

# Republican Valley Library System



# VALLEYTALK

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We reserve the right to  
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#### Board Members

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## Featured Librarian: Leslie Frazier Hastings Public Schools



**Leslie Frazier** is responsible for three libraries in three different elementary schools for the Hastings Public School district, but she is not complaining. She is happy to work for a school district which still thinks having a certified media specialist in the library part of the time is important for the students and to the school district. Leslie goes to Alcott School, Lincoln School and Morton School. She spends full days and just goes in order and repeats so she isn't always at the same school on the same day of the week. This allows her to interact with different students and eventually see all the students in the school. Since she is spread among three schools, she teaches library classes on an as-needed basis.

Even though research shows a strong correlation between high reading scores and libraries with a certified media

specialist, schools across the United States have cut their media specialists as well as physical education, art and any other teaching area regarded as non-essential. Fortunately, last year a bill was introduced in the Senate called the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Incentive Fund Act which emphasized media literacy as well as other 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. If passed in the future, this bill would provide matching funds for schools that provide strong media skills and learning for their students. Libraries would once again be a very important element in student learning and achievement. When the Skills Act passes, Hastings Public will be on the cutting edge with their emphasis on media centers which enhance student learning.

Leslie started her career at Blue Hill Public Schools but made the change to Hastings four years ago. She said sometimes small schools can be more efficient when making changes and other bureaucratic business, but she said her colleagues in Hastings have helped her navigate the large system and she feels working at Hastings Public has broadened her as a person and as a teacher. Leslie is originally from Blue Hill and received her undergraduate education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. She did all her master's on-line through the Instructional Technology program at UNK. She said it may not be the best way to receive a Master's, but it was fast and it did what it needed to do for her at the time. I thought back to my own experiences and know that had an on-line program been available I would have taken advantage of it as everyone has to do what works in their own life. And

right now, Leslie's busy life includes a husband and 1 year old daughter, Sadie.

Last year the budget was cut for the media center by the district office but fortunately, the principals at her schools in Hastings realized the value of a strong media center and allocated more money to the media center. Leslie says she orders materials by taking student's requests, teacher's requests, having a book fair and being a bargain shopper.

I asked Leslie whether she has seen any changes in her few years in education. Her insightful answer was on target. She said she has seen a change in the "busyness" in our lives with the home/school connection constantly eroding, with technology making us want instant everything and giving all of us an appetite to know everything and to keep up with everything. Sometimes, ignorance is bliss. Leslie's passion is learning and seeing kids learn to love learning.



Visiting with Leslie and seeing the Hastings Public Schools Media Center was a breath of fresh air for me.

Several of the System Directors have lamented the erosion of the public school media centers and in our minds the erosion of the Public Schools, but Hastings Public Schools and Leslie Frazier have restored my hope




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## 2009-2010 RVLS Board Meetings

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**President** -Judy Grandstaff

**Vice-President** -Patty Hall

**Secretary** -Suzann Christensen

**Members:**

Tony Anderson, Vicki Casper, Beth Falla,  
Jane Hilton, Terri Johnson, Mo Khamouna  
Mary Nelson, Sylvia Person,  
Nancy Sherwood, and Dana Wade

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*All meetings begin at 10 am.*

*Your attendance is encouraged and welcomed!*



**Friday, November 6, 2009**

Hoesch Memorial Library—Alma

**Friday, January 8, 2010**

Hastings Public Library —Hastings

**Friday, March 5, 2010**

Lied Imperial Public Library—Imperial

**Friday, June 4, 2010—Annual Meeting**

Location to be determined



# RVLS NEWS

RVLS media specialists **Trent Benjamin** from **Holdrege High School** and **Washington Elementary School** and his wife **Kristin Benjamin** media specialist and technology coordinator at **Axtell** were recently featured in **NEMA News**. They reported that they share many curriculum ideas and projects that they collaborate on with teachers in their individual districts. When asked "What qualities do you think a 21st century media specialist should possess?" They both indicated that a library media specialist should be willing to try new things. Trent added that he thinks the media specialist should be assertive and willing to adapt. Technology is changing. **Good points to ponder.**

**Larry Evans** is the new director of **Trenton Public Library**. Welcome to RVLS, Larry.

**Candace Havely** is the new **Area Director of Learning Resources**. She will work with both **McCook Community College** and **North Platte Community College**. Candace comes from **Sterling, CO**. We are glad to have you as a part of RVLS, Candace.

**Wauneta Public Library** hosted 6 weeks of story/craft hour at the library for pre K—3rd Grade. An average of 12+ children participated each week. Helpers **Kristy** and **Elsie**, read many interesting stories and the children made crafts relating to the stories.



**Carol Schell**, director of **Trenton Public Library**, was honored with a retirement party Sept. 3, 2009. Carol had been the public library director since 2004. Carol was instrumental in the development of a new location for the public library in Trenton. The new building, formerly the VFW, was painted in shades of yellow, navy and brown--colors which Carol saw in a bookstore in San Francisco. In a prior life, Carol was an executive accountant for a large firm in San Francisco before she tired of the city life and moved to Trenton to live. The lovely, new library is a great achievement of which Carol can be really proud.



The retirement party was attended by a large group of people saying "**we will miss you Carol**". RVLS members echo those sentiments.

**Ellen Klages**, author of **Green Glass Sea** the 2009 One Book for Nebraska Kids will be spending a week in Nebraska talking to Nebraska students about her book. She will be in **North Platte** on Tuesday morning, Oct. 13, 2009 at 10:00 at the auditorium at **McDaid Elementary School**, 1000 East E Street, with several other classes from other North Platte schools in attendance. Contact Carol Eshleman [eshlemancy@ci.northplatte.ne.us](mailto:eshlemancy@ci.northplatte.ne.us) (308-535-8036) if you would like to attend this presentation.

**Ms. Klages** will be in Hastings at the **Hastings Public Library** on Wednesday morning, October 14th. Area school students will be attending. If you are interested in the Hastings presentation, contact Kathy Schultz [kschultz@hastings.lib.ne.us](mailto:kschultz@hastings.lib.ne.us) (402-461-2346) at Hastings Public Library. She will also be in **Gothenburg at Dudley Elementary School** and **Grand Island Public Library** on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

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**Dundy County Library** at **Benkelman** had 68 children participate in their summer reading program. The Dundy County Stratton High School Future Business Leaders of America chapter members planned all of the activities. Librarian **Nana Real** and the Dundy County Library Board members helped with the sessions and with the checking in/out of books. A total of 2,663 books were read by the participants.

**Oxford Library** held their Summer reading program the week of August 3-7th. Each evening a different theme such as pizza making, water coloring, music & dancing, pottery making. The week ended with a free swimming party at the Oxford pool for the participants.



## RVLS Has Scholarship Money Available

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

## RVLS Calendar

**OCTOBER is National Book Month** — See <http://www.nationalbook.org/nbm.html> for details.

### OCTOBER

7—ESU 11 Workshop, Holdrege Public Schools

11—18 Ellen Klages in Nebraska ( see page 3 for details)

28-30—NLA/NEMA Conference, LaVista, NE [www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2009/](http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2009/)

### NOVEMBER

3, 10, 17—Basic Skills at Hastings Landmark Center (see Page 11)

12—Fall Colloquium, Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, NE ( see insert)

14—Nebraska Book Festival, Lincoln, NE <http://www.nebraskabookfestival.org/>

#### **Ranganathan's Five Laws:**

Books are for use.

Books are for all; or Every reader his book.

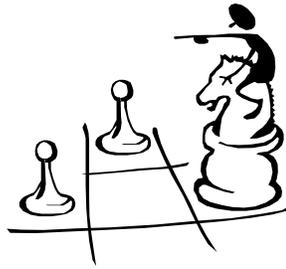
Every book its reader.

Save the time of the reader.

A library is a growing organism.

— Shiyali Ramamrita RANGANATHAN (1892-1972)

# It's Your Move



**Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>** is the **Nebraska Book Festival**. The theme is Cultivating Creativity. Activities will be held all day with a luncheon at Chez Hay in Lincoln where the Book Award winners will be honored as well as winners of the Jane Geske and Mildred Bennett award. For tickets to the luncheon [http://www.nebraskabookfestival.org/general\\_info/ticket\\_info.htm](http://www.nebraskabookfestival.org/general_info/ticket_info.htm) To see the schedule of events <http://www.nebraskabookfestival.org/default.htm> Even a writer's workshop will be held with Harley Jane Kozak and Kelly Madigan Erlandson teaching.

All activities are free. (Although you have to pay for the luncheon.)

Several members of Republican Valley Library System had questions regarding library cards, fines, etc. So we put together a survey to answer some of our questions. Your answers will be completely anonymous. If you are not from RVLS, please feel free to take the survey also. It should only take 2 or 3 minutes. If you would like to comment further, you can send your thoughts to my e-mail and I will record your answers. We will take answers until Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>.

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=qxYb9Bhf7yyXsu3LdQQxMQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=qxYb9Bhf7yyXsu3LdQQxMQ_3d_3d)

Thank you very much for your input

## The list for 2010-2011 Golden Sower nominees

is available on the Golden Sower website: [http://goldensower.org/nugget/lists/2010\\_11nominees.pdf](http://goldensower.org/nugget/lists/2010_11nominees.pdf) If you haven't checked out this website in sometime, go to: <http://goldensower.org/index.htm> to find the history of the Golden Sower award as well as information about current and past nominees which feature book reviews by students. The whole website is loaded with interesting, useful information. **Kathy Schulz, Hastings Public Library Children's Librarian** is the NLA committee chair of the Golden Sower committee.

The Nebraska Library Commission received the *IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*, a core set of conservation books and online resources through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The IMLS Bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in art or history museums and in libraries' special collections, with an added selection of texts for zoos, aquaria, public gardens, and nature centers. It addresses such topics as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collection management

and planning, emergency preparedness, and culturally-specific conservation issues. Libraries and museums are encouraged to contact Nebraska Library Commission Information and Reference Services to borrow these resources. For more information please see attached release.

Call: 800-307-2665 (Nebraska only) or 402-471-4016; fax: 402-471-6244; or e-mail: [nlc.ask@nebraska.gov](mailto:nlc.ask@nebraska.gov). A list of the materials in the collection is available on the Nebraska Library Commission blog at [www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/nlc/2009/08/connecting\\_to\\_collections\\_book\\_1.html](http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/blogs/nlc/2009/08/connecting_to_collections_book_1.html).

## Ellison on the Move

Here's the schedule for the Ellison, **if you want on the schedule please contact us**, or if it is near you, perhaps you could work out something with your neighbor.

October 1st— Sutton Public School—Sutton

November 1st— Southern Valley Elementary—Oxford

December 1st, 2009— Red Cloud Public Schools—Red Cloud

March 1st, 2010— Central Community College—Hastings



# On the Bookshelf



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

- ***The Girl Who Played With Fire*** by Stieg Larsson
- ***A Mercy*** by Toni Morrison
- ***The Elegance of the Hedgehog*** by Muriel Barbery
- ***Outliers*** by Malcolm Gladwell
- ***Long Lost*** by Harlan Coban
- ***South of Broad*** by Pat Conroy
- ***The Blue Notebook*** by James A. Levine
- ***First Family*** by David Baldacci
- ***The Little Giant of Aberdeen County*** by Tiffany Baker

## New Professional Collection

- ***Strategic Planning for Results***

A complete listing of our Professional Collection is on our web page [nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican](http://nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican) under Services

## Lead Standards

[CPSC Issues Rule Regarding Lead Standards;](#)

[More Guidance To Come for Libraries](#)

As the American Library Association (ALA) has emphasized since first enactment of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), concern for children's safety is our first priority in providing materials to young patrons. On August 26, 2009, the CPSC's final rule on children's products containing lead was released. In the rule, CPSC confirmed that libraries have no independent obligation to test library books for lead under the law. CPSC also announced its intention to release a Statement of Policy specifically providing guidance for libraries with regard to the treatment of older children's books that could potentially contain lead. According to our conversations with CPSC officials, that Statement of Policy should be released within the next several weeks.

While we await the Statement of Policy, ALA recommends that libraries take the following actions. If a library is aware that any children's book does indeed contain lead above the legal limits or otherwise presents a danger to children, it should remove it from public access, for instance by moving it to the non-circulating collection. We would also ask that if libraries do learn of any books containing lead to please let the ALA – Washington Office know so that we might share that information with other libraries. When the Statement of Policy is released, we will promptly notify our members.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jessica McGilvray, Assistant Director of the ALA Office of Government Relations at [jmcgilvray@alwash.org](mailto:jmcgilvray@alwash.org) or 1-800-941-8478.



The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target presents

# LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

Letters About Literature is a national reading and writing promotion program.

Sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, the Nebraska Library Commission, Houchen Bindery Ltd., and Lee Booksellers

## Participation Guidelines for Readers

Books have wings. You can't see them, but they are there just the same. On books' wings, readers can soar to new places where they meet intriguing characters and experience exciting adventures. But a book's wings can also help a reader rise above difficult situations so that they see the world — or themselves — with new understanding. Has a book touched your life in a personal way? If so, we invite you to enter this year's LAL competition. Have you ever felt the power and lift of literature?

### How to Enter

**First, determine your competition level.** Letters About Literature welcomes entries from all readers — reluctant as well as enthusiastic — on three Levels of Competition. Entrants must be at least 9 years old and fall into one of the following categories:

**Level 1 — Grades 4 – 6**

**Level 2 — Grades 7 – 8**

**Level 3 — Grades 9-12**

**Second, reflect and connect!** Select a fiction or nonfiction book, a short story, poem, essay or speech (sorry, no song lyrics) you have read and about which you have strong feelings. Explore those feelings and why you reacted the way you did during or after reading the author's work. Consider one or more of these questions when writing your letter:

- Did the characters, conflict or setting mirror your life in some way? If so, how? If not, why not?
- What strengths or flaws do you share with a character or characters in the book?
- What did the book show you about your world that you never noticed before?
- What surprised you about yourself while you were reading this book? Why was this work meaningful to you?

Your letter need not answer all of these questions, of course. These are just starting points to spark ideas.

**Third, write a personal, reflective letter (not a fan letter or a book report!)** Express yourself! A letter is less formal than an essay or research paper. Write honestly and in your own voice, as if you were having a conversation with the author. Those are the best letters to read and the most fun to write! Keep in mind these two tips:

- Correspond, don't compliment! Your letter should inform rather than flatter the author.
- Do not summarize the book's plot! The author wrote the book and knows what happened. What the author doesn't know is how the book affected *you*.

Our judges do not count words but we do have recommended lengths: Entries for Level 1 should be no less than 100 words and no more than 400 words. Entries for Level 2 should be no less than 300 words and no more than 600 words. Entries for Level 3 should be no less than 500 words and no more than 800 words. Please refer to the Contest Entry Guidelines in Rules #4 of the Official rules found at [www.lettersaboutliterature.org](http://www.lettersaboutliterature.org) for complete information on how to prepare your letter.

**Fourth, submit your letter by December 12, 2009, using the required entry coupon.** (See next page!)

## STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS

LAL awards prizes on both the state and national levels. Each state center has its own panel of judges who select the top essayists in the state. State Winners will receive a \$50 Target GiftCard and additional prizes, and then advance to the National Level Judging.

On each competition level, a panel of national judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select **six (6) National Winners** (2 per Level of Competition) and **twelve (12) National Honorable Mention Winners** (4 per Level of Competition). The National Winners will receive a \$500 Target GiftCard, plus each will win a **\$10,000 LAL Reading Promotion Grant** for his or her community or school library so that others can experience personal relationships with authors and the stories they tell. Additionally, the National Honorable Mention Winners will each receive a \$100 Target GiftCard and a **\$1,000 LAL Reading Promotion Grant** for the community or school library. The community or school library selected for the National Winners and National Honorable Mention Winners is at the Sponsor's sole direction. Refer to the National Level Judging in the Official Rules for more details.

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A Purchase will not enhance your chances of winning. MANY WILL ENTER, FEW WILL WIN. Open to legal residents of the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands enrolled as a student in grades 4-12 during the 2009-2010 school year, 9 years or older as of 9/1/09. Contest starts 8/1/09 and ends 12/12/09. Void where prohibited. Subject to Official Rules found at [www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/letters.html](http://www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/letters.html).

## HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES

**RETURN ADDRESS.** Print your name and complete return address (either home or school) in the upper right corner of the first page of your letter. Letters without a return address and adequate contact information will be disqualified.

**ENTRY COUPON.** Each letter must be accompanied by an entry coupon (below). Staple the coupon to the last page of your letter. Should you win a state or a national prize, your State Center for the Book will contact you using this information, so be sure your coupon is complete and legible!

**MAILING ENVELOPE.** Entries should be mailed in a flat 8x10" envelope or larger. Please indicate the competition level — either 1, 2, or 3 — on your envelope. Your Entry must be postmarked by December 12, 2009, (and arrive at LAL Central no later than December 22, 2009). Mail to:

**Letters About Literature**  
**Competition Level (Indicate level 1, 2, or 3)**  
**P.O. Box 609**  
**Dallas, PA 18612**

**ASSESSMENT.** All entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- **Content** (the writer's achievement in addressing the contest theme).
- **Writer's Voice** (the writer's style and originality of expression).
- **Exposition** (the writer's use of language skills, organization and grammar).

Each criterion will be scored on a scale of zero (0) to five (5), where five (5) is excellent and zero (0) is not fulfilling the judging criteria.

**OWNERSHIP.** All letters become the property of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Please make a copy of your entry as no letters will be returned.

**NOTIFICATION & CONTACT.** State Centers for the Book will notify state winners on or about 3/21/10. The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will notify National Winners and National Honorable Mention Winners on or about 4/30/10. [www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/letters.html](http://www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/letters.html). For program updates, please refer to the LAL website, [www.lettersaboutliterature.org](http://www.lettersaboutliterature.org) or e-mail us at [lal@epix.net](mailto:lal@epix.net)

### Note for Teachers Submitting Class Sets:

- When mailing class sets, please include a cover letter that lists the names of each child who has written a letter. Mail class sets in one flat envelope rather than individual envelopes. Use one envelope for each level.
- Please do not assign the same book to an entire class, as this misses the spirit of the program — identifying a personal relationship with an author and/or book. Likewise, rather than assigning the same opening paragraph or topic sentences, encourage students to express themselves individually.
- Visit [www.lettersaboutliterature.org](http://www.lettersaboutliterature.org) for free teaching materials, including lesson plans, assessment checklists, writing samples, plus teaching tips from our many LAL teachers who have participated in the past.

### Letters About Literature 2009-2010 Entry Coupon (cut & staple to letter)

**PLEASE PRINT. Often our failure to contact you is due to incomplete or illegible information on the entry coupon.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (optional) ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Grade (*circle one grade only*):      **Level 1:** 4 5 6      **Level 2:** 7 8      **Level 3:** 9 10 11 12

Book/Story Title \_\_\_\_\_ Author \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Parental Signature (*required if submitting as an individual entry*): \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT! If submitting through a school or library, please complete the additional information below:**

School/Library: \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

School/Library Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ School/Library E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Librarian Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Republican Valley Library System Board Meeting**  
**September 11, 2009 10:00 a.m.**  
**Klyte Burt Memorial Library 316 Center Avenue**  
**Curtis NE 69025**

**PRESENT:** Tony Anderson, Vicki Casper, Suzann Christensen, Beth Falla, Judy Grandstaff, Patty Hall, Jane Hilton, Terri Johnson, Mo Khamouna, Sylvia Person, Nancy Sherwood, Dana Wade

**ABSENT:** Mary Nelson

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sherry Houston (System Director), Marcia Wortman (Klyte Burt Memorial Library)

**AGENDA**

**Pre-Meeting Topics of Discussion:** Shopping in Curtis; books in restrooms (*secretary's note: If you are ever in Klyte Burt Memorial Library, check out the reading shelves in the restroom. Talk about always being within arm's reach of a book!*); early morning drives and different time zones; driving in fog; Reader's Digest condensed books as craft materials; patrons who steal toilet paper; and toilet paper dispensers.

The board thanks Marcia for the wonderful refreshments and for graciously hosting the meeting.

**Call to Order/Introductions/Roll Call:** President Judy Grandstaff called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. Roll call was made, allowing the secretary to learn the correct pronunciations of board members' names (Khamouna...rhymes with "Yamaha").

**Approval of June 5, 2009 Board Meeting and Annual Meeting Minutes:** The minutes stand approved as written and were filed.

**Financial Report:** Stipend checks were given to twenty libraries. Judy commented that it was one of the best expenditures RVLS has made. The board is very fortunate to have someone as conscientious as Kay Kloppenborg as our administrative assistant, as evidenced by the number of embezzlement stories in recent news. The decision was made to leave all CDs (two for \$5,000, one for \$15,000) at Heritage Bank with 9-month due dates. We have expended 14% of our budget to date. The auditor visited RVLS on 9/10/09 and it went very well. He told Sherry that records only need to be kept for five years so all materials older than that will be shredded and discarded.

**Agenda Amendment:** The agenda was amended to include an Annual Meeting Discussion under New Business Item 3A.

**Correspondence:** Thank you notes were received for scholarships, retirement gifts, baseball tickets, and books.

**Administrator's Report:** *[A detailed copy of the administrator's report is in each board member's packet.]* Sherry highlighted portions of her report, including visits to public libraries and school libraries, especially those with new personnel.

**Election of Officers:** A motion was made by Tony Anderson and seconded by Terri Johnson to postpone election of officers until after the New Business item "Super System Meeting" had been discussed. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Library Survey:** Sherry gave the group a sample of the survey. We made suggestions for changes and additional questions.

**Library Stipend Follow-up:** Letters of thanks and ways the funds were used by different libraries were shared.

RVLS Minutes 9/11/09—Continued from page 9

### NEW BUSINESS

**Scholarships:** Sherry handed out a spreadsheet of scholarship recipients. Persons may apply once each year for up to \$100. There is \$2,000 budgeted in this year's scholarship line item.

**Calendars:** Sherry's goal is personally to deliver this year's RVLS gift (Book Lover's Calendar for 2010) to each public library and school library.

**Winter Workshop and Valley Visit:** The winter workshop will be held in Hastings and will have a cooking theme. Sherry hopes to have someone from Morris Press, Pam Bohmfalk from Hastings Public Library (books with recipes as a story line), cake decorating demonstration, and a winery representative with wine books. Stay tuned for more details. The Valley Visit will be held September 15 in McCook and September 17 in Hastings. Both Valley Visits will feature Dave Oertli from NLC Talking Book and Braille service.

**Annual Meeting 2010:** Terri Johnson discussed North Platte options, which include the Golden Spike (and the possibility of a railroad dining car for the noon meal), Lincoln County Historical Museum/Canteen exhibit, Buffalo Bill Scout Rest Ranch, cemetery tours (with Carolyn Clark/North Platte Public Library doing an Annie Cook impersonation), and the Feather River Winery.

**National Book Festival:** Since Sherry is the Nebraska Center for the Book treasurer, she will be leaving September 24 to attend/work the National Book Festival in Washington, DC. President Barack and Michelle Obama are keynote speakers. Nebraska will be represented by three persons. Sherry also highlighted the Nebraska Center for the Book Festival to be held November 14 at the Historical Society. It will feature speakers, workshops and a panel of poets.

**Basic Skills:** All systems are offering the next series of Basic Skills classes. RVLS's classes on Collection Development will be in Hastings at the Landmark Center on November 3, 10 and 17. Judy Grandstaff will be the instructor.

**Committee Assignments:** RVLS's Strategic Plan needs to be updated. Mary Nelson and Dana Wade are new members of the Planning/Executive/Budget Committee, and Mo Khamouna is now on the Technology Committee.

**Super System Meeting:** The group was given a summary of the meeting held in Lexington earlier this summer. A spreadsheet comparing each of the library systems' funding and budgets was distributed. Each of the systems is unique, and each has different beliefs and different priorities, offers different services, and has different ways of meeting the needs of its patrons. At the meeting, ideas and concerns were shared and some plans for the future were formed. A meeting of system directors and board presidents will be held in Grand Island on September 29. Patty and Judy summarized RVLS: we are good people who share common philosophies – doing for others and sharing our resources.

**NLC Commissioner Report:** Steve Batty was unable to be in attendance.

**NLC Representative Report:** Richard Miller was unable to be in attendance.

**Election of Officers:** Judy left for this portion of the agenda. In her absence, Sherry conducted the meeting. A motion was made by Jane Hilton and seconded by Tony Anderson to elect the same slate of officers as last year (President Judy Grandstaff, Vice-President Patty Hall, Secretary Suzann Christensen). Secret balloting took place. Motion carried.

**Miscellaneous:** We talked about the possibility of holding the March meeting via videoconference (Skype or some other method).

A motion to adjourn was made by Tony Anderson and seconded by Patty Hall. Motion carried, 12:24 p.m.

Sherry (who never goes anywhere without her camera) took pictures of the board before we could leave.

*Suzann Christensen*, Recording Secretary





## Basic Skills-Collection Development will be offered in November.

The class will cover aspects of library work involved with library materials and:

- intellectual freedom—why it is important, and how to handle incursions against it
- how to get to know your community so that your collection reflects their interests and needs
- writing policies, and how policies are important to help achieve goals, to protect the library, and to set priorities and criteria for the collection
- the tasks related to library collections: selecting materials, acquiring them, physically maintaining them, and de-selecting them.

### Classes will be held at:

- Alliance Public Library – November 5, 12 & 19
- Hastings, Landmark Center – November 3, 10 & 17
- Lexington Public Library – November 6, 13 & 20
- Norfolk Public Library – November 10, 17 & 24
- Seward Memorial Library – November 9, 16 & 23
- Waterloo, Agnes Robinson Waterloo Public Library – November 9, 16 & 23
- Online – November 2 – December 18

In Hastings, the class will meet in the lower level of the Landmark Center from 10:00 to 3:00 with an hour for lunch. Judy Grandstaff, director of the Blue Hill Public Library will be the instructor. To register, go to the Library Commission Library Training calendar: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/training/train.asp?Month2Show=11/1/2009>



## Consider attending a pre-conference this year.

### Oh Good Grief! – Bereavement Issues for Librarians

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Price - \$20.00

Lunch on your own

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2009/preconferences.html>

The speaker for this pre-conference is Joy Johnson, co-founder of the Centering Corporation.

While this is a serious subject, the workshop will NOT be grim. Death and grief are inevitable, but not many of us are comfortable with it. Librarianship is one of the "helping professions", but few have had the training in how to help people dealing with grief. This workshop will provide the tools and techniques for dealing with grief and grieving.

## The Return of the CALM Reader

By Cathy Anne Leininger-Mohnike

I'm baaack!! After a year's hiatus I have returned to writing my column for the Republican Valley Library System's newsletter. Last year I just couldn't do it. I was taking classes online through UNK to earn my Reading Endorsement which bogged me down. This year one of my nephews came to live with us and I decided, the heck with those classes, I'm just going to enjoy him being here. After having all our children out of the house for five years, it is just fun to have a high schooler back in the house. He joins my children in being an avid reader and SCRABBLE player so he fits right in the household. He also plays basketball so we'll get to root him on.

I am still heavy duty into reading memoirs. The older I get the more fascinating I find other people's lives. Not that I want to live their life, I just want to read about them. Have you noticed how many memoirs are out there? It seems like everyone is writing about their life. Maybe if my life gets more interesting I'll write one!

Two that I have read recently are worth reading. The first is "Riding the Bus With My Sister". This memoir tracks the experiences that an older sister has when she decides to live her sister's life for one year. Her sister is developmentally delayed and spends her days riding the city bus. I'd tell you more about it but I sent it off to my sister so she could read it.

The second is, "I'm Perfect, You're Doomed: Tales from a Jehovah's Witness Upbringing" by Kyria Abrahams. This memoir category could be called *what it is like to be raised in a religion different from mine*. I like getting a perspective from someone on the "inside". Of course the people who write in this category usually are doing it because their perception is that their religion twisted their life into a dysfunctional mess. Those are the most fun to read. Who wants to read about someone who had a June Cleaver life! That's about as boring as my life.

Ms. Abrahams has a knack for describing her life in ways that make one smile.

In describing one of her only friends that was not a Jehovah's Witness:

*We tried our best to make Sarah look as cool as possible, considering her mother would only take her shopping at Sears. ...Any jeans purchased there usually had the words "tough" and "reinforced" somewhere on a large leather patch.*

or

*To add insult to injury, Sarah wore glasses reminiscent of Dustin Hoffman in Tootsie and had recently gotten a perm so tight that poodles winced.*

and in describing Sarah's family

*Sarah's parents were retired geography teachers who had already raised four children and were starting on a gaggle of chubby grandchildren. They were fundamentally different from any people I had ever experienced. While my family thought of school as a way to kill time between birth and Armageddon, Sarah's family creepily thought it was important or something. These were people who put stock in learning about things that aren't solely in the Bible. These were Episcopalians.*

What a great last line! Well, there you go. Two recommendations so you will have something to do now that we are into autumn. Ahhh! Love those crisp mornings.

## Back to School Resources at the UNK Library

Looking for resources to meet the needs of area educators, homeschoolers, and parents? Consider directing your patrons to UNK's Calvin T. Ryan Library!

Our collections include Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade textbooks covering a wide variety of subjects, practical tools for developing lesson plans to meet particular curriculum goals, and theoretical works addressing various educational philosophies, among other education related resources. Recent additions to our collections include:

*Earth Science Success: 50 Lesson Plans for Grades 6-9*, by Catherine Oates-Bockenstedt and Michael Oates. Published by the National Science Teachers Association, it includes a one-year Earth science curriculum with day-by-day lessons. The aim of the work is to help science educators aid their students in relating what they are discovering and learning in the classroom, to their own world of experience. Find this work on the lower level of the library—Curr QE 47 .A1 O28 2008.

*Teaching reading: differentiated instruction with leveled graphic organizers*, by Nancy L. Withereil and Mary C. McMackin. Written by two teachers, the collection includes 15 complete reading comprehension lessons. The lessons also include leveled graphic organizers to facilitate integrated instruction at three learning levels. The call number for this work, also located on the lower level of the library, is Curr LB 1574.4 .W822 2009.

*The weekly curriculum: 52 complete preschool themes*, by Barbara Backer. The author taught preschool for 20 years! She provides 52 weeks of lesson ideas, including materials lists, subject area covered, and step-by-step ideas for activities related to the week's theme. Check this work out on the lower level of the library, Curr LB 1140.4 .317 2003.

And, of course, there are many, many more works available at the library to support educators!

The University of Nebraska at Kearney's Calvin T. Ryan Library (2508 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue) welcomes all library users. Any Nebraska resident, 18 years or older, may apply for a special borrower card. Just fill out an application at the Circulation Desk and present a valid Nebraska photo ID. Community members are allowed to borrow five circulating items at a time. What circulates? Most books, books on tape, videos, CDs, and lots of other information resources!

Parking on a university campus is always a challenge! We can help to ease this difficulty by sending you a temporary parking permit, directions, and a campus map with the appropriate parking lots marked. To request a permit, please contact Jennifer Harvey ([harveyjs@unk.edu](mailto:harveyjs@unk.edu); 308-865-8276) or Rochelle Krueger ([kruegerr@unk.edu](mailto:kruegerr@unk.edu); 308-865-8819). There is also street parking on the south side and east side of the campus, if you don't mind a little walk! Many of our resources can also be borrowed through your local library's interlibrary loan service.

We hope to see you soon!

--Jennifer Harvey, Curriculum Librarian, [harveyjs@unk.edu](mailto:harveyjs@unk.edu)

## Library Boards:

Create discussion, earn CE credits

Create conversation, empower the library

**Earn 1 CE**

Our Shared Vision for Library and Information Services    Nebraska Libraries Future Search Conference

**Global:** *Libraries embrace the richness of a global community*

From the Library Bill of Rights: V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

### ALA: Access to Information

“Libraries are major sources of information for society and they serve as guardians of the public’s access to information more generally. The advent of the digital world has revolutionized how the public obtains its information and how libraries provide it. Libraries help ensure that Americans can access the information they need – regardless of age, education, ethnicity, language, income, physical limitations or geographic barriers – as the digital world continues to evolve. Core values of the library community such as equal access to information, intellectual freedom, and the objective stewardship and provision of information must be preserved and strengthened in the evolving digital world.

Equity of access means that all people have the information they need-regardless of age, education, ethnicity, language, income, physical limitations or geographic barriers. It means they are able to obtain information in a variety of formats-electronic, as well as print. It also means they are free to exercise their right to know without fear of censorship or reprisal. ‘ <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/access/accesstoinformation/index.cfm>

According to projected census data, Nebraska is:	91.45%	Native White
	4.50%	Black
	7.90%	Hispanic/Latino
	1.10%	American Indian
	1.10%	Asian

Are we meeting the needs of the diverse population that has become Nebraska?

- Do a community analysis. Look at the census data for your community. [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) will allow you to look at the current and projected statistics for your community. Look at the school data <http://reportcard.nde.state.ne.us/Main/Home.aspx> Do a needs assessment by handing out a questionnaire or sending one home with the electric bill. Know your community and what materials and access to information users need. Then do what you can to provide materials and services in their language, at their reading levels, on your website, wherever you can.

**Become observant.**

- New language programs are being developed and marketed to libraries. These programs are very user friendly and something to consider purchasing for your users if this is a need in your community. One company who offers a quality product is called Mango. You can try it for free. It offers training in 12 languages and plans to rapidly expand. <http://www.mangolanguages.com/>

**Become outward focused.**

- Do you offer programming in the language or utilize the diverse culture of the population in your community? Celebrate the holidays of the cultures in your community. Don't be afraid to ask about traditions, what the group would like the library to offer. Use members of different groups to offer the programs, display objects from their home country, or any other event that allows you to work together. **Become collaborators.**
  
- At NLA/NEMA several years ago, Mary Pipher, Nebraska author, spoke about the importance of libraries for people new to the United States and new to Nebraska. Embrace these ideas. Get Nebraska maps and driver's license books to give to your patrons. You can print off the Driver's license books at: <http://www.dmv.ne.gov/examining/index.html> or you can download the audio at the same site. Nebraska guides and maps are available at: [http://www.visitnebraska.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=206&Itemid=313](http://www.visitnebraska.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=206&Itemid=313) or call 877-NEBRASKA. What other information is important when moving to a community, especially if you aren't a native English speaker? **Become the welcoming place.**
  
- New computers allow the user to change to the language of their choice. Let the user change the language, let the user send e-mail, and don't block places that allow connections to family, to culture, to important services for one's life. **Become indispensable.**

### Questions to consider:

1. Do you know the make-up of your community? Are you providing services to all people regardless of language or ethnicity?
2. Is the library one of the first places people new to the community come for information and services regardless of their nationality or language?
3. Do you offer programming that is appealing to different segments of your community throughout the year?
4. Is it possible to collaborate with diversity members of your community to offer experiences which celebrate all cultures and experiences?
5. Do you provide access to computers and on-line information in languages of your population?





— Henry Ward

**“A library is  
not a luxury  
but one of the  
necessities of  
life.”**

**Serving Counties:**

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

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

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