



Republican Valley Library System

# VALLEYTALK

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## FEATURED LIBRARY: Nelson Public Library By Sherry Houston

Nelson Public Library sits on a corner in downtown Nelson, NE, a town of about 550 residents. Mary Statz, the director, started working at the Nelson Public Library in 2000. This library was originally started as a private collection by local organizations in Nelson, and then it was purchased by the Nelson City Board. When you walk into the library you notice the pictures of Nelson veterans and their wives, dating from



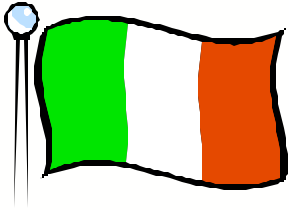
*Nelson Public Library Director Mary Statz displays a picture of the original public library building (left); the top was cut off to create the existing building (right).*

the Civil War, on the wall; a fish tank; some new books, and another room. In the second room are books and materials, two computers, compliments of the Gates Foundation, a microfilm reader, and a marvelous dragon.

The dragon hangs above a long table, and invites you to sit and read

or maybe dance as it waves with the lights. The children's summer reading group made the dragon and had a delightful experience

*(Continued on page 2)*



**Stay tuned for  
details of a  
Summer 2006  
literary tour of  
Ireland.**

### **2005-2006 RVLS Board Meetings**

September 16, 2005,  
Jensen Memorial  
Library, Minden

November 4, 2004,  
Holdrege Public  
Library System

January 6, 2006,  
Location T.B.A.

March 3, 2006,  
Location T.B.A.

June 2, 2006,  
Location T.B.A.



*(Continued from page 1)*

*Featured Library: Nelson*

reading and crafting for six weeks. About 25 children attended each week and at the end of the week, the children, disguised as Chinese dragons, had a parade in downtown Nelson.

The new microfilm reader was donated in memory of a woman who was an avid history buff and had collections of materials about Nelson. The Public Library has the *Nelson Gazette* and the *Nelson Herald*, local newspapers, on microfilm from 1884. The High School history teacher and students make extensive use of the collection.

One of the most exciting things happening at the Nelson Public Library is the formation of a Friends of the Library group. During the week of July 18 at the Nuckolls county fair, the new Friends group set up a booth to encourage people to join or contribute to the library. The group handed out bookmarks, complete with two mission statements, made with the bookmark/award RVLS Ellison die. One, created by Mary Statz's daughter-in-law Erin Fay Statz, says the mission of the Nelson Public Library Friend's group is, "To promote a place of refuge for nerds and crazies alike!" The other statement adopted by the group is, "To support ongoing development of a more versatile library and promote a lifetime of learning, fun and greater service to our community." The Friends Group is planning a book sale, with a Saturday pick up of books to be sold, painting windows in the library, and working toward the major project of automating the library. In the past the library has held successful raffles of items donated by community members such as a quilt and a hand-carved bird.

Nelson has benefactors employed by the Microsoft Corporation. Microsoft employees originally from Nelson give money every quarter and Microsoft matches the contributed amount. Microsoft calls it their "Microsoft Giving Campaign".



*Patsy Troudt, volunteer, catalogs books.*

Nelson is a little library with big things happening!

*Editor's Note: Each issue of VALLEYTALK will feature a library within the Republican Valley Library System.*



# RVLS NEWS

**Janice Soderquist**, Director of **Axtell Public Library**, reported that its summer reading program met at City Hall for five consecutive Friday morning programs, followed by check out of books at the library. During the summer two free books were given to each participating child through RIF. The final program was a picnic in the park with games and prizes. Also included in the summer reading program was "Thursday Craft Time" from 2:00 to 4:00 when children came in to complete a craft chosen for the day; this part of the program continues until school starts. The approximately 55 participating children were able to take part in any or all of the activities offered.

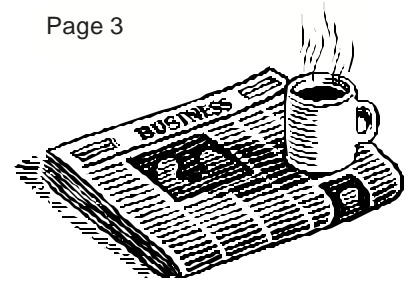
Seeking ideas for Grand Opening Celebrations: **Beth Falla**, Director of **Imperial Public Library**, would welcome recommendations and **ideas for grand opening celebrations**. The library is currently in the process of moving. Read all about it at <[www.imperialrepublican.com/Archivec6326.html](http://www.imperialrepublican.com/Archivec6326.html)>. Beth is also in need of information on and **samples of contracts or agreements for meeting rooms or multi-purpose room use/rental**. Please reply directly to Beth at <[imperiallibrary@gpcom.net](mailto:imperiallibrary@gpcom.net)>

**McCook Public Library** has its webpage and card catalog up and running! Check them out at <[www.mccooklibrary.info/](http://www.mccooklibrary.info/)>.

**Raylene Stephens**, Director of **C.B. Preston Memorial Library** (Orleans) reported that she asked for community support for the library's summer reading program again this year by mailing out request letters; the effort yielded over \$300.00, which was used for supplies and to purchase honor books for children reaching their goals. When Raylene visited the school to promote the program, she mentioned that there would be a dungeon for non-readers. At one of the programs, she staged some of the young adult patrons to be in the "dungeon" and they made moaning sounds and pleaded to be let out of the dungeon; the children all agreed they could be let out if they promised to READ. Raylene was given a bunch of old jewelry, so she made little sacks with drawstrings and cut the beads apart and let the children fill their bags with jewels to take home. They were like little Robin Hoods! The children's section of the library was decorated like a castle. What fun stuff!

The **RVLS Office** has been receiving a makeover. Things (heavy things, such as bookcases and supply cabinets) have been moved by Sherry and her husband Barry to and fro among the three rooms of the RVLS office space. The office is sporting a new desk, two new computer chairs, two new guest chairs and a unique clock end table. You'd have to see it to appreciate how cutting-edge trendy it is. **Look for details in the future about an RVLS Open House.**

(Continued on page 10)



Send us news of your latest programs, projects, and accomplishments at [rvlsasst@tcgcs.com](mailto:rvlsasst@tcgcs.com) or call 800-569-4961.

## Take It Easy This Labor Day!

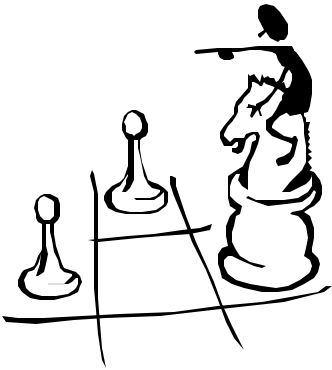
The latest "Census Facts for Features" press release concerns Labor Day; according to it, we are celebrating the 149.1 million people age 16 or older in the nation's labor force in May 2005. Among the nation's workers are 80. million men and 69.1 million women. These men and women represent 66 percent of the civilian noninstitutionalized adult population.

Susan selected two snippets of the many that were particularly germane to her life:

*The Long and Winding Road to Work*—24.3 minutes is the average time it takes to commute to work. [It takes me 30 minutes...if I drive lawfully :-)]

7.3 million—Number of workers who hold down more than one job. So-called moonlighters comprise 5 percent of the working population. Of these moonlighters, 3.8 million work full time at their primary job and part time at their other job, and about 293,000 work full time at both jobs.

[[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts\\_for\\_features\\_special\\_editions/005289.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/005289.html)]



## Statewide Umbrella Movie Public Performance Site License

The Nebraska Library Commission will continue to help support public libraries by renewing the statewide umbrella movie public performance copyright compliance site license to ALL public libraries from Movie Licensing USA, Inc. ([www.movlic.com/library.html](http://www.movlic.com/library.html)). This means that the local library will not have to pay for this service, because the Nebraska Library Commission will purchase this statewide license. On its Web site, Movie Licensing USA, Inc. lists the companies that are associated with the license. The company will send out certificates of the license, which will be in effect October 1, 2005-September 30, 2006, to all public libraries. If you have any questions please contact Pam Scott, Continuing Education Coordinator, Nebraska Library Commission at [psscott@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:psscott@nlc.state.ne.us) or 800-307-2665.



## It's Your

The **Panhandle Library System** has a **new website**. Check it out at <http://teacher.esu13.org/pls/>.

The **Paraprofessional Section of the Nebraska Library Association** is offering to its members **four \$50 scholarships to attend the 2005 NLA/NEMA Annual Conference**, Libraries: Heart and Soul of Communities. The Conference will be held September 28-30 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln. For more information on the conference, go to <http://www.nla-nema2005.info/>. The scholarship recipients will be asked to submit articles about their experiences to the Para's newsletter. If you are interested, please submit your name, address, email, phone, and library affiliation to Jenni Puchalla at [jennip@alltel.net](mailto:jennip@alltel.net).

**“Are America’s Public Libraries on the Verge of Losing Their Way,”** an article in the July/August issue of *Utne*, includes a section called, “What You Can Do: Take Action at Your Library.” Author Chris Dodge provides the following suggestions:

- ◆ “Recommend items you'd like your library to acquire. Provide as much ordering information as you can: author, title, publisher, music label, and, ideally, even reviews.
- ◆ If you find a helpful, responsive librarian, go back to that person.
- ◆ Contact elected officials about library funding and policies. For suggestions, visit the American Library Association's "Issues & Advocacy" area at [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org).
- ◆ Support the work of ALA's Hunger, Homelessness, & Poverty Task Force: [www.hhptf.org](http://www.hhptf.org).

- ◆ Join the Campaign for Reader Privacy: [www.readerprivacy.org](http://www.readerprivacy.org).
- ◆ Monitor librarian blogs such as: [www.librarianactivist.org](http://www.librarianactivist.org).
- ◆ Read *Library: An Unquiet History* by Matthew Battles (Norton, 2003), a Harvard librarian's look at the library's enduring role in human affairs.”

To view the article in its entirety, please go to <http://www.utne.com/cgi-bin/udt/im.display.printable?client.id=utne&story.id=11706>.

The **Golden Sower website** has an updated look, thanks to Mary Ehlers! Check it out at <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/golden/sower.htm>.

Last year, libraries in Nebraska were a part of 487 communities in every state and nine countries that participated in **The September Project**, a grassroots effort to foster public events on September 11 in libraries across the globe, by holding a diverse array of events. Libraries organized installations and displays; talks, debates, and discussions; exhibitions; youth and teen readings and writings; and voter information and voter registration. All of these events were centered around themes of democracy, citizenship, and freedom. To learn more about the project and how libraries engaged their communities, please visit: [www.theseptemberproject.org](http://www.theseptemberproject.org).

**Mountain Plains Library Association's website** has been revamped. Check it out at <http://www.usd.edu/mpla>.

(Continued on page 5)

# On the Bookshelf

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

- ◆ "Bridging the Digital Divide in the Spanish Speaking Community" Video, Library Video Network, 2004.
- ◆ *Our Singular Strengths: Meditations for Librarians* by Michael Gorman, 1998.
- ◆ *Guide Book to Nebraska's Public Meeting Laws* by John Spatz / Nebraska Association of Schools Boards (2005).



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, go to <www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/professional.html>.

Thanks to Pam Scott for recommending the following Resources for Assisting with Computer Training for Seniors:

WebWiseSeniors.com	<i>Basic Computers for Beginners</i> ISBN 0-9748237-0-8
<i>Email for Beginners</i> ISBN 0-9748237-3-2	<i>Microsoft Word for Beginners</i> ISBN 0-9748237-1-6
<i>The Internet for Beginners</i> ISBN 0-9748237-2-4	(All are large print and written for Windows XP)



(Continued from page 4)

*It's Your Move*

**Attention Public Librarians** : Many of you are now used to the **summer reading program evaluation form** being included in the manual. This year (and probably in the future) the committee chose to let each state design its own evaluation form. So don't look in the manual! An evaluation form was included in the mailing with your manual, but if you need another copy, go to <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/librarians.html#srp>>. Scroll down a little and you'll see "2005 - Evaluation - Summer Reading Program" and "2005 - Evaluation - Young Adult Summer Reading Program." Each of these can be downloaded to your computer to complete and mail or email to Sally Snyder, Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services, Nebraska Library Commission, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023. If you have difficulty downloading, or would prefer a printed copy of the form, call Sally at 800-307-2665 or email her at <[ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us)>.

**LearnOutLoud.com** is a new company devoted to the revolution that's happening in audio learning. In addition to access to thousands of audio books, recorded lectures and famous speeches, it offers author profiles, topic pages and a lot more.

Are you into **Harry Potter**? "Explore the Wizarding World" at <<http://www.hp-lexicon.org/index-2.html>>.

**Cindy Mielke**, Director of Goodall City Library (Ogallala) reports that Kansas authors Gary and Margaret Kraisinger, Halstead, KS, will be the featured authors at the Goodall City Library during Rendezvous Days, September 15-18, in Ogallala, NE. The Kraisingers will present a book talk, sales and signing on Saturday, September 17, 2005 from 9 am to 11 am at the library. **RVLS Board Member Norma** Dannatt is a Goodall City Library volunteer.






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## UPCOMING ONLINE LE@D COURSES

The following online courses will be available to school and public librarians this Fall:

- ~ Using Databases
- ~ Harnessing the Internet
- ~ Improving Co-Worker Relationships
- ~ Info-Age Etiquette
- ~ Grant Writing Basics
- ~ Nutrition Information for Librarians: Saturate Your Knowledge Not Your Fat Intake and
- ~ Evaluating Your Collection.

Contact Pam Scott,  
Continuing Education  
Coordinator, Nebraska  
Library Commission,  
pscott@nlc.state.ne.us,  
800-307-2665.

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# RVLS Calendar

## August 2005

18—Public Library Planning Workshop, 9a.m.-3p.m., Sutton  
Community Room, Sutton, NE.

## September 2005

16—RVLS Board Meeting, 10a.m., Jensen Memorial Library, Minden.  
22-24—10th Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival, [www.cune.edu](http://www.cune.edu),  
click on "Plum Creek."  
28-30—NLA/NEMA Annual Convention, Lincoln,  
<http://www.nla-nema2005.info/>  
24-October 1—2005 Banned Books Week, <http://www.ala.org/bbooks>

## October 2005

12-15—Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) Conference,  
Jackson Hole, Wyoming. **See page 14 for info on a FREE  
bus trip, departing on Oct. 10/returning on Oct. 16.**  
16-22—Teen Read Week, [www.ala.org/teenstopten](http://www.ala.org/teenstopten)  
21, 28 & November 4—Basic Skills: Collection Development,  
North Platte Public Library. Details coming soon!

## November 2005

1—Deadline for Submissions to "Best Small Library in America  
Award (given by *Library Journal* and the Bill & Melinda Gates  
Foundation. For guidelines & complete information, email  
<[rvlsasst@tcgcs.com](mailto:rvlsasst@tcgcs.com)>.  
4—RVLS Board Meeting, Holdrege Public Library System, 604 East  
Avenue, Holdrege, 10 a.m.

## December 2005

2—Patrick Jones Workshop, North Platte Public Library—look for  
details in October *VALLEYTALK*

## January 2006

6—RVLS Board Meeting, 10a.m., Location T.B.A.

## March 2006

3—RVLS Board Meeting, 10a.m., Location T.B.A.  
21-26—Public Library Association (PLA) Conference, Boston, MA.  
NLC will be offering Scholarships. **See insert.**

## June 2006

2—RVLS Board Meeting/RVLS Annual Meeting, Location T.B.A. 

# From the Administrator's Desk

By Sherry Houston

I knew what I wanted to write for this article after the second week of work, but thought....I can't write that, that is too...too *something*; however, I soon realized a "woman of a certain age" can do about anything she feels like doing. Later I was reading a magazine (okay, it was *Oprah*) and saw a reference to a book called *Happiness: How to Find It and Keep It* by Joan Duncan Oliver and I knew I was going to write what I wanted to write that second week.

This is it...you people are NICE, deep down in your heart, nice. I have met people from our Republican Valley System, the Library Commission, the other System Administrators and even some of their board members and everyone has just been nice and kind. In Oliver's book, she refers to a book by the Dalai Lama called *The Art of Happiness at Work*. The Dalai Lama says "Be a good person, a kind person. Relate to others with warmth, human affection, with honesty and sincerity. Compassion." So is it really that simple to be kind? Oliver says yes, it is. "Someone needs something, we help. Someone feels low, we console. Someone trips, we catch them. There's a need, we respond."

To me, this is what it means to be a librarian. Someone needs something, we help; when there's a need, we respond. In this world consumed by anger and hatred, perhaps libraries are places of solace and safety because of our very nature, a nature of niceness, kindness. To all of you, I say thank you for being so nice, so kind to me these first few weeks. It has been a joy to meet you and work with you and I anticipate many years of working together and spreading our mutual love of libraries and librarianship.



## ATTENTION: TRUSTEES

Are you TUF enough? Mark these dates on your calendar to attend the NLA fall conference, September 29-30, 2005, at the Marriott/Cornhusker Hotel, in Lincoln.

The Trustee, Users, and Friends Section (TUFS) of the Nebraska Library Association is offering some exciting programs of particular interest to board members at the fall conference. They are designed to help you puzzle through some questions that you may have encountered in your service on the library board.

Thursday, September 29—\* You mean we owe sales tax?; 8:30-9:20; How about those services you charge for?

\* How to handle raffles; 9:40-10:30; Raffles help you raise \$\$\$\$. Do it right.

\* What's your ethics IQ; 1:50-2:40; Explore conflict of interest, open meetings, personnel, issues, and privacy issues, to mention a few.

Friday, September 30—\* Meet the Nebraska League of Municipalities; 8:00-8:50; How they play a role in your Community and why you should care.

\* Trustee Luncheon; 12:00-1:30; Meet your TUFS officers and the Trustee Citation Award winner.

\* Keynote speaker will follow the luncheon.

There is a full schedule of sessions on both days, so your time will be well spent. Plus, as an added bonus, Sally Gardner Reed, Executive Director of Friends of Libraries U.S.A., will be at the PL/TUFS luncheon to talk briefly about advocacy. Please plan to attend both days, or at least one day, of the conference and see what your fellow board members are up to.



# Intellectual Freedom—What Does It Have To Do With Me and My Library?

By Bob Boyce, Lincoln City Libraries, for the NLA Intellectual Freedom Committee

"Intellectual Freedom is the right of every individual both to seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction" (ALA Intellectual Freedom Office.) Doesn't that sound central to every library and every librarian? Are you ready for requests to withdraw material from your collection, or requests for information about what your users have read?

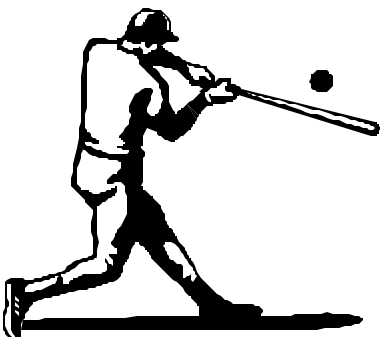
NLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee is working to make more people aware of the issues, and to help them be prepared if and when questions arise. Two ways we are doing this are a newly revised Intellectual Freedom Manual and a panel discussion on intellectual freedom at the NLA Conference this fall.

A public librarian, a school librarian, and an academic librarian will talk about being prepared on intellectual freedom issues when NLA meets in Lincoln in September, and we hope you'll find it of value.

The new edition of the Intellectual Freedom Manual was revised by NLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee last year and is available online at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/freedom/intellectfree.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/freedom/intellectfree.html).

Before the concerned citizens appear at your door, telling you they want you to withdraw something from your collection, or the FBI asks for your check-out records, you should read this Manual and follow its suggestions. It includes the following sections: a checklist of questions on how prepared you are to handle censorship issues; a list of records which may be withheld from the public (but may be subpoenaed by the authorities); how to create a mission statement and materials selection policy; how to handle reconsideration requests (with a sample form from ALA and a procedure to follow); links to various statements (The Library Bill of Rights, ALA's Freedom to Read, View, and Access Electronic Information statements, and a Guide to the USA PATRIOT Act); and finally a list of contacts—addresses and phone numbers of the Regional Library Systems, the Nebraska Library Commission, and NLA—which may be able to offer advice or help.

I hope we'll see you at the panel discussion in September!



## Did Your SRP Participants Hit Home Runs?

Please share details of your summer reading programs with us—we'd love to include them in the next newsletter. Hopefully, your libraries had lots of children who completed their programs and will be attending the Omaha Royals game (August 14).





NLA/NEMA Award Banquet & Post-Banquet Dance  
Flyer appeared here...contact the System office for a  
copy.



## ALOHA! By Susan Franklin

A deeply appreciative thank you to the Republican Valley Library System Board for granting me the opportunity to attend my first major conference; guaranteed, it will always be remembered! In addition to being the lucky Grand Prize winner of Reed Business's vacation package for two to Hawaii, it was memorable for many other reasons.

Although he is not necessarily a shoo-in to accompany me to Hawaii (I'm open to bribes!), my husband Jeff accompanied me to Chicago and acquired vendor-only access to the convention. He was absolutely astounded and overwhelmed by the 25,000 reported librarianish attendees. He was also vexed by my unflagging enthusiasm, even in the midst of fatigue and heat, to pick up every single free book, and, let's face it, most of the other free items, offered. He truly learned by way of physical effort that in my book (pun intended), there is no such thing as *too many books*. We ended up having to buy two small carry-ons in which to cart the treasures home.

The sessions ran the gamut topically, ranging from Googlization to digital libraries to the growing trend of "One Book, One Community" programs, to models of scholarly publishing, to technology, to ethics, and everything and anything else you could think of. The keynote speakers were of national renown, including U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D-IL), Henry Winkler, a.k.a. The Fonz, and David Sedaris, a personal favorite.

I was fortunate to have been able to attend, by the generous gifting of a ticket by Kathy Tooker (Eastern Library System Administrator) via Doug Roesemann (infoUSA/ReferenceUSA), the FOLUSA Author Tea and Awards Ceremony. It was, in fact, to my delight, a formal tea, complete with delectable finger desserts. Authors Arthur Frommer, Lisa See, and Tess Gerritsen, with whose works I am familiar, were joined by Laura Lippman and Ilene Beckerman, with whose works I now own and will someday, hopefully, have the chance to peruse. I also availed myself of the opportunity to introduce myself to fellow former-Nebraskan Sally Gardner Reed, Executive Director of FOLUSA. Sally's father, Charles Gardner, now retired, was the Director of Hastings College Perkins Library while I was a student there. Sally's mother, the late Sarah Jane Gardner, was my English-major advisor at Hastings College and one of the most formative mentors in my life as an English instructor.

Jeff and I attended another "special" event, a walking tour in the Loop, which showcased downtown Chicago's architecture and history. Even in near-100 degree temperatures, it was worth the sweat and blisters!

Thanks to Ron Shank, Associate Publisher at Reed Business, publisher of *Library Journal*, *School Library Journal*, *Library Hotline* and *Criticas* and Wendy Wels, Marketing Director, Publishing Group, Reed Business Information, for notifying me of my Hawaii prize, as well as to Reed Business for giving the prize away!

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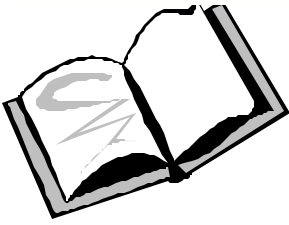
RVLS News

The **Zion Lutheran School Library** (Hastings) has joined RVLS's membership. Welcome to the System, ZLSL and **Deborah Heuer**!

**Tim Olin** is the new media specialist at **Sutton Public Schools**. Welcome, Tim!

**Stratton Public Library** received \$250 for submitting their statistics to the Nebraska Library Commission.





## Slacker Mom

By Cathy A. Leininger Mohnike, Title I Reading Teacher, Sutton Public Schools

OK, let's get this straight right off the bat. I didn't start out being a slacker mom. Oh, no, far from it! In my first years of motherhood, Cait and Margaret's books were placed in alphabetical order on their toy room shelves. The books were "read" often and then (gasp!) replaced on the shelves in no particular order. Toddlers! They are so irresponsible! Every Saturday I would dutifully place them back in ABC order. Due to the fact that they had hundreds of books, this was no small task. But did I succumb to ABC disorder? No, I was no slacker!

Their toys were placed in labeled tubs; the Gears Go Around tub, the Marbley Magic tub, etc. So every Saturday after alphabetizing the books, I spent another hour picking errant pieces of Marbley Magic out of the Gears Go Around tub and vice versa. I could go on, but why? I'm sure you get the picture.

But as the years went by, they wore me down. Believe it or not they absolutely did not care about ABC order or getting their toy parts in the correct tub. Little by little I picked up their attitude and turned into (da, da, da, daaaa) *a slacker mom!*

Girlfriend, let me tell you there is nothing alphabetized at our house anymore. If you visit and can walk through the living room without tripping over something, consider it a good day.

We took a vacation to Salt Lake City to visit my sister's family. She said I had to read Confessions of a Slacker Mom by Muffy Mead-Ferro. Ewwwww, it's a tiny cute-as-a-button book that you set on a guest bedroom bureau. It's not something to actually read! But what the heck, I was on vacation so I read it. What a hoot! Muffy wears her slacker mom label proudly and explains how a slacker mom is doing her kids a favor. Muffy is a woman who sets her own course, doesn't apologize for following it and isn't looking for anyone's approval. I love women with an attitude!

That attitude is what I treasure about two of my favorite summer characters, Stephanie Plum and Amelia Peabody. Stephanie Plum tries her hardest to be a good bounty hunter. She is pathetic at that job but fairly good at attracting two sexy men, those being cop and New Jersey burg resident, Joe Morelli, and enigmatic bounty hunter, Ranger. I have a picture in my mind of those two! Yum!!! But what adds a kick to Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum series are two other hilarious characters. Each June I can't wait to see what former hooker, Lula, and ditsy Grandma Mazur are up to. And believe me, it won't be anything sane.

Evanovich's books are so laugh-out-loud funny that my summer reading kickoff used to be to start with the 1<sup>st</sup> book of the series, One For the Money, and read my way up to the newest one. I know, I know, kind of OC of me. I quit doing that at about number eight. Her new book, Eleven On Top, gets started with Stephanie quitting the bounty hunter business. She is tired of being shot at, chased and pummeled. Ranger puts her to work at a desk job thinking that will keep her out of trouble. But if you know Stephanie like I do, you know that will make no difference at all.

Amelia Peabody isn't hunting for bond jumpers; she is hunting for Egyptian treasures. Amelia treks to archeological digs in Egypt with her explosive husband, Emerson. They have an uncanny knack for digging up more trouble than treasures. Author Elizabeth Peters gives the reader a taste of what life was like for an Egyptologist in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The Serpent On the Crown is Peters' 17<sup>th</sup> Amelia Peabody adventure. If you've always had a thing for King Tut, give Amelia a try.

Both authors give us likable, strong, funny heroines. The main difference between the two is that Stephanie is a horrible bungler as a bounty hunter but she knows it. Amelia, on the other hand, bungles things horribly but would never admit it.

Peters and Evanovich have written other books outside of these series. I just couldn't get the same connection with their other books. But then Amelia and Stephanie are practically family!

So be a slacker mom! Remember, it will do your children good. Start with the 1<sup>st</sup> book of each series (One For the Money and Crocodile on the Sandbank) and spend the rest of your summer surrounded by women with an attitude.



# Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities



**2005 Nebraska Regional Library Systems Preconference**

**September 28, 2005 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

“It was just bad luck; the cop was on the same road I was on that night!” Have you heard this phrase or something similar to it? If so, do you know the hidden rules that guide such thinking?



**Jodi Pfarr**

Much of society is based on middle class rules, and those who wish to succeed must learn the hidden rules of this middle class culture. These invisible rules, characteristics, and language structures shape the behavior and vocabulary of each culture in your community.

Libraries are the heart and soul of their communities; your patrons are the most diversified of any community entity. Knowing the best ways to interact with *all* of your patrons allows you to provide access and information in the ways best suited to those diverse populations.

The workshop will increase participants' awareness of the differences in cultures and how those differences impact opportunities for success. In addition, participants will leave with the skills needed to develop action plans to improve their services to their clients. This workshop would be valuable for those working with people through libraries, social service agencies or churches. Presenter Jodi Pfarr is a Transitional Housing Manager for Catholic Charities. She is also a chaplain, a certified critical debriefer for the St. Paul, MN Police Department, and is on the board of the

Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association Board. This workshop is based on the book, *Bridges Out of Poverty: Strategies for Professionals and Communities*, by Ruby K. Payne, Philip DeVol and Terie Dreussi-Smith.

**“What attendees will learn from the "Bridges out of Poverty" pre-conference will apply to their own situations, no matter how they define their community. Jodi Pfarr's presentation style is lively, informative, and insightful.”** -Becky Baker, Seward Memorial Library

**“I actually wished that she'd talk longer than six hours! I've often wondered why there aren't more low income families at the library--Jodi's presentation helped me make sense of that, and move toward having better relationships. This was new information for me.”** -Pat Leach, Lincoln City Libraries

**“She is the best presenter I've ever seen. Jodi cares so much about what she is sharing with you that she takes you on the journey whether you want to go or not. She's incredible. Every person will get something valuable out of this session, no matter how big or small your community is.”**  
-Rose Schinker, LaVista Public Library

**\$25 member of NLA/NEMA or library student  
\$35 non-member NLA/NEMA**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Library \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please mail registrations by **September 19, 2005** to “NRLS”:

Nancy Meyer, Eastern Library System, 11929 Elm Street, Suite 12, Omaha, NE 68144.

## LTA Classes Offered Through Nebraska Community College System

Courses are being offered to enhance your education in various subject areas or obtain an associate of arts degree in Library Science Education with the Library Technical Assistant emphasis. This degree option has been developed through a partnership of the Nebraska Community College System, Nebraska Library Commission, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The courses are mainly being made available through the online format so that a student anywhere in Nebraska will have access to this type of library science education. As of spring 2005, 62 students have participated so far in one or more of the classes that are being offered through the community colleges. Who has been signing up for these courses? Currently employed librarians, a hotel manager, school paraprofessionals, college library staff, school media specialists, and individuals that are interested in pursuing a library career are enrolling in the coursework.

This summer two additional courses were provided through Central Community College: *Reference Services in Library & Information Environments* and *Introduction to Children and Young Adult Services* with a total of 13 and 9 students registered respectively in each course. This fall, Northeast Community College will offer *Administration of Library and Information Environments* and Western Nebraska Community College will offer *Introduction to Technical Services—Cataloging*. Metropolitan Community College will also be providing the *Introduction to Library and Information Services* this fall. The *Capstone Practicum* course will be added to the offerings through Metropolitan Community College this coming January 2006.

Financial assistance can be obtained through the Nebraska Library Commission. Information about the scholarship and application requirements is located at the following website address:

<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/LTA/ltascholarship.htm>. We have awarded 24 scholarships so far. We will be reviewing our guidelines pertaining to the scholarship program later this summer. Be sure to also contact the financial aid departments at each community college for any other financial assistance that might be available through their institution.

You may have heard about the scholarships or any other information related to the library technical assistant courses through your regional library system newsletter and other library-related publications, the published course flyers from the individual community colleges or even electronically through email or a website. We are going to expand the coverage for promoting these courses by developing a booklet to be distributed through the community colleges as a part of student recruitment. The content of the booklet will be reviewed by members of the Library Technical Assistant Task Force. The current brochure of the library technical assistant coursework will be updated too in the near future for re-distribution. The Nebraska Community College Association (NCCA) will also host a section on their website devoted to statewide programs including the Library Technical Assistant option.

If you are interested in pursuing any of the library technical assistant courses contact your regional library system administrator or Pam Scott, Continuing Education Coordinator, Nebraska Library Commission via email: [pscott@nlc.state.ne.us](mailto:pscott@nlc.state.ne.us) or via phone: 800-307-2665 for additional information.



# ROAD TRIP 2005

Okay, this time you will have to sing  
"We'll be coming around the mountain!"

<http://wyla.org/2005conference/>

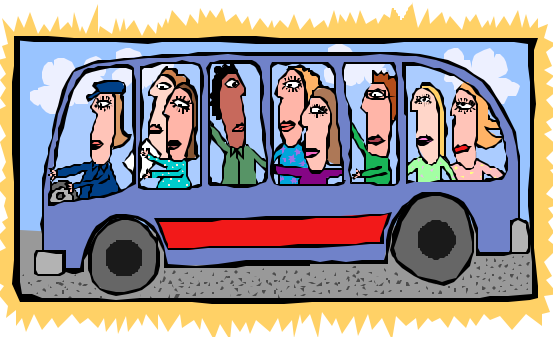
Join your colleagues for the second annual bus trip to Mountain Plains Library Association's 2005 Conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The Conference is October 12-15, the bus would leave from Nebraska on October 10th and arrive back on the 16th. Like last year, the bus will start in Omaha and go along I-80 picking up riders. We had 16 riders last time. Use the bus trip to network with your peers, catch up on your sleep, finish that book, or watch a movie. But most of all, use the bus to get to one of the favorite regional conferences for **FREE!** That's right, thanks to a grant from the Nebraska Library Commission, there will be no cost for the bus ride. There will be an overnight stay in Cheyenne

#### Positive comments about the 2004 bus trip:

"It gives you such an opportunity to process information from the conference on the way home. I would love to do another trip like this."

"I arrived at the conference rested and refreshed, instead of tired of traveling. It was great. I highly recommend it to all my colleagues."

"The bus trip was a valuable part of the conference experience. Networking with peers is always valuable, and there were people on the bus that I wouldn't normally run into otherwise."



#### And comments about the MPLA Conference:

"Because of our similarities of land, population (or lack thereof), funding and distances many of our issues are the same. There is a certain camaraderie among the librarians in the MPLA region — they are always willing to share, commiserate or add to a fantastic idea that is just simmering."

"It always is beneficial knowing we are not an island, and connecting with resources in other states so that we don't have to start from scratch on common issues of concern."

So sign up today to join Road Trip 2005!

**Sign up deadline: September 30th.**

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

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

NLA/NEMA C&U Section/NRLS sessions flyer appeared here...contact System office for a copy/info.

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Hastings, NE 68901-4684

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Webster



Nebraska State Trooper Jason Stahl spoke about Safety & Security in the Library at the Nebraska Regional Library Systems-sponsored Bricks & Boards workshop in Seward on June 13.