



SoLiS

Newsletter of the

Southeast Library System

SOWINGS

August 2013

It is a well known phenomenon that sometimes writers get. Known to scientists as “writer’s block,” this phenomena is when creative juices don’t seem to be flowing or the output of their attempts is lackluster. What isn’t as well-known is its opposite situation, “reader’s block.” Reader’s block is when a person just can’t decide on what book to read next. Often times this leads to despondency and despair, or at least, the person just doesn’t read anything.

As a profession that encourages reading, we have a few tools at our disposal to help guide a person out of reader’s block and back into reading.

There are, of course, the reader’s advisories and read-a-likes that we do with our patrons. That is a great starting point for any reader’s block prevention program. Making lists available at a service point or online is also a good way to help. Setting up a “staff picks” area, if you have the room, can also serve as a guide, just have some backup selections on hand to refill it when people check them out.

Suggesting a book club, if there is one available in the community, is a helpful step as well. Some book clubs publish their reading list so you don’t have to be a member to get that particular benefit.

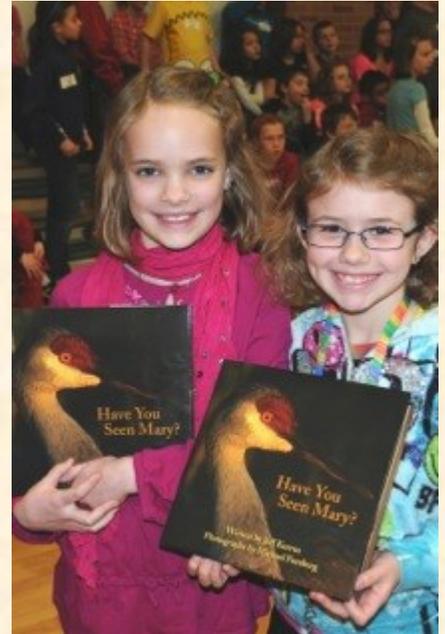
Award winner lists and “best of” lists can also provide fodder for a person’s reading habit. There are tons of awards in many genres, and reading through a particular list can add interesting reading goal for the more avid readers.

Some libraries (and book stores) are doing library “blind-dates”. Take a book, wrap it in plain paper and write the type of book on the paper (e.g. non-fiction or mystery). The patron takes the book without seeing what it actually is. For those who just want to try something completely random, this is a fun little promotion.

For those that have no problem finding books, but want a more personalized approach that narrows the lists down, you may direct people to a service like goodreads.com, which creates recommendations for your next reads based on how you’ve rated other books. The service is free, and it keeps track of your “to-read” list as well. In addition to those features, there are also online book groups.

So do what you can to fight this growing problem of “reader’s block,” offer suggestions, and promote resources that help. If you, or someone you know, feel as though you may be suffering from reader’s block, please consult your local librarian.

Scott Childers
Executive Director of Southeast Library System

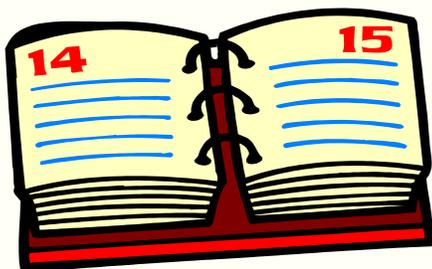


from Pat Coshow, Louisville Public School

Two happy girls hold their autographed copy of a 2013-14 Golden Sower Nominee book, "Have You Seen Mary?" The author, Jeff Kurrus, spoke to Louisville Elementary students about his research and the writing process at a Celebrate Learning assembly in February. Mr. Kurrus lives in Gretna and writes for the Nebraska Land magazine.



**Check out
Southeast
Library System
on Facebook!**



CALENDAR

August 2013

August 16th— CASTL and Strategic Planning Meeting at Alice M. Farr Library in Aurora. See below.

August 23rd— SELS Annual Meeting in Beatrice and visit to Homestead National Monument.

September 12th and 13th—Youth Services Retreat.

September 9– 20— Basic Skills: Customer Service. Registration open until August 30th.

September 13th— CASTL Meeting at Auburn Memorial Library.

September 25- 28—Association of Rural & Small Libraries Conference. <http://arsl.info/> Annual Conference will be at the Doubletree in Downtown Omaha. Lee Rainie, Director of the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, will serve as opening keynote speaker Thursday morning. Nebraska's own Sally Gardner Reed, Executive Director of ALA's United for Libraries, will be the closing keynote on Saturday.

October 9- 11—NLA/NSLA Annual Conference—Kearney. <http://nebraskalibraries.org/conf2013/>

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Strategic Planning Meeting

Next Friday, August 16, is this month's CASTL meeting and it's located in Aurora at Alice M. Farr Library. We will be joined by Richard Miller of NLC and this will be the SELS hosted Strategic Planning Meeting. Richard will discuss building a library's strategic plan and how that plan (or an existing one) applies to the NLC's new accreditation guidelines. Even if your library isn't up for reaccreditation this year, it's a chance to prepare for your upcoming reaccreditation as the process and the guidelines have changed significantly.

This meeting is a great opportunity to examine the process, ask questions, and begin to prepare for reaccreditation, even if it's a couple years away.

The meeting starts at 10am and will last until around 3. Please RSVP by the 14th of August. Send an email to wbragg@windstream.net if you have any questions.



CASTL meetings are open to librarians of all types, library trustees, and library friends or supporters. The meetings typically start at 10:00 a.m., and wrap up by 3:00 or 3:30. Each meeting has a dedicated topic of focus, as well as a round robin for discussion and sharing of current issues, topics and library happenings. Attendees earn continuing education hours and you are welcome to join us for all or even part of the day.

- August 16th — Alice M. Farr Public Library (Aurora)
- September 13th — Auburn Memorial Library
- November 14th — Kilgore Memorial Library (York)

HOW CAN WE HELP? : THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, HEALTHCARE MARKETPLACE, AND THE NEBRASKA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Mary Sauers, Nebraska Library Commission

As almost everyone is aware, the next phase of the Affordable Care Act, and more specifically the Healthcare Marketplace Open Enrollment, goes into effect October 1st of this year. The Nebraska Library Commission has been pulling together resources to aid libraries and librarians in guiding patrons to the information they will need for Open Enrollment. The list of questions and resources is growing, as the Commission continues to talk to the various departments and agencies that oversee the ACA process here in Nebraska. To get you started, here are a few of the most important websites to become familiar with.

<https://www.healthcare.gov/> -- The Federally run Health Insurance Marketplace for Nebraska.

[Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services FAQs](#) – The top Health Insurance Marketplace questions.

[Nebraska Department of Insurance ACA](#) – information for consumers, health care providers, agents and navigators, companies, and small businesses.

<http://marketplace.cms.gov/> -- Under “Get Official Resources”: publications, articles, and brochures for professionals.

http://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/Libraries_and_Health_Insurance_Preparing_for_October_1.html -- WebJunction recently hosted a webinar on Libraries & Health Insurance: Preparing for October 1.

These are just a few of the resources available, so stay tuned to the Nebraska Library Commission webpage for updates. If you have any questions, please call or email us at any time!

[\(402\) 471-4017](tel:(402)471-4017)
mary.sauers@nebraska.gov

Libraries & Health Insurance: Preparing for October 1

Prepared by Barbara E. Hegr, Library Director, Morton-James Public Library from the above session at ALA

Speakers included Jackie Garner, Medicaid consortium administrator; Susan Hildreth, director of Institute of Museum and Library Services, Ruth Holst, associate director at the National Network of Library of Medicine Greater Midwest Regional Medical Library at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Kendra Morgan, senior program manager, OCLC WebJunction.

<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2013/06/libraries-health-insurance-preparing-october-1>

Websites

Main Website: <http://www.healthcare.gov>

All information is contained within this website. This is where the patron will apply online, print the application and find other information

Available in English and Spanish

Materials available for libraries (bottom of page “For Partners”, “Get Materials”)

Suggest: “Marketplace Application

Checklist”

“Individual Short Form” &

“Family Form”

WebJunction is creating kits for librarians

Register for WebJunction updates: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/scripts/calendar/eventshow.asp?ProgId=12418>

Widgets available to add to websites

Application Process

Enrollment begins October 1, 2013; ends March 31, 2014

Open enrollment does not begin again until Fall, 2014

For coverage beginning January 1, 2014, must apply by December 31, 2013

Online application

Single page

25 min preparation time

Four items of personal information needed:

SSN

Income information for every member of your household who needs insurance, i.e.

pay stubs, W-2s

Policy numbers of current health

insurance plans

(continued on page 8)

Seward's Book Moving!

BY EMILY HEMPHILL

emily@sewardindependent.com

Nearly 50 community volunteers and staff at the Seward Memorial Library moved more than 15,000 books off the shelves and into the lower level Aug. 3 and 4.

The library's adult fiction collection is currently boxed up and will remain in storage for three to four weeks, according to Becky Baker, director of the library.

New fiction titles, bestsellers, children's books, junior fiction, young adult, most nonfiction, audio books and videos are still available for checkout.

The book moving was part of the library's lower level renovation project that will open the second level of the library to the public. The fiction collection will then be housed downstairs.

Prior to packing up part of the collection, library staff encouraged patrons to check out 50 fiction books at once so that fewer books would have to be stored. Almost 3,800 books were checked out as part of this campaign. Each of the 62 patrons who participated in the 50-book campaign was entered into a drawing for \$100 cash, provided by the Friends of Seward Library. The winner will be drawn later this week.

Baker said the volunteers who came to help move books were ready for the challenge. In addition to

packing up the fiction collection, volunteers also boxed up the business section, relocated all of the nonfiction books and moved the young adult section to its new home in the library's Tower Room.

Baker said this was more than she expected to get done in just five hours.

"We are very pleased with how much got done," she said, thanking the volunteers for their time and effort.

The boxes for the book moving were donated by KapStone Paper and Packaging in Seward.

In addition to new fiction shelves, the lower level will also include an auditorium-style conference center, individual study rooms, an Accu-cut room with die-cut equipment and additional space to expand the general collection.

Main level renovations include the addition of a central staircase in the middle of the library, an enclosed story time room for children's programs, expanded seating areas and a small conference room.

While progress on the renovation has been set back just a week or so, Baker said the library should remain open throughout the rest of the renovation, and that the project should be completed in mid-September.



Jill Kruse helps move books at the Seward Memorial Library Aug. 3. Photo: Emily Hemphill

The cost of the project will total \$1,514,000 with funds coming from the Seward Library Foundation, private donations and community support.

From left, Kim, Jessica and Chad Orwen Photo: Emily Hemphill



By the numbers...

Fiction books to move: 15,127

Fiction titles checked out: 3,781

Boxes: 183

Volunteers: 48

Hours: 5

Patrons in \$100 drawing: 62

Weeks in storage: 3-4

Cost of total renovation: \$1,514,000



AMONG TREASURED FRIENDS

The joint annual meeting of the officers and the membership of the SELS Friends is scheduled for Friday, August 9 at 3:00 at the UN-L Dairy Store on East Campus in Lincoln. The Board of Director election results will be announced and officers elected at this time. Plus, the SELS Friends will buy an ice cream treat for each current member attending!

If you are not sure if you're a current member, please see our list at <http://selsfriends.org/members.html> to check your status. Dues can be paid at any time (July 1 is our fiscal year start date, just like the SELS year). An email reminder went out a few months ago to this effect.

The 2013 Aged to Perfection event at James Arthur Vineyard was very successful, thanks in part to the great donations we received from SELS members. We are very grateful for everyone's participation!

In October, the SELS Friends will have a table at the NLA

conference in Kearney. We are working on ideas for this year, so if you've got a great thought about what to sell, raffle, or whatever, please share that with us at info@selsfriends.org. We also plan to offer a hospitality suite this year – it seems to be especially popular when the conference is in western Nebraska. It will be at the Wingate Inn, Room 311, hours to be announced. We've typically asked for donations of food and/or beverages for this event, so be prepared for that, and thanks in advance!

Movie dates for private showings are booked for Catching Fire on November 23 and The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug on December 14. A holiday book fair may be worked into the plans as well, so watch for details!

Thanks for your support of the Southeast Library System!

SELS Friends Board

Becky, Tom, Lisa, Karen and Jan

{News Around the System}

Dinos!



By Carolyn Bennett

At Beatrice Public Library, for every 2 children who finished the summer reading program, another piece was added to the skeleton. We had 6 completed skeletons -- some of them became prizes in a drawing at the end-of-summer party.

Fairbury Update

By Karen Fox

Fairbury Public Library is migrating to Apollo, finally, but not without trepidation. Any tips to make our transition easier would be appreciated. We also are welcoming a new children's librarian, Pamela

Wallinger. Pam was a classroom teacher in Beatrice and decided she'd like a career change. Some of you will meet Pam at the Youth Retreat in September.

Junior Friends Entertain With African Tale

By Judy Andrews

We traveled to the jungles of Africa on a very hot July afternoon in York, Nebraska. Over 80 people gathered at the Kilgore Memorial Library on Thursday July 11th to watch a special puppet show

presented by the Junior Friends. The puppet show was based on the African folktale, "Who's in Rabbit's House?" When Rabbit returns home from the lake, he can't get back inside his house. The animal inside has a loud menacing voice and threatens anyone who wants to get inside. Rabbit's

animal friends try to help him get rid of the pest, but most of their schemes involve destroying his house. Finally Rabbit allows Frog to scare out the threat, and the true culprit is revealed to be only a colorful caterpillar. Following the performance the puppeteers entertained the children with several musical numbers, ending the show with the classic song, "The Lion Sleeps Tonight."



DeWitt July Celebration

By Gerry Powers

For the DeWitt 4th of July celebration, two men from the UNL Herpetological Symposium visited our library with amphibians, turtles, reptiles and snakes. They were very informative in explaining the life and habitat of these creatures and gave hands on experiences for the children.

Smokey the Bear visited and also was in the parade. It was the DeWitt Volunteer Fire Departments 100th anniversary. Some of our library children walked beside him and handed out Fire Prevention materials.



Collaborative School Library Award

Jean Hellwege, school librarian at Scott Middle School in Lincoln, NE accepted the 2013 AASL Collaborative School Library Award for the Make a Difference sixth grade research project she does with Scott language arts teachers Debbie Beran, Eric Nelson and Kim Ridder. Sixth graders research a social issue, such as homelessness, literacy or abuse, then independently write a research paper and a persuasive essay and hold a Make a Difference Fair for the public. They collaborate with other students to share what they have learned and persuade others to support their cause. Students have raised over \$10,000 in donations in the two years of the project and many continue to volunteer and find other ways to make a difference.

Photo courtesy of the American Association of School Librarians, taken in Chicago at the AASL Awards Luncheon on July 1, 2013.



Tops or Bottoms?



By Glenda Willnerd

Dietician, Marcia Wallen visited the Palmyra Memorial Library Summer Reading Program and taught children how to make a "garden on a stick" using vegetables that grow above and below the ground and of course corn that grows in the middle based on the book by Janet Stevens appropriately called – *Tops and Bottoms*.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover



The Seward Memorial Library hosted a Stuffed Animal Sleepover on July 11 for children ages 3-5 and their favorite stuffed friend! Everyone enjoyed a short story time and then the animals stayed overnight. But those animals didn't get much sleep at the

library...they went exploring!

A video can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/XIZHbPCOZ80>



{News Around the System}

(Continued from page 3)

Employer Coverage tool form; 16 questions, one page

Other means of applying: Still only one page

Mail-in application

Telephone: An 800 number is available for 150 other languages

In person: with certified navigators and/or assistors

Additional info

2 navigators to each state; multiple assistors

Navigators and assistors must be certified to provide information/workshops and to assist patrons

No training has begun; grants have not been awarded to the training organizations; in process as of June 30, 2013

Public librarians are not experts on the Affordable Health Care Act

May assist in filling out application but cannot make any decisions concerning the health insurance selection

Work with medical facilities in your communities

Small Businesses deadline has been extended to October 1, 2015

Ted E. Bear Hollow Grief Bags

Ted E. Bear Hollow, the only children's grief center in the greater Omaha area, has implemented a partnership with the Omaha Public Library, public libraries in Western Iowa, and many public libraries in Sarpy and Cass Counties. Each library is supplied with a two book bags titled "First Aid Kit for Grieving Hearts," one for children and one for teen readers. The bags contain materials that are helpful in to children or teens to

understand the grief journey they have had to endure after the death of a loved one. Some resources are especially helpful to parents as they try to support their children in their grief.

"First Aid Kit for the Heart" are available for purchase. Included with the purchase is a training session (in person or by teleconference) for librarians as a help in knowing how to interact with grieving families.

The library partnership is the first of its kind in the country. "Libraries are a natural partner is educating the public about the risks associated with



unresolved grief in children's lives. If we can assist them in understanding their own feelings and if we can open channels of communication, we know that children are more likely to successfully navigate their grief. By providing this support tool, families can communicate with one another, allowing for the healing to begin, says Nancy Hemesath, who is doing outreach for Ted E. Bear Hollow."

For more information, see the opposite page, contact Nancy at (402) 650-6576 or nhemesath@cox.net. Website is www.tedebearhollow.org



First Aid Kits for Grieving Hearts are Ted E. Bear Hollow's initiative to partner with libraries to provide grief support to children throughout our communities. These kits are packed with wonderful books and videos that help grieving young people develop the necessary coping skills to adjust to loss in healthy and socially appropriate ways.

Kits can be purchased by your library for \$170 each and checked out by patrons. Both children and teen versions are available. Your order includes:

- Book bag printed by Ted E. Bear Hollow
- Kit contents (books, DVDs, brochures, and teddy bears)
- Templates for marketing materials
- A one-hour staff training for librarians (may be done via conference call)

To order a First Aid Kit for Grieving Hearts for your library, simply complete and return the section below to Ted E. Bear Hollow. Upon receipt, a Ted E. Bear Hollow staff member will contact you with additional information.

First Aid Kit Order Information

Library _____

Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Number of teen kits: _____ x \$170 = _____

Number of child kits: _____ x \$170 = _____

TOTAL = _____

Payment: Check included

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Send invoice

Please send to: Ted E. Bear Hollow
7811 Farnam Drive
Omaha, NE 68114
Phone: 402-502-2773
Fax: 402-502-4564



Southeast Library System

Serving libraries in the counties
of:

Cass • Fillmore • Gage • Hamilton •
Jefferson • Johnson • Lancaster •
Nemaha • Otoe • Pawnee •
Richardson • Saline •
Seward • Thayer • York

Editors

Scott Childers
William Bragg

Mailing Address

5730 R St., Ste. C-1
Lincoln, NE 68505

Phone Numbers

Local: 402-467-6188
Toll Free: 800-288-6063
Fax: 402-467-6196

E-mail

wbragg@windstream.net
selsne@gmail.com

Website

<http://www.selsne.org>

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August 2013

*If we can put a man on the moon and
sequence the human genome, we
should be able to devise something
close to a universal digital public
library.*

—Peter Singer

Southeast Library System is a multi-type library network with 248 members offering a wide range of service in public, school, academic, institutional and private libraries (Membership list with populations from 2000 Census are on the SELS web page: www.selsne.org.) Membership includes 12 academic institutions, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, four private colleges, three community college campuses, a state college and a technical school. Fifty-four public libraries are system members. The majority of these libraries (34) serve populations fewer than 1,000. The system counts 146 school media centers among its members, 54 that are Lincoln Public Schools, with most of those belonging to Class 3 schools (population areas between 1,000 and 100,000). Fourteen of the school media centers are parochial. The system has 28 special and institutional members, most of which are located in Lancaster County.