



Republican Valley Library System

VALLEYTALK

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We reserve the right to edit or
refuse all contributions.

Featured Librarian:

Patty Birch, North Platte Senior High

The Mad Hatter Award recognizes an individual in the Nebraska library profession who has made an outstanding contribution to librarianship and library development for young people. The winner of the Mad Hatter Award has been from the Republican Valley Library System for the last two years. Last year, Kathy Schultz from Hastings Public Library was the Mad Hatter and in 2006, Patty Birch is the winner. Patty is a High School Media Specialist from North Platte Public Schools and the very excited, deserving winner of the Mad Hatter Award. Patty said, winning the award never crossed her mind, and she felt very humbled by the experience. During the presentation, Mary Reiman introduced her, and then Patty's sister Marty Magee spoke. Patty looked into the audience and saw her husband standing in the doorway. He drove to Omaha from North Platte just for the presentation. Tami Lopez, Patty's library assistant, knew about the nomination in August, and asked other teachers to write recommendations to the selection committee. Several of the teachers, the principal, assistant superintendent and Tami made a video about Patty for the award ceremony. And they all kept it a secret!

So why did Patty win? The North Platte Public School Media Center is a state-of-the-art facility which Patty was very instrumental in designing. The room oozes library, technology and the future. Patty works with 1200 high school students and 85 faculty members. Patty says running a media center isn't that much different from running a small business. The Media



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2006-2007 RVLS Board Meetings

January 12, 2007:
Country Whimsey,
416 Norris Avenue,
McCook

March 2, 2007:
Hastings College
Perkins Library

June 1, 2007:
RVLS Board and
Annual Meetings

*Location to be
announced

*We encourage
attendance! All board
meetings begin at
10 a.m.*



Plan Ahead

Plans for the 2007 Summer Reading Program are being developed. March 8 at Lied Imperial Public Library (Imperial) for one site and March 29 at Blue Hill Public Library. The theme for 2007 is Get a Clue @ your library.

(Continued from page 1)

Featured Librarian: Patty Birch

Center has to be a welcoming place where the customer is always right and the staff is there to help. Patty says she teaches all the time. Every time a class comes to the media center, Patty takes the first few minutes to orient students about basic information such how you print, which specific database to use for that particular assignment, or just basic library details. This teaching technique keeps all students on a level playing field. Patty's goal is to make students life-long learners. She says the environment in libraries is changing so dramatically and students as well as librarians have information overload so one goal is to learn to manage information effectively. Patty really focuses on seniors before they head off to college or the world of work so the students from North Platte are not overwhelmed by the life beyond their small town. She encourages interlibrary loan for students so they know North Platte Public School Media Center and all librarians in general can find anything. (We knew that, didn't we?!)

Another focus of Patty's job is the teachers in the North Platte school system. Many teachers are in graduate classes and are shocked with all the change that has taken place in the library world since their undergraduate days. So Patty establishes a connection with the teachers and they in turn realize the importance of the library for their students' learning experiences.

Patty is the secretary of SCYP (School, Children's and Young People's division of Nebraska Library Association) and is on the Nebraska State Advisory Board for the Nebraska Library Commission. Patty also teaches Library Collection Management in the LTA program for North Platte Community College. She says students in the program are so motivated and enjoyable. Patty started working at North Platte Public School in 1998 and has created a library/media center that is a wonderful place for students and teachers. We all know that she is a very deserving Mad Hatter!



RVLS NEWS



The **Clay Center Public Library** recently received a thousand dollar grant from the Kinder Morgan Foundation. The funds were used to obtain more Accelerated Reader books to support the program that many of the area schools use with their youth to encourage them to read. Pictured are some of the books. The **Clay Center Public Library Friends** held a Book and Bake Sale during Old Trusty Day weekend, Sept 8-10. The sale netted \$847, which was used to purchase a new computer. Way to go!

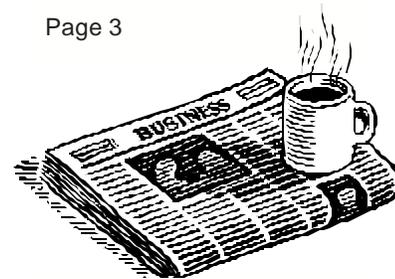
Jane Hilton, Elwood Public Library, has a new email address: <jane.hilton@hotmail.com>.

Julia Cernetisch is no longer at

Ruskin Public Library. Elaine Christensen, Board Member, opens the library by appointment.

Congratulations to **McCook Public Library** for receiving a Nebraska Library Commission Library Improvement Grant for the Railroad Digitization Photo Project.

The **Nebraska Regional Library Systems** displayed system info, new technology, and MPLA Bus Trip info at its booth during NLA/NEMA. For sale were unique pins. Pictured below are Cherie Longmuir (seated), Panhandle Library System, and Sharon Mason.



Send us news of your latest programs, projects, and accomplishments at rvlsasst@tcgcs.com or call 800-569-4961.

One Book, One State 2007

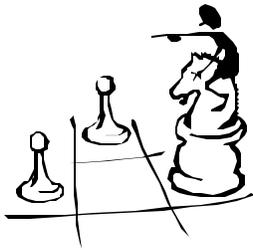
One Book, One State for 2007 will be *Crazy Horse* by Mari Sandoz. Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center from Chadron State College will be sponsoring the book and they will create kits for book clubs to be checked out by the Regional Library Systems. The Sandoz Center will also have a rotating collection of memorabilia that libraries can check out. Watch for details of how to book the rotating collection for your library or contact the Sandoz Center directly:

Phone - 308-432-6401
 Fax - 308-432-6061
 Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center
 Chadron State College
 1000 Main Street
 Chadron, NE 69337

Check it out !!

You can check out an iPod or an MP3 player from the RVLS office. You will need to sign an agreement before you check one out, but you can keep one player for a month and try it out. Each player is loaded with 9 books. RVLS bought these players with an LSTA grant from the Nebraska Library Commission so member libraries can become familiar with the new technologies. Now, if I can just get used to those darn ear buds!





NLA Legislative Day February 14, 2007

Make plans for the next NLA Legislative Day on Wednesday, February 14, 2007.

Coffee, doughnuts and informal meetings with our Senators begin at 8:30am. A briefing of legislative issues affecting Nebraska libraries follows at 9:30am.

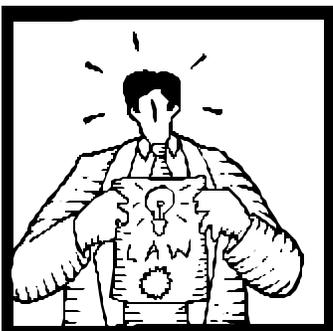
Lunch will be at the Cornhusker Hotel at noon.

Don't wait to ask your Senator and members of your respective governing bodies to attend this event! Meet with your Senators; it's FUN!

Future Legislative Day Dates:

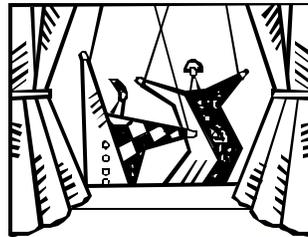
February 13, 2008

February 11, 2009



It's Your Move

Parasol Puppets offers quality puppet shows and puppetry workshops for family audiences. For information, contact Debbie

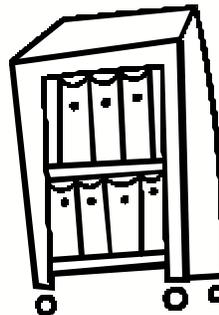


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port, MO

64648; 660-684-6825;
dlpallen@grm.net; or go to
<www.parasolpuppets.com>.

The **2006-2007 RVLS Online Directory** is now available for your perusal. Go to <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/directory.html>>. If you have additions/corrections/changes to your directory entry, please email <rvlsasst@tcgcs.com>.

The American Library Association (ALA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) would like to invite your library to apply for the fourth annual **We the People Bookshelf Grant**. 2,000 sets of classic books for children on the theme "The Pursuit of Happiness." To apply, complete the easy online application by describing how



your library will create a theme-related program that highlights the *Bookshelf* titles. Guidelines and applications are available online at www.ala.org/wethepeople until January 31, 2007. Applications are due by January 31, 2007.

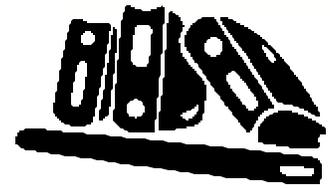
Give your deselected materials a second chance by contacting **Better World Books**. Better World Books evaluates each item, selling many, sending others to Africa, and donating books and funds to three literacy partners including Books for Africa, the National Center for Family Literacy and Room to Read. For more information about the company and its services, go to <<http://www.betterworldbooks.com/>>.



WE NEED YOU!

Have you read a good book lately? We'd love YOU to write a book review for VALLEY-TALK! Submit reviews in MS Word .doc or .rtf format to rvlsadmin@inebraska.com

On the Bookshelf



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

Books

- ◆ *Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Reason* by Nancy Pearl (2003)
- ◆ *More Book Lust: 1,000 New Reading Recommendations for Every Mood, Moment and Reason* by Nancy Pearl (2005)

◆

Books on CD

- ◆ *Echo Park* by Michael Connelly
- ◆ *The Innocent Man: Murder and Justice in a Small Town* by John Grisham
- ◆ *thirteen moons* by Charles Frazier

If you would like to borrow these items or be placed on the bookmarks magazine's routing list, 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>.



B r a n d N e w S t o r y k i t s !

RVLS has recently added the following storykits to its inventory:

Brainteasers and Mysteries—Kit contains twelve activity/puzzle books; seven books; and three games including *Clue Jr.* and *Calculator Games*.

Creepy Crawlies contains various activities and props, including a puppet spider and caterpillar-to-moth model kit, and ten books.

Insects and Spiders—Kit contains five activities, including Bug Habitat and Life Cycle Puzzle, and fourteen books.

Puzzles & Mysteries—Kit contains nine activity/puzzle books; six books; and three games, including a DVD and “How to Host a Murder” instructions.

The following kits have just been “refurbished” to spiff them up and add new items:

Curious George

~ Road Trip

~ Madeleine

~ Something Fishy

~ Monkey Business

~ Jan Brett

You may borrow two storykits at a time for a lending period of 21 days. The only cost to you is return postage; kit weights vary. To reserve a storykit for use, please email rvlsasst@tcgcs.com or call 800-569-4961. For a complete storykit inventory list, go to <<http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/system/republican/storykits.html>>.





Teen Tech Week

Please join YALSA in celebrating our first ever Teen Tech Week March 4-10, 2007. The purpose of this new initiative is to encourage teens to use libraries' nonprint resources for education and recreation, and to help teens recognize that librarians are qualified, trusted professionals in the field of information technology. Here's what you can do to join the celebration:

1. Register for Teen Tech Week at <www.ala.org/teentechweek>. Those of you who register will receive incentives from our Promotional Partners Rosen Publishing and Tutor.com.
2. Visit the Teen Tech Week wiki at <http://teentechweek.wikispaces.com> to find and share ideas for celebrating the event.
3. Plan on attending the Teen Tech Week Kick-Off from 10:30 to 12:30 Jan. 21st at the ALA Midwinter Meeting. Meet our partners and sponsors and get ideas from our TTW Taskforce on how to celebrate in your library.
4. Keep an eye out on the TTW web site for Teen Tech Week podcasts.
5. Stock up on your Teen Tech Week swag at www.alastore.ala.org.

Thank you for working to ensure that the teens in your communities have access to a variety of electronic resources and are competent users of information in all formats.

RVLS Calendar

December 2006

12—E-Rate Training, 9:30-12, Holdrege Area Public Library. Call 800-560-4961 or email rvlsasst@tcgcs.com to register.

January 2007

12—RVLS Board Meeting, 10am, McCook Community College

February 2007

9—"Next Gen Librarianship: Where Do We Go from Here?" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11-12:30, Central Community College-Hastings & McKinley Education Center-North Platte. RSVP to rvlsasst@tcgcs.com by 2/9—delivery is dependent on attendees!

14—NLA Legislative Day, Lincoln, NE. See page 4 for more details.

March 2007

2—RVLS Board Meeting, 10am, Hastings College Perkins Library.

4-10—YALSA's Teen Tech Week (see sidebar).

8—RVLS Make & Take Summer Reading Program Workshop, Lied Imperial Public Library (flyer is forthcoming!).

14-16—Mountain Plains Library Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM, www.mpla.us. (Regional Library Systems' Bus Trip, 13-17; flyer inserted).

23—"Library Transformation: Making It Happen" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11-12:30, Central Community College-Hastings & McKinley Education Center-North Platte. RSVP to rvlsasst@tcgcs.com by 3/21—delivery is dependent on attendees!

27—FOLUSA Workshop, North Platte.

29—RVLS Make & Take Summer Reading Program Workshop, Blue Hill Public Library (flyer is forthcoming!).

April 2007

3—Karen Hyman, North Platte Community College (watch for details!)

13—"The Best from the Web" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11-12:30, Central Community College-Hastings & McKinley Education Center-North Platte. RSVP to rvlsasst@tcgcs.com by 4/11—delivery is dependent on attendees!

May 2007

11—"The Relevance of Libraries in a Digital Age" College of DuPage Teleconference, 11-12:30, Central Community College-Hastings & McKinley Education Center-North Platte. RSVP to rvlsasst@tcgcs.com by 5/9—delivery is dependent on attendees!



A Taste of Reader's Advisory: Nancy Pearl Breakout Session

By Pam Soreide, Holdrege Area Public Library, RVLS Scholarship Recipient

All good reader's advisory interactions take the form of a conversation between the librarian and the customer seeking a new book to read. Nancy pointed out that we all experience times of what she called "desk paralysis," when you cannot call to mind the title of a recent book you have read for anything! Do not despair. This conversation isn't about you and your wide reading habits, it is about the customer, and what will fit with their tastes and mood and purpose in finding a book. You don't have to remember the whole plot of a book, and you aren't necessarily recommending it, you are just suggesting it. Nancy drew a parallel between reader's advisory and shopping for shoes at Nordstroms. When you ask for a black pump, say, the salesperson will bring you the shoe you asked for, plus another one that is similar but slightly more expensive, plus one that is a bit different...maybe it has a buckle or a sling back.

Nancy stressed that what you need to do is to ask them to name a book they have enjoyed reading in the past, and then try to help them recreate that experience. She pointed out that the words they use to describe a favorite book will give you clues. There are four basic appeal characteristics she talked about, using the metaphor of a doorway into the book. Those four characteristics are story, setting, character, and language. Many authors have one basic access point, some include two, many fewer can manage three but only rarely do you encounter a book where all four characteristics are equally fully developed.

So, in your conversation with the customer, if they say "Oh, such and such a book was a real page-turner...I couldn't put it down" then they are a reader who is motivated by a strong storyline. They will enjoy best-sellers from authors such as King, Grisham, Patterson, John Krakauer or Mary Higgins Clark. A strong storyline is a major appeal for teens and children, and in fact, Nancy estimates that 70% of readers read for story. If they have read all the ones you can think of, look for books with lots of white space on the page. That means it is heavily written in dialog, moving the story right along.

If, on the other hand, the customer starts talking about characters being real, or three dimensional, or how the characters change and develop, then this reader is motivated by character development. Books by authors such as John Irving, Anne Tyler or Walter Mosely should be well received, as may books of memoirs or biographies.

Readers who talk about where the book was set, in terms such that the setting almost becomes another character will enjoy books by authors who are skilful at evoking a sense of place. Books by authors such as Tony Hillerman, Jan Karon, Peter Mayle or Rosamunde Pilcher are examples of authors whose books are all set in the same area, so they have time to really develop their descriptions of those places and make the reader long to experience them.

Last, are those readers who exclaim "Oh, such and such a book was so beautifully written!" These readers are captivated by language, and are often the customers who enjoy award winning books. You might suggest books by Toni Morrison, Charles Fraser (Cold Mountain), Marilyn Robinson or Michael Chabon. Although Nancy herself was unsure where to categorize books that have a strong element of humor, such as P. G. Wodehouse, the audience felt that at least he belonged in language.

Suggesting books by appeal characteristics really works, says Nancy, but a complicating factor can be mood. If the customer cannot think of a book they liked, try asking them what they are in the mood for. Are they looking for a book for their book club, for a "beach read" (i. e. escape), or are they looking for something improving, like a prize winner. Nancy estimates that 80% of our decision to read a book or not depends on a match with our mood, so that is another key question to ask.

Nancy closed by reminding us to use the reference books on what to read next, and shamelessly plugged her books *Book Lust* and *More Book Lust*, to everyone's delight. Leading patrons to these resources can help jog their memories about what they read and enjoyed and lead them on to new authors, which is the best part of reader's advisory!



Redneck Librarian at Convention (Thank you, Jeff Foxworthy!)

By Linda Davey, Holdrege Area Public Library

Thanks so much for the monetary help to my library so that I could attend the 2006 NLA Convention. I learned new things, met old friends, and came back home ready to help patrons in their quest for information.

Both Keynote Speakers (Stephen Abram and Nancy Pearl) are dynamic speakers; I hope to one day get to hear them again. The sessions I attended left me feeling informed and ready to go home spewing words of encouragement to patrons and all my coworkers. I have two observations: 1) the technology age is here to stay (I'll probably continue to drag my feet. I'm the last person in Holdrege, Nebraska to get a DVD player; next step: a cell phone; there is something to be said for giving new technologies time to work their bugs out, after all, today's Cadillacs are better than the first Model-T). 2) I got to touch parchment!!! (Today's books are way different than the first book off Gutenberg's press or from those industrious monks and enterprising Egyptians. Guess I'm a history nut after all.)

On the way home from Omaha:

Jill is battling intercity freeway traffic thinking to herself: Am I in the right lane? Nope, I'm not, and immediately cuts across three lanes of cars to get onto the I-80 turn off ramp. Hooray! Now we are going West!

~You know you are a Redneck Librarian at Convention if you miss the grass down the middle of the road.

Jenny really enjoyed Nancy Pearl's main address and book advisory talk; that woman truly loves books and reading!

~You know you are a Redneck Librarian at Convention if you want to take a keynote speaker home with you to eat a piece of apple pie in your very own kitchen as you and her talk about *The DaVinci Code*.

Jill was soooooo impressed with our hotel room iron.

~You know you are a Redneck Librarian at Convention if you have to take every last thing out of your closet at home to even find out if you have an iron.

Jenny is thinking back over the last 2 days of Convention.

~You know you are a Redneck Librarian at Convention if you carried your book all over two city blocks (those are sure big buildings in Omaha) for two days and only got one chapter read in your book!



2006 Nebraska Book Awards

The Nebraska Center for the Book recognizes and honors books that are written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska or concern Nebraska. The 2006 winners are:

Anthology: *Slamma Lamma Ding Dong: An Anthology of Nebraska's Slam Poets*, editors JM Huscher, Matt Mason, Dan Leamen, iUniverse, Inc.

Children/Young Adult: *The Nebraska Adventure*, by Jean A. Lukesh, Gibbs Smith.

Cover/Design/Illustration: *These Trespasses*, by Jim Reese, The Backwaters Press.

Fiction: *This Is Not the Tropics*, by Ladette Randolph, University of Wisconsin Press.

Nonfiction: *Impertinences: Selected Writings of Elia Peattie, a Journalist in the Gilded Age*, by Elia W. Peattie, edited by Susanne George Bloomfield, University of Nebraska Press.

Nonfiction Honor Book: *Rainmakers: A Photographic Story of Center Pivots*, by the Groundwater Foundation.

Poetry: *No Accident*, by Aaron Anstett, The Backwaters Press.

The Nebraska Center for the Book is housed at the Nebraska Library Commission and brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators and scholars to support programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading and the written word.

NEMA (Nebraska Educational Media Association/NLA Fall Conference): A Professionally Invigorating Experience

By Linda Swanson, McCook Junior High Media Center

Thank you, Republican Valley Library System and Sherry Houston, for the opportunity to attend the NEMA/NLA conference this year. It was my first experience at the Qwest Center (the place is HUGE!) It had been four years since I had attended the conference, so I was pleasantly surprised to receive the \$200 scholarship. I was intrigued and professionally invigorated with the conference experience and would like to share some of the highlights of my attendance.

I took Ollie the Trolley (great service for those of us who are unfamiliar with the territory!) to take in the tour of the Charles B. Washington Branch Library in Omaha. This was the Wednesday preconference time. It's a newly renovated branch in the "projects" area of downtown Omaha. A variety of activities and services are available for the community's young people and responsive to their needs. Included are various tutoring and mentoring rooms, a separate young adult area (separated from the children's section), various listening and computer stations, information stations related specifically to this age group, as well as a prominent web presence, from which patrons may place holds on books, interlibrary loan and ask a reference librarian a reference question. The public art displays are fabulous and reflect a very diverse community.

My first session dealt with Power Media Plus, Nebraska's Video-On-Demand Service. The question I had on my mind as I went into the session was, "How the heck will I, in southwest Nebraska, where bandwidth is still a ration, even begin to get excited about such a service?" Some of that anxiety was alleviated with alternatives to scheduling a download and places to download to. The trend of saying goodbye to VHS tapes and CDs is happening. (Expected by 2012.) All subject areas are represented in this video database. These are timely video clips that can help introduce, instruct, and reinforce a particular skill. A concern that continues in our area (southwestern Nebraska) is not enough bandwidth to show live streaming of video during the school day.

Lots of notes on this gentleman! I would have to say he was challenging my thought processes as a librarian. According to Stephen Abram, international librarian/current SIRSI/Dynix CEO: U.S. libraries are still considered a top place to visit, 1.1 billion per year, more than U.S. sports events (.2 billion). Six times more people have library cards than driver's licenses. In order for libraries to thrive in the future, we need to take a look at the current group of millennials, (born 1979 through 2000), who are a huge generation (second largest in U.S. history) who are impatient, experiential learners, digital natives, multitaskers, and gamers who love the flat, networked world who expect nomadic connectivity, 24/7.

The difference between Google and a library: Google meets the needs of its advertisers; libraries play a non-partisan role in providing the information that allows citizens to make informed decisions. Try doing a search on any political subject: The first two to three pages are dedicated to their advertisers. 98% of the population doing the searches does not go past the first three pages of "hits." Do we want this to be our new democracy?

Libraries need to focus on improving the quality of the question, as well as being at the patron's point of need, not a destination.

Using Rule 10 as an advocacy tool was also, in many ways, a shot in the arm. Considering that these are minimal requirements makes our job as school library media people increasingly challenging, considering the information ocean that is around all of us.

I was able to attend the NLA/NEMA banquet, and enjoyed hearing the honorees speak. The award for Duane Munson was nice to see. The man has come into schools and made regular appearances for book displays at times when he knows budgets are limited, yet he continues to make the trek. I heard the food was much better for this meal than the luncheon.

Carl Deuker and Peg Kehret both left me dying to know what was in the works next. I couldn't wait to tweak that next book talk about both The Giant Wave and High Heat and, of course, buy the next titles written by both of them.

I left the conference with excitement and a little bit of anxiousness in terms of school libraries. The millennial population may have its challenges, but I think the bigger challenge for school librarians is continuing to build support for school libraries. Whether we like it or not, we need to build stronger alliances and get on the phone to our legislative representatives!



I Guess You Had to Be There...

By Jackie Davis, Library Media Specialist, Adams Central Jr.-Sr. High School (Hastings)

If you aren't in the habit of attending the NLA/NEMA Conference, then it's time to start! Whether you're a newbie library professional or a veteran like me, going to the annual NLA/NEMA Conference is a great experience. This year the conference was held at the Qwest Center in Omaha. Good weather, time to visit with other library media people, opportunities for professional development and interesting keynote speakers – just what keeps me going every year.

On Thursday, Stephen Abram with SirsiDynix was the keynote speaker. With an impressive background in library technology and trend forecasting, his interesting and humorous speech was a real jolt to complacency. I've been doing research on some points of his speech ever since! Web 2.0, McLuhan – I even had to break down and take a look at YouTube. Do you know how the results of Google searches can be influenced by which political party is in power? That six times more people have library cards than have driver's licenses? The location of Vice-President Cheney's undisclosed location? You learned all this and more from Mr. Abrams speech.

What's new in young adult literature? That was the title of the presentation given by a group of middle and high school library media specialists from the Omaha schools. I find sessions like to this to be invaluable in selecting titles for my own 7-12 collection. Too many to list, but here's one that has been wildly popular at Adams Central as well: *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer.

I had read only one Alex Kava book – *One False Move* – prior to attending the discussion of her books at one of the sessions, but I will be reading the rest. How fascinating to hear the uncanny (and unintended) parallels that exist in her stories with actual events in Nebraska! And I have to throw this in – good refreshments, including the wine.

For me, the Golden Sower Awards Presentation is always a highlight of the NLA/NEMA Conference. Peg Kehret, author of "Escaping the Giant Wave" and Carl Deuker, author of "High Heat" were both there to graciously accept their Golden Sower Awards and speak to the audience. The two of them took questions from the audience, providing the perspective of the well-established artist Kehret and the relative newcomer Deuker. I now have autographed copies of both winning books to use as prizes for this year's Golden Sower voting party in our library!

I have listened to Nancy Pearl's book reviews on NPR, and was not disappointed by her keynote speech on Friday. She told of the public library that was the sanctuary of her childhood, and of the positive influence of the public librarians on her life. A self-described "promiscuous reader" and the model for the Librarian Action Figure,

Nancy Pearl's library credentials are impressive, yet she comes across as self-effacing and very entertaining! *Book Lust* and *More Book Lust* are on my order after hearing her speak.

Thanks to the RVLS for the scholarship to help with the expenses, and I hope to see you there next year!



“Shift Happens”

By Susan Franklin, RVLS

Thursday NLA/NEMA Convention keynoter Stephen Abram, SirsiDynix's Vice President of Innovation, excitedly and at breakneck speed delivered an overview of where information professionals are headed. He began his “Web 2.0: The Library 2.0 in Your Future,” presentation by joking that “shift happens,” a sentiment with which libraries are intimately familiar. A global conversation is afoot about the future of the web; there is also a dialogue brewing about what libraries will look like and what we need to do to be prepared.

Abram cited that the daily circulation of U.S. libraries is 11 million, that 1.1 billion bodies are entering our public libraries (not counting virtual visitors), and that more people globally possess library cards than possess drivers' licenses. What a wonderful and validating bunch of numbers!

One of Abram's concerns is that people need to be educated with regard to search engines; he even went so far as to say that democracy is at risk if we don't understand that optimization occurs. “Google's customers are advertisers,” he said, not people searching for information. Abrams believes that what we, as librarians, “do best is to create an experience. We improve the quality of the question. We support community and learning.” We do, indeed. However, Abram hammered home the burden of shifting with the times as he spoke about Millennial characteristics and how we ought to be paying attention to new technology. For example, Millennials (people born from late 70s through the 80s) are socially direct; format agnostic; have high expectations; and move through websites by circling the page, then focusing on the center. Our outreach, services, and interaction with Millennials will be significantly improved if we learn and incorporate such knowledge into our daily practices.

Then there's technology and its applications: IM, VR, Skype, JYBE, SMS, SpiralFrog, Podscope, Podzinger, Hazaa, LimeWire, Singing Fish, etc. Don't ask me what some of those *mean* or *are*, but I do gather from Abram that if we are to put information into the “real context” of our users' lives, we'd best be learning! Abram named three “permanent revolutions” with which he demanded we get on board: blogging, podcasting, and streaming. Abram also discussed our basic attitude toward Millennials. Instead of saying “don't do this, don't do that,” we should be facilitating ease of service with their lifestyles. For example, install a skateboard bucket at the front desk or door; frowning on skateboards in the library dissuades library use among those whose primary transportation is a skateboard! Ditto with cell phones. Abram argued that for many parents and children, cell phones are the chief way to stay in touch, to provide security. Abram asked, “Who are we to disintermediate the parental relationship?” If we are to encourage them to use our libraries, we need to be welcoming, to incorporate *their* culture into our libraries' culture.

Most importantly, Abram prophesied the demise of CD-ROMs and DVDs, encouraging libraries to include the demise of these formats into their five-year plans. “We gotta be able to work with all the stuff you can't stick a barcode on,” he said. We have something “technology” and other places don't: children running in to hug a librarian. “No one is running in and hugging Google,” he rightfully observed.

All libraries should have a MySpace account, Abram argued. MySpace is a sustainable social network for life; it allows us to be infinitely connected. This is a very powerful thing, Abram argued. We can be a point of need rather than a destination point if we harness MySpace for our good. Our patrons should be able to get library cards through MySpace, to search our OPACs through MySpace, to contact a librarian through MySpace. In fact, Abram says, we should be providing sessions for Millennials on “How to Pimp Your MySpace”! We can tap into the teens where they “live” by holding classes to show teens how to tweak/incorporate colors, photos and videos. AND—here's the best part—we can sneak in some safety instruction into it! Mwuhahahahaha! [insert devious laughter here.]

Abram left the exhausted crowd with a mandate and a question. He urged each of us to play with technology **every day** for fifteen minutes. The question: “What color are we going to paint libraries to distinguish them in users' minds?” I don't know, but the options are limitless!



New Book Club Kits Add to the Nebraska Library Commission Collection

Lisa Kelly, Nebraska Library Commission

We are excited to announce several new titles have been added to our book group collection! In addition to listing the titles at the link below, I'd like to highlight various kits and make suggestions for your book group, or maybe even ideas for growing a book group.

First up is an older title, *Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* by Rebecca Wells c1997. I read this book shortly after it was released at the encouragement of my then 79-year-old neighbor. My neighbor was preparing for a reunion of some long-time female friends and this book helped to set the tone for their gathering. When I finished the book, my neighbor and I talked about it and after she met with her friends, we talked again. What stories she had to tell. I recently read the interview in *Oprah* magazine about the friendship between Oprah and Gail and there is truly a phenomenon of soulful sisterhood – women who are soul mates in each other's life. This book certainly focuses on women who sustain each other through a myriad of situations, some celebratory and some heartbreaking and all the many occasions in-between. The book begins with a fall-out between mother and daughter and the Ya-Yas work to reconcile the two. As with many fiction novels, place is a character in this book. Louisiana can easily be celebrated by incorporating Cajun food and music to elicit the senses before and during your meeting. Imagine playing blues and Cajun music while smelling gumbo simmering on the stove. As with many authors, Rebecca Wells has a website: www.ya-ya.com. At the Gumbo Ya-Ya board you can find tried and true recipes and even locate Ya-Ya groups around the world. Another way to add dimension to your discussion is to watch the movie together and compare the two sagas. I found the movie more fascinating after reading the book as the background stories in the book were a bit lengthy but helped make the movie more meaningful. I went to the movie with another woman friend of mine who said the movie touched her more deeply than the book. When the credits rolled, she was crying, having experienced some very difficult times with her own daughter. Book groups that both read a book and watch an accompanying movie can provide some terrific conversations and even entice reluctant adult readers. Many of the book groups I've belonged to were all female. This title would be perfect for that kind of membership. Conversation focusing on the friendship amongst women through time and stages of life would be enriched with the participants own stories. One of the book groups I belonged to served food that reflected elements from the book. Here's a recipe from the website to whet your whistle to consider this southern title for your next book gathering. I'd be interested in hearing how things go!

Hon, iffin you want a gumbo, you must try Fedup's gumbo!

FedUp2Here's Gumbo (feeds 4 Cajuns or 6 Yankees)

1/2 cup flour

1/2 cup veg/saffola oil (that's the roux)

1/2 chopped onion

1/2 chopped green bell pepper

as much garlic as you can stand

Worcestershire sauce

salt

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Pearls of Wisdom and Experience: Musings from a Promiscuous Reader

By Susan Franklin, RVLS

Many of us own the action figure. You know which one I mean. The steely-haired, blue-frosted super-information specialist, ready to SHHHH! at a single whisper. It was a delight to listen to Nancy Pearl, iconic library heroine and author of *Book Lust* and *More Book Lust* (**both of which RVLS now owns!**), during her NLA/NEMA keynote address. The session, called "The Pleasures and Perils of a Life of Reading," entertained the crowd with Pearl's anecdotes, wry humor and subtle self-mockery.

Pearl's love affair with libraries and books began early when she escaped from a dismal household to her local Carnegie library. "Walking up the steps," Pearl explained, "is a metaphor for ascending to knowledge." Pearl's attitudes toward reading and books are many and are likely not unfamiliar to many of us. For example, she believes we are given but one life on this earth, but it is through books that we can have any number of lives. "A life of reading," Pearl says, "gives us innumerable lives." She has done things by reading, she says, that she will never have a chance to do in "real" life. Pearl, as many of us do, loves first lines of books. One of the most memorable she cited was, "We went to the moon to have fun, but the moon turned out to really suck" (*Feed*). [Reader, do you have a favorite first line? What is it? Email it to rvlsasst@tcgcs.com.]

For all of its pleasure, reading is not without perils, Pearl insisted. One is vocabulary. Pearl said she never knew how to pronounce anything because she read words rather than hearing them spoken. Consequently, she thought "mised" was pronounced "m-eye-zzled" or "mizzled" and that "tulle" was pronounced "tooley." A related problem is now knowing the meaning of a word if you fail to look it up. Pearl shared her confusion at having read that someone was "dying of consumption"; she remembered thinking, "Well, who ate her?" The final peril she shared was a problem she called "borrowed memories" or the phenomenon of not being sure your memories are your own and not things that have happened to characters in books. In balance, it's safe to say that the pleasures outweigh the perils for Pearl.



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New Book Club Kits at NLC

pepper

green onion tops (4 or 5, chopped)

smoked sausage, sliced into circles

various chicken parts - about 5 or 6 six thighs is good.

In a small saucepan warm the oil on medium heat, pour in the flour and stir, stir, stir till it's dark brown (like mahogany) that's the roux. While that's goin', in a large pan brown the sausage until it's good and juicy in there - let the sausage stick a little - it'll add more flavor. Next, add your chicken parts - and a little salt/pepper to taste - brown that too. When the roux is the right color, add the onion, bell pepper and garlic - sauté til wilted. Add the whole mess to the pot of browned meat; add enough water to cover all the meat - and the Worcestershire - 1 tablespoon or 3 good shakes! Stir it up until everything is mixed well - no lumps from the roux - it should be really soupy/watery. If it's not dark enough, add a little kitchen bouquet to darken it. Bring it to a boil. Lower to simmer, cover and cook for about 40 minutes. Add green onion tops, cover and cook about 10 minutes. Serve over rice in a bowl, like soup - not like gravy!!! My mama used to make potato salad with it - but that's a lot of starch for one meal, so you could just make a green salad - this is a heavy meal, so you don't need a lotta sides.... Bon Appetite!!!

For a listing of book club kits available from the Nebraska Library Commission and rules for using these kits





The Thirteenth Tale

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

Leaves crackling, temperatures dwindling, perfect crisp afternoons turning to chilly evenings, nightfall coming earlier and earlier. It is a perfect time to wrap up in a cozy throw by the fireplace and lose yourself in a good mystery. Oh, not one of those light fluffy summer mysteries but a darker richer autumn mystery. In fact, it is a good time to try a book by a new author currently receiving accolades. *The Thirteenth Tale* by Diane Setterfield was my satisfying autumn pick. The cover with golden raised letters invites you to run your fingers over the title. A stack of deep maroon and forest green books fills the remaining cover space. And the heroine, Margaret, oh, how I envied Margaret! Margaret lives with her bookish father and reclusive mother above their rare and used book shop.

“Rising from the stairs, I stepped into the darkness of the shop. I didn’t need the light switch to find my way. I know the shop the way you know the places of your childhood. Instantly the smell of leather and old paper was soothing. I ran my fingertips along the spines, like a pianist along his keyboard. Each book has its own individual note: the grainy, linen-covered spine of Daniels’s History of Map Making, the cracked leather of Lakunin’s minutes from the meetings of the St. Petersburg Cartographic Academy; a well-worn folder that contains his maps, hand-drawn, hand-colored. You could blindfold me and position me anywhere on the three floors of this shop, and I could tell you from the books under my fingertips where I was.

Isn’t that just the way with book lovers? I have stacks of books but no matter how many I have I can quickly locate the one I want. I know how tall and thick each book is. I know the color of each spine and which of my bookshelves to find it on. And when one is misplaced! I’m severely disturbed until I find it.

Margaret’s father has a special cabinet where he keeps his most valuable tomes. It is there that Margaret finds “Thirteen Tales of Change and Desperation” by the famous but aging author, Vida Winter.

The tales were brutal and sharp and heartbreaking. I loved them.

It was while I was reading “The Mermaid’s Tale”-the twelfth tale-that I began to feel stirrings of an anxiety that was unconnected to the story itself. I was distracted: my thumb and right index finger were sending me a message: Not many pages left. The knowledge nagged more insistently until I tilted the book to check. It was true. The thirteenth tale must be a very short one.

I continued my reading, finished tale twelve and turned the page.

Blank.

I flicked back, forward again. Nothing.

There was no thirteenth tale.

There was a sudden rush in my head, I felt the sick dizziness of the deep-sea diver come too fast to the surface.

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The Thirteenth Tale

Margaret was motivated to read the book because of a peculiar letter she had received from the author.

Margaret has written several biographies about totally obscure literary personages. So she is puzzled by Vida Winter's request for Margaret to come live with her and write her biography. Margaret is reluctant to make such a commitment. For one thing, Vida is notorious for blatantly lying about her life to former interviewers. Strangely, there seems to be no record of her life until she becomes Vida Winter and starts her career as a novelist. Margaret finally agrees to travel to Yorkshire to listen to Vida's life story. In Yorkshire the mystery begins. It turns out that Vida has good reason to have hidden her life away from the public eye. The maze of deception that is Vida's life starts to draw Margaret in deeper and deeper. This tangled web may keep you reading all night. So throw another log on the fire and snuggle in for an entertaining autumn read.



The Lyceum

If you don't have plans, it isn't a Monday and you really feel like taking a road trip, drive down to Brownville. You won't be disappointed. The pre-conference for NLA/NEMA was a trip to Brownville with lunch at the Lyceum and a visit to the Brownville winery. The Lyceum was started by Jane Smith and is just a delight. Jane was reading Book Magazine and saw a little article about a Welsh man, who was starting



Booktowns throughout Europe and had a couple in the U.S. and thought why not Brownville. Jane sent an e-mail to Richard Booth; he e-mailed her back and the Lyceum was born. Richard Booth, who happens to live in a castle, rescues books from estates and castles and buys entire libraries. He then sends them to places like the Lyceum to be loved, read and perhaps sold. It is well worth your time to drive down just to enjoy the atmosphere, and the food is wonderful.



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Kearney
Lincoln
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McPherson
Nuckolls
Perkins
Phelps
Red Willow
Webster

In nothing do men more
nearly approach the gods
than by doing good to
their fellow man.

Cicero

Happy
Holidays

Susan and Sherry

