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August 2013

## Nebraska Libraries - Volume 1, Number 3 (August 2013)

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# Nebraska Libraries

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August 2013, Vol. 1, No. 3



"I won! I won!"

# Nebraska Libraries

August 2013 – Volume 1, Number 3

Published by the  
Nebraska Library Association

Membership in NLA is open to any individual  
or institution interested in Nebraska libraries.

To find out more about NLA, write to:  
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**Cover Photo Credit:** Photo from the Baird Holm law firm's  
National Library Week celebration held April 15<sup>th</sup> to April  
19<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Pictured is Ryan Wilkins, Attorney, with the iPad  
mini he won from the LexisNexis booth during the technology  
fair. Photo from Rachel Zill.

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# *Editor's Message*

Welcome members of the Nebraska library profession to the third issue of *Nebraska Libraries*, the all-new journal for the Nebraska Library Association. I hope you will enjoy this packed issue as much as the previous two.

This month you will see that this issue is a bit longer than our previous ones. The reason for this is that we have two special features for this month. The first, from Jan Boyer, is all about the upcoming NLA Elections! In her feature you can read all about the diverse candidates running for spots on the NLA board, sections, and round tables. All NLA members can vote for the NLA board spots and for all elections for sections and round tables that you belong to. Please remember to vote!

Our second special feature includes some mini articles from a number of NLA members about their recent trip in June to the annual conference of the American Library Association, which was held this year in Chicago. NLA was able to get a party bus through a grant that allowed a number of NLA members to ride together to the conference for a much smaller fee than driving or flying on their own. In this special feature you'll get to read about a variety of different experiences our NLA members had during their trip this year.

The rest of our issue features some articles on advocacy in a law firm library, hunting for ghosts, a kids' art show, a tough Battle of the Books competition, and more! Joining these articles this month are our regular columns for the sections and round tables of NLA, our other monthly columns, and news and book reviews.

As I mentioned in our previous issues, I can only make *Nebraska Libraries* great with your help! I'm looking for articles about anything related to libraries and about successful (or not as successful as we can learn from those too) programs your library has done recently. With Summer Reading finally over, I would love to see some articles in my inbox from all you children's and teen librarians about the cool programs you offered your patrons! I am also looking for fun content too—book reviews, news items, profiles of libraries and librarians, creative writing, art, and anything you can think of! Please don't hesitate to contact me your ideas for articles and columns.

Let's make *Nebraska Libraries* a quality publication that showcases the great things that Nebraskan libraries and librarians do!

You can reach me at: [nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org)

Lindsey Tomsu  
Editor, *Nebraska Libraries*



# ***2013 NLA Elections***

**By Janice Boyer**

Elections for Nebraska Library Association officers will take place online August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Current NLA members will be provided information electronically about procedures for voting so check your email! It is important that contact information is correct in Memberclicks, so members should take a moment to check their profiles for accuracy. Members may edit their membership information so please make sure your entry is current. One lucky member will win a free 2014 NLA membership just for voting. Please vote! You may be a winner!

Candidates elected will begin their terms at the conclusion of the Annual Conference in Kearney on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **NLA Vice President/President Elect**

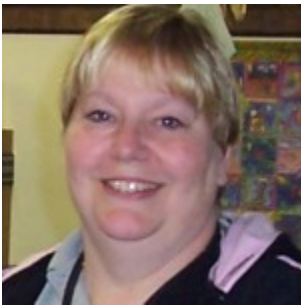


**Dave Graber**

Dave Graber, Library Director at Wayne State College, has long been an advocate for innovative library services and life-long learning. After receiving his MLS from Indiana University in 1992, Dave started his career as the Assistant Librarian at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, MO. Working as one of only two librarians in this small college library required him to do a little bit of everything and helped him to develop a broad-based skill set.

In 1995 Dave took the newly created Electronic Services Librarian position at Wayne State College. The Internet was just starting to change nearly every aspect of the library and Dave helped lead the campus into this new era. In 2006 Dave was promoted, becoming the Library Director at Wayne State. Since that time Dave and his staff have implemented numerous programmatic changes to improve patron services. Dave is currently charged with leading the library through a \$17 million remodeling project that will completely redesign the library's facilities and services.

Raised on a South Dakota farm, Dave now lives a busy life in Wayne with his wife and two stepdaughters. He still loves to play softball, learn new things, and spend occasional weekends helping out on the family farm.



**Gayle Roberts**

Currently the director at Blair Public Library, Gayle has served in various NLA positions throughout her library career. She is past chair of both the Paraprofessional and SCYP sections, and has served as an officer in ITART and YART. She has served on both the Advocacy Committee (aka Legislative Committee) and the Publications Committee. She has been awarded the Paraprofessional of the Year award, the NLA Presidential Award for Excellence, and the 2011 Departmental Employee of the Year Award for the City of Blair.

Her formal library career started at the UNO Criss Library, where she started as a reference assistant and left after serving as the Promotions and Marketing Associate. She graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia program with her MLS and began working at Blair as the Children's Librarian before taking the directorship almost three years ago. Prior to her MLS, she managed law and accounting libraries in her former small firm and corporate assistant days.

She loves Kermit the Frog, M&Ms, NASCAR, crocheting, her grandchildren, and, of course, reading! She can be a bit on the crazy side from time to time—even dying her hair rainbow colors when the library patrons read over 25,000 materials in nine weeks.

#### **NLA Treasurer**



**Megan Klein-Hewett**

Megan Klein-Hewett is the senior clerk at the Omaha Public Library's W. Dale Clark Library and has been employed by OPL since 2010. She recently completed her MA in Library and Information Science at the University of Missouri–Columbia and also holds a BA in Journalism & Mass Communications from Creighton University. Megan has spent the majority of her life in the Omaha area, having grown up in Council Bluffs, IA. She spends half the year serving as a volunteer speech coach at Lewis Central High School in Council Bluffs and is a certified high school speech judge for the Iowa High School Speech Association. She's a member of Toastmasters International, as well as NLA and ALA. When she's not spending six months of the year voluntarily surrounded by teenagers, Megan is an avid runner and enjoys taking care of her old house. She's also totally geeky about theater, history, and—luckily for NLA—finances.

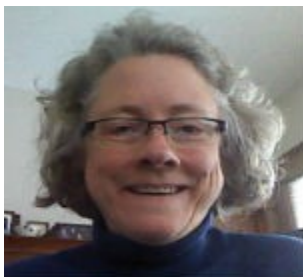


**Tina Walker**

Tina Walker has served as the Area Director of Learning Resources at Mid-Plains Community College since 2011. She is a member of NLA and the C&U section and presented at the 2012 NLA Annual Conference in Omaha. She is also a member of MPLA, ALA and RVLS. She serves on two committees for MPLA: Communications and Awards. She recently served on LITA and the Annual Conference Development Committee for the 2012 LITA Annual Conference in Columbus, OH. Tina holds an MLIS from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

Prior to her director position with MPCC, Tina served as a library associate at the University of Nebraska-Kearney from 2006 to 2011. Her most recent accomplishment is the development of the Community College Communication platform on PBWiki. She initiated a shared workspace for all Nebraska community colleges to share information and work together to improve the services to community college libraries across the state of Nebraska.

#### **College & University Section - Vice Chair/Chair Elect**



**Margaret Mering**

Margaret Mering is the Coordinator of Catalog and Metadata at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. She has worked at UNL since 1991. Margaret has a MLS from the University of Arizona and a BA from Whittier College.

Margaret has been a presenter for C&U. At the 2012 spring meeting, she spoke about electronic theses and dissertations. Previously, she has spoken about libraries in Guatemala. Margaret helped form TSRT and served as its first chair. She is a frequent presenter for TSRT. She is an active member of ALA. She is a member of ALCTS, ACRL and LITA. For 2011/12, she chaired ALCTS' Continuing Resource Section. Margaret also served two terms as the secretary of NASIG.

Margaret is honored to run for the position of C&U Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and looks forward to continuing to work with her colleagues across the state.



**Joyce Neujahr**

Joyce Neujahr is currently Director of Patron Services at the University of Nebraska—Omaha, Dr. C.C. and Mabel L. Criss Library. She is also an adjunct instructor for the graduate leadership and management course for the University of Missouri—Columbia, library science program. Neujahr received her Master of Library Science degree from the University of Missouri—Columbia and has worked in public, school, and now academic libraries. She is active in state-, regional-, and national-level professional organizations.

#### **College & University Section - Secretary**



**Holli Duggan**

I'm Holli Duggan. I've worked at UNL Love Library as the Returns Assistant for two and a half years. Most of what I do is train, schedule, and supervise student workers with all of our various projects throughout the year. I graduated in 2011 from the University of Missouri—Columbia's ISLT program with my first MA. If all goes according to plan, I'll graduate again this December with an MA in Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education from UNL with an emphasis on teaching and learning technologies. I'm very much looking forward to finishing as I have no dreams of being an eternal grad student. Last year, I served as the secretary for NMRT. This year, I've had the opportunity to participate in the ALA Emerging Leaders program (with the help of NLA). It's been wonderful so far! I'm really excited for our group to present the Adult Learning Tutorial project in Chicago this summer. I've also been working with the Diversity Committee at Love for the last two years. Outside of the library world, I like to bake cupcakes, watch *Doctor Who*, and run with my Chocolate Lab puppy. In less than a month, I'm attempting my first full marathon which is terrifyingly exciting.



**Rochelle Krueger**

Rochelle Krueger has extensive experience in the library world. She has served as the Government Documents Librarian at Calvin T. Ryan Library at UNK for the past three years, and prior to that she served for 16 years as the Curriculum Assistant in the Curriculum Department of the library. Her experience includes the public library world as well, having working at the Kearney Public Library for four years. Rochelle has recently taken on the additional role of Library Instruction Coordinator.

She has been a member of, and attended, ALA Annual, NLA Annual, and the Spring C&U section meetings. She has also contributed to *NLAQ*. She earned her BS (1991) from Kearney State College (UNK) and her MLIS online from Drexel University (2010).

Her proposed presentation ("Libraries without Walls: Extending Service and Visibility beyond the Physical Building") for the 2013 Brick and Click Conference has been accepted. Her work in government documents is evidenced through several webpages: <http://guides.library.unk.edu/govdocs>.

Rochelle is interested in serving as C&U Secretary based on her long-term membership in NLA and the C&U section and because of her interest to be of service to fellow librarians.

### **Paraprofessional Section - Vice Chair/Chair Elect**



**Nancy Black**

I began working at Keene Memorial Library November of 2008 as a library aide in the Adult Circulation Department. I realized in short order that I enjoyed working in the library and wanted to embark on a new career. I enrolled at UNO in the fall of 2011 and began work on my bachelor's degree in library science. I will complete that degree after the completion of four more classes. In the spring of 2012 I applied for and received the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian scholarship from the Nebraska Library Commission. I am currently on my fourth round scholarship having completed all requirements to maintain my scholarship awards. I attended the 2012 PLA conference in Philadelphia and have attended the NLA conference in 2011 and 2012. This year I intend to attend the Rural Library Association conference and NLA conference. I currently serve on the Diversity Committee for the NLA. In March of 2013 I accepted the position of Library Director at Mead Public Library.



**Sarah Brown**

My name is Sarah Brown and I live in Norfolk, Nebraska. I graduated from Northeast Community College in 2006 with an Associate of Arts degree. I am currently employed at the Northeast Community College Library in Norfolk and have been working in the library for about three years now.

We all know that technology is a huge part of today's world, and I am happy to be a part of the new direction that libraries are heading by keeping up with changing technology and the different ways people are now using the library. The best part of my job in the library is being able to assist students to not only find information that they are looking for, but to help them find reliable sources of information. It is a great feeling when you can show a library patron the great databases that are available to them and the great tools that will assist them in their search for great information.

## Public Library & Trustee Section - Vice Chair/Chair Elect



**Todd Schlechte**

Todd has been a certified librarian for about six years now and has enjoyed being able to offer library members increasingly better services during that time. He helped with collection development for Nebraska Overdrive Libraries when it still numbered in the twenties and thirties and was appointed to the Nebraska State Advisory Board for Libraries. Like so many in Nebraska, he possesses his MLS from the University of Missouri.

Professionally, some of his favorite memories involve helping immigrants, working with teens, and establishing the trust necessary to accomplish change. Presently, he particularly enjoys those aspects of his present position at Omaha Public Library that involve reference, collections, and programming.

On the side he mentors refugees and is active in the Nebraska Library Association. He is also a member of the PLA and ALA, as well as other organizations compatible with his interests.

Todd believes public libraries have an important role to play not only in early literacy and teen programming, but also adult information literacy because the ability to find quality information impacts lives on a personal level.

To relax he likes to read up on U.S. and international affairs, speak German while engaged in a family activity, engage in perennial gardening, sit in front of a fire with a good book, or go on a hike with his daughter.



**Matthew R. Williams**

BA in English from Trinity International University in Deerfield, IL

MLIS from Dominican University in River Forest, IL

28 years working in libraries. 23 years in Public Library Administration. 18 years as a Library Director.

- 1984 – 1989 Clerk at Trinity International University Library, Deerfield, IL
- 1990 – 1995 Assistant Director at Antioch Public Library District, Antioch, IL
- 1995 – 2006 Director at Watertown Public Library, Watertown, WI
- 2006 – Current Director at Kearney Public Library, Kearney, NE

Biggest work accomplishment:

- Overseeing the building/addition of the Kearney Public Library, increasing it to twice its former size
- Working with the City and the Foundation to ensure the funds needed

Personal life:

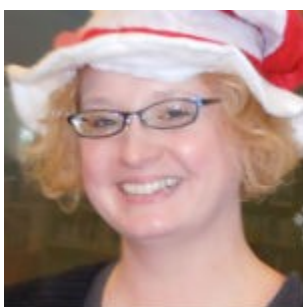
- Old enough to know better but daring enough to try new things anyway
- Raised two wonderful daughters, Caitlin age 17 (graduating in May 2013 and turning 18 in June) and Elizabeth age 15 (driving trainee)
- Engaged to be married to the beautiful Polly Deppen on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013

## **School, Children's and Young People's Section – Chair Elect**



**Laura England-Biggs**

Laura England-Biggs (Librarian I—Youth Services) has played many roles during her years working in public libraries. Starting out in 1991 as a technical services clerk at Bellevue Public Library, she donned the hats of administrative assistant, assistant director/head of technical services, and even interim director before achieving her favorite title: Miss Laura, aka “the library lady”, at Keene Memorial Library in Fremont. She’s running for Vice Chair/Chair Elect of SCYP because she’s not good at saying no to Gayle Roberts and because she’s hoping to get more involved in the young people’s side of library-land.

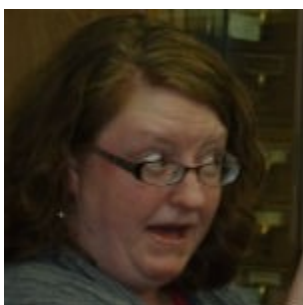


**Carrie Trutna**

Carrie Trutna has been the Youth Services Coordinator for the Wahoo Public Library for the past six years. She has held many jobs before this including janitor, McDonald’s cashier (a whole three days), Estee Lauder Beauty Advisor (a very loooong year and a half), dishwasher, and so on. This is her favorite job by far. She has a BA in English with a minor in Spanish (can’t speak a lick of it anymore) and an emphasis in Creative Writing from Midland Lutheran College. She also tried majoring in education, journalism, and music and begged for an interpretive dance major but was unsuccessful. She loves working with kids as she is a big kid herself and prefers a good juvenile fiction book over any adult book she’s ever read. She believes in the importance of teaching literacy skills at birth so that children have a fighting chance in this world. And, finally, as hokey as it sounds, in the words of Whitney Houston:

“I believe the children are our future  
Teach them well and let them lead the way  
Show them all the beauty they possess inside  
Give them a sense of pride to make it easier  
Let the children’s laughter remind us how we used to be”

## **School, Children's and Young People's Section - Secretary/Treasurer**



**Dusk Junker**

Hello! My name is Dusk Junker and my director tricked me into this, but I’m easily fooled! I am enjoying my first year as the Children’s Librarian at the Blair Public Library. With an early childhood degree, several years of teaching experience, and having



raised three kids of my own to school age, my life has always been centered around children. I look forward to serving SCYP and working with all of you!



**Kirsten Wood**

I have been the Children's Librarian at the Plattsmouth Public Library since May 2005. I would like to be elected Secretary/Treasurer of the School, Children's, and Young People Section of the Nebraska Library Association because of my experiences with all of the youth librarians across the state. My appreciation for their willingness to share their talents, knowledge, and ideas with a brand new librarian is immense. It is now my turn to start giving back professionally and one of the ways I would like to do that is by becoming more active in our professional organizations.

I have extensive experience serving on committees and enjoy exchanging ideas while working towards goals as a group. I am currently a Golden Sower reader for both the intermediate and young adult categories which I have really enjoyed not only for the reading but for getting to meet other librarians. Thank you for considering me for this position.

**Special & Institutional Section - Vice Chair/Chair Elect**



**Carolyn Dow**

Carolyn Dow is the music librarian and manager of the Polley Music Library at Lincoln City Libraries. Over the course of many years in NLA, Carolyn has served several terms as Chair of the Special & Institutional Section. She has also served NLA thrice as Chair of the Citations Committee, as a member of the ad-hoc Committee on Committees, and as a member of the merged Scholarship and Awards Committee. Carolyn has been active in the Music Library Association and the International Association of Music Libraries, for which she is currently serving as Public Libraries Branch Chair. Beyond her professional activities, Carolyn plays piccolo in the Lincoln Civic Orchestra and oboe in the Lincoln Community Concert Band and the Waverly Area Community Band. She and her two westies enjoy training in agility and she is a judge for U.S. Figure Skating.

**Rebecca Sims**

Rebecca is the Director of the Offutt Air Force Base Library.

**Special & Institutional Section - Treasurer**



**Susie Dunn**



I've been employed by Southeast Community College since 1992. I began my employment with SCC as the Lincoln Campus reference librarian and later became the assistant to the Vice President for Access/Equity/Diversity. In that capacity, I prepare a number of written reports and in-house newsletters and perform research as requested as well as maintain a small library of diversity audiovisuals. I am also the liaison to the campus disability support services staff.

I've been active in S&I since I began working at SCC and find involvement with the section very satisfying and rewarding. I serve on the Christ United Methodist Church library committee and as the editor for the Lincoln-Lancaster Genealogy Society e-newsletter. I keep up-to-date by participating in various educational offerings available through NLC.

### **Denise Matulka**

I graduated from the GSLIS program at University of Illinois at Urbana—Champaign in 2002 and have worked at Lincoln City Libraries and the University of Nebraska Libraries. I am currently the cataloger in the Library/Archives division at the Nebraska State Historical Society. I was born and raised in Lincoln, and though I have lived in other states, Nebraska always calls me home. I have eclectic reading tastes and read what draws me as opposed to having a favorite genre, which does include the occasional bestseller.

### **Intellectual Freedom Round Table - Vice Chair/Chair Elect**



**Linda Parker**

Linda Parker recently retired from the Criss Library at the University of Nebraska Omaha. Linda received her MALS from the University of Missouri. Over the course of her career, she has worked as a cataloger, middle manager, and social sciences reference librarian. She has been active in professional associations at the state- and national-level and has published extensively throughout her career. More recently, Linda has served as chair of NLA's Intellectual Freedom Committee and as interim chair of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table. She has represented the Nebraska Library Association and the UNO Faculty Senate on the Board of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska. Linda's professional interests include intellectual freedom, progressive social issues, free speech, and privacy rights.



**Todd Schlechte**

I have been a certified librarian for about six years and have enjoyed being able to offer library members increasingly better services during that time. Presently, I work for Omaha Public Library and enjoy my relationships there with colleagues and library members.

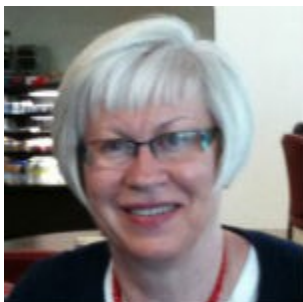
I believe intellectual freedom provides a crucial, fundamental basis for democracy. It is a bulwark against dictatorship. Libraries in particular need to be a safe place to access all sorts of information and, ideally, intellectual freedom needs to become so much a part of the culture in Nebraska that we no longer even have to worry about defending against censorship efforts. This is an issue that, I believe, is non-partisan.

Personally, intellectual freedom has played a huge role in my own life and being able to exercise it is one reason I am in the library profession today. I have also found that librarians who resist attempts at censorship may at times put their positions at risk, so I applaud all those who strive to defend intellectual freedom, as well as engage in educational efforts promoting intellectual freedom.

Presently, I particularly enjoy those aspects of my job that involve reference, collections, and programming. On the side I mentor refugees and am active in the Nebraska Library Association. I am also a member of the PLA and ALA, as well as organizations battling discrimination.

To relax I like to read up on U.S. and international affairs, speak German while engaged in a family activity, engage in perennial gardening, sit in front of a fire with a good book, or go on a hike with my daughter.

#### **Intellectual Freedom Round Table - Secretary**



**Nora Hillyer**

Nora Hillyer is the Research Services Director and Business Librarian for the University of Nebraska at Omaha Criss Library. She has been at Criss Library for almost nine years and has been a NLA member, a member of C&U, the ACRL representative for C&U, and a member of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table.



**Emily McIllece**

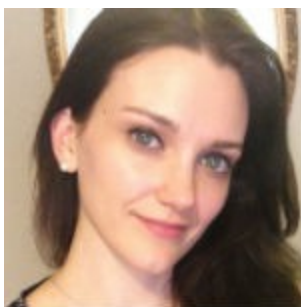
Emily McIllece currently serves as a Reference Associate at UNO's Criss Library, teaching students how to research beyond Wikipedia and coax the print card machine to accept their dollars. Although there is plenty to love about working at libraries, Emily loves when an "ordinary" reference question turns into a "cool!" moment for the student. If she had a magic wand, she'd fix copyright, DRM, and ebooks today, but it looks like she'll have to fight the good fight the old-fashioned way. She just completed her MLS from the University of Missouri—Columbia and now can focus this summer on mastering the art of sailing.

#### **Information Technology & Access Round Table - Vice Chair/Chair Elect**



**Lindsey Bray**

Lindsey Bray is the Digital Services Specialist for the Omaha Public Library system. She is a 2009 graduate of the University of Nebraska—Omaha and received her MLS from the University of Wisconsin—Madison in August 2012. She enjoys everything technology-related and her hobbies include gardening, biking, and spending time with her husband, cat, and dogs.



**Rebecca Stavick**

I work as a Library Specialist at the Omaha Public Library. I have an MLIS from San Jose State University, and my professional interests include emerging technologies, business librarianship, and library instruction to name a few! For more information, visit [www.linkedin.com/in/rebeccastavick](http://www.linkedin.com/in/rebeccastavick)

As your Vice Chair, I will establish ITART as the leading group of library technology experts in the region. I will seek out new ways to improve communication and foster the sharing of knowledge among rural and city librarians alike, and I will explore new, creative ways to boost membership and engagement in NLA/ITART activities. I'm also interested in discovering how ITART can become more involved in advocacy efforts in Nebraska.

#### **Information Technology & Access Round Table – Secretary**



**Christa Burns**

Christa Burns is the Special Projects Librarian, Technology & Access Services, at the Nebraska Library Commission. She provides organization, training, and consultation for special projects, such as E-rate, Learning 2.0, and group purchases of library products and services. Christa also coordinates, produces, and hosts the Commission's weekly webinar series, NCompass Live.

Previously, she was the OCLC Member Services Coordinator for NEBASE, the OCLC Regional Service Provider for Nebraska, providing support and training on OCLC products and services at conferences and meetings across Nebraska.

Before coming to Nebraska in 2000, Christa spent 8 ½ years at Pace University in Westchester County, NY, starting as a Reference Librarian and working her way up to become Head of Research & Information Services. She received her MLS from the University of Albany School of Information Science and Policy in 1991 and her BA from the University of Binghamton in English Literature and Folklore.

In her spare time, Christa is a gamer, bibliophile, floriculturist, and cat minion.



**Jayne Germer**

Jayne Germer has been the Collection Development Librarian at Doane College in Crete since October 2007. Her previous professional positions were at Cloud County Community College in Kansas, where she worked as a librarian for 14 years and then as the library director for three years. She was a member of the Kansas Library Association from 1990 to 2007. During that time she was

involved in the college and university libraries section, the library instruction round table, and the two-year college libraries interest group. She also has been a long-time member of the American Library Association, the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Library Instruction Round Table, and, more recently, the Reference and User Services Association.



**Rick Kerns**

Reference/Technology Support Librarian and incoming Head of Technical Services, Creighton University Reinert Alumni Library

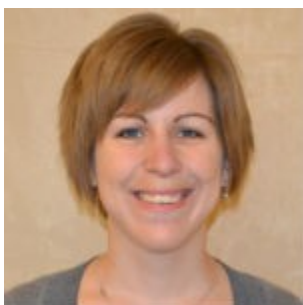
I received my Master of Library and Information Science in 2008 from the University of Missouri. I began working at Creighton University's Reinert Alumni Library in the spring of 2012.

Member of the American Library Association since 2008, including member of the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services and the Association for College and Research Libraries.

New member of the Nebraska Library Association in 2013.

I would be honored to have the opportunity to contribute my skills and talents to ITART as your new Secretary. I have had the privilege of working with various committees and work groups throughout my career. As a recent transplant from Colorado, I look forward to becoming more connected and involved with the Nebraska library community.

#### **New Members Round Table - Vice Chair**



**Lindsey Bray**

Lindsey Bray is the Digital Services Specialist for the Omaha Public Library system. She is a 2009 graduate of the University of Nebraska—Omaha and received her MLS from the University of Wisconsin—Madison in August 2012. She enjoys everything technology-related and her hobbies include gardening, biking, and spending time with her husband, cat, and dogs.



**Holli Duggan**

I'm Holli Duggan. I've worked at UNL Love Library as the Returns Assistant for two and a half years. Most of what I do is train, schedule, and supervise student workers with all of our various projects throughout the year. I graduated in 2011 from the University of Missouri—Columbia's ISLT program with my first MA. If all goes according to plan, I'll graduate again this December with an MA in Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education from UNL with an emphasis on teaching and learning technologies. I'm very much

looking forward to finishing as I have no dreams of being an eternal grad student. Last year, I served as the secretary for NMRT. This year, I've had the opportunity to participate in the ALA Emerging Leaders program (with the help of NLA). It's been wonderful so far! I'm really excited for our group to present the Adult Learning Tutorial project in Chicago this summer. I've also been working with the Diversity Committee at Love for the last two years. Outside of the library world, I like to bake cupcakes, watch *Doctor Who*, and run with my Chocolate Lab puppy. In less than a month, I'm attempting my first full marathon which is terrifyingly exciting.

#### **New Members Round Table - Secretary/Treasurer**



**Aimee Owen**

I am a graduate of the MLS program at the University of Missouri. I also have a MS in Management Information Systems from UNO. I currently work as a Library Specialist at Omaha Public Library. My extracurricular activities include the Jr. League of Omaha, Girls Inc. of Omaha girlFriends volunteer guild (President-elect), Nebraska Food Cooperative (member email coordinator), Raqs Awn Bellydance Collective, and of course NLA (NMRT Secretary and Paraprofessional Section Secretary/Treasurer). I also enjoy gardening, crafting, reading, watching my husband's rock band, and chasing after our toddler son.

I would love to continue contributing my talent and energy to the NLA New Members Round Table as your Secretary.



**Shoshana Patocka**

Born and raised in Nebraska, I've spent most of my days in Lincoln until I married my wonderful husband and moved to Lexington, NE, over nine years ago. The majority of my life has been spent working in libraries in some capacity or another. I started with volunteering for the bookmobile when I was fourteen, spent time in the UNL library system as a student and associate worker, and most recently spent the last eight years as a library aide at Lexington Senior High. Currently, I am a fulltime student in the Missouri Library Science program, nanny a few days a week for the cutest six-month-old baby boy, and am on the board of my church (as well as a teacher for the LOGOs program on Wednesdays). Besides reading my hobbies include secondhand and antique shopping for vintage cameras in particular and enjoying the outdoors.

#### **Technical Services Round Table - Vice Chair/Chair Elect**



**Nannette Bedrosky**

I am currently the Metadata Librarian and Sirsi/Dynix Liaison for the Health Sciences Library, Creighton University.

Before July 2012, I was head of Technical Services at the Library.

Some of my current responsibilities:

1. Working on some of the Creighton Digital Repository collections (Faculty Bibliography, Theses and Dissertations, Newsletters)
2. Working with Creighton's other two libraries liaisons and the University's system admin
3. Learning RDA
4. Covering an occasional Saturday at the Reference Desk



**Melissa Moll**

Melissa Moll is a catalog and metadata librarian at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln. Together with other technical services librarians from Nebraska, she is currently preparing a workbook on RDA. Melissa holds an MA in library and information studies from the University of Wisconsin—Madison and a DMA in organ performance and pedagogy from the University of Iowa. Prior to coming to UNL in 2012, she taught at Bethany College (Lindsborg, KS) and worked as a director of music in congregations in Connecticut and Wisconsin.

#### **Young Adult Round Table - Vice Chair**



**Wendy Lukert**

My name is Wendy Lukert, otherwise known as Secret Agent Obedient Pail. I have been the Young Adult Librarian at the Blair Public Library for the last 3 ½ years. As your Vice Chair/Chair Elect I will help prepare for the Zombie Apocalypse and charter space exploration projects whenever possible. Ok, seriously folks, I am close to finishing my bachelor's degree and will be pursuing my MLS in the near future. I enjoy teen services and look forward to serving YART and learning from all of you!

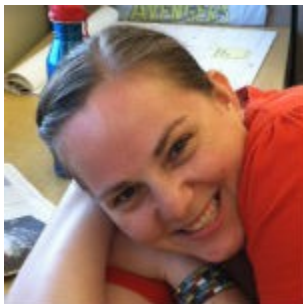
#### **Young Adult Round Table - Secretary**



**Laura England-Biggs**

Laura England-Biggs (Librarian I—Youth Services) has played many roles during her years working in public libraries. Starting out in 1991 as a technical services clerk at Bellevue Public Library, she donned the hats of administrative assistant, assistant director/head of technical services, and even interim director before achieving her favorite title: Miss Laura, aka “the library lady”, at Keene Memorial Library in Fremont. She's running for Secretary of YART because she's good at taking notes and keeping things organized.





**Autumn Hill**

Autumn Hill is the Young Adult Specialist at Omaha Public Library's Benson Branch and just earned her MLS degree this May. She has been living in Omaha on and off since high school, but grew up being shuffled around the country by restless parents. Her favorite YA author is John Green, and right now her essence is safely stored in one of Maureen Johnson's jars. She does not promise you candy in exchange for your vote, but neither does she discourage you from purchasing some and telling yourself it was from her.



Editor's Note: Since the American Library Association's annual conference this past June was in Chicago, the NLA board, under the suggestion of ALA Councilor, Brenda Ealey, decided to plan a bus trip for members to ride to the conference together. Unfortunately, not every member of NLA could go to this year's conference so I asked the membership to submit articles about their experiences if they were one of the lucky that attended. The following is a supplement to our August issue of *Nebraska Libraries* and features a variety of perspectives on different aspects of what it is like to attend ALA Annual. We will learn from Brenda who was in charge of planning the bus trip, from first-time attendees, and even a librarian who got to present! If you have never considered attending ALA in the past maybe their first-hand experiences will interest you in planning a trip in the future.

### Cally O'Brien

It was June 28<sup>th</sup>, the opening day of the American Library Association's convention in Chicago and McCormick Place was packed with library professionals. This was my first year attending the annual event and I was ready for four days of learning, networking, communicating, and swag. Over the next four days I found it easy to strike up a conversation with people as we waited for books to be signed, grab a spot on the floor in packed meeting rooms, quiz sales representatives about their software's new features, and sit on the shuttle buses that took us back and forth from the hotels. I made friends with librarians from across the country, heard some of my favorite authors discuss their work and influences, hugged an author who was an inspiration to my 13-year-old self, and was impressed by the passion that the presenters demonstrated for providing library services.

#### *Highlights from ALA 2013*

**The Exhibitors' Hall:** Following the opening speech, I experienced my first taste of the mad house that was the exhibition floor. I picked up ARCs, bags, pens, and other swag; had my badge scanned to be entered in drawings; and snagged a strawberry gelato. I would go on to spend more time on the exhibition floor over the next few days, continuing to hunt down ARCs and author autographs, as well as get a chance to speak with representatives from various companies, including Gimlet, Overdrive, Tutor.com, Mango Languages, and AWE learning systems.

**Ignite Sessions:** On Saturday, Sunday, and Monday library professionals were asked to present TED style five minute talks about an area of their work or a project that they were passionate about. One presenter dressed in a gorilla suit and another had her online avatar give quick young adult book talks. My favorite topics included utilizing peer training to meet grant education requirements, incorporating STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) into youth programming, creating a library photo booth to show off patron engagement, and dealing with PTSD in urban high school students.

**Makerspaces:** One of my goals during the conference was to learn more about Makerspaces, Making, and where libraries can fit in this world. On Sunday I attended a panel called "Makerspaces: Creating, Exploring, Pitfalls" that featured library professionals who either have makerspaces in their libraries or are creating programming that borrows from the Maker movement. According to the presenters, "making" is concerned with experiential learning, peer-to-peer teaching, and creating a community around educational experiences. Many of the projects that are given the "Making" moniker utilize technology and STEM skills to update traditional crafts projects. Some examples include cross stitching 8-bit video game characters, programming LEGO robots, embroidering with conductive thread to create designs that light up LEDs, and building rubber band powered cars out of paper towel tubes. The manner in which the program is facilitated helps to define it as a Maker program. Children are encouraged to help each other learn and the instructor tries to pair up high- and low-level participants. The focus is on experimentation, creativity, and collaboration. A motto for one presenter's space was "Try, Fail, Fix." I also visited the Maker Monday special exhibition where I saw a 3-D printer in action and did an easy craft project to create a simple circuit using copper tape, a watch battery, and an LED.

**Authors, Authors, More Authors!** Authors were everywhere you looked at ALA. I came home with stacks of signed copies of ARCs (advance reader copies) from Holly Black, David Brin, John Scalzi, Cory Doctorow, Elizabeth Bear, and more. I hugged Francesca Lia Block, exchanged book recommendations with Jim C. Hines, and talked about Nebraska with Brandon Sanderson who used to visit the Gere Branch library when he was younger. On Friday night I snagged one of the last available seats for the panel "Bleak New World: YA Authors Decode Dystopia". The featured authors were Lois Lowery (*The Giver*), Veronica Roth (*Divergent*), Patrick Ness (Chaos Walking series), and Cory Doctorow (*Little Brother*). Each author shared their thoughts on why dystopia resonates with teen readers and where their inspiration comes from. I was really struck by Ness's speech when he made the point that for many teenagers life is dystopia. They are under authoritarian control, subject to arbitrary rules, struggling to survive the social survival of the fittest that is high school, and every emotional setback is the end of the world.

**Programming for the New Adult:** Sunday afternoon I spent time learning about library service and advocacy for library patrons in their 20s and 30s at two different sessions. "We Are the Champions: 20s-30s Library Advocacy" was focused on the alt+library

programming and friends group in Sacramento, CA. The group's target market is adults in their 20s and 30s who are single, childless, and hipsters. Past programs included herb garden mixology, raw foods, zombie aerobics, broke ass holidays, and a book club that features such titles as *Valley of the Dolls* and *Geek Love*. The Alt+library friends group meets in local coffee shops and bars and is not tied to one library location. An interesting insight offered by the librarians is that if you want hipsters to come to events, don't call them hipsters.

Late Nights at the Library: "After-Hours Programming for Public Libraries" was hosted by the Oak Park, IL, librarians behind "Genre-X: A 20s & 30s Book Discussion Group". The events they discussed included the Dating Game singles event; Weird Science, an adult science fair; and Spell Yeah!, an after-hours spelling bee. Both sessions emphasized the importance of graphic design and marketing in order to appeal to the New Adult demographic. Pop culture references, hand drawn signs, and edgy event names help weed out older patrons without needing to delineate the audience. It is also important to allow for unstructured time during the event for socializing, especially if a bar is set up.

I came home from ALA with my bags full of books, new people to follow on Twitter and Tumblr (check out the #tumblrarian tag), and a renewed sense of purpose. I am wowed by the passion and energy the presenters and attendees brought to the table. Librarians across the country were exploring, innovating, and adapting. I can't wait to see what we will do next!

About the Author

Cally O'Brien is a Library Service Associate at Lincoln City Libraries.

## Jennifer Harvey

I took the Nebraska librarian bus to ALA's Annual Conference. It was a great and affordable way to get to there.

While in Chicago, I attended several meetings for EBSS (Education and Behavioral Sciences Section) of ACRL (Academic College & Research Libraries). Meetings are generally not the highlight of conference, but these were informative. I have the honor of serving as Member-at-Large for EBSS, so attending meetings to get initiated into that role was a goal for me this conference.

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) have become a big interest for me and I attended several events that discussed issues related to MOOCs. I'm fairly new to librarianship and have a background in software development. From that career, I bring to librarianship a passion for open technologies (both free and adaptable). To me it seems logical to extend this openness to libraries. Librarians need to organize open online content in a manner that is useful to our constituents. In higher education, MOOCs are potentially challenging the way that we use proprietary databases to meet researchers' needs. What I hoped to find out from the sessions were some best practices for building online tools that aggregate open resources. The best tool I learned about is using Institutional Repositories and leveraging authors' contracts so that items that end up behind a pay wall are also open. Something that came up over and over again in the various sessions is that MOOCs have the potential to be a disruptive innovation that may change the nature of higher education in the United States. Proactively defining ways to navigate in that environment just seems prudent.

I also saw some sights and ate some great food while in Chicago. If you haven't been to the Art Institute of Chicago, do not delay (it can be crowded, so go, as I did, on the day of a parade to celebrate the Blackhawks winning of the Stanley Cup—it was hard to walk around in the crowds on the street but they mainly weren't in the museum)! It is a world class collection. The Chagall window is gorgeous. There are multiple rooms of Impressionists' paintings. You can see *American Gothic*, *The Child's Bath*, Van Gogh's *The Bedroom*, Rubens' *Saint Francis*, and much more. And, hold onto your hats, I'm enrolled in a MOOC about the Greek Hero and found they had pottery and other artifacts from 450 B.C. It was amazing. The best food I ate was a salad from a raw food vendor (if I'd had time I would have eaten every meal there!).

The ride home was just as nice as the ride there!

About the Author

Jennifer Harvey is the Curriculum Librarian at the University of Nebraska, Kearney. She is passionate about juvenile literature, effective teaching methods, technology and, lately, MOOCs.

## Brenda Ealey

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) and the Nebraska Regional Library Systems (NRLS) partnered in chartering a bus for this year's American Library Association conference in Chicago. Thanks to funding from the Nebraska Library Commission through a continuing education grant we were able to take on the project and keep the ridership fee at a very affordable level—\$50 round trip for NLA members.

The bus had 26 riders with representatives from school, public, and academic libraries. We also had representatives from various locations across the state, including Lincoln, Omaha, Kearney, McCook, South Sioux City, North Platte, Nebraska City, Columbus, Hastings, Papillion, Bellevue, and Central City. It was great having that diversity which provided an opportunity to be in conversation with colleagues while on the road in a very comfy bus. I also noted riders kept themselves occupied with mobile devices, smart phones and tablets which did stretch the bandwidth of the wireless capabilities available on the bus. I attempted to distract with a movie on the way home—*Desk Set* starring Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy—which seemed appropriate considering all the new gadgets in play on the bus as well as at home. Of course, many on the bus also took advantage of the time to read print copies of books, and on the way home I'm guessing we may have been a "few" pounds heavier with all the additional books acquired at conference sessions and exhibits.

The trials of road trips to ALA Chicago, in the past and this time too, have been the task of getting everyone to their individual hotels which is a challenge. Maneuvering a 56-passenger bus around Chicago downtown streets—even with a navigation system—is a challenge. At ALA it is not possible to reserve blocks of rooms (they don't even do that for ALA Councilors) so riders can't help but end up in various locations. The bus company is given a list of the locations as part of the itinerary, and this time we were provided with a change in bus drivers to accommodate the number of hours a driver can be on the road. We just squeaked under the wire by the time our Arrow Bus was parked in the conference lot for chartered buses.

The McCormick Conference Center in Chicago is huge and was the location for most of the sessions. There was a shuttle system set-up by ALA and supported by the vendor Gale Cengage Learning which worked really well considering there were over 26,000 in attendance this year (exhibitors and registrants) plus 20 conference hotels. That includes registrants from over 80 countries. Add to that the challenge of avoiding the Chicago Blackhawks victory parade and celebration and you are getting a ring side glimpse of metro traffic, commuters, and revelers.

As the NLA ALA Chapter Councilor, much of my time was taken up with Council meetings and information sessions. During this conference we covered multiple topics including discussion and resolutions in support of whistle blowers, reaffirming commitment to basic literacy, and library service to the community during a disaster among others. We also received a report from the Digital Content & Libraries Working Group where, for the first time ever, all of the Big Six publishers are engaged with library ebook lending. It is still not ideal but they are engaged with libraries across the country and are encouraged with the recent campaign from authors (authors4libraryebooks.org).

President Obama was also front and center (via video) at the start of one of the Council meetings to announce the partnership with libraries and the Affordable Care Act beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. He reported that 85% of Americans have insurance; however, it is the other millions that need to sign-up who can find access through Internet services at their local library.

Also unveiled was the Declaration for the Right to Libraries which lists 10 ways libraries change lives. ALA is planning to disseminate the document as widely as possible and is encouraging events and signings to bring attention to the importance of libraries. This is something we could be a part of in Nebraska and I've suggested as a project for NLA. You can find more about this project at <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/declaration-right-libraries>.

Now outside of Council I love taking advantage of sessions and author programs. Highlights this year were hearing Janis Ian perform and getting a signed copy of her autobiography, *Society's Child*, and her children's book, *The Tiny Mouse*. I also attended a session called "Quirky Books for Quirky Librarians" with a panel of authors. Included in that mix was Abby Stokes who wrote *Is This Thing On? A Computer Handbook for Late Bloomers, Technophobes, and the Kicking and Screaming*. Her book is written primarily for people over 40 and includes great advice, including a grandparents' cheat sheet for staying in the game and recommended websites, as well as computer navigation tips. Also in that session I heard Josh Hanagarne talk about his book, *The World's Strongest Librarian: A Memoir of Tourette's, Faith, Strength and the Power of Family*. Also intriguing were a panel on teen books for everyone and the AASL's Top Apps for Teaching and Learning (<http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards-guidelines/best-apps/2013>), and so much more that I've yet to organize.

The gist of the story is this—if you have the opportunity to participate in ALA or to attend one of their conferences, I encourage you to do so. Even though at times it can be a bit overwhelming and you certainly will come home tired from all the walking and lugging of free books and trinkets you will also come home reenergized with new ideas and tools to try. Additionally, you'll have the wonderful experience of visiting with library colleagues and supporters from all over the United States and world.

#### About the Author

Brenda Ealey is the current NLA ALA Councilor and works at Lincoln City Libraries.

## **Cindy Steinhoff Drake**

As of this year I have attended the American Library Association Annual Conference in Chicago since 1995. This was my fifth trip to the conference in Chicago since the conference was formerly held in Chicago every five years but recently it has been every four years. My favorite part of the conference is the exhibits and the poster sessions. This year visiting exhibits at various times during the convention was really worth my time when I won a \$5,000 scanner for our library in a drawing from the Digital Library Systems Groups (a division of Image Access). I am looking forward to its arrival in the next few weeks. I have always enjoyed the poster sessions because of the informality of the presentations and that it is a “quick” overview on various library topics.

I would advise anyone going to ALA to spend time in advance planning your schedule. For several years ALA has been using an online conference scheduler. Here you can plan what sessions you want to attend as well as keeping track of invitations you have accepted for special events. Even though you receive a large printed syllabus for the conference when you pick up your registration packet, using the scheduler is much easier from a portable device or even printing out a daily copy so you can keep track of the sessions you want to attend. I usually have two to three sessions during the same time slot that I might want to attend. Having them noted in my scheduler helps in prioritizing where I am going for each session. The ALA website even keeps you up-to-date before and after the conference regarding sessions that have posted their handouts online. Most sessions that I attended were geared towards library technical services, mainly RDA, as well as a few others pertaining to digital topics, descriptive cataloging, and reference topics about genealogy and history.

The downfall in attempting to go to more than one session per time slot is what happened to me the last day (Monday). I seemed to go to the first or second session in a 90-minute time slot that had plenty of seats available but then the second or third session was booked in too small of a room and I couldn't even get into the session. Unfortunately, I have found that many of those sessions were ones that the speakers have not posted their handouts.

This year ALA reported that the 2013 Conference had 22,762 registrants along with 6,179 exhibitors for a total attendance of 28,941—possibly the highest ever. If you have never been to Chicago for a conference you might wonder how the McCormick Convention Center could handle this many registrants/exhibitors in one place. Although the McCormick Center is a huge conference center, not all of the programs/sessions are held there. The rest are scattered in the downtown area with other large hotels that have meeting rooms. Dozens of buses move you from your hotel where you are staying (since most sponsored hotels are within a five-mile radius of the Center) to the McCormick Center to either attend sessions there or to board another bus to take you to another hotel for a session. Although I usually had no problem getting from my hotel to the McCormick Center for sessions, this year I found that it was sometimes difficult to plan your day in getting to a session in a different hotel and catching a bus back to McCormick. I think I ended up only attending one or two sessions during the conference outside of McCormick just because of the time elements involved.

In 2009 I used the “ALA Party Bus”, but this year, for various reasons, I took a flight out of Omaha on Friday (June 28<sup>th</sup>) and took a return flight to Lincoln on Monday evening (July 1<sup>st</sup>). There are benefits in either mode of transportation. I enjoyed my trip to Chicago this year and hope I can attend again in 2017!

Author the Author

Cindy Steinhoff Drake is the Library Curator for the Nebraska History Library of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

## **Jake Rundle**

This was my first ALA annual conference. I was more than a little excited. I had gone to PLA in Philadelphia in 2012, so I had some idea of how big a national conference would be, but what I discovered in Chicago blew my mind. There are so many librarians there, from directors of multi-branch systems to lowly cataloging librarians from the middle of Nebraska. And perhaps the most unique part about ALA is that you get to meet all of them. There were a lot of great things about ALA that I could talk about, but the stories I'm going to start with first are how networking at ALA is the best way to have a fantastic conference. And you can do it too by following the three simple rules I crafted while I was there.

### **Rule #1: Start Early**

Librarians make the decision to go to ALA months ahead of time. The easiest way to network with other librarians and make your conference great is to track down some of them beforehand. I used a Facebook group for librarians, but there are a number of other ways to find new contacts. Start by following ALA on Facebook and Twitter. That'll give you some insight into what they are planning. You also get the benefit of seeing content from others who follow them. For instance, I joined the ALA event “2013 Annual Conference in Chicago”. This gave me names, ranks, and serial numbers from hundreds of other librarians going to ALA or just stalking ALA from afar. Using the preconference method, I was able to discover an entire weekend of meet ups and parties to attend that were outside of the actual conference schedule. I met some amazing librarian rock stars from all over the country, like marketing

whiz Ben Bizzle and New Jersey Librarian JP Porcaro. And not just meet them, but talk to them and pick their brains about the kinds of things they do for their libraries that you can do with yours.

## Rule #2: Hit the Vendor Booths

The exhibit hall was a nightmare the first night. A fun, adrenaline fueled nightmare, but still really overwhelming. Don't let that stop you from talking to every person behind a table. Not only are you making connections with companies about products and services for your library, but they also know other librarians who might also be a great connection for you too. My travel buddy, Matt Kovar, and I made friends with Eric from Random House Books. He got us into the Random House reception at the Carnivale restaurant. Leaving the convention center, I thought this would be a small gathering of Random House folk. What it turned out to be was a who's who of librarians and authors and free food for an evening. I met Pierce Brown, author of a forthcoming novel *Red Rising*. I also had a talk with author Erica S. Perl about how authors can work with cataloging librarians to ensure the author's work gets put into the places they meant it to be cataloged. I also had the opportunity to talk with the head of youth and children's services for the L.A. County library and the executive director of the Virginia Library Association, as well as a number of other librarians from all over the United States and Canada. And that was just the first night of conference. I also attended the Mango Languages reception at the Chopin theatre and the Midwest Tape reception on the Spirit of Lake Michigan cruise. At both, I spent a good amount of time with librarians from all over. On the Midwest cruise, a group of us spent three hours swapping stories about strange patron encounters and best practices for dealing with poop in the library. It was a good way to unwind with professionals who understand exactly what you're dealing with in your own library.

## Rule #3: Introduce Yourself to EVERYONE (and carry lots of business cards)

At ALA, you will meet a ton of people. Some while you're in line for an autograph, some while you're on the conference shuttle bus, and most when you're getting another drink at a vendor reception. Don't let instincts to remain stoically quiet get the better of you. Introduce yourself. Say hello or ask them about their sweet library tattoo (I met more than one person because of mine) or about their favorite John Green novel. I did it. Strangers did it to me. Don't be afraid to start the conversation. This is how you make friends at ALA and friends at ALA become resources when you get back home.

My time in Chicago was an amazing experience. I got to see a great city, meet some amazing people, and walk away with a lot of free books. I hope I can do it again next year in Las Vegas or at PLA in Indianapolis and most certainly at NLA in Kearney.

## About the Author

Jake Rundle is the collections librarian at the Hastings Public Library. He has been working in libraries in some capacity since 2007. In his spare time, he likes to run half marathons and obstacle course 5ks. His next big adventure will be to learn computer coding so he can make his millions in app development.

## Julie Pinnell

This was a first for me—giving a presentation at ALA Annual Conference! When you are invited to do this, say yes! The process of creating a presentation is filled with research, learning, and revelation.

I was invited to speak about something that I knew a lot about—using the new integrated library system, OCLC Worldshare Management System. Since four people were speaking on this topic during the scheduled session, I knew I needed to concentrate on what was unique about our experience. What was unusual about our experience was that we migrated to OCLC WMS as part of a consortium. Getting a number of institutions to agree on a system took much longer than anticipated and timing issues created problems that prevented a smooth transition. My talk would be telling a short story of that journey. The surprise element was how OCLC responded to our self-inflicted problems.

Next, I chose beautiful pictures of Doane's campus and library staff to use as the visual component of my presentation. I accompanied these with quotes from library staff that I collected while interviewing them about their opinions of our library system. Their reactions to the new system and the migration were much more positive than I had anticipated in light of the bumps along the way. Their insights into the whole process were enlightening to me as well as the librarians that attended my presentation. This was a chance for the library staff to reflect on the unique fit our library has with OCLC WMS, while recognizing it sometimes feels like we are too close to being on the bleeding edge of a system still in development.

Then it was a matter of practicing until I had memorized my talk. This gave me comfort because I knew that no matter how nervous I was when I stood before the audience I would be able to deliver my presentation without resorting to reading it. Speaking from memory allows you to interact with the audience. I also knew that it was exactly the right length because it always fell within the time



limit specified in the invitation. As it turned out I was very nervous in the beginning but once I made eye contact with the audience I began to relax and it helped that they actually laughed in all the right places.

Luckily, I was scheduled to go first as four librarians had been invited to speak on the topic. I liked this position because I didn't have to adjust my presentation on the fly to avoid repeating what a previous speaker said. After my presentation was over I had the luxury of being able to relax and listen to the other speakers and learn amazingly useful things from them. Chelsea Dalgrode of Bay College has made training videos for her library's website that are exactly what I'd like to do for our website. Jennifer Clarke, Bucknell University, talked about how her library has gone entirely to patron driven acquisitions and the mechanics of how that happens. These were ideas I'd been considering and it was extremely interesting to see how other librarians had brought them to fruition.

So this ALA conference experience was different because I learned a lot before I went, but, as always, hearing fellow librarians talk about a myriad of library-related topics and having a chance to interact with the latest products, equipment, and technology in the enormous vendor exhibit was a professionally invigorating experience.

#### About the Author

Julie Pinnell is the Library Director at Doane College Library.

### Matt Kovar

As someone fairly new to librarianship, I had never really considered attending an American Library Association conference. I always assumed that the conference was something that only library directors and other "important" people attended. I was pleasantly surprised to find that the ALA conference was a place where librarians from all different walks of life come to share their ideas and passion for our profession.



Listening to Hosseini speak. Photo credit: Matt Kovar

I had a lot of fun on the bus trip. It was nice to talk with other librarians from Nebraska that I don't get to see very often. There were also a lot of people on the bus that I had never met before, so the bus ride was a great opportunity to get to know them better. I also liked knowing that there were other librarians from Nebraska in Chicago with me. It was nice to see a familiar face while I wandered around the convention center.

I had spent a significant amount of time before the conference trying to plan out all of the sessions that I wanted to attend. I quickly found out that there were often four to five sessions in each time slot that struck my interest. The online conference scheduler allowed me to rank each session in order of importance, which made it much easier to read my schedule when I got to the conference. While I had great intentions to attend every session, I ended

up being a little overwhelmed by the conference once I got to Chicago. There were so many people, and the conference center was massive. I was able to find my way to the registration area and then to one of the author sessions featuring Khaled Hosseini. This session was packed, and for good reason. Hosseini talked about his newest novel, *And the Mountains Echoed*, and how he forms his characters by trying to think like they do during his daily life. He also talked about what it was like adjusting to life in America as a young boy. I found this session to be really interesting, as I personally think Hosseini is one of the greatest writers of our time.

After the author session, I visited the exhibits hall. The exhibits hall was like nothing I had ever experienced. Booth after booth of people showering me with free pens, notepads, tote bags, and books. So many books! By the end of my first day of roaming the exhibits hall I was carrying a backpack and two full tote bags. I know this was a little excessive, but I'm not one to turn down free stuff. I ended up returning for a second day and hauled an equal amount of loot back to my hotel room. This is where taking the NLA bus came in handy. If I had flown to Chicago I would have had to check a bag or mail things back to Nebraska. Instead, I just had a seat full of books to keep me company on the long ride home.



The free goodies!

Photo credit: Matt Kovar

The exhibits hall was definitely the highlight of the conference for me. Not only was it great to grab so many free books, but I also got to meet with some of the vendors that I communicate with via phone and email on a regular basis. I also got to learn about new products and services that I hadn't heard of before.

I ended up spending the majority of my time at the conference in the exhibits hall. As a first-timer, I got wrapped up in the excitement and ended up missing most of the sessions that I wanted to attend. I plan on sticking to my conference schedule more when I return to ALA next summer. I would recommend that everyone attend ALA at least once. Not only is the conference itself awesome, but there are a number of offsite events that give you the opportunity to meet other librarians. I found some of the discussions at offsite events to be even more animated than at the actual conference. I met so many librarians from around the country that I would have never made contact with otherwise. There are several that I already email frequently to ask questions, and I plan on meeting up with them again when I make the trip to Las Vegas next year. Attending the annual ALA conference is the perfect summer vacation for a librarian. You won't regret it.

#### About the Author

Matt Kovar is the Technology Learning Center Coordinator at the Kearney Public Library.



# *Advocacy from Within: Celebrating National Library Week at a Law Firm*

By Rachel Zill

Here at Baird Holm, Nebraska's oldest law firm currently celebrating 140 years, National Library Week is huge! This year, the celebration took place April 15-19. The theme, inspired by our hopes of showcasing innovative mobile technology in law practice, mimicked a county fair. Mary Stultz, co-manager of this private law library, states, "Library Week is an opportunity to interact with and educate members of the firm and the staff about the library department's role in the law firm. The annual theme allows us to be creative, the treats increase interactions, and prizes entice our patrons to participate in the daily and weeklong activities." Anne Baumgartner, co-manager, has continued the firm's celebration of Library Week that started with her predecessor over twenty years ago. The celebration grows more each year, with the first planned Library Week celebration that included programming occurring 17 years ago. Anne and Mary have made this event into a tradition which employees look forward to participating in year after year. National Library Week is a wonderful time to advocate one's library services and bring together patrons to connect and learn about all your library has to offer.

After choosing a theme for our week-long celebration, our next priority was to plan it. The county fair theme provoked images of gingham tablecloths, freshly baked pies, haystacks, livestock, and a variety of fair festivities. The sky was our limit for ideas, but we needed to consider the capabilities of our somewhat small library and the expectations of our long-standing patrons. A few things were traditional. Every celebration of National Library Week at Baird Holm consisted of a commemorative bookmark given to each employee, decorative posters that displayed the events of the week, a selection of jigsaw puzzles that mirrored the theme, and daily prizes that encouraged participation. Shari Anderson, Library Assistant, and I made our plans a reality throughout the two weeks before April 15<sup>th</sup>. Posters were designed with a gingham border and fonts that set the mood of a county fair. Daily print-out activities were designed to match. Ticket bookmarks were made, welcoming each employee to the week's festivities. Instructions, rules, and sign-up sheets were drafted for each competition. Banners were produced using strung flags and plates—both incorporating gingham. Introductory emails were drafted. Water bottles were labeled "Baird Holm Library Week 2013" with gingham-bordered labels, serving as both a treat and display item.



Commemorative bookmark and jam jar received by each employee

in the daily prize drawing. Every employee of the firm was given one commemorative bookmark and one mini jam jar with the words "In a jam? Call your librarians!" adhered over the original label. In addition, emails were sent out announcing the events of the day and what to expect throughout the week.

Our main event and inspiration for the theme of the week was a technology fair. The fair, occurring on Tuesday morning, showcased an array of applications and iPad how-tos facilitated by selected technology gurus. Each employee that attended earned one ticket entry into the daily drawing. The gurus that participated were vendor representatives of Thomson Reuters, LexisNexis, BNA



The Library Week poster that was displayed throughout Baird Holm

During the Sunday afternoon before Library Week began, the employees at Baird Holm's private law library were hard at work decorating the office and distributing materials for their 17th annual celebration. Posters announcing the highlights of the week were hung throughout the main floor of the library and upon every floor's bulletin board. A library week banner was hung over the stacks in the main library. A jigsaw puzzle was set out on the table in the main library for employees to work on during their breaks throughout the week, earning each participant an entry



The entrance to the technology fair



Bloomberg, CCH Wolters Kluwer, and one very generous member of Baird Holm's Information Systems (IS) Department—Donna Robinson. Each vendor had their own conference room, which was designed to resemble a county fair booth. Every attendee of the fair was welcomed with a light breakfast and a "menu" displaying the offerings of each booth. Participants could tour throughout all booths, collecting various tidbits of knowledge and vendor merchandise, or they could get advice on specific applications, topics, or programs of interest. LexisNexis offered a succinct training session that occurred in intervals throughout the fair. Attendees were entered into a drawing to win a free iPad mini, supplied by the Lexis representatives.

Donna Robinson, one of our own IS Support Specialists, fielded questions regarding general "mobile savoir-faire". She stated that the fair "did an excellent job promoting legal application product knowledge as well as firm and vendor technical support." Overall, the technology fair—a first of its kind at Baird Holm—was a success. The incorporation of a booth staffed by IS personnel attracted ideas for future partnerships between the library and IS departments. Donna continues to boast, "Technology and library services partnering for the legal industry of tomorrow—here's to the future Techno-brarians. A future technology fair outside of Library Week and sponsored by both the library and IS departments was discussed.



Library bulletin board displaying pictures submitted to the "livestock" pet show

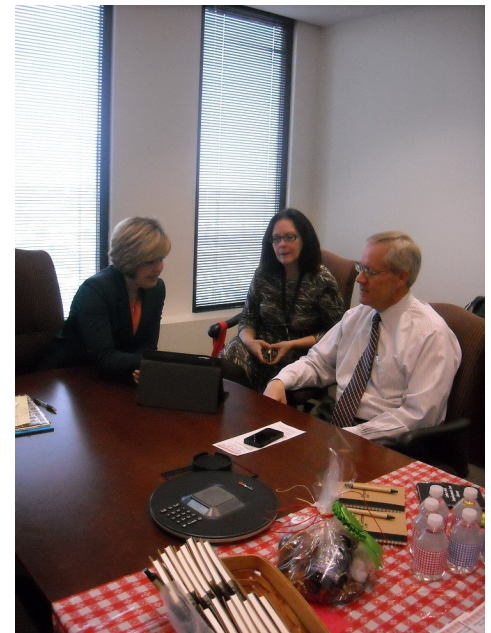
In addition to our technology fair, we had several competitions throughout the week, including a pie baking contest, a "livestock" pet show, and a bean count. Participants in the "livestock" pet show were encouraged to herd their pet pictures to the library by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, where they would be awarded one daily prize entry for participating. The 32 pictures entered were displayed anonymously upon the library bulletin board. Voting began on Wednesday; first and second place winners were chosen on Friday afternoon. When one voted for their favorite picture, they were awarded one entry into the daily drawing as thanks for their participation. The winners—two adorable pups posing for their Christmas card and one farm pig that portrayed a more literal example of a livestock show—were given gift cards to Petco, as well as a winning ribbon and decorative Mason jar.

to submit a vote in exchange for one entry in the daily drawing. By noon, our three guest judges for overall taste had arrived—the firm's managing partner, human resources manager, and one attorney partner. The winners—an apple cinnamon cardamom pie for best appearance and a caramel apple pie for best taste—were given gift cards to HyVee grocery store as well as a winning ribbon and decorative Mason jar. The bean count competition took place throughout the week. A large Mason jar filled with five varieties of dry beans was placed outside of the librarians' office. Participants were encouraged to guess the number of pinto beans in the jar by Friday afternoon. The winner of the contest, who remarkably guessed the exact number of pinto beans, received an Applebee's gift card as well as a winning ribbon and decorative Mason jar.

Participants in the pie baking contest were encouraged to bring in their homemade pies before 9 a.m. on Wednesday, when they would be awarded five daily prize entries for participating. Voting for overall appearance began at 9:30 a.m.—all attorneys and staff were encouraged

On top of all the wonderful events and competitions, there were daily prizes and activities that also gave participants a ticket in the daily drawing of prizes. On Monday, a multiple choice quiz was distributed via email to all employees. The quiz consisted of questions regarding Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminars and the process one must go through in order to enroll in a webinar, teleconference, or in-person seminar. Attorneys must complete a certain amount of CLE hours in order to keep their licenses in the various states they practice law. In hopes of both simplifying and centralizing this process, the library has taken responsibility for arranging all elements of these programs that are constantly attended by our attorneys, paralegals, summer associates, and clients. Although the process is not as straight-forward as one would think, this multiple choice questionnaire provided awareness of the steps necessary to enroll in a CLE seminar and opened the door to questions whose answers may ease frustration about the process.

On Tuesday, a hidden picture puzzle was distributed via email. The overall picture was a book fair within which one must locate various objects. The library decided to add a couple of objects that would promote the technology fair occurring the same day. Using the program Paint, we added a smartphone and iPad to the puzzle. On Thursday, library comment cards were distributed via email. The attached document consisted of six gingham-outlined comment cards. Employees could fill out as many as they would like in exchange for one entry in the daily prize



Jill Ackerman, Partner, and Jon Breuning, Attorney, learning from Michele Alwin, BNA Bloomberg representative, at the technology fair

drawing and a few picks from the grab bag of leftover vendor merchandise from the technology fair. These comment cards were modeled after surveys posed during NLA's Snapshot Day. Each card began with a comment, such as "My favorite library experience is . . ." or "The library really helped me by . . .". We have utilized these comments in a caption bubble display on the library bulletin board and throughout the library collection. They may also be used in future library committee reports. On Friday, a word find was distributed via email. This word find consisted of various objects, individuals, and resources available in the library. The words included "memorandum", "regulations", "docket", "lexis", "Rachel", etc. This activity brought awareness to some of the materials and services our library offers.

Whew! We really outdid ourselves this time. Although it may seem as though we had too much going on throughout the week, the amount and variety of activities encouraged every employee of the firm to attend—from attorneys and legal secretaries to records department staff and legal couriers. Almost all of Baird Holm's employees participated in Library Week this year. Fifty-nine guessed the number of pinto beans in the jar, 34 found all the pictures in the hidden picture puzzle, 31 submitted comment card sheets, 28 answered all the questions in the multiple choice quiz, 32 submitted pet photos, 25 attended the technology fair and found all words in the word find, and 7 prepared homemade pies. Overall, our total cost equaled to about \$4.46 per employee. We cut costs by utilizing library staff for the design, marketing, and facilitating of Library Week festivities. To summarize, National Library Week remains a great opportunity for libraries of all shapes and sizes to advocate their services and to bring patrons, librarians, support staff, and stakeholders together to connect and learn. A successful Library Week should exemplify why one's library is important to the people it serves.

#### About the Author

Rachel Zill is a Library Assistant at both the Baird Holm private law library and Clarkson College's academic nursing library. She has also worked at UNO's Criss Library as an Interlibrary Loan Student Worker and at Omaha Public Library as both an intern and a practicum student. She is a graduate of UNO with a bachelor's in library science. This fall she will begin to work towards her master's in library science from the University of Missouri-Columbia. This article will be developed into a program Rachel will present at both the Nebraska Library Association and the Mid-American Association of Law Libraries annual conferences. So if you are attending either, please come say hello!

\*All photos courtesy of Rachel Zill and the staff of Baird Holm.\*



# *What Was That?!*

## *Ghost Hunting at the Plattsmouth Public Library*

By Karen Mier



Sandy, Dee, and Nate from T.R.I.P. and Kirsten Wood from Plattsmouth Library telling of her experiences with paranormal activity in the library.  
Photo credit: Karen Mier

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Tri-City Research and Investigation of the Paranormal (T.R.I.P.), based in Hastings, visited the Plattsmouth Public Library as part of the Teen Summer Reading Program. Teens who had earned enough points could attend a pizza party at 6 p.m. and see the equipment that T.R.I.P. uses during its investigations. The teens left after the party, but T.R.I.P. stayed behind.

The investigators and two library staff members stayed in the library with all lights off until midnight. They filmed for as long as they could, but they had to change batteries in their cameras after only minutes instead of hours, a common

sign of paranormal activity. They took readings of electromagnetic fields (EMFs) and used a digital voice recorder to record electronic voice phenomena (EVPs).

On July 13<sup>th</sup>, T.R.I.P. returned to the library to reveal their findings. About 65 people attended the reveal. The investigators explained and demonstrated how their equipment works. They also showed the video that was recorded during the investigation of the library on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Several episodes of lights or glowing that couldn't be explained were observed. They also asked if Miss Jones, a librarian who worked at the library from 1885 to 1940, was present. They asked to hear three beeps for a yes or two for no. Three beeps were audible!

The library's copy of the video is already circulating! It was a fun experience, cost the library nothing, and provided a great program for our patrons!

If you're interested in finding out more about T.R.I.P., check out their website at [www.tripparanormal.com](http://www.tripparanormal.com).

### About the Author

Karen Mier is the Director of the Plattsmouth Public Library.



Nick, Nate, Dee, and Sandy on the night of the investigation.  
Photo credit: Karen Mier

# *Skyping Authors*

## By Courtney Pentland

If you are looking for a great opportunity for your students or patrons to visit with authors, consider choosing Skype visits over or in addition to in-person visits.

For the past two years, the Omaha Burke High School book club has hosted Skype visits with authors. During our first year, students met with four authors and we jumped up to six for the second year. To locate authors, we searched the Skype an Author network at <http://skypeanauthor.wetpaint.com/>. Be aware that the Skype an Author network page is not a complete listing of authors willing to Skype, and it is organized alphabetically—not by grade level. You will have to spend some time going through the lists to find someone that fits your needs. You can also check an author's website to see what types of visits they do or send a direct e-mail to them or their publicist to discuss the possibility.

There are several advantages to hosting Skype visits over in-person visits. Skype visits are much less expensive because you do not have to pay travel and you will not have to search for multiple sites for the author to attend. Also, since the visits are less expensive, you may be able to host more per year. We have been very fortunate and have been able to pay for the author visits through a grant, but the cost of many Skype visits are fairly inexpensive. We average between \$100 and \$250 and up to \$500 for a one-hour visit. Some authors even provide visits for FREE!

Most authors do ask that attendees have read at least one of their books so there is some context for discussion. To be able to offer enough books to our growing membership we have, at times, borrowed from other schools in the district, from our local library system, from our public library, or purchased copies through local grants. All of our students are required to read at least one book by the author in order to attend the visit—many read more than one—and prepare three questions they would like to ask the author. Our visits generally include a brief five minute introduction by the author and the rest of the time is a Q&A session based on the students' prepared questions. Some authors can also provide prepared presentations on the writing process, specific aspects of their books, etc.

In order for a Skype visit to be successful, you will need some pieces of technical equipment, including a projector to display the author's image for your whole group to see and a camera/microphone for your students/patrons to sit near when asking their questions. Our Skype an Author book club has been so successful (we went from five members to 40!), some of the other schools in our district plan to join us next year. We will have six schools participating. Each school will host three authors each semester and we will rotate a shared pool of books throughout the year. By sharing our resources, we are able to save even more money because even though we are still individually paying for each author visit we are sharing the cost of the books.

By the end of this school year, members who have been with us since the beginning could possibly have met with 16 authors! I am so excited that we are able to provide them with this unique opportunity. If you are looking for a more cost effective way to share an author visit experience with your students or patrons, consider hosting Skype visits.

For more information, please feel free to contact me at [courtney.pentland@ops.org](mailto:courtney.pentland@ops.org)

About the Author

Courtney Pentland is the Lead Teacher/Research Librarian for Library Services in the Omaha Public Schools District.

# Children Teaching Children

By Rory Kidder

As the eight children entered the room, the Professor Child team was filled with excitement and anticipation at what the day would bring. Jenni, Sharon, and Rory had been envisioning this day for months. When they first came up with the idea of children teaching children about challenging life events, they had no idea the journey their dream would take them on. Yet here they were, on Professor Child's first filming day, about to hear eight children bravely share their personal stories of divorce.

"Divorce means to me that my parents weren't happy being married to each other and that they split apart so that they could be happy again," said Canon, 13.

The Professor Child project was inspired by Jenni O'Keefe's unsuccessful search for healing tools for a young family member who had been struggling with grief and divorce. O'Keefe was dismayed by the lack of tools available for children dealing with these challenging life experiences and wanted to find a way to instill a sense of hope and healing. "I knew there was an opportunity to create something special," said O'Keefe. After partnering with co-founders Sharon Richards, a mental health counselor, and Rory Kidder, a former public school teacher, Professor Child was launched with a main focus on children teaching children by sharing their own lessons through personal stories.

One of the first items of business was to create a business plan, and the Professor Child team knew who to turn to for help—their local library. The Deschutes County Library, in Bend, Oregon, has a wonderful program called "Book-A-Librarian" where you can make a free appointment with a professional librarian for one-on-one assistance with your research questions. The "Book-A-Librarian" program not only helped Professor Child create their business plan by helping with their research questions, but have continued to help in the areas of marketing and distribution. "I don't think Professor Child would be where we are today without the help of our local library. They have been extremely helpful, and have given us invaluable advice and guidance," shared Kidder.

Once their business plan was in place, Professor Child began to focus on the creative aspect of film making. Professor Child believes children have a powerful voice that is relatable, healing, and hopeful. Ultimately, they want children to know they are not alone in what they are experiencing and that much can be learned by simply listening to another child's story. This is the guiding premise behind every film and workbook they produce.

Their first film, *Children and Divorce*, was released in 2012. In the documentary-style film, eight children share their divorce stories. "What's different about this film is the idea of allowing children to teach others by sharing their stories without clinical messages or adult advice," said Sharon Richards. "We have heard from mediators, therapists, and parents about the importance of using this film as a tool to help families throughout the divorce process."

Film viewers hear how children define divorce, what it means to them, how they heard the news, and their biggest worries. They share what it's like to go back and forth between homes and what their parents' relationships are like post-divorce. Viewers hear what has helped the children, what advice the children have for other kids and parents, and what gives them hope. The children are honest, brave, and courageous in their storytelling and leave viewers feeling inspired.

Danielle Randolph, a divorced parent who recently viewed the film, said, "Even though this is obviously geared toward children, I think it would be an eye opener to divorcing and divorced parents." Randolph goes on to share, "The advice to parents was one of my favorite chapters because it really points out things that adults don't consider . . . like how to tell their kids they are getting divorced or to remember to reassure their children that it's not their fault . . . and not to use their children as a go between."

Brie Cutlip, a divorced parent, watched the film with her children and said, "After watching the film, it seemed like my step-kids felt some relief from having seen other kids asking questions that they had themselves. It helped them to realize they are not alone in how they feel and that children go through this everyday. Divorce can leave children with unanswered questions and sometimes feeling as if they are the reason. Does that mean as parents we should stay in a marriage for the children? Not at all, but by watching this film, you can understand how your children may be feeling and how you can help them to understand and feel loved throughout the divorce process."

*School Library Journal* had this to say about *Children and Divorce*: "The producers have understood that children have much to teach their contemporaries about what has happened to them and their families, and have let them share their experiences, both good and bad."





*Children and Grief*, released in 2013 by Professor Child, received a positive review in *Booklist*: “Concluding with the youngsters’ hopes and dreams, this insightful, well-filmed presentation draws in audiences through the sincerity of the participants and a message of hope.” In *Children and Grief*, ten brave children share their stories of losing a loved one. Viewers hear about their grief and loss and how they are coping and healing. Their advice for other children who have lost a loved one is honest, sincere, and heartfelt. These children have experienced a life-changing event, yet they manage to share their stories with a sense of strength and resiliency. Viewers will be left with a sense of hope and an understanding that they are not alone in experiencing death.

Marissa Rex, an elementary school counselor, shared this insight about *Children and Grief*: “Some kids are dealing with the loss of a parent, while others with a sibling, uncle, or grandparent. Each child’s experience and response to death is different, which allows the viewer to see a little of him or herself in the film.”

“Here is the funny thing. We thought we were making films for children, and they are. But what we have discovered is that children can teach children AND adults. We thought we knew what children go through during these challenging life events, but what we learned from making these films is that we don’t know it all. These children have opened our eyes and given us a deeper understanding of what these life experiences are like,” shared O’Keefe.

“Don’t worry; it’s not your fault. Be strong, talk to anyone you can about it that you feel safe talking to. Let your emotions pour out and don’t be afraid,” says Sammy, 9, a film participant.

Professor Child has two more films in post-production, *Children of Military Families* and *Siblings and Autism*. All of their films are available for purchase at [www.professorchild.com](http://www.professorchild.com), Amazon, and through numerous library distributors. Learn more about Professor Child’s projects and watch trailers of their films at [www.professorchild.com](http://www.professorchild.com).

#### About the Author

Rory Kidder is a former public school teacher and co-founder of Professor Child, an organization developing films and workbooks for children experiencing challenging life events. Professor Child believes in the power of children teaching children by sharing their personal stories. All of Professor Child’s educational films and workbooks focus on providing messages that are relatable, non-clinical, and purely child-focused.



Kayla, one of Professor Child’s film participants, filming *Children of Military Families*. Photo credit: Rory Kidder



# *One Book, One Nebraska Book Talk*

By Evelyn Ost

A One Book, One Nebraska 2013 book talk on Willa Cather's *O Pioneers!* was presented by Kay Lynn Kalkowski in March at the Rock County Public Library in Bassett resulted in a packed library with several attendees traveling all the way from Norfolk, Lincoln, and Omaha! Kalkowski was a lifelong teacher of American literature. She was a well-respected teacher who taught for 35 years at Rock County High School from 1961 to 1996. She has a doctorate in Leadership Studies from the Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources from the University of Nebraska and currently lives in Lincoln. When the library started an adult book discussion in 1995, Kalkowski led that initial group during the school year with about six members. That group has carried on and continues to thrive with today with around 20 interested participants with an average attendance of around 13 at their monthly discussions.

During the One Book, One Nebraska book talk, Janie Rumbaugh from Omaha commented, "Who would have thought way back then I would travel all the way from Omaha to Bassett to hear my former teacher speak?" and Kalkowski quipped, "Who would have thought I would travel all the way from Lincoln to Bassett to speak to my former students?"

One Book One Nebraska 2013 is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska Library Commission, The Willa Cather Foundation, and University of Nebraska Press. Libraries across Nebraska will join the Willa Cather Foundation, Nebraska Center for the Book, and other literary and cultural organizations in planning book discussions, activities, and events that will encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this book.

## About the Author

Evelyn Ost is the Library Director of the Rock County Public Library in Bassett, Nebraska.



Kay Lynn Kalkowski speaking at the Rock County Public Library. Photo credit: Library Staff

# *Wakefield Battle of the Books with the Nebraska Golden Sowers*

**By Jolene Klein**

The fourth through sixth students at Wakefield Elementary School were introduced to a new reading incentive program during the 2012-2013 school year by K-12 School Librarian Jolene Klein, with the help of reading teacher Susan Metzler and several staff members.

To provide some background, the class size for these grades is about 13 to 16 students per section. I believe that our students likely mirror the reading attitudes of many other Nebraska students in the same grades in regards to reading habits. While our classroom teachers have diligently exposed these students to guided reading experiences to teach reading skills, generally low numbers of these students regularly check out recreational books from the library. This pattern extends to the number of students eligible to vote in the annual Nebraska Golden Sower program.

For someone who loves to read, I had to find out why some students who know how to read aren't choosing to read regularly, and why others just dislike reading. I've known that choosing good books for the library was just a piece of the puzzle. I can generalize on a few things that I've learned in our school. We have close to 50% Hispanic population in the elementary, many from second and third generation families, whose children can speak English but whose partially bilingual parents cannot read English or even Spanish themselves. Too many parents of our school, both Hispanic and white, cannot or do not model reading, read aloud to their children regularly, or keep reading materials readily available at home.

We have boys and girls who believe that reading is a chore and a boring activity. Video and digital distractions entice kids of all economic backgrounds and steal hours of their time. Outside interests and activities are good reasons for others. Some students tell me that they've been reading a book from the classroom or from home each time I ask. I've decided that many students just haven't met books that speak to them.

As the K-12 School Librarian, I was brainstorming for a new multi-grade program to entice students to read and to really hook them! I revisited an idea that I had never tried but looked like fun—a Battle of the Books. So I did some homework and found helpful resources at Oregon's state Battle of the Books wiki (<http://oboblsta.pbworks.com/w/page/5653620/FrontPage>) and at Alaska's program website (<http://www.akla.org/akasl/bb/bbhome.html>). The rest was lots of planning.

I centered my idea for the battles on the ten 2012-2013 intermediate Nebraska Golden Sower nominated titles (<http://www.goldensower.org/>) hoping also to have a greater number of students who could participate in the voting. I was given approval to purchase six paperback sets of the books for each of our classrooms. I also had library copies of each title which I handed out in May 2012 to selected teachers and staff who agreed to help me read and write questions for the battles. These volunteers read either one or two books each. I also provided them with guidelines for writing questions, as well as an Excel form for submitting the questions to me via email.



Doing battle!

Photo credit: Jolene Klein

In the fall of 2012, I began promoting the Battle of the Books program to our students, staff, and parents. I gave booktalks, handed out bookmarks, figured out brackets, explained the general format, wrote articles for the school website, and collected the quiz questions from the teachers and staff that were ready. The last two sets trailed in during February, a month before battle time. I placed a set of the 10 books in each of the six teacher's classrooms who taught grades four, five, and six.

Partway through the fall, it was evident that the books were not moving in the individual classrooms much because teachers did not have enough time to encourage the books and due to departmentalization new students rotated into the rooms through the day and homeroom students had limited free time in these classrooms. In the meantime, Susan Metzler recognized that the younger fourth



grade students would have trouble understanding or relating to a few of the books. So she collected all of the book sets and decided that she could either read aloud or set up reading circles for at least half of the titles for all the reading classes.

By March (Madness) and Read Across America time, all students had heard or read half of the books in reading class. Copies of the Golden Sower books were flying off the shelves in the weeks before the battles began. We also had the great fortune and timing to Skype with one of the book authors, Rob Buyou (<http://robbuyea.com/home>) before the battles. He had a great personality for this age group, having been a former fourth grade teacher, and the kids ate it up. The Skype visit created further excitement for the book *Because of Mr. Terupt* as well as for the battles. Even our normally reluctant readers were actively planning, reading, and practicing.

For this 1<sup>st</sup> year, we had the full class of each fourth, fifth, and sixth grade section as a team. This made six teams of 12 to 16 students. We developed and practiced a system for answering questions, with two sub-teams and two spokesmen who conferred to the primary spokesman within a 30-second time limit. They never needed that long but could function in an orderly way to discuss answers.

We paired the two fourth grades, the two fifth grades, and the two sixth grades for the first round battles. The fourth grade winners had a second round bye and played the winner of the fifth and sixth grade match. The championship battle was held in the gym and the teams battled with 16 “in which book” questions and 16 content questions. It was a big event, witnessed by parents, friends, and the other classes. We projected the scores, in Excel, with an LCD projector and school staff assisted as scorekeeper, timer, judge, and photographer. I read the questions. We had great newspaper coverage.



Fifth grade battle champions!

Photo credit: Jolene Klein

year. We have taken the names of all the incoming fourth, fifth, and sixth graders and created five-person teams, blending all three grade levels for each team, and we will randomly place them in a Sweet 16 team bracket, with byes as needed. Students will know their teammates before school is out so that they can choose a name for their teams and plan which books each is responsible for reading. Susan and I have planned which of the 10 titles will be used as read-alouds or for reading circle in reading class and which books will be read independently and checked out through the library. I will also have a few copies of the reading class books for checkout. We plan to coordinate with the public library so that students can start reading over the summer if they wish.

The Wakefield School Library was recently awarded a Northeast Library System grant which will defray from the cost of the six extra sets of paperbacks (or hardbacks). We’re looking forward to reading the next group of Nebraska Golden Sowers for intermediates, and we are expecting some pumped team excitement this fall! We’re getting ready to battle!

For more information, you may contact me at [jklein@esu1.org](mailto:jklein@esu1.org).

#### About the Author

Jolene Klein is the K-12 School Librarian for Wakefield Community School.

I designed a participation certificate for every student and attached a Book-it coupon to each. The third place finishers also received a candy bar, the second place team received Subway meal deal coupons, and our champions received gift cards to Barnes & Noble.

The excitement generated by the battles was awesome! All students were able to participate in our full-class team system, and it was great to see when the usual non-readers knew the answers and contributed to the score. Students asked for copies of the ten books for weeks after the battles finished. When it was time to vote for this year’s Nebraska Golden Sower award, nearly all of the students were eligible to vote. It was good to observe full participation and how several really deliberated over which book was their favorite. They are excitedly anticipating the award announcement!

Now that we know a little more of what we’re doing, Susan and I are making some changes for the 2013-2014 school

# ***“Kids’ Creations” Art Show at the Library***

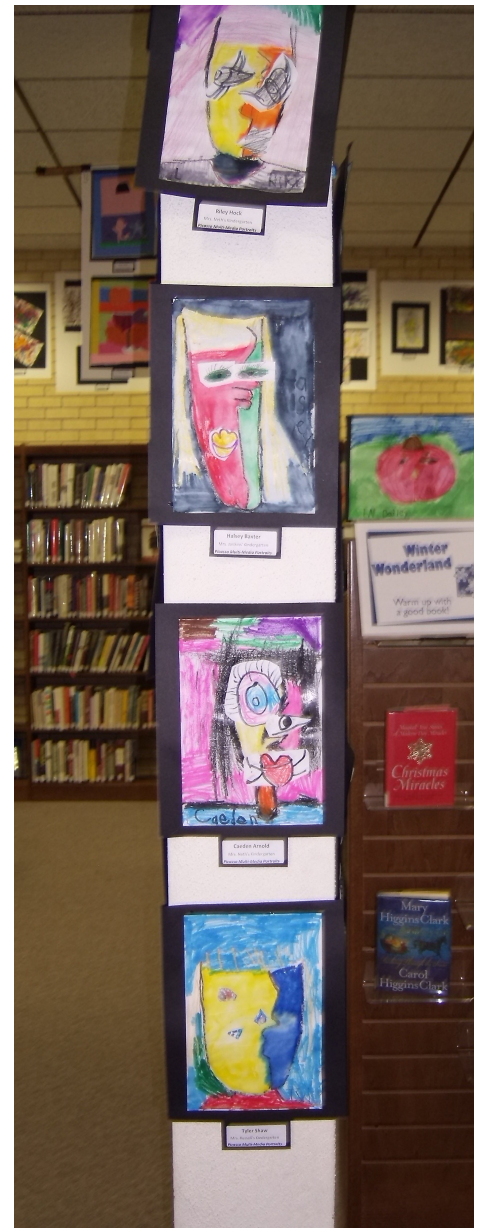
**By Kim Blackburn**

The “Kids’ Creations” Art Show is a collaboration between the Broken Bow Elementary School art teacher Christine Fiorelli and the Broken Bow Public Library.

It all started two years ago when the Broken Bow Public School System hired Fiorelli as art teacher for kindergarten through sixth grades. Kim Blackburn, the Children’s Librarian of BBPL, contacted Fiorelli in September of 2011 to see if she had ever thought about having an art show for the elementary children in Broken Bow at the public library. Fiorelli had said that she used to do that with the children she taught in Kansas but they would display the art at the mall.

So we came up with the “Kids’ Creations” Art Show and decided to display the artwork for two weeks in March and in April. In March we displayed the art work for the kindergarten through second grades and in April the art show was for students in third through sixth grade. The kids love the art program and Mrs. Fiorelli. She puts a lot of time into the displays and tagging of all the artwork. This year she had a lot of students and fellow teachers help put up all the artwork so we could just watch and “ooh” and “aah”! It was a sad day at the library when it was time to take the artwork down.

This year we had a good turnout. It was a lot of fun watching proud children drag their parents around the library to show them their artwork. We have done this for two years now and look forward to our 3rd Annual “Kids’ Creations” Art Show this coming Spring.



Skeleton wire sculptures and contour line figures from the third through fifth grades. Photo credit: Kim Blackburn



If Picasso made snowmen and Matisse paper cutout collages from the students in kindergarten through second grade. Photo credit: Kim Blackburn



Foreground: Egyptian God designs and crawdad sculptures from the third through sixth grade students. Background: Mini Pollock paintings from students in kindergarten through second grade. Photo credit: Kim Blackburn



# *The Knee Bone's Connected to the What?: Finding Free, Credible Health Information Online*

## *By Teri Hartman*

Nebraska libraries have some new Spanish language consumer health materials, thanks to partners with the Nebraska Library Commission's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant project that just completed on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

The Consumer Health Information Resource Service (CHIRS) team at the UNMC McGoogan Library of Medicine and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine-Mid Continental Region partnered with the Nebraska BTOP program to conduct training for public libraries and the communities that they serve. In addition to online and in-person training, a healthcare professional member of the McGoogan Library team, Luisa Rounds, BSN, RN, translated consumer health information into Spanish. This information is available online so Nebraska public libraries can use the materials to market consumer health information to their Spanish-speaking patrons. These materials were designed with Nebraska communities' needs specifically in mind.

### *BTOP Poster with Spanish Websites*

There are two posters—one in English, one in Spanish—that were created for the BTOP program that fit tabletop stands that were delivered to libraries that requested training. The posters can be downloaded and printed on regular color printers for placement near workstations or on bulletin boards too. The Spanish version includes URLs for MedlinePlus, Kidshealth, NIH SeniorHealth, Mayo Clinic, and the National Cancer Institute. Posters can be downloaded from the “training” tab on the CHIRS page (<http://unmc.libguides.com/chirs>). The photo shows one poster stand at the North Bend Public Library.

### *Spanish Health Information Sites on the CHIRS Page*

This page currently lists 21 health-related sites from national and regional sources, with an additional link to the online Spanish tour of the MedlinePlus site. Each link includes a translated description of the information found on the site. Please share this site list with community-based organizations and educators that serve Spanish speaking citizens in your community. The page is located under the “recursos en Español” tab on the CHIRS page (<http://unmc.libguides.com/chirs>)



An example of one of the BTOP poster stands at the North Bend Public Library

Your family's health is very important to you. You need to get the best information to help you make decisions.

La salud de su familia es muy importante. Necesita obtener la mejor información para ayudarle a tomar decisiones.



### *A Public Service Announcement Storyboard Translated into Spanish*

As the team conducted training in the communities, it became apparent that libraries could use a public service announcement to reach Spanish-speaking populations in order to let them know what services they can expect from their local library. The librarian experts and Ms. Rounds created a minimal outline for such an announcement and placed the PowerPoint file on the “training” tab of the CHIRS site. Community librarians are welcome to use the translated information for all types of media outreach. An example of one slide showing the English and Spanish text is included on the left.

### *Following the Clues: A Visit to the Doctor and the Library Video*

This video is available in English, Spanish, and Sudanese-Nuer. The video, created by McGoogan Library and already present in most Nebraska library collections as well as online, is aimed at young children but has been used by many around the nation to train healthcare professionals in cultural competency issues and for adult immigrants new to the U.S. health system. More information can be found at <http://unmc.libguides.com/aecontent.php?pid=426819&sid=3584665>



All feedback on the materials is welcome and encouraged. Please send your comments and suggestions to [askus@unmc.edu](mailto:askus@unmc.edu). The Nebraska BTOP consumer health information team members include:

- CHIRS, UNMC McGoogan Library
  - Marie Reidelbach
  - Roxanne Cox
  - Teresa Hartman
- NNLM/Mid Continental Region
  - Marty Magee
- Project consultant - Luisa Rounds, BSN,RN

#### About the Author

Teri Hartman is the Associate Professor and Head of the Education Department at the McGoogan Library of Medicine located at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.



## ***In This Together:*** ***A New C&U Column*** **By Marcia L. Dority Baker**

When Mother Nature speaks, we tend to listen—especially in the Midwest. Yet, disaster preparedness is more than being ready for natural disasters; it also includes man-made issues such as arson fires, aging facilities with leaking roofs or outdated building systems, and, unfortunately, traumatic events such as campus shootings.

I asked Michael Straatmann, the Circulation Manager at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln Libraries, who is also an expert on disaster preparedness for libraries, what librarians and Nebraska libraries can do to prepare for an unexpected event. He suggested three practical ways in which librarians can prepare for emergencies in their libraries.

First, have a plan and understand the plan. This should include procedures for both physical and electronic collections. A written plan is necessary to recall the details of how to react to an unexpected event. An even better course of action is an updated plan held offsite by multiple people. If it is not possible to enter the library due to the emergency, the disaster plan should be available remotely in print and electronic forms. Don't forget to communicate the plan to other departments responsible for responding to an emergency that involves the library. It is crucial that local fire, safety, and response teams also have access to the library's disaster plan and relevant contact information for library administration, building management staff, and safety manager(s). By building strong relationships before a disaster strikes, the library collection, building, and most importantly the people within the library system can react to their best ability.

Second, it is imperative to have supplies and resources ready! Librarians are organizers by trade so having a disaster supply kit in the library is a necessary part of being a good steward of the collections we maintain. The links included in the resources list below include a disaster supplies inventory list which includes required items such as trash bags, plastic drop clothes, packing tape, and flashlights (don't forget the batteries) for a well-stocked disaster supply kit. Someone at the library should be responsible for reviewing the supply kit on a regular basis (unused batteries can lose a charge) and notifying library personnel as to where it is located. Remember we are the experts in regards to collecting, organizing, housing, promoting, and using our collections—this includes the recovery and repair of print and electronic materials due to a disaster.

Third, practice the plan. Know the contact numbers and how to react when an event happens. A well-written and detailed disaster preparedness plan is only good on paper; it takes practice to learn how to best respond to the circumstances that caused the disaster. Just as we know that exercise and good food are necessary for healthy bodies, knowing how to respond to a disaster and practicing the drill as a routine will help maintain calm during a crisis. But we need to regularly exercise to see results, just as our libraries need to practice disaster response to react with professionalism. Once a disaster happens, having the current contact numbers for all staff, the local response teams, and other library professionals that can assist with recovery is necessary as this will allow for communications to go out to the appropriate people quickly. As pointed out above, this information should be included with the disaster response plan and available offsite electronically and in print.

The library is an integral part of each community it serves, and while a disaster may not strike the building itself, the library operates as an information center during an emergency. As we know, in the aftermath of a hurricane or tornado, people in the local community gather at the library to find emergency help or contact information, to locate friends and family, or to contact family via the library's computers and phone system. Don't leave disaster planning till after an emergency happens! We have a number of valuable resources in way of fellow Nebraska librarians and library organizations that can help prepare for unexpected events. Remember, we're all in this together.

### Resources

American Library Association [ALA]. (2013). *Disaster preparedness and recovery*. Retrieved from <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/govinfo/disasterpreparedness>

Northeast Document Conservation Center [NEDCC]. (2006). *dPlan: The online disaster-planning tool for cultural and civic institutions*. Retrieved from <http://www.dplan.org/>

The Nebraska Library Commission's collection (<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/>) includes a number of books and resources to help libraries and librarians create and review disaster planning.



## *Technically Speaking* By Margaret Mering

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013, the Library of Congress officially began using RDA Resource Description and Access for all of its original cataloging, replacing the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (2nd edition). Since this date, all records added to the Library of Congress/Name Authority Cooperative Program authority file must be created according to RDA instructions. Almost four months have passed since this historic day. While the Library of Congress and other large academic and public libraries have made the transition to the new cataloging standard, many libraries of all types and sizes are in the middle of implementing RDA or are considering what steps to take toward this goal.

*The RDA Workbook: Learning the Basics of Resource Description and Access*, to be published by Libraries Unlimited, is geared toward small public, college, special, and school libraries making the transition to using RDA. It provides a basic introduction to RDA and suggestions for implementing RDA. It is not meant to be comprehensive. The print version of this workbook includes a book and an accompanying CD-ROM.

The workbook includes four chapters. The first chapter reviews the theoretical framework of RDA, including the Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records (FRBR) and the Statement of International Cataloguing Principles. The second chapter outlines essential highlights of RDA and provides a comparison with AACR. It presents step-by-step instructions for creating bibliographic records for a simple printed book. The third chapter introduces elements of authorized access points of persons, families, corporate bodies, works, and expressions. It explains how to read and interpret authority records. The final chapter suggests strategies for implementing RDA locally.

The workbook includes exercises, quick guides, a glossary of terms, a list of additional resources, and lots of examples. The quick guides provide ready-reference information to assist in learning RDA. For ease of use, the longer exercises and the quick guides can be printed out from the accompanying CD-ROM.

This publication is the result of the hard work and dedication of many individuals. Margaret Mering is the editor. Contributors include Ruth Carlock, Corinne Jacox, Casey Kralik, Melissa Moll, Emily Nimsakont, and Deirdre Routt. Andrea Cotton, Angela Kroeger, Denise Matulka, Vicki Perrie, Jill Sempek, Mary Tilley, and others tested exercises, found examples, and reviewed chapters of the workbook.

The inspiration for this book began with Casey Kralik and Corinne Jacox exchanging email messages about RDA-related topics found on listservs' discussions. Their email exchanges led Kralik to the form the Nebraska RDA Practice Group. This group met monthly from February 2012 to May 2013. It attracted members from university, college, public, school, and special libraries from the Lincoln and Omaha areas and as far west as Hasting, Nebraska. It provided opportunities for librarians to become familiar with RDA and to help plan the implementation of RDA at their institutions. Sue Ann Gardner and Robin Bernstein published an article about the group's work in *Library Journal Online*, which led to Libraries Unlimited (ABC-Clio) contacting the authors about creating the workbook (Gardner and Bernstein, 2012).

The workbook's manuscript was submitted to the publisher on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013. It is scheduled to be published in November 2013. Between now and then, the authors will be preparing the workbook's index and working on editing. For a preview of the book's cover and the publisher's description of the book see: <http://www.abc-clio.com/product.aspx?isbn=9781610694896>

### References

Gardner, S.A., & Bernstein, R. (2012, Sept. 27). "RDA: Preparing for the change together." *Library Journal*. Retrieved from <http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2012/09/managing-libraries/rda-preparing-for-the-change-together-backtalk/>

Mering, M. (Ed.). (2013). *The RDA workbook: Learning the basics of resource description and access*. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited.

# *To Know Us is to Love Us*

By Cynthia Vana



GET INVOLVED. IT'S WORTH THE EFFORT.

Do you, or anyone you know, ever think about getting involved with the Nebraska Library Association? What will it take to make you take the leap? There is no question that people who choose to work in libraries are generally well read, highly intelligent, and very creative in whatever capacity they work. In short, they have much to offer.

Have you, or anyone you know, every thought, "Why bother?" Sure, getting involved takes time, but serving in one's profession, particularly one as exciting and robust as the library profession is today, can enrich your professional life and open doors to greater opportunities for you. Getting involved can greatly benefit not only you as a participant; it also benefits the library in which you work. The opportunities are almost endless.

The Nebraska Library Association offers an abundance of opportunities to get involved in any one of the many sections and round tables. The Paraprofessional Section is the area I've chosen to serve for the past two years and it's been a rich experience. I've worked on fun projects with people from all over the state. I represent my library and I get to exchange valuable information and fresh ideas with people from across Nebraska and beyond. These are things that would not have happened had I not decided to take the leap and get involved.

So what is the Paraprofessional Section? It's an arm of the Nebraska Library Association that supports and promotes the association and library staff in all libraries, media centers, and information services within the state of Nebraska. The Paraprofessional Section's mission is communication, growth, and development in our profession and to make contributions to providing, fostering, promoting, and preserving the free exchange of information.

We define a Paraprofessional Section member as someone who strives to be knowledgeable and proficient in their chosen library field. They can serve in positions that do not necessarily require a library science degree. Any and all levels of library employees are welcome and encouraged to join the Paraprofessional Section.

As a team, the paraprofessionals' focus on five action areas. As defined in our 2012 Strategic Plan, those five action areas are:

- Advocacy and Public Policy
- Member Engagement
- Organizational Excellence
- Building the Profession
- Transforming Libraries

Yes, you can help us achieve some lofty goals! All of NLA's sections and round tables offer wonderful opportunities. But I'm here to tell you about the Paraprofessional Section. Our active committees include archive, bylaws, fall conference, liaison, newsletter, nominating, publicity and citations, spring meeting, and web committees. In addition, supporting activities include social networking, fall conference sponsorship, spring meeting, scholarships and stimulus fund possibilities, keynote newsletter; and the prestigious Paraprofessional of the Year award.

I encourage you to explore and consider joining the Nebraska Library Association and perhaps you'll consider joining the Paraprofessional Section. The Paraprofessional Section is currently looking for new members to serve as volunteer hosts at the paraprofessional booth at the upcoming fall conference in Kearney. You'll meet terrific new people and have fun too!

You must be an NLA member to join the Paraprofessional Section. Consider joining NLA today! Conference season is upon us and it's a great time to ask about applying for a scholarship to help you defray the costs of membership in the event your organization doesn't have a budget to pay for your membership. What can it hurt to inquire? First time new members are eligible to win a \$50 scholarship! Visit our website now (<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/PARA/>) for more details.

If you would rather talk to a human being, please feel free to call me personally at 402-212-9938 and I'll help you get started. If you've ever thought about it, or even if you haven't until now, there is no time like the present.

On behalf of the entire Executive Board of the Paraprofessional Section, as well as myself personally, we look forward to hearing from you.

## By Jessica Chamberlain

### It's Award Time!

We all know librarians and library advocates who go above and beyond what is required of them. We know who we can call when we need a last-minute substitute or when we have a project that we just wouldn't trust to anyone but this one person. It can be difficult to let these people know just how much we appreciate them, but here's your chance! Nominate one of these deserving librarians or library advocates for one of PLTS's awards. The requirements and submissions guidelines are below. The effort you'll put into submitting your nomination will be a fraction of the effort that this deserving person will have put into your library.

#### *PLTS Advocacy Award*

This award recognizes a trustee, user, friend, foundation, or library board that has provided exceptional support for their local library. The award can be given to an individual or a group. Some of the areas that may warrant nomination include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Advocacy in supporting the library in the community or state
- Significant contribution to a specific program or support of the library
- Contribution to the work of the Nebraska Library Association

It is preferred that the nominee(s) are residents of Nebraska. The original letter of nomination should include the nominee's name, street address, email address, telephone number, the nominee's accomplishments, and any relevant supporting documentation. The letter should also include the name, title, street address, email address, and telephone number of the person or group making the nomination. Also required are at least three additional letters which support and endorse the nomination. The award is presented at the PLTS business meeting at the NLA annual convention. Deadline for nominations is **September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013**.

#### *Excalibur Award for Outstanding Public Librarian*

This award honors the career accomplishments of a public librarian who has demonstrated an outstanding record of service to his/her local library and to the library profession. The following categories suggest areas in which the nominee may have rendered significant service. Preference will be given to those nominees who have achieved excellence in more than one of these areas:

- Development of outstanding service in field(s) of expertise. For example, reference, children's, technical services, administrative, etc.
- Involvement in statewide library service
- Record of library leadership in local community, regional area, or in the Nebraska Library Association
- Encouragement of community/institutional support for the library

The nominee must be a member of the Public Library and Trustee Section of the Nebraska Library Association. The original letter of nomination should include the nominee's name, street address, email address, telephone number, the nominees' accomplishments, and any relevant supporting documentation. The letter should also include the name, title, street address, email address and telephone number of the person or group making the nomination. Also required are at least three additional letters which support and endorse the nomination. The award is presented at the business meeting at the PLTS NLA annual convention. Deadline for nominations is **September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013**.

Please send nominations and accompanying materials to the PLTS Awards Committee at:

PLTS Awards Committee  
Attn: Lauran Lofgren  
410 Pearl Street  
Wayne, NE 68787

Electronic versions of documents can be sent to [llofgren@cityofwayne.org](mailto:llofgren@cityofwayne.org). Please consider nominating someone today!

# New Members Round Table

a roundtable of the Nebraska Library Association

Are you a member of New Members Round Table?

If this is your first year of NLA membership, you are automatically a member. If you've been a member of NLA for longer, it's only \$5 to join NMRT.

But let's be honest. You're wondering what's in it for you.

NMRT is a group of young people working in libraries all over the state. Some work part-time, some work full-time, some are professional librarians, some are paraprofessionals. Some work mostly with computers, others working mostly with the public. The common denominator is that we're all interested in making Nebraska libraries better and helping each other develop as professionals.

Here are some things we've been doing that might pique your interest:

- Sessions at the annual conference including speed networking, resume review, and panel discussion with recent library school graduates
- A question and answer service on our website where you can submit a question for our network of experienced librarians about job searching, problems at work, or other library-related things
- Meetings at different libraries across the state including the library at the state capitol building and a public library in an elementary school
- NMRT meetings usually start or end with a social outing for food and casual conversation

So if you've been a member and want to become more involved or if you're still not sure if NMRT is right for you, come to a meeting, come to a session at conference in October, check out our website through the NLA site, or send me an email.

Hope to see you at our next event!

Bethany Grabow  
NMRT Chair

# *How I ‘Roll*

## By Emily McIllece

“How I ‘Roll” is a column of highly recommended blogs that all librarians should check out! We also want to know which blogs you carve time out of your busy day to read. What do you look forward to in your blogroll? What blogger tickles your brain? Share with us your favorites and they could be featured in a future issue of *Nebraska Libraries*.

### Designer Librarian

<http://designerlibrarian.wordpress.com/>

Trying to solve all your library instruction challenges? The Designer Librarian won’t wave a magic wand, but she’ll give you tools, tips, and thoughts on instructional design and technologies in libraries. Along with suggested tech goodies, Amanda takes on the task of reading and interpreting scholarly articles, often transforming several dry paragraphs into charts and tables for quick, comprehensive reads.

### The Rapid E-Learning Blog

<http://www.articulate.com/rapid-elearning/>

PowerPoint got you down? Stuck in a tutorial rut? This blog from the Articulate e-learning community has renewed my interest in and respect for PowerPoint. I recently learned how to turn the old slide show into an interactive, click-how-you-want tutorial. This is a great resource for librarians who might not have a big e-learning budget.

### No Names, No Jackets

<http://www.nonamesnojackets.com/>

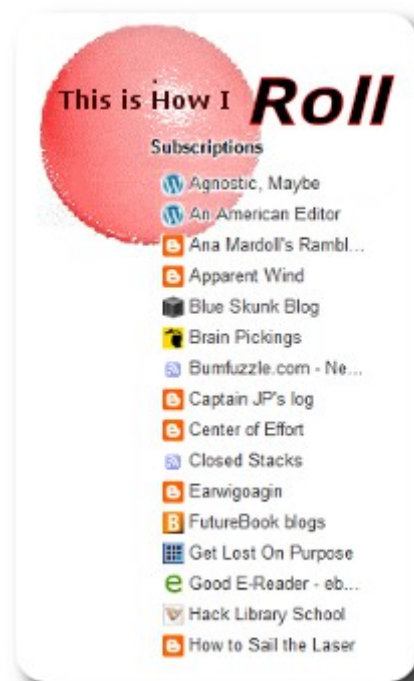
Okay, I *just* heard about NNNJ, but I love the digital take on the “blind date” concept libraries are doing with covered book displays. Rather than judge a book by its cover, a chapter of an ebook is posted, so readers must judge the item purely on its content. At the end of the post, you can click a link to see what book it is and where to get it.

### How I ‘Roll Submissions

Wish to submit your own blogroll suggestion? Email Emily at [em.mcillece@gmail.com](mailto:em.mcillece@gmail.com) and include “How I Roll” in the subject line. Submissions should include links to your recommended blogs, a brief description of what you enjoy about each blog, and a short personal profile. Blogs do not necessarily need to be library-oriented, i.e., a DIY blog might inspire programming for your library or a webcomic that gets you in a good mood for the work day.

### About the Author

Emily McIllece is a reference associate at the University of Omaha’s Criss Library and will complete her MLIS from the University of Missouri-Columbia in May 2013. Prior career aspirations included being a jockey and a published-well-enough-to-eat author. Now the dream is to sell the house, buy a boat in the Caribbean, and become The Sailing Librarian!







## *Beyond the Stacks:* *Rebecca Brooks, Craftster* By Lindsey Tomsu

“Beyond the Stacks” is a column that will appear in each issue that highlights an awesome librarian in their lives beyond the stacks of their library. We all have heard of, and are probably very tired of hearing, the common stereotypes about librarians—they are all little old ladies wearing glasses on a chain with their hair in a bun shushing everyone at any opportunity they get. However, we all know that is not the reality. There are many librarians throughout Nebraska that have interesting stories to tell. Whether it is a special talent or a unique hobby, “Beyond the Stacks” is meant to highlight these individuals and let other librarians get to know fellow members of their profession better.

For this issue, I chatted with Rebecca Brooks from the Gretna Public Library.

LT: What is your favorite book/author?

RB: I always tell people that if I were stranded on a desert island and only had one author to read for the rest of my life, it would be Terry Pratchett. If I could only read one book, then it would be his *Small Gods*.

LT: What is your current job? How did you get into libraries?

RB: Currently, I am Gretna Public Library’s Assistant Director/Creative Director. Before getting into library-land, I had worked at Borders for eight years and Barnes & Noble for two. When I finally hit an unhealthy level of burnout I began a quest to figure out what I truly wanted to do with my life career-wise. During that time a job opening at Gretna Public Library came to my attention and I applied, and to my delight I was hired! It turns out that I wish that I had gotten into libraries a lot sooner. Retail—even when it’s a book retail job—is awful.

LT: How long have you been crafting?

RB: I’ve always had a creative streak, and I’m an introvert. If you put those two things together, then you’ll likely get a crafty person. I think that I have probably been crafting since I had the motor skills to do so. I recall creating beds, linen, and other amenities for my dolls out of whatever I could find around the house. As an adult, I had a wonderful time decorating my first apartment on a dime and figuring out how to make cheap things look better than they were. I still enjoy making my apartments a home through creative decorating.

LT: Tell us about your blog, Hafuboti (<http://hafuboti.com/>).

RB: Hafuboti was created after several people I respect suggested that I start a blog and I realized that I would most likely enjoy it. The final push was when I decided to open an Etsy shop, and knew that now was the time to start my blog (synergy and all that jazz). It started off as a very personal blog more focused on crafting, décor, and my personal life, but then morphed into a much more library crafty spot. This change naturally occurred when suddenly my responsibilities at work shifted and most of my creative energies were put into my library job. I still plan on sharing bits and pieces of my life, but most of it is devoted to sharing ideas with others (and showing off a little).



LT: What does “Hafuboti” mean?

RB: You can visit my blog to find out the entire origin story of Hafuboti because it’s sort of cute and it involves a bit of a breakdown on my part (<http://hafuboti.com/2012/11/05/whats-a-hafuboti/>). But the short version is that it means “**Happy Fun Book Time**.” Take

the first two letters of that phrase and there it is: Hafuboti. I liked it because it was unique and a bit off-kilter, but still sounded more sophisticated than “Happy Fun Book Time”.

LT: Have you used your skills in your daily librarian job?

RB: Definitely! I’ve always enjoyed making displays, and my crafting skills come in handy in order to make them super eye-catching and for little cost. Now that I’m Creative Director, it seems like my skills are getting very honed. Every month we try to give the public a new experience at our Children’s Library, and a lot of that comes down to creative repurposing of materials. Also, I learned how to use Photoshop in order to post good pictures in both my shop and my blog, and that has been one of the handiest skills that I’ve used on a daily basis at work.

LT: Can you tell our readers more about your crafting presentations? They might be interested in having you come and visit!

RB: I do offer a basic presentation about artists who repurpose books as well as an instructional class (or a combination of both) on how to make the ornaments that I sell. I will then also show people (I’d say from third grade on up to adult) how to make the simple ornaments. I’ve tried to show a group how to make the more complicated ornaments, but most deemed it more complicated than what they would care to do. But if you have a group of origami enthusiasts then the kusudama flower balls would be very easy for them to learn. I’ve always also thought that this would be a fun thing to teach fellow librarians or members of their Friends group too. For two years now, I have donated ornaments as part of an ornament fundraiser for our Friends group, and each year we’ve brought in over \$300. The cost per ornament is minimal—it’s more of a matter of the time that it takes to make each one. Honestly, I have never given a book art/ornament presentation outside of the Gretna Public Library. So if anyone is interested, then visit my blog and contact me to discuss the possibility or to make arrangements!



Blinged Out Vader!

LT: What are some of your favorite projects?

RB: At home, one of my all-time favorite projects is my “blinged-out” Vader. I had seen someone online show off a pair of cheap pink flamingo lawn ornaments that they had covered in rhinestones and I had thought, “Those look fabulous—I must do something like that!” A few weeks later I was walking through a store and this (talking) Darth Vader mask caught my eye and immediately I knew what I had to do. At work, I have several, including April Showers, Epic Picture Find, April Fool’s Covers, and our Book Pharaoh Photo-Op. I shared a lot of how-to’s on Hafuboti so, to sound like a broken record, take a look there to find out how we did my first two favorites. You can also contact me and I can give you more information.

The April Showers was the first big project I took on as Creative Director. The showstopper was these three papier-mâché clouds that had three-dimensional raindrops hanging from them. They were amazing—especially when the air currents would make the raindrops twirl. I think that we had more people stop in to check out our building with that display than any other.



An example of a paper ornament

The Epic Picture Find was a blast to put together using old books and our copy machine (and a little Photoshopping). It was very time-consuming, but I spread out the work over two months. The initial response was wonderful and the kids were excited, and I was also tickled that our mayor could look out of his window and see kids buzzing around our building. However, after about two weeks the novelty of it died down and fewer children were interested in it. I may do another epic picture find again, but I’ll want to find a smarter/faster way to create it and maybe make the images move so that it changes weekly.



April Showers



The April Fool's Covers was incredibly fun. I scanned in several book covers of popular titles and then Photoshopped them to have something wrong that the kids needed to figure out for a special April Fool's Day activity. We attached the fake covers to the real books and put them on display with a worksheet. Apparently I did too good of a job and a staff member checked out two of our books within an hour of us being opened. Amazingly, the books showed up weeks later with the fake covers still intact! I plan on doing another April Fool's book cover activity next year, but hang the fake covers as posters and not attached to books and then keep them up for the month.

I wish that I could claim more credit for the Book Pharaoh Photo-Op, but my greatest contribution is that I made sure that we made this happen. With the help of a generous volunteer with woodworking skills, we now have a stand that breaks down and that we can store and reuse annually. Mary, one of my fantastic team members, has her degree in art and we put her amazing skills to good use. This, by far, has been the most popular and fun project that we've had here. Next year we're hoping to have a photo release along with it so that we can have a fun online slideshow of kids using the Photo-Op.



April Fool's Covers

of the corner of my eye that a realization hit me—it looked like the head of Cthulhu. It was like one of those “see two different images” optical illusions, and it all revolved around where you thought the eyes belonged. See, if you picture the eyes at the top of the head then obviously it looks like Kermit the Frog. But if you flip and lower the eyes, it looks like Cthulhu. I now call the piece “Kermthulhu”.



LT: When did you open your Etsy shop (<http://www.etsy.com/shop/Hafuboti>)? What projects do you sell on there?

RB: I opened my Etsy shop in November of last year. I sell two styles of paper ornaments and origami gift boxes, but the ornaments are the main focus. All of the ornaments are created using discarded or donated books that did not sell in our Friends book sale. I've even made a few custom orders, and that's been a blast.

LT: Do you have any fun crafting related stories to share?

RB: I had leftover puffballs from a project and being a huge Jim Henson fan, I decided to do something “Muppety” with them. I had this fantastic Muppet craft book that had an outline of Kermit's head and I decided that I'd try and make that image out of puffballs. It sort of worked, but I felt that something was off about it. It wasn't until one day when I saw it out

LT: Do you have any last comments for our readers?

RB: Never in a million years did I imagine that working in a library would lend itself to being so creative—especially in a crafty way. So go forth, my fellow crafting library workers, and create some awesome things that will spark creativity, imagination, and interest in your library. And then share them with me so that I can try them out at my library!

Submissions for “Beyond the Shelves”

Do you know of a librarian with a cool hobby, special talent, or interesting story to tell? Please send potential candidates for spotlight to Lindsey Tomsu at [nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org) with the title “Beyond the Stacks” in the subject line. In your email please give me the name of your librarian, a short description about what makes them special, and contact information so I can reach them for a possible interview.

# *News Briefs*

## *Association Announcements*

*Advocacy Update from Francine Canfield*

NLA successfully advocated for the Nebraska Library Commission's budget request. For eReads, \$150,000 was approved. The Appropriations Committee understood the need. Every contact that all of you made with your state senators was the difference between success and failure. Celebrate October as Information Literacy month! Watch for the announcements about the proclamation signing event.

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*From Becky Wymer at ITART*

Feel behind the technology curve? "Like" ITART's new Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/NLAITART>) to receive regular technology information delivered to your news feed. No matter what type of library you work in or your level of technical expertise, the information in our posts can benefit you and your patrons. If we make you smile in the process, so much the better!

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*Attention NLA/NSLA First Time Members and Attendees!*

Help! I would really like to attend the NLA/NSLA conference but I've never been before! What do I do? Where do I go? I'm not sure how to make sense of this conference schedule. How do I know what sessions to attend? How can I find other first-time attendees? What do you do at the vendor exhibits? I feel like I'm the only one that doesn't know what's going on!

Is this you? Are you attending the 2013 NLA/NSLA conference for the first time in 2013? The NMRT (New Members Round Table) and five professional librarians are looking forward to meeting you in October.

Look for our easily identified table close to the entrance of the conference Thursday and Friday. We will have signage identifying our presence, guidance for navigating the conference, and a special "gift" for first-time attendees.

Join us at the NMRT networking breakfast session Thursday morning to meet other first-timers and begin making connections immediately. We're looking forward to meeting you!

~ Marie Reidelbach, Kathy Tooker, Gail Formanack, Terry Wingate, and Joyce Neujahr.

## *Member Announcements*

*From Janet Stoeger Wilke, Dean of the Library, Calvin T. Ryan Library, UNK*

In April 2013, the Calvin T. Ryan Library at the University of Nebraska at Kearney presented its inaugural "Library Award for Undergraduate Research". The award recognizes and honors excellence in the use of library services, collections, and resources by undergraduate student researchers. All undergraduate students participating in Student Research Day, sponsored annually by the Office of Undergraduate Research, are eligible to apply for the award. Students submit a bibliography and a narrative of their research process, explaining how, and which, library resources were used. Applications are evaluated by a committee of two librarians and one departmental faculty member. The first winner, from the Department of Family Studies, presented, "Arranged Versus Love Marriages: A Comparison Between the United States and India". The award was presented by the Library Dean during the Student Research Day award ceremonies.

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*Joanne Ferguson Cavanaugh* was elected to the Board of the Great Plains History Museum. Congratulations Joanne!

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### *Muslim Journeys Cultural Fair*

On Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 p.m., the Union College Library will host a Muslim Journeys Cultural Fair. Every year the library hosts an open house for students that include learning activities, games, food, and prizes. This is the first year that the library is sponsoring a community wide fair in collaboration with the Good Neighbor Community Center and Union College's Center for Interfaith Studies and Culture.

In January 2013, the Union College Library was awarded the National Endowment for the Humanities' Muslim Journeys Bookshelf grant. The Bookshelf is a collection of books, films, and other resources designed to create a community conversation on the history and culture of Muslims both nationally and internationally. The fair will highlight the Bookshelf resources and offer a variety of cultural activities, including a calligraphy demonstration, a photo booth where participants can dress up in Middle Eastern clothing, and Middle Eastern food samples. The fair is the third event sponsored by the library in the Muslim Journeys series encouraging community members to read and participate in discussions about themes of Islamic history, faith, literature, points of view, art, and the immigrant experience in America.

A complete list of resources included in the Bookshelf is available at <http://www.ucollege.edu/library/muslim-journeys-bookshelf> and on Pinterest at <http://pinterest.com/unioncollegelib/bridging-cultures-muslim-journeys-bookshelf/>. The Union College Library offers community borrower cards to residents of Lincoln who provide two forms of ID verifying the patron's current address (one ID should include a photograph). For more information about the fair please contact Gillian Connors at [gconnor@ucollege.edu](mailto:gconnor@ucollege.edu) or call 1-402-486-2514.

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### *Reading Room Makeover to Become a Reality!*

Columbus Public Library's staff, along with help from the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation, is working hard to makeover the Reading Room on the main floor of the library. The majority of the work occurred on Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup> when the library was closed to allow the library to get the new furniture assembled and installed, paint the room to give a fresher look, and add much needed technology friendly tables that will allow patrons to use their technology without the need to search for an outlet to plug in their device or laptop. Other makeover elements have also occurred, such as new shelving to display the new books and new address numbers on the outside of the building for people to better locate the library.

### *New Logo to Be Unveiled Soon!*

The Columbus Public Library Board voted to adopt a new logo on June 20<sup>th</sup>. While it is not ready to be unveiled yet, it will be very soon once final design work is complete. The final design was inspired by one of the finalists selected from the original contest held earlier this year. The library appreciates the community's patience while it has worked to find the logo that best shows the library's part in the Columbus community and they are looking forward to unveiling the final design soon.

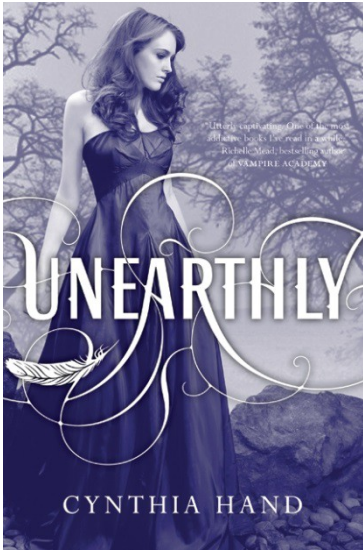
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### *Rock County Public Library Benefits from BTOP Grant*

Rock County residents were fortunate to have the opportunity to receive free computer related training through Northeast Community College during the 2013 spring semester. The county is located 125 miles from the nearest highest education level facility which greatly decreases opportunity for advanced education other than online classes. Four classes were offered at the Rock County Public Library based on survey results from the residents' needs and/or interests with 33 students improving their computer skills. The classes were a six-hour MS Excel Intermediate, a three-hour Facebook for Business, a six-hour MS Word Intermediate, and a six-hour class on Photoshop Elements. This training was made possible and supported in part by the Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission. The library would not have been able to offer the classes without the new computers, software, and other equipment that were granted through the BTOP project.

# Book Bites

## Book Reviews (and More!)



### ***Unearthly* by Cynthia Hand**

Harper Teen, 2011

Paperback, \$8.99, ISBN: 978-0061996177

Meet Clara. Clara isn't exactly your average teen . . . seeing as she's part angel! Clara must now accomplish her "purpose" except she has no idea what it is! As Clara tries to find her way in a world she no longer understands, she encounters unseen dangers and choices she never thought she'd have to make. She must now choose between what she is and what she wants to be. She must choose between the boy fated for her and the boy she's fallen in love with. The question is . . . will she make the right decision?

So you may be asking, "Well that's all fine and dandy, but is it actually worth reading?" My answer: Without a doubt. What's so great about it? Well for starters, it's original. Personally, I think originality is an element authors often struggle with; creating a story with fresh characters, a vibrant plot, and a new outlook can be difficult. Cynthia Hand has accomplished just that. I picked up this book and was so intrigued I never put it down, *literally*. Hand also incorporates a few things that leave you breathless and hungry for more. The not-so-subtle romance, hidden plot twist, and the marvelous narration by Clara are the ingredients to a great novel. It's been a month since I've read it and I'm still swooning! Clara is personable and the novel itself relatable, especially to us in the

Midwest since the book takes place in nearby Wyoming. I'm about to start the sequel, *Hallowed*, and practically squealing and squirming at the thought.

If you're fully in the "young adult book circuit" then you'll realize what a gem this book is. Angel topics are sprouting up more and more in teen novels (*The Mortal Instruments*, *Hush*, *Hush*, and the *Fallen* series to name a few) making it hard to find a way to twist the angel subject into something engaging and different. *Unearthly* captures your attention and won't let it go for weeks!

So if you're into those teen literary elements (or even if you're not) . . . go find it! It's not a book you'll regret trying and could be the highlight of your summer reading!

--Marissa Galardi, student at Lourdes Central Catholic High School, YART member

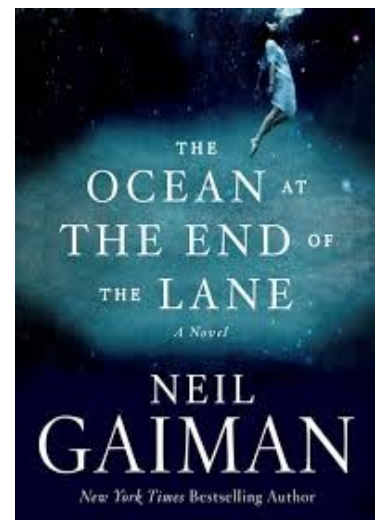
### ***The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman**

William Marrow, 2013

Hardcover, \$25.99, ISBN: 978-0062255655

Wow. How to write a review for this book? It is so many things and nothing at all. A multitude of stories and just a piece of a whole. The fleeting strand of a memory from long ago; images and words and emotions sitting tantalizingly on the surface of your mind, yet somehow eluding your every attempt to put shape to the smoke. Something there and gone, there and gone . . . a melancholic happiness that sublimates the moment we focus on it. As a result, I fear this review may end up more of a rambling incoherence. But, hopefully, I can distill some form from the chaos.

First of all, this book is not strictly young adult. This book is marketed as adult. It contains violence unimaginable, moments of sexuality, and death. These experiences, however, are filtered through the eyes of a seven-year-old boy. They become something less than they are, but also much more. In doing so with such complete success, Gaiman has reached deep into us to rip out the all but forgotten seven-year-old in each of us. It is our seven-year-old self that experiences this book while our adult self attempts to make sense of the experience. Because of this, I think this book would work great for most young adults and even many precocious younger readers. As Gaiman points out in his hilarious and thought provoking "What the [Very Bad Swearword] is a Children's Book Anyway?" in the November/December 2012 issue of *Horn Book*: "Children tend to be really good at self-censorship. They have a pretty good sense of what they are ready for and what they are not, and they walk the line wisely." This is something every youth services librarian knows, and we also know that children have already experienced and know much more than we would have them know. But, as we grow older, we forget about this and many other things about childhood; as Gaiman points out in the same article, "the majority of adults actually had no memories of being children." So, this book is interesting in that point. It is a children's book for adults and, conversely, an adult book for children.

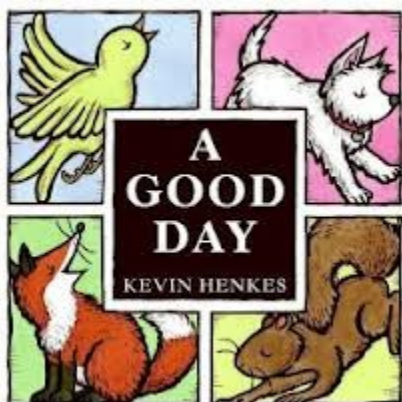


The book is simply astounding. Much like the book's wonderful Lettie Hempstock and her ocean, this novel is small and short in length, but astoundingly broad in scope and depth. The main character/narrator is an adult man of indeterminate age who has returned to his hometown to attend a funeral and wake (presumably for a parent), but as mentioned above, he isn't the person we experience the book through. It is his seven-year-old self whose only friends are books that we travel the road with. A boy whose life is suddenly shaken by the death of his kitten by an arriving lodger and the suicide of that very lodger. He meets a young girl (who isn't young) and her mother and grandmother (who aren't old) and from then on the fantastic and magical world crashes over us like great waves. We become lost with him in the danger and wonder of this world that is his own and not his own. An old and powerful creature has been awakened and drawn by the suicide of the lodger and the boy becomes inextricably bound to it and Lettie as a result.

Like all of Gaiman's stories, magic and fantasy seethe beneath every moment on the page of *Ocean*. The fantastic and the mundane intertwine as a part of a greater whole. This is really Gaiman's gift: his ability to join the often disparate worlds of childhood, with its magic and wonder, together with the world of adulthood, with its structured reality. Something he does in a way that once we turn the last page, we find ourselves observing our lives and the world around us with a slightly more focused eye to the mythical elements we encounter everyday. In this book, it is as if he's squeezed the very essence of this magic and focused on it entirely. Each sentence is suffused with ancient magics, creating a setting that is completely otherworldly, yet entirely our own.

Every one of Gaiman's works is replete with this kind of experience and wonder; from *The Wolves in the Walls* to the Sandman comics to the Newbery Award-winning *The Graveyard Book* to *American Gods*, his stories blur the edges of our world to bring into focus the unknown all around us. He has never done this as such a complete and visceral experience as he has with *Ocean*. It is a story steeped in the joys, fears, and experiences of childhood. Memories we all have that share a certain flavor and texture that is undeniably childlike. Don't let the word "childlike" fool you, however. Our journey in this book begins with a quote by the great Maurice Sendak stating, "I knew terrible things. But I knew I mustn't let adults know I knew. It would scare them." This is not a book of candy and puppies and teddy bears. Bad things happen in the lives of children just as they happen in the lives of adults. We like to think that the frights of children are somehow smaller than the fears of adulthood. Do we willfully diminish the recollections of our childhood as we age? How much do we forget in order to put our adult worlds into some shape we can understand and live in? Because just as horrible things happen to the boy in this book or how terrifying things happened to Coraline and Bod in their stories, bad things happened to all of us. And the "realness," or lack thereof, of those things did not make those experiences somehow smaller to our childhood selves. But we lived through them, often due to the aid of creatures/friends imagined or magical. Entities we knew to exist just as surely as we knew there were monsters under our beds. Entities that, in the end are not part of the world we grow into, yet are integral to the creation of that world. Friends that were there when we needed them most. Friends whose faces fade like our memories of childhood, to become something mythical and ephemeral. Memories much like this book, so real when awash in its pages and like a mist once we've turned the last page: there and gone . . . there and gone . . . like waves of an ocean too big to comprehend but small enough to be a pond; too big to comprehend, yet somehow easy to understand . . . there and gone . . . there and gone . . .

--Gordon Wyant, NLA President, YA Librarian at Bellevue Public Library



### ***A Good Day* by Kevin Henkes**

Greenwillow, 2007

Hardcover, \$16.99, ISBN: 978-0061140181

I loved the illustrations in this award-laden book. On the very first page I swear my husband could hear me across the house going "d'awwww" at the facial expressions the poor animals were making. It is the exact same face I make when I realize I am halfway out the door and I've forgotten something, but I will be late if I go back. The illustrations are simple and elegant but almost painfully expressive. The story is also simple and elegant; Kevin Henkes is a true artist of the picture book. Squirrel sees a nut just out of reach, bird loses his favorite flight feather, fox can't find his mother, and dog gets her leash all tangled up. For all involved the day seems to be a bad day, and they all get into a funk. But then . . . squirrel finds an even bigger nut! Fox finds his mother! Bird flies even higher than he's ever flown before! Dog figures out how to untangle herself! Everybody is excited with their great day,

and along comes a little girl who finds the perfect yellow feather. She tucks it behind her ear and goes running to tell her mother about her perfect day. The book teaches children to never give up, to look at things from a different perspective, and to turn their frowns upside down. A delightful book about discovering personal strength.

--Krystin Mavity, Secretary of YART

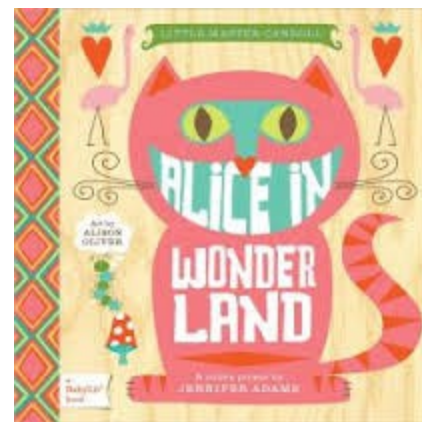


***Alice in Wonderland: A BabyLit Colors Primer* by Jennifer Adams**

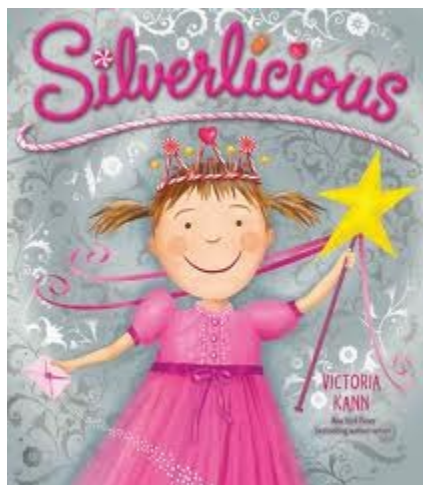
Gibbs Smith, 2012

Board Book, \$9.99, ISBN: 978-1423624776

When I saw this board book I actually did a double take. I was like, “No way! Somebody is doing baby books of the classics?!” and I instantly needed to read them. I decided to review *Alice in Wonderland*, but the series has a long list of classics and is fabulous in every way. Foremost, the colors! The rich vibrancy of the colors in this board book are *amazing*. And illustrator Alison Oliver was not afraid to stray from the primary colors—*Alice in Wonderland* is known for its quirky colors and dark, dramatic hues and even in a children’s book it totally works. She pairs dark orange with green-yellow and teal and a nice grapey purple to wonderful effect on one page, and salmon, orange, four kinds of green, and a coffee brown on another page. It’s a riot of color that somehow never manages to clash. She features the white rabbit, Alice, the potions, the caterpillar, the Cheshire Cat—everything that is in the books is in the board book but it focuses on color! It’s a must have both for children and for Alice fans.



--Krystin Mavity, Secretary of YART



***Silverlicious* by Victoria Kann**

HarperCollins, 2011

Hardcover, \$17.99, ISBN: 978-0061781230

Another book in the picture book portion of the Pinkalicious series that includes *Pinkalicious*, *Purplicious*, *Emeraldicious*, and more! I chose *Silverlicious* because, along with *Goldilicious* and *Emeraldicious*, the title includes colors that children might not normally think about on their own—instead of gold, silver, or emerald they might just say yellow, gray, or green. *Pinkalicious* is a very polarizing book—either you love it or you hate it. It’s spawned enough fans to turn into a long running series and to even have a musical created after it and I happen to fall into the category that love it. The story is one of the sweeter ones I’ve read. Pinkalicious loses her tooth but alas! It’s her sweet tooth! No longer do any of her favorite treats taste sweet. She is at a loss for what to do, so she writes a letter to the Tooth Fairy asking for help and leaves it under her pillow. The next day she gets a response . . . from Cupid! Her room is decorated for Valentines Day, and he apologizes that the Tooth Fairy can’t respond but offers his own advice. This goes on for the next week

while she gets replies from the Easter Bunny and even a Christmas Elf before the Tooth Fairy is able to write her back. By then she is ready for what the Tooth Fairy has to say—that sweetness is inside us and in the goodness that we do. Smiling, Pinkalicious is ready for all her favorite things again! This story is darling, as Pinkalicious learns through these fairy tale beings (that the readers know are her parents, as Pinkalicious sleeps) that you have to love yourself before you can enjoy the things around you. Every scene is magical as the themes from children’s favorite holidays “magically” appear in her room overnight. Definitely a favorite of mine from the series.

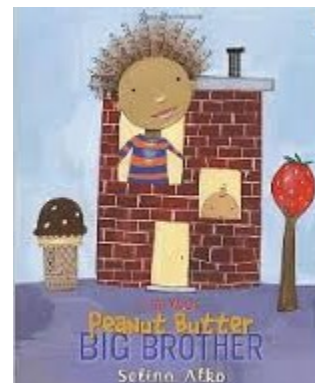
--Krystin Mavity, Secretary of YART

***I’m Your Peanut Butter Big Brother* by Selina Alko**

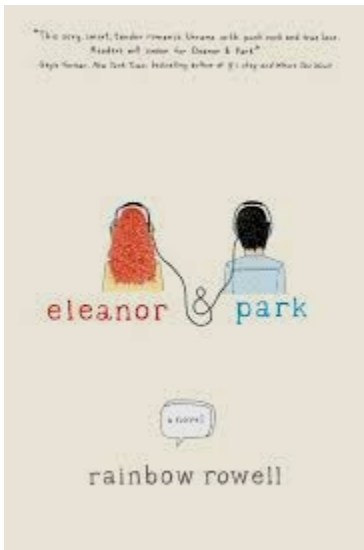
Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2009

Hardcover, ISBN: 978-0375856273

Many children who come into mixed race homes through adoption or birth wonder if their siblings will look like them and are interested in why their family looks different from them. This book follows a young boy who is addressing his future little brother or sister in saying, “Baby brother or sister, will you look like me? I blend from semisweet dark Daddy chocolate bar and strawberry cream Mama’s milk. My hair is soft, crunchy billows of cotton candy. I’m your peanut butter big-brother-to-be.” He uses food and candy references that most children know and glory in to describe his family and friends as he sees them on the playground, the street, and visiting at home and wonders what his baby brother or sister will look like. The swoopy illustrations in broad strokes are fun to look at, and the rhythm of the story is very easy going. The story gets across well that the little boy doesn’t think that looking any certain way is better than another—he loves all his friends and family, they remind him of his favorite things. But will his baby brother or sister look like him?



--Krystin Mavity, Secretary of YART



### ***Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell**

St. Martin's Griffin, 2013

Hardcover, \$18.99, ISBN: 978-1250012579

*Eleanor & Park* by Rainbow Rowell is one of my new favorite books for the year. She captures not only the pop culture references of the 1980s but also those first feelings of boy/girl relationship with dead on accuracy. Both of these areas can easily become stereotypical and cliché, yet Rowell managed to avoid both traps with complete characters, realistic dialogue, and humor.

I was especially impressed that all of the characters were three dimensional; it would have been so easy to make them stereotypes, especially all of four of the parents in the situation. But the continual evolving of their personalities kept me reading. Plus, it rang true to life; there were situations where my mom was more understanding but there were times it was my dad who went to bat for me. I loved Park's parents for those scenes alone. Eleanor's mother was believable without being a caricature. I meet these women almost every day at my job who have convinced themselves that they cannot or do not deserve better.

Rowell does a great job of wrapping the story in humor which makes it a human story. I loved her book, *Attachments*, but I ADORED this book and can't wait to read it again.

--Kirsten Wood, Plattsmouth Public Library

\*Editor's Note: The La Vista Public Library's Teen Advisory Board has a Media Club in which one of the many projects is to make Dinosaur Book Trailers—fun and (purposefully) cheesy trailers for books where the “actors” are plastic dinosaurs. After receiving an ARC of this book for the YALSA YA Galley project many of the teens fell in love with it and made it the subject of one of the Dino Book Trailers. It can be viewed here: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NM6Jrf0dow&feature=share&list=UUueANJ1MidYjh6gYL\\_xcNwQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NM6Jrf0dow&feature=share&list=UUueANJ1MidYjh6gYL_xcNwQ)

### ***Lies Beneath* by Anne Greenwood Brown**

Delacorte, 2012

Hardcover, \$17.99, ISBN: 978-0385742016

Calder White is a merman whose remaining family is all mersisters. To survive, they must feast on humans for their energy. The beginning of the book with the descriptions of the practical aspects of their lives was really interesting to me and compelling. Having to hide their clothes for the physical changes to land living or the length of time they could live outside of water were two details that were well thought out and realistic.

Calder's sisters have called him for a family reunion at their summer home, much like humans return to the same family vacation home each year. Calder is reluctant to join them because he has already started an emotional separation from their lifestyle for reasons which are explained later in the book. His oldest sister has promised him if he will join them for one last time to accomplish their family's lifetime goal of revenge on Jason Hancock, his obligations to the sisters will be fulfilled. Calder agrees and the conflict starts when he truly falls in love with Lily, Hancock's daughter and the sisters' pawn in this scheme.



Calder's choice is further complicated because the violence of their acts to survive is abhorrent to him. The brutal killing of innocent humans to keep the mersisters alive is detailed and necessary to the storyline; however, it made me squeamish and uncomfortable particularly for the randomness of the victims. This made me more sympathetic to his choice and compelled me to finish reading his story.

From my viewpoint, my distaste for Calder's lifestyle makes it a book worth recommending especially for starting a discussion among teens if they felt the unease that I did. I would recommend this book to teens that enjoyed the *Twilight* series for the forbidden love theme and also teens that enjoy magical creature stories.

--Kirsten Wood, Plattsmouth Public Library



# **Nebraska Libraries Editorial Policy**

(Updated January 2013)

## **Mission**

*Nebraska Libraries* is the official journal of the Nebraska Library Association. It strives to inform its members and subscribers of NLA's activities and represent the broad scope of issues and news that affect all Nebraska libraries. To encourage the sharing of knowledge and inspiration throughout the state, *Nebraska Libraries* is an inclusive, flexible journal that publishes feature articles, editorials, white papers, news, and reports from libraries, conferences, and NLA.

## **Content**

*Nebraska Libraries* welcomes content from volunteer authors, including feature articles, news briefs, columns and opinion pieces, and photographs and artwork. Content is also provided by overseeing NLA Communications Committee members. The *Nebraska Libraries* Editor and the Communications Committee have the responsibility to publish accurate information regarding NLA and its activities and provide a balanced spectrum of coverage for all Nebraska libraries and members. Content is accepted or rejected at the discretion of the Editor and is subject to editing for clarity and grammar.

## **Editor's Rights**

The Editor is responsible for each journal issue providing a balanced mixture of relevant and thoughtful articles and features on the interests, responsibilities, problems, and concerns of the varied library professionals throughout the state of Nebraska. The Editor is responsible for determining the strategic direction for the practitioner journal and developing editorial policies and submission standards, actively soliciting manuscripts from various NLA library professionals, conducting manuscript revision and editing, and serving as a primary liaison with authors. By submitting an item to this publication, an Author is implicitly granting the Editor permission to make minor editorial changes, such as correcting grammar, punctuation and spelling, and making layout and formatting changes as needed to speed along the publication process.

## **Author's Rights**

An Author agrees upon the stipulations of the Submission Policy when submitting an article to the Editor. Upon submitting works to the Editor, the Author will receive a copyedited version of their work and be given a one-week deadline to contest or make any changes. If the Editor does not hear from the Author within that deadline the article, as per the Editor's rights, will be published as the Editor sees fit in order to speed along the publication process. Authors should explicitly note when a submission is a creative work, such as poem or story, where such changes would negatively impact the Author's intent.

The Author shall, without limitation, have the non-exclusive right to use, reproduce, distribute, and create derivative works, including update, perform, and display publicly, the article in electronic, digital or print form in connection with the Author's teaching, conference presentations, lectures, other scholarly works, and for all of Author's academic and professional activities.

After a period of six (6) months from the date of publication of the article, the Author shall also have all the non-exclusive rights necessary to make, or to authorize others to make, the final published version of the Article available in digital form over the Internet including, but not limited to, a website under the control of the Author or the Author's employer or through other digital repositories.

## **NLA Communications Committee Purpose**

The NLA Communications Committee assists the NLA Editor with the direction, publication, and distribution of *Nebraska Libraries* and ensures that the journal meets the needs of the Nebraska library community. The committee aids the Editor in developing *Nebraska Libraries'* policies and procedures and its members contribute to the journal as well as solicit content from the broader library community.

## **Disclaimer**

The statements, comments, or opinions expressed in *Nebraska Libraries* contributors are those of their respective authors and do not represent the views the Nebraska Library Association.

# Nebraska Libraries Submission Policy

(Updated January 2013)

## Who Can Submit

*Nebraska Libraries* will publish various articles and creative content from all authors actively involved in the library world within the State of Nebraska. If you are unsure of whether or not your piece would fit with our publication, please query the editor at [nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org)

## Editor & Author Review

Authors are asked to review their edited submissions within one week of being sent the final Editor-approved draft. If the Editor does not hear back from the Author within that week, the submission will be published as the Editor deems fit in order to not stall publication.

## Submission Guidelines

- *Nebraska Libraries* will start publication as a quarterly practitioner's journal. If interest is high, bi-monthly publication could occur in the future. Submissions for quarterly issues are due as follows:
  - February Issue = Due January 1
  - May Issue = Due April 1
  - August Issue = Due July 1
  - November Issue = Due October 1
- Any submissions received after a due date will be held and considered for the following issue.
- Please send all submissions in Word .doc or .rtf forms. Please no PDFs.
- Please send all photos saved as high quality JPEG files. Please send all photos and artwork as separate files not embedded in the Word document.
- If your article has sidebars or any special items that need to be formatted a certain way please clearly state this in the submission.
- Since we are publishing on Digital Commons there is no strict length minimum or maximum for submissions. Please be logical; i.e., a news brief should not be longer than a featured article.
- *Nebraska Libraries* is a practitioner journal and not a peer-reviewed scholarly journal. Therefore, citations are not necessary. If you would like to include them in your article the citation style used by *Nebraska Libraries* is APA.
- Please send all articles, ideas for articles, and other queries and communications to the Editor at [nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaeditor@nebraskalibraries.org)

## Items Eligible for Publication

- We are looking for the following items or columns but we are open to submissions of all kinds:
  - Feature articles about anything library related
  - Articles about what is going on at your library (successful programs, etc.)
  - Short columns in each issue by members of the sections and round tables
  - News briefs—what has happened at your library, what is going to happen?
  - Spotlights on new NLA members
  - Member announcements (jobs, births, marriages, retirements, deaths, publications, etc.)
  - Suggestions for future columns, article ideas, etc.
  - Opinion pieces about hot topics in the library profession
  - Recommendations for the “How I ‘Roll” column (recommended blogs)
  - Recommendations for the “Beyond the Stacks” column (interviews with interesting people who work in libraries)
  - Recommendations for “My Own Private Library” column (share your book collection with NLA)
  - Recommendations for the “What Makes Your Library Special?” column (a spotlight on a specific Nebraska library)
  - Answers, comments, and potential questions for the “Question” column (favorite library moment, favorite book, etc.)
  - Creative works—short stories, poems, art, etc.
  - Book reviews
  - White papers (not sought but will be considered for publication)