

VALLEYTALK

ISSN 1067-4705

June 2007

Published bimonthly by the
Republican Valley Library
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Hastings, NE 68901

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Dear RVLS Members,

It is with a mixture of sadness yet excitement for the next phase in my career that I announced in late April my resignation from RVLS. In a few short weeks from when this newsletter hits your mailbox, I will no longer be Administrative Assistant at Republican Valley Library System, a post I have been proud to hold for the last ten and a half years. My last day at RVLS will be June 30. I will assume duties as Assistant Professor of Library Science and Public Services Librarian at Perkins Library, Hastings College, on August 1.

Amazingly, even though an

avid lifelong, local library user, I had never heard of RVLS until a colleague at Hastings College told me in passing at a faculty gathering that she knew someone who needed an assistant and that I would be perfect for the job. At the time, I was teaching part time in the English Department at Hastings College and working at a hotel and had absolutely no interest in pursuing alternate employment. I nodded politely and thanked my colleague, but had no intention of contacting Dee Yost at RVLS.

My plan was foiled, however, because Dee Yost contacted **me!** My colleague had also suggested to Dee that I would be a good fit for the position. I told Dee I had two jobs and wasn't really interested, but, persistently, she asked me to come to the office for a chat. Feeling obligated, I agreed.

During our initial meeting, a perfect opportunity presented itself for me to decline politely: when Dee said book-keeping was required, including payroll and state and federal taxes (I don't even compute **my own!**), I regretfully shook my head, informed her that I was innumerate, and thought to myself,



(Continued on page 2)

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Farewell Letter from Susan

"Phew. That's that." Dee would not, however, take no for an answer and I somehow ended up quitting the hotel and beginning to work at RVLS shortly thereafter.

How glad I am, in retrospect, that Dee would not take no for an answer! In my decade+, I have gained a statewide network of friends and colleagues; a wealth of continuing education; the desire, motivation and support to pursue my MA in library science; countless memories; and a treasure-trove of diverse experiences.

The library world, we all know, is one of constant change and I have witnessed many changes during my time at RVLS. I am proud of the progress and continual forward movement we, both as a System and as individual libraries, have made in the past ten

years. I am also proud of the way in which our libraries have risen to challenges and overcome obstacles in providing the best service possible to our area of Nebraska.

I would be overwhelmingly sad as I write this letter if I knew this was a true farewell. I have no doubt that I will still encounter and communicate with many of you, just in a different context than RVLS business. My Hastings College email address is sfranklin@hastings.edu—drop me a line any time!

I will always value my years of employment at RVLS and want to thank everyone for being so wonderful with which to work! I wish all of you well!

Sincerely,

Susan Franklin



Say Hello to Our New Administrative Assistant!

RVLS is pleased to announce that, effective June 1, Kay Kloppenborg assumed duties as administrative assistant. Kay is very excited to become affiliated with RVLS! Kay has been an administrative assistant at Hastings Regional Center and loathed retirement, so she is eager to work her fingers to the bone for us! (That was an editorial comment!). Kay and her husband have lived in Hastings all of their lives. They have two children and five grandchildren. Kay enjoys gardening and her flowers and is looking forward to becoming acquainted with our System members. Her email address will be rvlsasst@tcgcs.com. Welcome, Kay!

Nominations Sought for Mad Hatter Award

The Mad Hatter Youth Service Award, presented by the School, Children's and Young People's Section (SCYP) of the Nebraska Library Association, recognizes an individual in the Nebraska library profession who has made an outstanding contribution to librarianship and library development for young people.

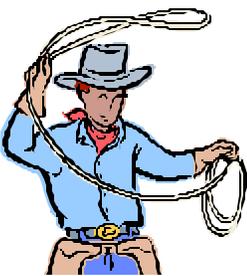
Nominees must be members of SCYP. Nominations may be made by librarians, administrators, principals, or members of the Nebraska Library Association. The nomination form is available on the Mad Hatter website: www.nebraskalibraries.org/SCYP/MadHatter.html

The nomination form and supporting materials must be returned to Kathy Schultz, Hastings Public Library, 517 W 4th St, Hastings NE 68901, by August 1, 2007.



RVLS NEWS

R.P. Smith, a real working cowboy-turned-poet, took a Hastings audience on a “**Ride Through Rhyme**” at the City Auditorium April 19. In true cowpoke style, **Friends of Hastings Public Library** hosted an evening complete with a chuck wagon dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the poetry of



Smith at 8 p.m. Smith shared his brand of cowboy poetry and country commentary during

his presentation. R.P. has worked with some of the top names in western entertainment and been the featured performer at cowboy poetry gatherings throughout the United States and Canada. According to R.P., cowboy poetry is best enjoyed when it is heard than when it is read. He hosts a weekly rural radio show, “Home Grown” from Pine Crest Ranch, his home place near Broken Bow. R.P. published a collection of his poetry, “A Ride Through Rhyme,” and produced two CDs and a video that feature excerpts from his program and cuts from live shows. The cowboy dinner consisted of barbecued beef brisket, grilled potatoes, cornbread and fruit pies. Dinner was followed by Ginger ten Bensel opening the program with her popular song, “I Love Nebraska.”



Arapahoe Public Library invited its patrons to “Explore possibilities at the Arapahoe Public Library” while it was open every evening until 8pm during Turn Off TV Week, April 22-27. Adults 19+ entered to win a \$50 savings bond from First Central Bank by checking out any book. Teen 13-18 signed in, read for one hour, and entered to win \$100 given by the Friends of the Library. Youth 5-12 entered to win \$50 of their favorite books by checking out a book. Tuesday the 24th, a story time was held at with attendees able to register to win a big beanie baby given by Sheryl Koller.

How many events can be going on in a library at once? The **North Platte Friends of the Library** board decided to add a different twist to its annual book sale in April. In addition to the sale, which had about 9000 items including books, movies, music, and puzzles all squeezed into the library’s meeting room, and the Library Foundation’s bake sale in the main body of the library, the group decided to conduct a silent auction at the same time. While some people made a beeline for the thousands of books for sale at bargain prices in the library’s meeting room, the over eighty antiques, collectible items, and rare books displayed on tables in the main room attracted growing attention during the 3-day sale. Prior to the event, people could view the auction items on a special

website. Each item was displayed with an individual bidding sheet with description and minimum bid. Bidders added their name and bid to the list, having to up the previous bids by at least one dollar. Bids for some items jumped up in increments of 5, 10, and even 25 dollars. The end of bidding was set for 1:00 PM on Saturday so the library was crowded that morning as people gathered to watch their selections and raise bids. All successful bidders not present were notified on Saturday afternoon. The auction raised \$2400. Library **Director Cecelia Lawrence** said that this will most likely become a repeat event, possibly at a different time from future book sales. The book sale also included additional collectible books that were specially priced, however, most of the items were priced from 25 to 50 cents each and half-price on Saturday afternoon. About 7000 items were sold, netting over \$4000. Many of the remaining books were distributed to local assisted living facilities, the homeless shelter, and a South Dakota Indian Reservation. The Friends of the Library will use the proceeds from this event to paint the library and purchase new carpet for sections of the library. The North Platte Library Foundation’s bake sale and chocolate sale was also successful. A table filled with home-baked goods enticed people as they first entered the library. Proceeds exceeded \$500. The library appreciated the many volunteers that donated their time to make this event successful. Friends of the Library, Library Foundation members, Library staff, and RSVP volunteers donated many individual hours both before and during the events.

(Continued on page 14)

Paraprofessional of the Year Award: Nominate!

The Paraprofessional Section of the Nebraska Library Association (NLA) accepts nominations for the Paraprofessional of the Year Award each year. This award is given annually to a paraprofessional who must be a member of the Paraprofessional Section of NLA who has demonstrated outstanding service in a library setting.

The recipient will be selected on the basis of all of the following criteria:

1. Innovative programs that the nominee has worked with which have resulted in new or improved library services.
2. Exceptional volunteer work in library service or related field.
3. Exceptional use of library resources, local or otherwise.
4. Significant involvement or leadership in NLA Paraprofessional Section (i.e., holding office, member of a committee, or workshop or conference presentation).

The Paraprofessional of the Year may receive:

1. A one-year paid membership to NLA, in the Paraprofessional Section.
2. Fifty dollars.

For the nomination form, go to <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/paranomform.html>

Nominations are due on July 31, 2007. You can e-mail the nomination form to Jennifer Wrampe, jwrampe@nlc.state.ne.us, Paraprofessional Publicity/Citations Chair, Nebraska Library Commission 1200 N St, Ste 120, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-471-3217, 800-307-2665 (NE only) 402-471-2083 (fax).

2007-2008 Board & Annual Meetings

Friday, September 14, 2007

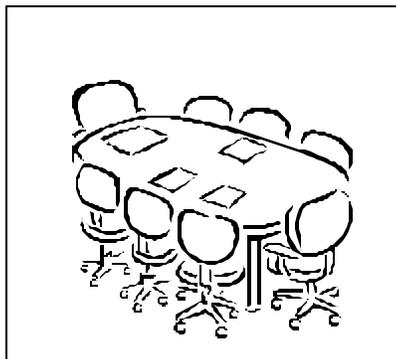
Friday, November 2, 2007

Friday, January 11, 2008

Friday, March 7, 2008

Friday, June 6, 2008—Board & Annual Meeting

All meetings begin at 10am. Your attendance is encouraged and welcomed!



It's Your Move

"So You Have a Medical Question?"

a new CD directed at librarians sharing medical information with



the public, is now available free for use with your staff and even patrons.

Contact Marty Magee, mmagee@unmc, for your copy today! And if you haven't started or renewed your free membership with the National Network/Libraries of Medicine, do so today at <http://nmlm.gov/mcr/services/network/>.

Need help keeping track of your hectic life? Use **Memo to Me**, a free Internet service to send reminders to yourself for meetings, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Go to <http://www.memotome.com/> to check it out.

Dailylit.com is a busy bibliophile's dream: the site will email you one chapter of any book you select per day. Browse for titles by category, title or author and then wait for each installment to hit your inbox. Susan feels Dickensian, reading *Pride & Prejudice* in installments!



Go to <http://www.paperbackswap.com/index.php> to participate in an online paperback swap. There are some "fine print" details, but it's fairly simple to participate. To see a similar service, which also includes DVDs and CDs, go to <http://www.titletrader.com/>.

Have you looked at the **RVLS Blog** recently? Several RVLS people will be attending the I Blog, You Blog workshop given by Michael Sauers from NLC. So the RVLS Blog will be new and revised. To see what is happening in the RVLS Blog, go to <http://rvlsblogspot.com/>

Have you ever wondered if what you are reading on the internet is true or just someone's imagination? You can check out all those scary e-mails you get by going to www.snopes.com. The site checks out the source and verifies for you if there is any truth in the story or if the whole thing is a scam. For instance, did they really find a mummified fairy in Derbyshire? So before you send

your 10,000 dollars to Nigeria, check it out on snopes!

Social networking, as you may have heard, is the new "in" thing. Booky types are using social networking tools in new ways, according to the March 26, 2007 *Newsweek*. Mentioned are:

Goodreads.com, a discussion, book review, and readers' advisory site.

Shelfari.com, a site that allows bibliophiles virtually to shelve and organize personal collections.

Librarything.com, which connects readers with the same interests.

Bookswellread.com, a review site.

and **Whatsonmybookshelf.com**, a similar-preference connector and book swapping site.

Ladies, are you seeking intelligent little black t-shirts? Go to www.printmojo.com/LiteraTease for **literary t-shirts**.



Eastern Library System's webpage has moved! Catch up with it at www.elsne.org. **Southeast Library System's webpage** has moved to www.selsne.org.

Start planning for **Teen Read Week** now. Dates are October 14-20, 2007 and the theme is LOL@your library.



On the Bookshelf



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

Books on CD

- *Plum Lovin'* by Janet Evanovich
- *A Spot of Bother* by Mark Haddon
-

VHS/DVD

- *Best of the Web* College of DuPage Teleconference (4/13/2007) VHS.
- *The Relevance of Libraries in a Digital Age* College of DuPage Teleconference (5/11/2007) VHS.
- *Recruitment and Orientation of Library Trustees*, Emporia State University (12/13/2002) VHS or DVD.
- *Your Public Library: Keeping Your Community Connected* DVD, Supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, February 2007.

If you would like to borrow these items please contact the System office at 800-569-4961 or <rvlsasst@tcgcs.com>. If you would like to see list of all available items (including magazines routed), go to <www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/professional.html>.



FOLUSA Membership

Have you used your Friends of the Library membership from the Nebraska Library Commission?

All Public Libraries in Nebraska are now part of the Friends of the Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) and can use their website for advocacy, planning, creating your own Friends group, ideas and many other resources. I just was looking at the website and the tabs and one was for selling books on-line. What an interesting idea for libraries if they want to expand their book sales.

If you can't find the information you received about FOLUSA, you can look at the website by going to www.folusa.org. The user name is *rhett* and the password is *butler*. Is that creative or what...you'll never forget the password. I am sure we can thank Sally Reed for that terrific idea.

Sally Gardner Reed is the Executive Director of FOLUSA, but she is originally from Hastings, NE so we know that FOLUSA has to be a wonderful group. She spoke in North Platte at the end of March about having a Friends of the Library Group in your community and the importance of Friends Groups and libraries in general. Sally is always, always an advocate for libraries. Her message was, when you get right down to it, trustees and friends groups and city councils (we hope) and the community all want the same thing, a **better library**. Working together will achieve that goal.





IMAGE IS EVERYTHING!

Pre-Conference to the NLA/NEMA Conference
 Wednesday, October 2
 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
 Holiday Inn Kearney
 \$25 (includes lunch)

Sponsored by the Nebraska Regional Library Systems and the Nebraska Library Commission

What will you learn?

- what marketing, fund raising, and development actually are
- what skills you have that can be used for marketing and fund raising
- what are the best practices for integrating marketing and fund raising
- how to gain the confidence required to be successful in this area
- how to use partnerships to support a marketing/fundraising plan
- how to evaluate your progress and create new goals

Who is the presenter?

This is a **LAMA** program (Library Administration and Management Association).

The presenter is **Alexis Sarkisian**, winner of the 2004 Northwestern University Alumni Association Service Award. She has an undergraduate degree in communications, and a MS in education. After working with East Chicago Public Schools as manager of instructional technology, she became community programming director with WMAQ-TV, where she earned an Emmy Award for best information program series. She now owns her own consulting business for public relations and marketing. One of her clients is the Chicago-area library system. She has implemented library marketing projects that won the John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award.

Register by October 1:

Nebraska Regional Library Systems

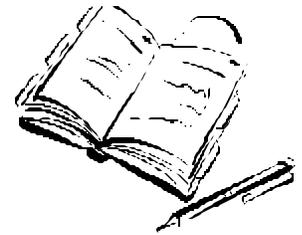
11929 Elm Street - Suite 12

Omaha, NE 68144-4364

800-627-7884 (toll free); 330-7884

ktooker@alltel.net

RVLS Calendar



June 2007

22-26—American Library Association Conference, Washington, D.C.

July 2007

9-13—4th Nebraska Library Leadership Institute, Schuyler, NE.

10—Database Roadshow 2007, Hastings College,

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/scripts/training/eventshow.asp?ProgID=8229>

28—Norfolk Public Library Literature Festival, 9am-4pm, Northeast Community College, Lifelong Learning Center, 801 East Benjamin, Norfolk, NE.

August 2007

9—NEBASE Annual Meeting 2007, Lincoln Cornhusker

October 2007

4-6—Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival, Concordia University, Seward. Go to www.cune.edu/plumcreek for complete information.

22-26—Nebraska Library Commission's Thinking Outside the Borders Institute, <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/think/intro.html>

24-26—NLA/NEMA Convention, Kearney, NE, <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/>

24—Read Aloud Nebraska Presents Mem Fox NLA/NEMA Preconference, <http://www.readaloudnebraska.org/events.htm>

25-27—"Novel Secrets: A Novel Retreat in Three Acts," Writing Conference, St. Benedict Center, Schuyler, NE. For complete details, go to www.NLSharp.com.

26-27—Nebraska Center for the Book Nebraska Book Festival; see <http://www.unl.edu/NCB/> for details.

February 2008

13—NLA Legislative Day

October 2008

15-17—NLA/NEMA Annual Conference

BULK LOANS OF LARGE PRINT BOOKS

Is your library currently taking advantage of RVLS's Bulk Loan service? If not, you might consider joining!

For a fee of \$50, your library or institution (such as a nursing home) will receive bulk loans of 200 large print titles per year. Typically you will receive 50 new books each quarter and send the previous 50 books back. You are responsible for shipping charges, if any. Depending on your location, your books will come from Hastings Public Library or McCook Public Library.

The \$50 payment (**due by June 30, 2007**) covers the period from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 and will be made to the Republican Valley Library System.

If you have questions or wish to begin participating, please contact the System office by **June 15, 2007**.



Mysterious? Indeed!

What could be more mysterious than having a double life, than having two (or even three!) names? Nothing, at least that I can think of. Nancy Wagner, former teacher, media specialist and reading/writing specialist for Fremont Public Schools (pictured below) is also known as Nancy Lee Sharp, or more commonly, NL Sharp.



NL Sharp addressed the seventeen public library folk at the Get a Clue @your library Make & Take Summer Reading Program Workshop held at the Blue Hill Community Center on April 16, 2007 to explain how a book goes from being a picture in her head to a book and to explain the author/illustrator connection.

“I had always known that I wanted to be an author,” NL said. From an early age—her first exposure to *Little House on the Prairie*—NL claims she realized that anyone can be an author; all you have to do is write about yourself. Easy, right? Well, NL credits her third graders with teaching her to write. “They know the secrets of being an author,” she said, secrets that include: writing every day (a non-negotiable must); sharing your writing with other writers; reading (all writers are readers, NL argues); and keeping a notebook. In notebooks, NL instructs, would-be writers should keep loose

paper, quotations, writing tips, unforgettable language, overheards and observations, memories and reflections, among other categories.

NL believes good writing doesn't happen mysteriously; it's a process that is messy and never perfect the first time. It's a process that requires “spying and watching your world all the time.” Crafting your experiences and ideas into the written word requires penning powerful sentences, ones that do not rely on adjectives and adverbs. For example, NL offered the sentence “The warden owns the shade” from *Holes*, then emphasized that the verb and two nouns are the meat and potatoes of the sentence. It does not *need* adjectives and flowery adverbs to communicate a set of very powerful things about the warden: meanness, entitlement, selfishness, superiority, etc. The sentence gets right to the heart of the Warden's personality.

Following NL's presentation, Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission, shared SRP-themed books. She also told the group that the 2009 SRP cooperative slogan will be “Be Creative @ your library” with “Express Yourself @ your library” as the YA theme. The cooperative has also determined a broad theme for 2010's program: water. We'll have to wait and see what develops with that one!



Sharon Osenga, Meridian Library System, Joan Chesley, retired children's librarian from Fremont, and the participating libraries all contributed to sharing activities, games, puzzles, readers theater and other ideas tailored to the theme. Pictured to the left are Melissa Whitefoot, Fairfield Public Library, and Sandy Overturf, Clay Center Public Library, who are trying to “feel” and “guess” the items in a Mystery Box.

What a wonderfully productive, magnificently mysterious day! To solve a mystery, go to Page 11 and see if you can identify one of the workshop's participants. She's incognito! Email rvtlsast@tcgcs.com with her name and library if you know who she is!

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A WONDERFUL WAY TO SPEND A SUMMER DAY

You are invited to attend Norfolk Public Library's 13th Annual Literature Festival on Saturday, July 28, 2007, 9am-4pm at Northeast Community College's Lifelong Learning Center, 801 East Benjamin Avenue, Norfolk, NE.

This year's Festival has been funded by the Norfolk Library Foundation, the City of Norfolk, & SCYP. Free admission for SCYP members!

The Festival will feature:

KAREN KAUFMAN ORLOFF 2008 Golden Sower Award nominee for *I WANNA IGUANA* and author of *IF MOM HAD THREE ARMS*.

TRINKA HAKES NOBLE 2008 Golden Sower Award nominee for *THE SCARLET STOCKINGS SPY* and author of *APPLE TREE CHRISTMAS*, *THE DAY JIMMY'S BOA ATE THE WASH*, *THE LAST BROTHER* and *MEANWHILE BACK AT THE RANCH*.

RICK RIORDAN 2008 Golden Sower Award nominee for *THE LIGHTNING THIEF* and author of *THE SEA OF MONSTERS* and *THE TITAN'S CURSE*.

ALSO: 2007-2008 Golden Sower Previews by Karen Drevo & Marci Retzlaff; Book Display & Discount Sales by Norfolk Public Library Foundation of titles by Orloff, Noble, & Riordan; Sales of Golden Sower Items; Autograph Session/Book Signing with Karen Kaufman Orloff, Trinkia Hakes Noble & Rick Riordan; 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

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 Prospect Avenue, Norfolk, NE 68701

For more information, contact Karen Drevo at NPL by phone (402/844-2108) or e-mail <kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us>.



Golden Sower Award Winners Announced

Primary Winner: *My Lucky Day* by Keiko Kasza

Primary Honor: *Pinduli* by Janell Cannon

The Toughest Cowboy: Or How the Wild West Was Tamed by John Frank, illus. Zachary Pullen

Intermediate Winner: *The Old Willis Place: A Ghost Story* by Mary Downing Hahn

Intermediate Honor: *The Million Dollar Strike* by Dan Gutman

Gregor the Overlander by Suzanne Collins

Young Adult Winner: *Perfect* by Natasha Friend

Young Adult Honor: *So B. It* by Sarah Weeks

The Pack by Elisa Lynn Carbone

All three of the winners are planning to attend the NLA/NEMA Conference in Kearney Friday, October 26, 2007, to receive their awards!



**'NEBRASKA LIBRARIES: CHARTING PATHS TO THE FUTURE'
IS THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S NLA/NEMA CONFERENCE**

Outstanding pre-conference workshops as well as two days of stimulating conference sessions will highlight the annual conference of the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association. The NLA/NEMA Conference will be held October 24-26 at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Kearney.

Internationally respected children's book author and literacy consultant Mem Fox will present, "Dirt Roads or Highways? Two Different Directions to Literacy". The pre-conference workshop will explore the critical role reading aloud to children plays in their social, psychological, educational and even physical development. Fox will also present, "Reading Aloud So People Stay Awake, Stay Active and Stay with You". The session will involve participants in developing read-aloud skills.

Also available as a pre-conference workshop will be "Image is Everything: Making Partners and Money for Your Library". Presented by Alexis Sarkisian of the LAMA Institute, the workshop will focus on providing librarians with the knowledge, tools and skills they need to make and use partnerships in their marketing, fundraising and development efforts.

John Seyfarth will present "Computer Hardware Confidence," a workshop providing a hands-on opportunity to build a computer from parts and install an operating system. This session will also help participants become familiar with typical troubleshooting and remove-and-replace tasks.

Pre-conference activities will conclude with the program "Great New Books for Reading Aloud," presented by Nebraska librarians Pat Leach, Sally Snyder, and Becky Pasco.

Pre-conference registration information is available on the conference website at <http://www.2007nla-nema.info>, or you may register online for the Mem Fox sessions at Read Aloud Nebraska, <http://www.readaloudnebraska.org/events.htm>.

A wide array of programming is planned for the two days of conference sessions. Thursday's opening speaker will be Harley Jane Kozak, an author/actress whose screen credits include Arachnophobia, The Favor, and Parenthood. Her books include Dating Dead Men and Dating is Murder.

Friday's keynote speaker will be Joel Sartore, a National Geographic photographer who was recently featured on the PBS documentary At Close Range. He is also the author of Nebraska: Under a Big Red Sky.

Mark your calendar now to participate in this exciting, energizing conference. For more information check the conference website at <http://www.2007nla-nema.info/>.

Special Memories of Dee

Kathy Tooker, Eastern Library Administrator, writes:

Dee loved to shop, especially for antiques. We were on our way to a system administrators' meeting in Scottsbluff and made a stop in Ogallala at an antique store. Dee was driving and was so eager to get inside to shop she jumped out the car and locked it all in one motion. The only problem was, she left her car running and her keys inside. We had to call Triple A to come unlock the car. Of course, we did shop and then had a snack at a nearby cafe while waiting to be rescued.

While on a literary tour of England in 1993, we were sightseeing in London and at the beautiful St. Paul's Cathedral, we saw the steps leading up to the Golden Gallery which runs around the outer dome of the cathedral. We looked at each other and took off, running up all 530 steps, 280 feet. When we got to the top we were laughing so out of breath but also laughing because we had done it. The view was magnificent but even better is this memory.



Honey Lou Bonar, Hastings, writes:

As so many of you know, traveling with Dee was always Dee-lightful. Her connection to others always astounded me. I am convinced that Geneva has a population of over a million because, almost always after Dee had talked with a stranger for less than five minutes, she'd have discovered SOME connection that person had with Geneva. I really believe, though, that Dee simply loved people enough to find a commonality with

everyone she met.

One of the travel memories which can always dissolve me in laughter occurred the year we nominated Ivy Ruckman for the Mountain Plains Library Association distinguished author award. We'd spent five days in Las Vegas, two of them with Ivy, and had talked almost non-stop, sharing ideas we'd gleaned or brainstorming new programs we knew would be fun for HPL. (I still handle the paper blizzard more efficiently because Dee shared with me worthwhile tips from the two-day management pre-conference seminar in which she'd enrolled at that conference; what a two-for-the-price-of-one continuing education opportunity this was for HPL.) At any rate we finally had absorbed all we could from the conference (Did Dee EVER skip a session at ANY library conference she attended? Not when I was with her!) and were ready for our late-afternoon flight home. Despite being tired and a little giddy, we continued sharing ideas all the

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EXCALIBUR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC LIBRARIAN

The Public Library 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 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 _____

Send nomination forms by August 1 to:

2007 Excalibur Award Committee Chair:

Diane Downer

ddowner@geringlibrary.org

(308) 436-7433

Gering Public Library

1055 P Street

Gering, NE 69341

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RVLS News

There is always something new to help you succeed @ your library! The Chilton Automotive Database, an important new resource for mechanics and DIY projects, is now available to **Holdrege Area Public Library** patrons. According to **Director Pam**



Soreide, The ChiltonLibrary provides a deep repository of exclusive photographs, diagnostics designed by instructors, step-by-step repair procedures, Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) maintenance schedules, wiring diagrams, recalls and Technical Service Bulletins (TSBs) for automobiles and light trucks

in one easy-to-use web site. While you do need a library card, you don't have to go to the library. Remote access is available anytime through the library website at www.holdregelibrary.org by clicking on the link to ChiltonLibrary Online. Have your library card at hand as you will need the barcode number

on the back to open a session. Once the session is open, select the make, model and year of your vehicle, and then navigate through the topical headings to the one that addresses your issue.

Keron Bailey is the new Director at **Auld Doudna Public Library (Guide Rock)**. Welcome, Keron!

Terri Johnson, North Platte Public Library, was awarded a \$100 RVLS scholarship to attend the 4th Nebraska Library Leadership Institute at St. Benedict Retreat Center, Schuyler, Nebraska, July 9-13. Congratulations, Terri!



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CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE MIDDLE PERSON, THE ONE WITH THE PAPER HAT AND GROUCHO MARX-STYLE EYEGLASSES, NOSE AND MOUSTACHE? IF YOU ARE UP TO THE MYSTERY SOLVING TASK, EMAIL HER NAME AND LIBRARY TO <rvlsasst@teges.com> BY JUNE 15, 2007.

(Mary Boyington, Hastings Public Library, is on the left side and Betty Oliver, Beaver City Public Library, is on the right.)



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Special Memories of Dee

way to the airport, all the way on the flight, all the way in the car on I-80. And ... when one of us finally stopped idea-ing long enough to notice a direction sign, we realized we had shot through the Hastings interchange and were well on our way to Kearney. Laughing hysterically (from happy exhaustion, I suppose), we turned off at the next exit and headed EAST to Hastings.

I loved either helping with the programs Dee designed for HPL or having her as my helper for children's programs. She was the perfect go-fer, able to anticipate a need before I even encountered it and staying until the last speck of evidence from some program had been cleaned up. In adult programming her creativity is legendary: the Hagel brothers in the Viet Nam discussion, "The Haunting of America"; the Victorian Tea; the dollhouse village fair; the nurturing of a fledgling Friends group; the multi-cultural National Endowment for the Humanities discussion group; Hastings Chautauqua; Jog Your Mind at the Library 10K run; and a hundred others. For Dee libraries were too important to the community's social fabric to be treated lightly and she gave passionately to any library project.

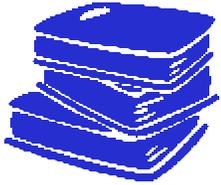
I often asked Dee to recount how her love affair with libraries began because hearing that story inspired me to make a "home" for Hastings children at HPL. Dee said that, beginning when she was perhaps in third grade (I wish I could verify this fact with her: as a librarian she demanded careful documentation on even the smallest point and she'd expect the same of me), she spent every afternoon after school with Mrs. Hamilton, Geneva's librarian. Recognizing Dee's accuracy, dependability, and fascination with library work, Mrs. Hamilton soon put her to work sorting magazines, shelving books, and even checking them out. What fun those two must be having in Heaven discussing trends in libraries and regaling each other with stories of interesting reference questions.

Dee's love of libraries was exceeded only by her love of friends and family. A world-class shopper, Dee shopped not for items for herself but rather for the perfect gift for another. She listened so carefully that she knew who collected Santa Lucia items, who loved antiques, who treasured angels; and, according to one friend, she even knew what special friends' children and grandchildren collected. Dan says he knows the "shop" in their basement still contains gifts Dee had squirreled away for her friends.

I already miss those joyous calls when Dee would report having found the perfect book or doll or outfit for MY granddaughters. And when Dee finally got grandsons of her own, her life became even more joyous. She loved creating beautiful moments for these darlings and spent much of this winter finishing special projects for Peyton and Carson. Thanks to her energy and determination, we know how many novices it takes to make a racecar birthday cake (four – one to do all the thinking and designing and three to get frosting all over everything) or to sew special dinosaur pillowcases.

Dee filled these last twenty years of my life with laughter, challenges, crafts, literature, adventures, trips, great food, love, and joy. I'm convinced that she had found an extra hour in every day that none of the rest of us have because she could get more done than anyone else I know. What fun she must be having where no clock calls her away from a good book to read, a wonderful project to pursue, or an interesting person with whom to converse. Heaven is lucky to





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“Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.”
-Walter Cronkite

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