



SoLiS

Newsletter of the

Southeast Library System

November/December 2008

SOWINGS

Realistic Fiction & Knowledge Economy

I've decided to pay tribute to two individuals that I've been fortunate to hear as keynoters – one, Kent Haruf, at NLA/NEMA, our state library conference this year and the second, Barack Obama, at ALA in Chicago in 2005. Both authors, both moving speakers who are passionate about their work and libraries. By featuring them I hope you will also be encouraged to attend state, regional or national conferences when you have the opportunity. You'll gain information as well as a chance to network with colleagues and peers. ALA is in Chicago again in 2009 (July 9-15), and the Nebraska Regional Library Systems will be chartering a bus to help make transportation easy and affordable, see page 13. NLA/NEMA is in LaVista in 2009 at the new conference center, October 28th – 30th. Additionally, Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is holding their 2009 conference in Wichita April 1st to April 3rd which sounds like a great opportunity for a road trip. I'll hope you can get one or more of these on your calendar, it will be worth the trip!

Kent Haruf speaks as he writes—he makes an effort to slow down and pay attention to what is around him, and then to describe what he sees to the audience, whether reader or listener. He talked about carrying a notebook in his pocket where he writes down what he notices, paying particular attention to authentic dialogue and

the way people talk. (We discussed this in our One Book Many Librarians session at conference the day before he spoke because we thought he writes dialogue so well.)

He claimed he is not really a writer, that it would be pretentious to say he is, as if he'd arrived. Rather it's a craft he practices everyday from 8:30 to noon – where he does nothing else, practicing something he considers sacred and holy. It was interesting to learn that Haruf did not publish a novel until he was 41 though he wrote seriously 12 to 13 years before that. It's only the last 8 years that he's been able to write full-time.

Haruf described his writing as realistic fiction about people in small towns – “You can't ignore anyone in a small town. You know whose dogs are running loose, whose bikes are parked in front of the bakery, whose pickup is parked illegally....” He told us it is not simply writing about small town life; he tries to make a town universal, with the kinds of problems people have everywhere – trying to write out of pain. He also talked about moving away from the internal to external – where he presents the story with what the character is doing and saying. Since we can't know what others are thinking, he tries to stay outside the minds of characters—something he considers much more difficult, but also more representative. He “broods” over a story for a year before he writes it: “Think about it, make notes, jot down quotes,

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

think about what their problem would be and how they would solve it.”

He works on yellow paper and an old typewriter, closing his eyes and typing the first scene to help him avoid the analytical part of his mind and aim for writing that is spontaneous and natural. Haruf’s goal is to write clear, simple and direct prose – he feels we’ve gotten careless with language and away from precision.

Haruf read “Church Suppers” from his latest book – *West of Last Chance*, a prose and photos collaboration with photographer Peter Brown. It is compelling and moving prose, as you’d expect. The book is something to treasure and reflect on, accomplishing Haruf’s mission of slowing down, looking at life and the beauty that’s there.

Barack Obama’s keynote in Chicago during 2005 drew an enormous crowd for the then US senator from Illinois, as well as a standing ovation when he finished speaking. His ability to connect with an audience and portray his thoughts in such a compelling manner is an ability that I think many have come to appreciate – particularly in the political realm. Of course, much of what he had to say reflected a passion he feels for libraries. The August 2005 issue of *American Libraries* was the source for providing me with favorite notes from that keynote:

- “More than a building that houses books and data, the library represents a window to a larger world, the place where we’ve always come to discover big ideas and profound concepts that help move the American story forward and the human story forward.”
- “We are a religious people, Americans are, as am I. But one of the innovations, the genius of America, is recognizing that our faith is not in contradiction with fact and that our liberty depends upon our ability to access the truth. That’s what libraries are about. At the moment that we persuade a child any child, to cross that threshold that magic threshold into a library, we change their lives forever, for the better. It’s an enormous force for good.”
- “What some people may not remember is that for years, librarians have been on the frontlines of this fight for our privacy and our freedom. There have always been dark times in our history where America has strayed from our best ideas. The question has always been: ‘Who will be there to stand up against those forces?’ One of the groups that has consistently stood up has been librarians...making sure our access to free thought and free information was protected.”
- “Because I believe that if we want to give our children the best possible chance in life, if we want to open the doors of opportunity while they’re young and teach them the skills they’ll need to succeed later on, then one of our greater responsibilities as citizens, as educators and as parents is to insure that every American child can read and read well. That’s because literacy is the most basic currency of the knowledge economy that we’re living in today.”
- “There is plenty that needs to be done to improve our schools and reform education, but this is not an issue in which we can just look to some experts in Washington to solve the problem. We’re going to have to start at home. We’re going to have to start with parents. And we’re going to have to start in libraries.”
- “Right now, children come home from their first doctor’s appointment with an extra

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

bottle of formula. They should come home with their first library card or their first copy of Good Night Moon. I have memorized Good Night Moon, by the way: "In the great green room there was a telephone...." I love that book."

- "Libraries have a special role to play in our knowledge economy. Your institutions have been and should be a place where parents and children come to read together and learn together. We should take our kids there more."
- "At the dawn of the 21st century, where knowledge is literally power, where it unlocks the gates of opportunity and success, we all have responsibilities as parents, as librarians, as educators, as politicians, and as citizens to instill in our children a love of reading so that we can give them a chance to fulfill their dreams. That's what all of you do each and every day, and for that, I am grateful."

Books, speeches, and conferences can recharge our batteries for months or even years to come. They confirm what we are doing right, urge us on to new heights and remind us why we do what we do.

-Brenda Ealey, Administrator

LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

a National Reading and Writing Promotional Program for children and young adults

Contest ends December 6, 2008

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership with Target Stores and in cooperation with affiliate state centers for the book, invites readers in grades 4 through 12 to enter *Letters About Literature*, a national reading-writing contest. To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author, living or dead, from any genre-- fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic, explaining how that author's work changed the student's way of thinking about the world or themselves. There are three competition levels: Level I for children in grades 4 through 6; Level II for grades 7 and 8, and Level III, grades 9 - 12. Winners, announced in the spring of each year, receive cash awards at the national and state levels. Contact the program director at: lal@epix.net or for an entry form see: <http://www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook/letters/> for additional information. You may also contact [Nebraska Center for the Book](#) for state-specific information and prize details. For more information call: 800-307-2665.

2008 Nebraska Winners were:

Level I-Ellen Friesen, Lincoln, wrote to Lois Lowry, author of *Number the Stars*; Level II-Itachi Sanchez, Lincoln, wrote to Charles Finn, author of *Please Hear What I'm Not Saying*; and Level III-Andrew Squires, Lincoln, wrote to Leonard Peltier, author of *Prison Writings: My Life Is my Sun Dance*.



November



November 14th – **CASTL (Conversation Among Small Town Librarians)** meeting at Wy-more Public Library. We'll have Dee Aguilar (UNL Speakers Bureau) for a presentation on: Humor: What's So Funny?" This month please read the title – *Focus on the Good Stuff: The Power of Appreciation* – an adult selection by Mike Robbins for our book discussion.

November 19th – **Library Camp Nebraska** – first Nebraska unconference at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln Union. For more info go to: <http://librarycampnebraska.pbwiki.com>.

November 21st – **Library Challenges & Opportunities: Information Literacy for Life** – College of DuPage Library Teleconference from 11 to 12:30. To register and for more information go to the Nebraska Library Commission web site at <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/> and search on the Training Calendar by using DuPage.



November 28th – **SELS Friends Book Fair at Barnes & Noble – SouthPointe Pavilions** Shopping Center, Lincoln (2910 Pine Lake). See page 17 for more details.

December

December 3rd, 10th, 17th – **Basic Skills Administration Course** at Seward Memorial Library.



December 11th – **CASTL (Conversation Among Small Town Librarians)** meeting at Kilgore Memorial Library in York. The **SELS Board** will be joining us, and we'll host a meet and greet for southeast Nebraska senators. Please invite your senator to join us for the morning round robin to start at 10 a.m. and/or lunch at Chances R.



January

January 23rd – 28th – **ALA Midwinter** in Denver, find information at: www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/midwinter/home.cfm

February

February 13th – **Targeting the Ages: Programming that Hits the Mark**, Soaring to Excellence, College of DuPage Library Teleconference from 11 to 12:30. To register and for more information go to the Nebraska Library Commission web site at www.nlc.state.ne.us/ and search on the Training Calendar by using DuPage.

2009 One Book One Nebraska

Bess Streeter Aldrich's *A Lantern in Her Hand* has been chosen for the state-wide read for the upcoming year.

More information to follow from Nebraska Center for the Book at www.onebookonenebraska.org/

In the meantime, visit Aldrich's site and read the "Why I live in a small town" link:

www.bessstreeteraldrich.org/index.html





Beverly Doeschot dressed as the Fairy God Cow from *Bubba the Cowboy Prince*, with Author Helene Ketteman.

Helen Ketteman Visits Southeast Nebraska

A huge Nebraska welcome warmed the Texas heart of Helen Ketteman when she arrived Oct. 20-24 to visit schools in southeast Nebraska. Helen Ketteman, the author of the 2001 Golden Sower *Bubba the Cowboy Prince* was invited to Norris Public Schools by the library media specialist Beverly Doeschot. Beverly in turn filled the author's week by visiting area schools. Helen excited children in Fairbury, Thayer Central, Freeman School, Tri County, and Heartland Schools. Each school planned different activities to welcome Helen. Norris held their annual book parade where Helen was the official Grand Marshal of the parade. Tri County held a welcome breakfast for staff and a pep rally complete with a reading song to greet Helen.

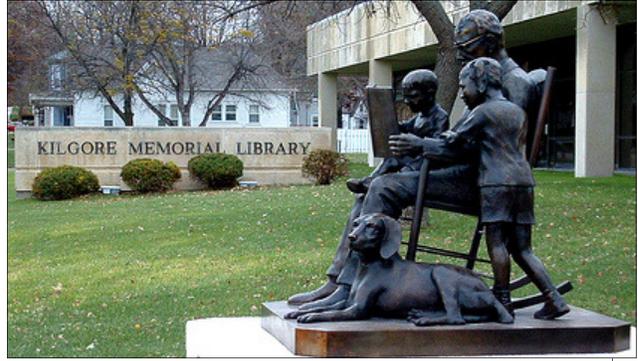
Helen then gave presentations to different grade levels. For lower elementary, she shared her books like *Armadillo Chili*, *Not Yet*, *Yvett*, and *Armadillo Tattletale*. Helen, now lives in Florida, but lived nine years in Texas which influenced her writing. She is known for writing fractured tall-tales and has important lessons in her stories. For upper elementary, Helen then discussed the editing process and how it can take many revisions before getting the text "just right." Students were amazed to learn that it took her 60 rewrites for some of her books! Though she does not illustrate her books, she demonstrated this same editing process with one of the illustrations in her book "The Christmas Blizzard." Students and staff also had the opportunity to meet with Helen and have their books autographed. The area schools would like to thank Beverly and Norris Public Schools for organizing the author visit. Our students are richer for this experience!



Tri County students welcome Helen with a Pep Rally. Each student was dressed in some type of western attire from cowboys hats, bandanas, and vests.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Kilgore Memorial Library in York unveiled a Vern Friesen sculpture on the north lawn of the library on September 7th as part of Yorkfest events. The sculpture is titled – “Once Upon a Time,” and features a grandfather reading to two grandchildren with the man’s dog beside them. The life-size bronze grew out of a conversation between library Director Stan Schulz and well-known Henderson artist Vern Friesen, with plans beginning in May 2007. The Friends of Kilgore Memorial Library raised \$52,000 - \$50,000 for the sculpture and \$2,000 for the base and plaques.



Carol Connor retired September 10th, after 30 years as the Director of **Lincoln City Libraries (LCL)**. There were multiple opportunities to wish Carol well with a Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries celebration that included donations in honor of Carol to benefit the LCL adult collection; as well as a staff party at Spaghetti Works that included Folk & Celtic music by Wee Brazen Hussies and a current and past staff skit; and then a public celebration at the Bennet Martin Public Library downtown. We want to wish Carol the best in her well deserved retirement, and we’ll miss the opportunity to work with her at the helm of LCL.

However, Pat Leach was announced as the new Director of **Lincoln City Libraries (LCL)** on September 18th, and began that role on September 22nd. Pat has worked full time for LCL since 1981 and has served as Youth Services Supervisor since 1997. “A great city deserves a great library, and I’m proud of the role that libraries play in upholding literacy, providing equal access to information and enriching people’s lives,” Leach said. “I am truly honored by my selection. I know that great people work for Lincoln City Libraries, and together, we’ll make the most of the opportunities on the horizon.” Many of us have worked with Pat in her role with youth and libraries, and we’re excited about the opportunity to continue a collegial relationship on another level. Congratulations, Pat!



Southeast Library System had 9 libraries participate in a group purchase of Apollo automation system: Burkley Library (DeWitt), Crete Public Library, Deshler Public Library, Greenwood Public Library, Morton James Public Library (Nebraska City), Syracuse Public Library, Seward Memorial Library, Webermeier Memorial Library (Milford) and Wymore Public Library. Apollo is a product of Biblionix, designed specifically for small public libraries that is a web-based catalog, and does not require a server onsite at the library. Two of the libraries, Greenwood and Syracuse, have log, while the rest are converting from Follett. Of the 9 communities in the group purchase, 5 are already online with Apollo. Clark Charbonnet, Biblionix representative, reports that these are the first libraries in Nebraska to go with the Apollo System.



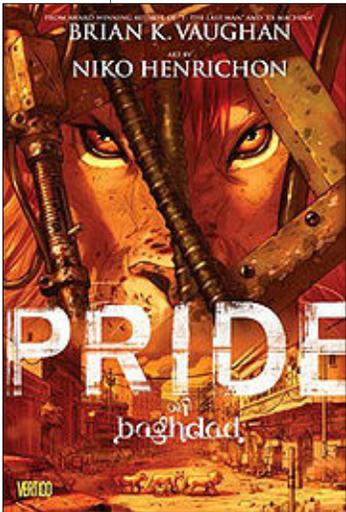


Beginning January 2009, the **Nebraska State Historical Society** (NSHS) headquarters at 1500 R will be undergoing a two-year renovation project to bring life/safety and HVAC conditions up to current standards. Researchers planning to work with collections housed in the facility should take note that there will be extended time periods during 2009-2011 that the Reference Room will be closed and that research materials will be unavailable. Some telephone reference will be available during the closure. Please check the NSHS website often for updates on the closure of the Reference Room, or call (402)471-4771 or e-mail: lanshs@nebraskahistory.org for information. We are sorry for this inconvenience, but we believe that the project will result in a safer environment for our staff, researchers, and the collections that we hold in trust for the citizens of Nebraska. We appreciate your patience as we invest in the long-term preservation of the historical materials that you use and value.

On August 12, 1878, Furnas invited other prominent Nebraskans to organize a state historical society to gather, from "living tongues and pens," material that would illustrate Nebraska's settlement and growth.

At the **Nebraska State Penitentiary**, we decided to borrow the SELS book bag for the book *Pride of Baghdad*. There was a great deal of interest in the book. Graphic novels have become quite popular among our library users, including inmates of various educational, racial, and age groups. Ten inmates participated in the discussion group. While there were no set discussion questions, I drafted an outline based on interviews with Brian Vaughan and questions that I had after reading the book. All of the inmates reported that they liked the story and the illustrations. One inmate indicated that he attempted to look at almost everything in the book metaphorically and from a political perspective the first time he read it. He noted that he was trying to determine

which characters represented the Shiites, Kurds, etc., but the second time he read it, he said that he read things as a mere adventure story without political implications or commentary. Vaughan himself noted that the story could be read either way. Another inmate expressed disappointment with the ending, as he would have liked to read more about future adventures of the lions. (Spoiler alert!!!)



The inmates had some interesting interpretations of the story and characters. The rape of Safa was viewed as being representative of the rape of Iraqi women by Sadaam's sons and the impact of the fear of being taken off the street and assaulted. The result is that Iraqi women may not leave their home; much like Safa did not want to leave the zoo. The interpretation of the monkeys was generally perplexing to most of the inmates. Some thought the monkeys represented terrorist factions in general, seeking power by kidnapping Ali the cub (representative of kidnapping opposing faction leaders or U.S. contractors). Others noted the similarities of the marking of Ali on the leg with that of the marking of young Sudanese boys who are "recruited" to fight in war.

The turtle was viewed as the most prolific and wisest character in the story. One inmate indicated that the story was generally a story about technology overwhelming nature, and the dire implications of that. The turtle represented the common man who is caught up in the war. The turtle has no idea what the fighting is for, nor does he really care. Other metaphors mentioned were as follows: The bear representing Russia, the U.S., or Sadaam and the giraffe representing one of the twin towers. The inmates further noted the portrayal of the lions as being more human or altruistic than "normal". Examples included the lions having mercy on the antelope, not eating the dead human, and not killing more of the monkeys when they were hungry.

All in all, the inmates enjoyed reading the book, were inspired by the illustrations and story, and are looking forward to reading more books by Vaughan, as well as the next planned book from SELS, *Persepolis*. On behalf of the inmates at NSP, I wish to thank SELS for the opportunity to borrow these books and participate in a book discussion group.

-Sam Shaw, Librarian, Nebraska State Penitentiary

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



We hope you'll plan on joining us for the December 11th meeting of CASTL at Kilgore Memorial Library in York. Members of the SELS Board will be in attendance to join in on the Round Robin discussion and get a glimpse of what is happening in library communities in the region, taking advantage of the meeting to listen in on the issues, ideas, and questions at the forefront for librarians. It's also your chance to meet the SELS Board – 13 members, elected to represent your interests in guiding activities of SELS. The SELS board meeting will follow lunch, with your chance to participate and listen in on the business of SELS.

We will also be inviting Nebraska Senators from the Southeast Library region to join us for the round robin and/or lunch at Chances R. We hope an end-of-the-year meet and greet with senators – before the start of the 2009 Legislative Session in January – could be a good thing in recognizing agendas and priority issues on the Unicameral end, and in the Library community. Lunch for senators will be paid for by SELS, but we'd love your help in getting a special invite to your senator to join us for the 10 a.m. round robin at Kilgore Memorial Library, and/or 12:30 lunch at Chances R.



Senators Heidemann, Elk Creek; Adams, York; and Avery, Lincoln at their panel session at 2008 NLA/NEMA Conference.

**Let us know if you plan on attending especially if you are inviting your senator to join us.
800-288-6063/jennip@alltel.net.**

This is a great way to earn continuing education and end the year of CASTL meetings for 2008. We look forward to seeing you and promise a bit of holiday cheer in the midst of the gathering.

Fundraising and Bras?



The Fundraising Ideas & Products Center (www.fundraising-ideas.org) is an online resource that includes a list of commercial fundraising companies for packaged fundraising, or information on do-it-yourself fundraising ideas. They offer free *The Fundraising Hotline* whose November issue had some interesting fundraising ideas that included: Scrap Pink Scrapbooking; Trivia Challenge; Bucks and Bras; and Bark in the Park. The Fundraising Hotline is published monthly, and you can subscribe for a free copy delivered via e-mail or it can be viewed online.

NLC Commissioners Update

In an effort for all of us to stay connected and informed on what's happening with issues concerning libraries in Nebraska, SELS hopes to make a regular column with information from the Commissioners for the Nebraska Library Commission Meetings. The Commission's six members are appointed by the Governor to three-year terms, and appointees generally represent one of each of the state's six Regional Library System areas. Listed below are the current Commission Members:

Jean Ahrens

Scottsbluff, NE

Term expires: June 2010

Charles Gordon

Fremont, NE

Term expires: June 2010

Mary Nelson, Chair

Holdrege, NE

Term expires: June, 2009

John Dale, Vice-Chair

Lincoln, NE

Term expires: June 2009

Patrick Gross

Wayne, NE

Term expires: June 2009

Carol Spencer

Broken Bow, NE

Term expires: June 2010

Commissioners meet every other month – typically at the Nebraska Library Commission and their meetings are open to the public. Scott Childers a librarian at UNL, and currently on the SELS Board was able to attend their November meeting. Scott provided the points below as items included in the meeting's discussion:

- A number of public libraries in SELS have switched from Follett automation to Apollo, a Biblionix web-based automation product geared specifically to small public libraries.
- The Commissioners mentioned that this past NLA/NEMA conference was one of the best they had attended in the past few years.
- Details about the next round of Gates grants were revealed. Money will be allocated based on economic status of the patron base and on the current computer equipment levels at the library. 176 letters were sent to libraries that are potentially available. The grants will not cover the full price of the equipment in a move to encourage computer maintenance and repair to become budget lines. This will be the last Gates hardware grant.
- The open source project is planning a pilot. Omaha Public Libraries, Lincoln City Libraries, and the Nebraska Library Commission will be pooling resources to hire someone to set up Koha Open Source ILS locally on a temporary basis as a test of the software.
- OCLC's removal of networks was discussed. The economics of why NLC will not be pursuing any of the "partner levels" was presented. The current contract with NLC ends June 30, 2009. The remaining partners probably will not be known until January 2009.
- A report on the use of the Librarians for the 21st Century grant was brought forward. The scholarships were a big success. The Commission is applying for this grant again, with the decision being sometime in March.

Upcoming Commissioner's meetings: January 9, March 13, May 15, July 17.

ITART is on the move!

The new ITART web page is operational! You will find a lot of great techie info. The URL is: <http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/ITART/> or just connect through the NLA home page by clicking "Sections, Round Tables and Committees" on the front page menu and then selecting "Information Technology and Access Round Table". Jean Hurst did a great job setting up the blog. Michael Sauers added some magic touches and a lot of content. (ITART is the Information Technology and Access Round Table of Nebraska Library Association and this site aims to provide information for librarians on electronic resources and information technology- as well as a forum for discussion and problem-solving.)

The Nebraska Regional Library Systems Present

W O R K S H O P S

Fifty Plus: Getting Ready to Hand Over the Reins: The aging of the US population has implications for libraries, both at the service desk and behind. This workshop works on getting you ready to serve the public and preparing public libraries to prosper when large numbers of Baby Boomer librarians exit and join with this new demographic. It will include information on emerging trends and how those affect libraries, and how libraries can respond successfully to a growing segment of our customer population, as well as prepare for the impact of a profession with a significant percentage of retirements and the need for recruiting to fill those vacancies.

Supervising Friends and Former Peers: This workshop explores the challenges of accepting growing responsibilities and what that means for the new supervisor. Examines the reasons for seeking out promotions and added responsibilities, both the pluses and the added stresses of supervisory duties, whether or not it includes friends and former peers.

Presenter: Theresa Dickson is the Associate Director of the Pioneer Library System in Norman Oklahoma and a well-known State, Regional and National presenter.



Please check the session(s) you wish to attend. If you are attending both sessions please check both. Lunch on your own.

Fifty Plus - 9:30 a.m. to noon

Supervising Friends and Former Peers - 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

This workshop will be presented at these locations on the following dates, as well as locations in Norfolk and Scottsbluff:

Please indicate which date and site you will be attending.

February 2 at Wahoo Public Library, Wahoo, NE

February 4 at Beatrice Public Library in Beatrice NE

February 5 at Lexington Public Library in Lexington NE

Cost: \$10 for one session, \$15 for both sessions.

Each session will qualify for 2.5 CE credits or 5 CE credits for both.

Please send registration by January 26, 2008, to Nebraska Regional Library Systems, C/O Eastern Library System, 11929 Elm Street, Suite 12, Omaha, NE 68144.

Please make checks payable to Nebraska Regional Library Systems.

Name _____

Library _____

Email _____ Phone _____

In case of inclement weather, please contact your system office to find out if the workshop is being held.

Funds for these programs were supported in part through a Nebraska Library Commission Continuing Education Grant.

2008 Conference Review

Mary Reiman, Lincoln Public Schools Media Services Director, received the Distinguished Service Award from NEMA and the Mad Hatter Award from the School Children and Young People section of NLA at the NLA/NEMA Conference in October.



Mad Hat! Mad skills!

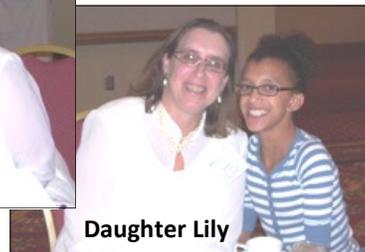


Blackjack at Casino Night raising money for the Legacy Fund of NLA.

Brenda Ealey received the NLA Meritorious Service Award, given in recognition of working to improve library services, at the NLA/NEMA Conference.



Mom Ruth



Daughter Lily

I attended the NLA/NEMA Conference October 15 - 17 with the help of a stipend from Biblionix given by Clark Charbonnet. I enjoy going to Conference because not only do I learn something new & exciting each time but I also have a chance to interact with my peers in a more relaxed and social atmosphere. I really enjoyed the readings by the Intellectual Freedom Committee during the break. I happened to be staffing the booth where the loudspeaker was located but I was able to hear many comments from people who stopped by the booth. The Committee was reading excerpts from banned books and many people were asking why these books were banned, people had to really listen to the stories to catch the phrase or word that was picked out to ban.

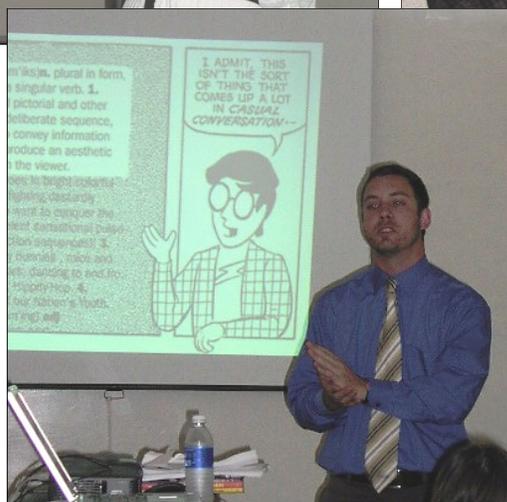
I attended both the NLA Business meeting and my sections luncheon as well as sessions, both keynotes and the banquet for NLA/NEMA members on October 16th. I have learned over the years that even though the sessions are important and insightful, it is even more important to attend the luncheons, keynotes and banquet.

The luncheons and banquet are social times as well as "business." It is always easy to find someone to visit with and who can guide you in the proper direction if you have any questions about the Library world.

The Keynotes can offer ideas that have worked in other settings and how they can be adapted into our Libraries. Keynotes don't necessarily talk about the Library world but offer information that is useful to help us do a better job for our patrons and communities. I had a wonderful experience at Conference 2008 and I appreciate that Biblionix gave me a stipend to attend.

-Karen Frank, Director, Greenwood Public Library

Youth Services Retreat



Clockwise from top left: Speaker Kim Shelley, Lincoln City Libraries (LCL); Jeff Pospisil, Omaha Public Library (OPL), Russ Harper, OPL, Gordon Wyant, Bellevue Public Library, Mary Mollner, OPL, Brad Hruska, Columbus Public Library, and Maria Medrano-Nehls, Nebraska Library Commission (NLC); Speaker Richie Graham, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL).

Other speakers included: Lisa Voss, LCL; Linda Francois, Keene Memorial Library, Fremont; Sandi Belfi and Toni Reese, Sump Memorial Library-Papillion; Scott Childers, UNL, and Sally Snyder, NLC.

Fall Colloquium 2008

Veronda Pitchford, Urban Libraries Council, implores us to make sure our libraries are part of the global village through community partnerships and correct service strategies during "Welcome, Stranger: Public Libraries Build the Global Village."

Pitchford was the 6th Colloquium speaker in the series of Fall and Spring Colloquiums organized by Eastern and Southeast Library Systems.

Special guests were librarians from Tajikistan here for a two week study of Nebraska libraries through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.





Back on the Bus!

OF COURSE THERE'S A BUS TRIP!

This will be the fifth annual Road Trip— we're heading up north for the American Library Association 2009 Conference.

July 9-14th, 2009

Be part of the energy that is the Bus! Workshop ideas, speakers, and networking are a legendary part of the road trip, but most of all, use the bus for the opportunity to attend a national conference for **\$35!** That's right, thanks to the Nebraska Regional Library Systems, and to a grant* from the Nebraska Library Commission, there will be just a low cost for the bus ride. (Riders are responsible for their own hotel arrangements and conference registration.)

Bookmark www.ala.org/ala/conferencesevents/upcoming/annual/index.cfm and check back often for updated information on registration, conference programming, special events, travel, and insider tips on everything Chicago

Pick-ups for the bus will be in Lincoln & Omaha.

So sign up today to join Road Trip 2009!

Please let us know your serious interest as early as possible, so that if we need to reserve a larger bus we can!

Sign up deadline: June 19, 2009

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

jennip@alltel.net or 800-288-6063/467-6188

*This project was supported in part by a Continuing Education and Training grant, awarded by the Nebraska Library Commission.

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

Laura Bush Foundation Grants

Laura Bush Foundation (LBF) for America's Libraries Grant application for school libraries deadline is December 31, 2008. The goal of LBF is to provide books to school libraries and students that need them most and funds are available only for library books and magazine/serial copies and subscriptions. You submit the grant online at: www.laurabushfoundation.org/web2/index.html. School libraries in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, all American territories, and Department of Defense schools in other countries are eligible to apply. This includes all public, private, parochial, charter, city, state, county and reservations schools—including special schools, social services schools, and juvenile detention center schools in any of those jurisdictions – that serve any combination of pre-kindergarten through high school students. The grants target schools with a high percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch in an effort to reach low income families who are least likely to have access to books.



What's New from the Commission?

- o **DIGITAL TALKING BOOKS: A PROGRESS REPORT** The nationwide talking book program is transitioning away from analog cassette tape to flash memory digital cartridges. Planning for this move goes back a remarkable 17 years. Our Nebraska Collection consists mostly of books recorded in our own studios and emphasizes Nebraska authors or books about the Great Plains. Also, Nebraska's Talking Book and Braille Service is one of the nation's largest network producers of volunteer-narrated magazines, with 20 magazines and newsletters of regional interest (143 issues) recorded annually.

Beyond offering our Nebraska books on flash memory cartridges, we wish to continue the ongoing task of selecting titles from a Library of Congress retrospective download site, where network talking book libraries can choose from among 10,000 titles. This first year, our allotment of cartridges from Library of Congress for this purpose was 1854. Next year there will be 8000 more retrospective titles on this site. Library of Congress will again provide us with cartridges, though fewer than this year. To take advantage of the wealth of titles on this site, we need to purchase additional cartridges. In addition, we would like to begin circulating our Nebraska magazines on flash memory in order to take advantage of this new medium.

It was reported that the Library of Congress budget for digital conversion was signed into law at \$12.5 million per year for 6 years; however, the budget has not yet passed the Senate and is currently subject to continuing resolution. The final outcome could be a three-year conversion, for which there is considerable support among federal legislators, or a four-year or six-year conversion. Once the federal budget is settled, we expect that new talking books from Library of Congress will arrive at our library on flash memory.

-Dave Oertli, Director, Talking Book and Braille Service

- o **PUBLIC LIBRARY STATISTICAL SURVEY** The annual Public Library Statistical Survey for Nebraska, which is submitted online via Bibliostat™ Collect, will be released for data input in December this year, instead of October. Libraries will have the same amount of time in which to complete the survey as in the past, but the beginning date will be delayed to accommodate the conversion to an updated edition of Bibliostat™ Collect. The new submission deadline will be about the middle of March 2009, depending on when the new version is ready for release.

The new version of Bibliostat Collect has a lot of useful improvements, especially in the interface, which should make it much easier for libraries to input their data. So we have decided to use it for the FY 2008 survey. Here are some of the "improvements in the new version: New, more User-Friendly Interface, Browser-Independent, allowing for use with non-Internet Explorer browsers, Popup Blocker hassle eliminated, Survey can be read-only to allow for Printing after Submission, Customizable Notes, Improved use of Narratives and easier to save them, Email Confirmation provided after submission, Improved PDF Format, Automatic Total calculation (no need to click "update" after every totaled field), Easier field and Edit Check Navigation

For more information about this change, please contact John Felton, Planning & Data Services Coordinator at Nebraska Library Commission (402)471-3216 or e-mail: jfelton@nlc.state.ne.us.

Continued page 15

- o **LIG GRANTS** The 2009 Library Improvement Grant application is now available online at the Nebraska Library Commission's website at: www.nlc.state.ne.us/libdev/lsta/LibraryImprovementGrantonlineapp.html. Grant funds are provided under the Library Services and Construction Act program from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Accredited Nebraska public libraries, certain state-run institutional libraries, and Nebraska Regional Library Systems are eligible to apply, as are other organizations in partnership with these entities. In order to be funded, proposed projects must meet one or more of six "LSTA Purposes" as identified in the application materials. Applications need to be postmarked no later than **December 29, 2008** or hand-delivered to the Commission by 5 PM (CT) on that date. Electronic applications must be sent no later than 11:59 PM on that same date. For more information contact Richard Miller, Library Development Director at Nebraska Library Commission, (402)471-3175 or e-mail: rmiller@nlc.state.ne.us.

Note: the Nebraska Library Commission is our state library and is located in downtown Lincoln. It provides funding to the six Regional Library Systems and is responsible for tracking Continuing Education hours, ILL, reference, network services, certification, and accreditation, among other things.

Look Ma-no cords!

The Nebraska Library Commission is proud to announce that the following 50 Nebraska public libraries have been awarded WiFi Connectivity Grants, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Each library will be receiving a Linksys WiFi Router and a Dell laptop or Samsung Q1 Ultra UMPC. (Libraries in bold are in the Southeast Library System area.)

- Auld Public Library, Red Cloud
- Beaver Crossing Community Library
- Broadwater Public Library
- Butler Memorial Library, Cambridge
- C. B. Preston Memorial Library, Orleans
- Ceresco Community Library
- Clay Center Public Library
- Deshler Public Library
- Dvoracek Memorial Library, Wilber
- Eastern Township Library, Crofton
- Elmwood Public Library
- Fairmont Public Library
- Faith Memorial Library, Wallace
- Genoa Public Library
- Gibbon Public Library
- **Gilbert Public Library, Friend**
- Grant County Public Library, Hyannis
- Greeley Public Library
- **Greenwood Public Library**
- Gresham Public Library
- Harvard Public Library
- Hemingford Public Library
- House Memorial Library, Pender
- John Rogers Memorial Library, Dodge
- Karlen Memorial Library, Beemer
- Klyte Burt Memorial, Curtis
- Leigh Public Library
- Lied Imperial Public Library
- Lied Winside Public Library
- Morrill Public Library
- Nelson Public Library
- North Bend Public Library
- North Platte Public Library
- Osmond Public Library
- **Palmyra Memorial Library**
- Ravenna Public Library
- Schuyler Public Library
- Shelby Public Library
- Snyder Public Library
- Stanton Public Library
- Stromsburg Public
- **Struckman-Baatz Public Library, Western**
- Talmage Public Library
- Thomas County Library, Thedford
- Trenton Public Library
- Valley Public Library
- **Valparaiso Public Library**
- Verdigre Public library
- **Webermeier Memorial Library, Milford**
- Wisner Public Library



Holiday-themed reads

Library Journal, October 15, 2008, pg.54 & 56

- Ballard, Mignon F. *Hark! The Hearla Angel Screamed: A August Goodnight Mystery (with Heavenly Recipes)*.
- Brown, Rita Mae & Sneaky Pie Brown. *Santa Clawed: A Mrs. Murphy Mystery*.
- Carl, JoAnna. *The Chocolate Snowman Murders: A Chocoholic Mystery*.
- *Christmas Stories From the South's Best Writers*.
- Evans, Richard Paul. *Grace: A Novel*.
- Landvik, Lorna. *'Tis the Season!*
- Morrell, David. *The Spy Who Came for Christmas*.
- Perry, Anne. *A Christmas Grace*.
- Sefton, Maggie. *Fleece Navidad: A Knitting Mystery*
- Simkin, Daren. *The Traveler*.
- Stifter, Adalbert. *Rock Crystal*.
- Taylor, Patrick. *An Irish Country*.
- *White, Bailey. Nothing with Strings: NPR's Beloved Holiday Stories*.

Fleece, Feliz,
Fleece, Feliz.
Gotta love it.



Doing without Dewey

Library Journal, October 15, 2008, pg. 15

And blogging about it. We've had several libraries and a media center go Dewey-less in the System, but I don't believe anyone has blogged about it. In Illinois the Frankfort Public Library District did - Freeing Dewey, deweyfree.com. With tabs of Labels, Meetings, Progress and Issues, Layouts, Signage, etc. it's a great site to check out if you're considering the process, or even as an example of how to do any new process in the library. They state that they are "not necessarily saying *no* to Dewey, but rather, **slowly freeing him**, something that we, as well as other libraries, have begun to do years ago with our biography and fiction collections." They even have a trademark, pictured.



Reference on YouTube

Library Journal, September 15, 2008, pg. 13

Cornell University has found a new way to address "heavy text- the information [that] has been on our library web site for a while now." And of course, it's YouTube! (Did you see that coming from the title?) Reference did this as an extension from podcasts with the help of a librarian who's also a filmmaker. Check them out at www.youtube.com/use/oninlibrary. If you can get past the dancing tower, Cornell's clock tower (which I've been in), they are pretty short and sweet. And they refer the students back to the librarians for help, so there's job security too.

In addition there are three articles I sent out via the SELS mail list as well:

- Who's afraid of the big bad ©? <http://tiny.cc/jmV5Q>
- 10 tips about 23 things <http://tiny.cc/OD3Wu> which of course NLC has going on state-wide, calling it: NE learns 2.0: <http://tiny.cc/gsl7l>
- Free for all: Open Source software <http://tiny.cc/EUtrW>

Also, most of the journals we route around the System are online. School Library Journal, www.schoollibraryjournal.com, Library Journal, www.libraryjournal.com/, Library Media Connection- www.linworth.com/lmc/, Booklist- www.booklistonline.com/, Library Sparks- www.highsmith.com/librarisparks/pages/index/ [where you can view (and print) the whole magazine in PDF], Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA)- www.voya.com/ and Booklinks- www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/hqops/publishing/booklinks/index.cfm (to a limited degree) are all online! The reviews, the articles, and even some online only articles are there-you don't need a subscription either.

If you are not on the SELS email list, maintained by Nebraska Library Commission, go to: <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/lists/>.

-Jenni Puchalla, Adm. Asst.

The **2008 Nebraska Book Awards** program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB), recognizes and honors books that are written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or concerning Nebraska. This year's winners are:

Nonfiction

150: A Commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of Hall County, Nebraska Edited by Pete Letheby
 Publisher: Grand Island Independent

Nonfiction

Honor *Africa on Six Wheels: A Semester on Safari* by Betty Levitov
 Publisher: University of Nebraska Press

Fiction

Dead Ex by Harley Jane Kozak
 Publisher: Doubleday

Cover/Design/Illustration

Husker Numbers: A Nebraska Number Book by Rajean Luebs Shepherd, Illustrated by Sandy Appleoff
 Publisher: Sleeping Bear Press.

Poetry

Book of Grass by JV Brummels
 Publisher: Grizzly Media

Anthology

The Big Empty: Contemporary Nebraska Nonfiction Writers Edited by Ladette Randolph and Nina Shevchuk-Murray
 Publisher: University of Nebraska Press

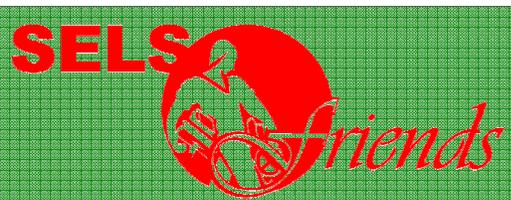
Anthology

Honor *Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry* Edited by Greg Kosmicki and Mary K. Stillwell
 Publisher: Backwaters Press

Award winners were honored at the Nebraska Book Festival on Saturday, October 18, 2008. Books published in 2008 will be eligible for the 2009 Awards program. To receive notification of the 2009 Book Awards program, contact [Maria Medrano-Nehls](mailto:maria.medrano@nebraska.gov), 402-471-2045 or 800-307-2665 .

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 build the community of the book, supporting programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. The Nebraska Center for the Book is supported by the Nebraska Library Commission.

2008 Nebraska Book Awards



Shop for SELS!

Southeast Library System Friends will be having a Book Fair at Barnes & Noble at SouthPointe Pavilions on November 28 all day.

- 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Story Time with Sally Snyder, Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services at the Nebraska Library Commission
- 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Children's Book Author and Illustrator, Preston McDaniels will be autographing books!
- 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. – Free gift wrapping!

**Southeast Library System Meeting
Crete Public Library – Crete, NE Aug 15, 2008**

Board Members Present: Becky Baker (Seward Memorial Library); Rebecca Bernthal (University of Nebraska – Lincoln Libraries); Ruth Carlock (York College); Scott Childers (University of Nebraska – Lincoln Libraries); Wanda Marget (Fairmont Public Library); Tom Schmitz (Lincoln Regional Center); Glenda Willnerd (Lincoln Public Schools)

Also Present: Brenda Ealey (SELS Administrator); Jenni Puchalla (SELS Administrative Assistant); Lisa Olivigni (Crete Public Library)

Board Members Absent: Karen Frank (Greenwood Public Library); Barbara Hegr (Morton-James Public Library, Nebraska City); Kim McCain (Tri-County Schools, DeWitt); Misty Prochaska (Kaplan University, Lincoln); Kris Rogge (Johnson); Jan Thomsen (Alice M. Farr Library, Aurora)

President Willnerd called the meeting to order at 10:39

I. What's New

Bernthal & Childers report that at UNL the new Associate Dean Elaine Westbrook has started and they are currently searching for a new science librarian. They also report that classes start Aug 25. Schmitz reports that the Resource Center is looking good. They got the Wiis from the grant, got some games and TVs from Best Buy at discount. They will be barcoding all the things that belong in one set and they will "check out" from resource building, but will be kept at the various buildings. Baker reports that July was their second busiest month ever at Seward Memorial Library. They are trying some new after school programs this year like "guys read" for middle school students. They are also trying a writing program, and "movement" like yoga programs. She also reports that they will be moving to Apollo for their ILS next week. Olivigni reports that 4 trees have to be removed because of worms at Crete Public Library. They already have a speaker for next year's program author of Punk Farm & Good Night, Monkey Boy, Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Carlock reports that not much is going on at York College right now. Next Wednesday all the faculty come back and classes start on Aug. 27. Marget reports that the Fairmont Public Library made front page news with the "discovery" that they circulate cake pans. They did summer reading and are doing an art camp with all sorts of crafts on Monday mornings as well. Willnerd reports Lincoln Public Schools will have about 33,600 students this year. They will be inviting a CASTL group to the district office sometime in the near future. She also reports that on Oct 8, the Mosaic exhibit opens up.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve as presented was made by Bernthal and seconded by Baker. Motion passed

III. Financial Report

Puchalla reports that payment was received from the Department of Corrections and the IRS refund as also received. Historical budget information was presented and used to explain that most of this year's negative carryover is actually carryover from last year's negative. Referring to a compilation of budget history from 1988-present, Ealey mentioned that budgeting practices differed between years, so it may not be an accurate comparison.

The End of the Year report was reviewed.

Puchalla presented the current budget information. The system has dropped a subscription, and is actively looking for others to drop. Car insurance has been paid in full already. The large item in the travel line was an system administrator's meeting in Chadron.

A motion to accept the transactions was made by Baker and seconded by Carlock. Motion passed.

IV. Scheduling of Meetings

SELS Board meeting have been scheduled for the following dates:

October 24, 2008, Dec 11, 2008 (a joint CASTL/SELS Board event), Feb 20, 2009, April 17, 2009

V. SELS Friends

Baker reports the SELS Friends annual meeting was last week. A focus for the year will be recruiting and looking to bring in people who haven't renewed. An event for SELS Friends members after the NLA/NEMA Wednesday night event will be held at Tom Schmitz's house. The traditional movie event was set, but it will be bumped as the release of the selected movie is being delayed. Planning for the next "Iron Librarian" event is going on. The Barnes & Noble book "fair" fundraiser has been moved to the day after Thanksgiving. The Friends are also getting ready for the upcoming NLA/NEMA Conference, where they will be selling Haruf books and raffling off Wanda Marget's "I heart books" crochet piece. Officers have been elected: Becky Baker as Chair, Tom Schmitz as Vice-Chair, Lisa Olivigni as Secretary.

Lunch called at 12:37 PM. Meeting rejoined 1:58 PM

VI. Administrator's Report

Ealey highlighted some items from her written report:

Service Role 1: Training & Consulting: CASTL meeting in Talmage. Ealey & Puchalla met with Corrections, identifying who might be good contacts within the Corrections system for educational contacts. The recent Leadership Institution Reunion attended by Ealey, Puchalla, & many SELS board members went well. The NEBASE meeting brought some good ideas for Webjunction. SELS will be involved in multiple things at the upcoming NLA/NEMA conference. The SELS office has been answering a bunch of questions about accreditation and certification. There has been some confusion about access to the training records.

Working to get Veronda Pitchford for a Fall Colloquium. October 30th is the tentative date depending on getting final funding approval.

Service Role 2: Consortia Building & Cooperative Approaches to Providing Library Services: System administrators meeting in Chadron.

Puchalla recently attended an NLC Commissioners' meeting in July. Mary Nelson (Holdrege) is President of commissioners. Ealey encourages the board to see that there is a SELS board member at the meetings. A System administrators meeting was held using Skype. It was interesting. A significant portion of time was put into working on grants. One was a CE grant with Corrections and UNO to bring in Glennor Shirley on targeting underserved populations. Ealey is part of the Future Search Taskforce. SELS board member Childers is also on the Taskforce. NLA Intellectual Freedom committee has had some work with AFCON & ACLU partnerships. Ealey's run on committee will end this year. Apollo ILS group purchase project is underway. Nine communities are on board with a few in the wings. The state wide Open Source Automated Systems group have been meeting. Some libraries have expressed support, but there is no exact number yet. Ealey encourages board members to continue to ask about the state-wide project.

Service Role 3: Promotion: Biblionix (makers of Apollo) is working to create scholarships for people to go to NLA/NEMA.

Service Role 4: Management of SELS Resources: A PIA request from USAC was received. SELS needs to verify the erate discount figure.

The IRS reimbursement was received.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:52 PM; annual planning meeting followed immediately.

November/December 2008

Truth is eternal,
knowledge is changeable.

It is disastrous to
confuse them.

-Madeleine L'Engle

Southeast Library System

*Serving all types of libraries
in the counties of*

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

SoLiS is a publication of the Southeast Library System, and is issued **6** times a year. We reserve the right to screen and to edit all contributions.

Editors: Brenda Ealey and Jenni Puchalla

Mailing Address: see below

Ph: 402-467-6188
800-288-6063

Fax: 402-467-6196

E-mail:
bsealey@alltel.net
jennip@alltel.net

Website: www.selsne.org

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

return service requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Lincoln, NE
Permit No. 1359