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration form is below.**

### Agenda

- Legalities of Public Library Policies and Procedures - Adam Prochaska, Attorney at Law, Lincoln (by Skype at Lexington and Bridgeport) - 10:00 - 11:00 AM
- Dealing with Mentally Ill Persons and Patrons - Wanda Butts, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion - 11:00 AM - Noon
- Lunch - Noon - 1:00 PM
- Open Source Integrated Library Systems Statewide Project - Greg Mickells, Deputy Director, Lincoln City Libraries - 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
- Using Skype in the Library as a Communications Tool - John Seyfarth, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion - 2:00 - 3:00 PM

**Please make copies as necessary and send your registration to:**

Richard Miller

Nebraska Library Commission The Atrium, 1200 N St., Suite 120

Lincoln NE 68508-2023

**Questions?- contact Richard Miller at [rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us) or (800) 307-2665.**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 25, 2009**

-----cut here-----

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AD-  
 DRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ LIBRARY \_\_\_\_\_ E-  
 MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ VEGETARIAN LUNCH?  Yes  No

Please check the day that you will be coming:

**Friday, May 1st**, Wahoo Public Library, 637 North Maple St., Wahoo, NE

**Wednesday May 6th**, Bridgeport Public Library, 722 Main St., Bridgeport, NE

**Thursday May 7th**, Lexington Public Library, 907 N Washington St., Lexington, NE \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee: \$15 payable to NLA Public Library and Trustee Section**

**Registration Deadline is April 25, 2009**

Actor John Goodman

**“When I was young,  
we couldn't afford  
much. But, my li-  
brary card was my  
key to the world.”**



**Serving Counties:**

Adams  
Chase  
Clay  
Dundy  
Franklin  
Frontier  
Furnas  
Gosper  
Harlan  
Hayes  
Hitchcock  
Kearney  
Lincoln  
Logan  
McPherson  
Nuckolls  
Perkins  
Phelps  
Red Willow  
Webster

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2727 West 2nd Street St. # 233  
Hastings, NE 68901-4684**

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