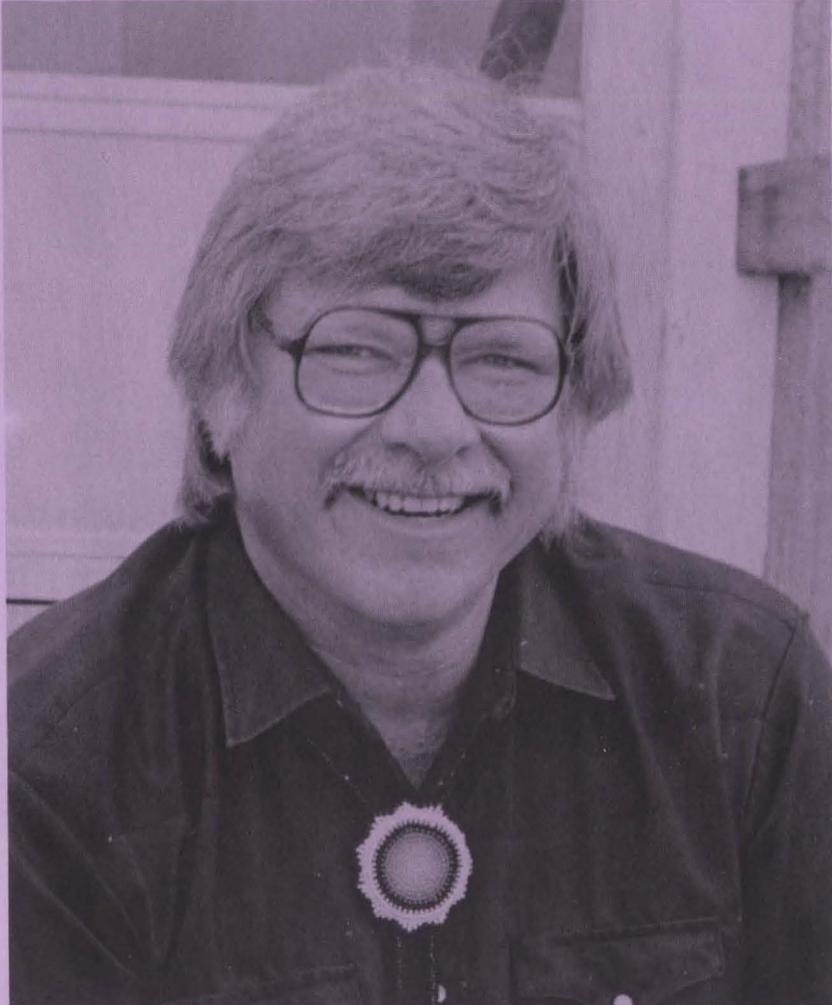


# *NCB Quarterly* ARCHIVES

Nebraska Center for the Book

Vol. 2

No. 1



**Nebraska Humorist and Folklorist Roger Welsch**



### Board of Directors

The Nebraska Center for the Book is the 23rd state affiliate of the Library of Congress's National Center for the Book. The Center is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. The Center acts as a catalyst, bringing together individuals and organizations to build the Nebraska community of the book. The Center serves as a partner and supporter of programs, events, and unique projects which celebrate the written word. The current board members are:

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
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| Golda Bockbrader             | Grand Island |
| Elaine Booth, Vice President | Bellevue     |
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| Rod Wagner                   | Lincoln      |

*NCB Quarterly* is published quarterly by the Nebraska Center for the Book. Subscription is free with Nebraska Center for the Book Membership. We welcome your contributions and correspondence. Write to *NCB Quarterly*, c/o Lincoln City Libraries, 136 South 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

David McCleery—*NCB Quarterly* Editor/Designer

### Publication Schedule

*NCB Quarterly* is published four times a year: March, May, September, and December

### Want to Advertise?

See page 11

**About the cover:** Nebraska humorist and folklorist **Roger Welsch** will be the keynote speaker at this year's Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival, Saturday, April 11th on the Mid-Plains Community College, McDonald-Belton Campus, North Platte. Roger Welsch's works include: *Catfish at the Pump: Humor and the Frontier*, *It's not the End of the Earth But You Can See it From Here*, and *Shingling the Fog and Other Plains Lies*. This year's Festival is presented by the Nebraska Center for the Book, in conjunction with the Nebraska English/Language Arts Council, and is sponsored by Central Community College—Platte Campus, Columbus, and co-sponsored by Mid-Plains Community College—North Platte.

### Table of Contents

|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Conversation With Morrie Tuttle   | page 3  |
| Explore New Worlds--READ!         | page 6  |
| President's Column                | page 8  |
| New Board Members and Officers    | page 9  |
| Letters to NCB                    | page 9  |
| Writing and Storytelling Festival | page 10 |
| Membership Directory              | page 10 |
| NCB Spring Book Programs          | page 11 |
| Off the Press                     | page 12 |
| Nebraska Literature Festival      | page 14 |
| Literature Festival T-Shirts      | page 15 |
| From the Editor                   | page 16 |
| Dr. Ken Lincoln's Visit           | page 18 |
| Creative Process Series           | page 18 |
| Welcome New members!              | page 19 |

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## A Conversation with Morrie Tuttle

### Book Collector Extraordinaire

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**You live in these things.  
My whole life is in what I've got here.  
This is my world.  
In Birrell's essay he says,  
"They are mine, and I am theirs."**

---

*In the attic of Morrie and Amy Tuttle's Lincoln home is a small unheated room with a single chair and a single bare light bulb suspended above it for reading light. The ceiling of the room slopes toward a window that looks out into the branches of a maple tree. The room is filled with the deep and comfortable silence that only rooms filled with books can possess. The room is one of two libraries in the house. This is the place Morrie Tuttle calls his "great cocoon". And it was here, one cold January evening, that he spoke about his collection and his passion for books.*

*As the tape recorder spun and the wind (almost unheard) moved around the house, Morrie moved between the shelves, wound his way through the stacks of books on the floor and pulled from the shelves the particular book he was searching for. Though the books did not seem to be shelved in any particular fashion, Morrie was always able to lay hands on the book he wanted, demonstrating how intimate and comfortable he was with this most personal of book collections. As he talked, one book would trigger a connection with another, and he would pull that book from the shelf, open it to reveal some rare signature or plate. And so the wind blew, and Morrie Tuttle pulled his books from the shelves, opened them, and talked:*



*Book Collector and NCB Board Member  
Morrie Tuttle at home in his "great cocoon".*

**Tuttle:** This is where it really is. It's a little chilly. I haven't been up here.

**Editor:** Well, this looks like a creative person's room.

**Tuttle:** It's going to be gloriously chaotic when I'm done. That's the idea. We'll accomplish it. But there's really good stuff here. I don't particularly want publicity.

**Editor:** So what's the feeling when you step into this room?

**Tuttle:** Well, it's just home. This is the great cocoon. You can't believe how this thing grows.



**Editor:** What do you do in this room? Sit and read 'em?

**Tuttle:** Yeah, of course. You'll notice there's not room for two. You don't need anybody else. This attic room is just basically English literature. Whatever you want, it's probably here. If you're a big Thackery person you got everything, and here is a lot of George Borrow.

**Editor:** So have you read almost every book in here?

**Tuttle:** No, of course not. You have to collect in the sequence in which you find things. You have to get them when you find them in order to have them at all. No one has ever had time to read all one wants to.

**Editor:** So, Morrie, how did you get started collecting books?

**Tuttle:** I was born.

**Editor:** You were born? You are a born book collector?

**Tuttle:** Yes.

**Editor:** So what's the attraction for you? Are you attracted to the content? To the old book itself? As a physical object?

**Tuttle:** No, no, no! You live in these things. My whole life is in what I've got here. This is my world. In Birrell's essay he says, "They are mine, and I am theirs." And it's kind of something like that.

**Editor:** Do you ever count your books?

**Tuttle:** No. It's irrelevant.

**Editor:** Why's it irrelevant?

**Tuttle:** Who cares?

**Editor:** Where do you find these books?

**Tuttle:** Everywhere. I mean, it's just a constant search. You've got to look through the *American Bookman* and study every catalog. You've got to go to every book sale. You search every bookstore in towns you go into.

**Editor:** Do you ever sell your books?

**Tuttle:** Never. That would be like selling your children. I give some stuff away.

**Editor:** So tell me this, Morrie, what's the difference in having a book here and being able to go down to the public library? How is it different when you own a book?

**Tuttle:** The best reason for a person to have a book is that he will be happier with it than without it. George Gissing said he'd rather have his own book than the library book because when he opened the pages he knew it by its smell. And Charles Lamb talks about having a book of his own so he can eat it with jam and jelly. He says he's thoroughly familiar with the blotches and stains. If you take on a book it's part of you and should be here. There's really a lot of good things up here. First class things. This has taken fifty years to put together.

**Editor:** Now, does Amy collect?

**Tuttle:** Yes, she has her own stuff downstairs. She's extraordinarily well-read. But she collects differently than I do.

**Editor:** Is there one period in your life when you collected more than others? How does this period rank as far as acquisitions?

**Tuttle:** Lousy, because the ability to buy books has diminished so. Book dealers are going out of business. Every time I go to a city there's one less bookstore. And it's high rent that's pushing them out. Urban renewal in Boston has nearly wiped out the best book city in the country.

**Editor:** Do you ever think about opening up a bookstore?

**Tuttle:** No. "Booksellers have but they can not keep, and librarians keep but they can not have." That's the whole point of all this. Oh, here's a set of books a library threw out. I saw those at the sale and literally dove over a local bookseller to get 'em. They have the most glorious plates.

**Editor:** Is there a certain "style" to this collection?

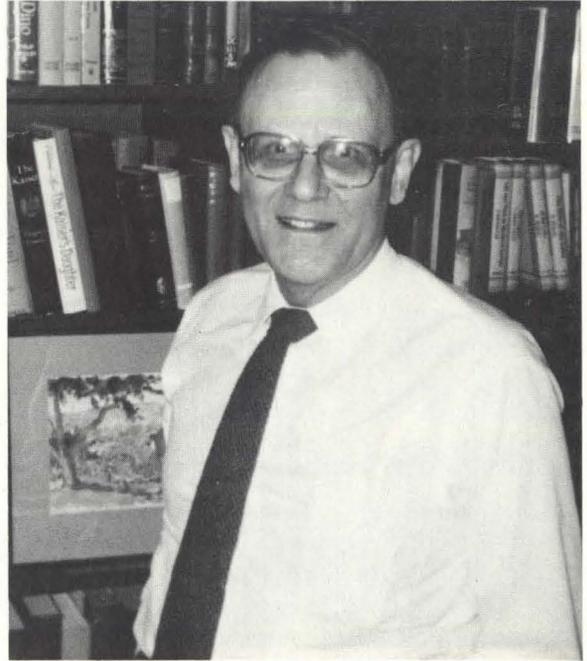
**Tuttle:** Well, I'm not a collector of artifacts. My stuff is not pretty, but in terms of an intellectual unit it's pretty strong. My collection is not diverse. Mine is very tight. It's all English history and literature.

**Editor:** Does it make you sad that some people wouldn't be able to admire what you have here?

**Tuttle:** No, I don't care what they think. We're not trying to impress anybody. You're the only one who's been up here in ages. People don't come up here. Most people aren't really turned on by this. They just come up and all they want to know is how many books you have and what you're going to do with them when you are dead. They have no more interest in the thing.

**Editor:** You get your own satisfaction out of it?

**Tuttle:** That's right.



*Morrie Tuttle: "No one has ever had time to read all one wants to."*

**Calendar Note:** Nebraska Center for the Book Board member Morrie Tuttle will speak about books and book collecting March 6 at 7:30 in the evening in the Christlieb Room, 2nd floor, Love Library on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. The talk is co-sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book and the Friends of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries.



## Governor Proclaims 1992: Explore New Worlds—READ!



*Golda Bockbrader, Diann Muhlbach, Elaine Booth, Dick Allen, Governor Ben Nelson, Rod Wagner, Morrie Tuttle, Burney Bouslough, and Jane Neal are surrounded by young readers as the Governor proclaims 1992 the year to "Explore New Worlds—READ!"*

Governor Ben Nelson proclaimed 1992 the year to **"Explore New Worlds—READ!"** in support of statewide activities to promote and encourage reading. Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner and Dick Allen, President of the Nebraska Center for the Book, presented the Governor with a *Resource Guide To Six Nebraska Authors* and a T-shirt commemorating the authors.

The proclamation was made on January 14, 1992. Nebraska's efforts are part of a national campaign

chaired by First Lady Barbara Bush and initiated by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. **1992: Explore New Worlds—READ!** is a unifying theme for stimulating reading and literacy projects to remind Americans of the joys and importance of reading as a way to learn about the world. The campaign encourages and draws attention to family literacy programs, adult literacy and reading motivation projects, and the needs of blind and physically handicapped readers.

The Nebraska Center for the book suggests these ideas for “Exploring New Worlds” through books and reading:

- ∞ Read a book about an early explorer of America
- ∞ Read about the next place you are going to visit
- ∞ Visit a literary landmark in your town or state
- ∞ Hold a program about local guidebooks, inviting several authors as speakers
- ∞ Develop a “Peculiar Place Names” poster
- ∞ Develop a reading project around a geography theme, such as “Faraway Lands in Fiction”

For more ideas on how you can highlight the literature of exploration and travel and the links between place and the imagination, contact your Nebraska Center for the Book!

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*He that would bring home the wealth of the Indies must carry the wealth of the Indies with him. So it is in travelling—a man must carry knowledge with him if he would bring home knowledge.*

-Samuel Johnson,  
from James Boswell’s  
*Life of Samuel Johnson (1791)*

BOOKS

GIVE US

WINGS



EXPLORE NEW WORLDS—READ!

**THE CENTER FOR THE BOOK**

**Books that open new worlds:**

*The Innocents Abroad*, by Mark Twain  
*The Valley of the Assassins*, by Freya Stark  
*Journey Without Maps*, by Graham Greene  
*Travels with Charley*, by John Steinbeck  
*An Area of Darkness*, by V.S. Naipaul  
*Places*, by Jan Morris  
*The Great Railway Bazaar*, by Paul Theroux

---

*Queequeg was a native of Kokovoko, an island far away to the West and South. It is not down in any map; true places never are.*

-Herman Melville,  
from *Moby Dick* (1851)



## President's Column

-Dick Allen

*What driveth us to bookes collect?  
The author's presence royale  
Encaptured us entir.*

-Anon

What motivates us to develop home libraries? And is building a home library the same as being a book collector? And is a book collector inevitably a bibliophile? And what do these questions have to do with the encouragement of reading?

If we have something really important to say, to utter, to expound, then we shall want to write it down, record it, to make it more permanent. And maybe this is the reason us who like to have books around us, to be "enbooked," so to speak, "surrounded by tomes of shapes and forms various". It gives our existence to come in contact with things that are more permanent than we, that will outlast us.

But, you might say, then why not stones, not tomes? They, the stones, can, alas, not, to us non-geologists, speak. Books—if read—can.

So that is why something small, a single, read, reread paperback, is kept, treasured. To a whole box, a shelf, many shelves of them, of books hardbound, are kept. Are bought, and kept.

I confess to this addiction. And find inspiration there, among those objects, books. Even the ones that I have read, just seeing them again, like, as has been said, old friends. And the ones there, not yet read, to be read, new people to be met, perhaps new friends to be made.

Patient, not demanding. Waiting to be opened. Never full of clamor.

A single "booke" to a multitude, serving as a firm base on which to stand in an ever-shifting world.

*What driveth us,  
a centre for the booke to build?  
The members' presence various  
Encaptured us entir.*

-Paraphrase of Anon

The Nebraska Center for the Book, will it become something greater than its parts, its members? It already is! We keep saying that the Nebraska Center for the Book is a coalition of the like-minded, a coalition of Nebraskans who find value in the book as a physical object, as a reality, and as a symbol for the printed and the written word. Printed and written wherever, carved on the trunk of a tree to appearing on a computer screen to being heard, read aloud.

So that a coalition can become mutually reinforcing, I who am teaching an adult non-reader talking to you who is explicating some Catherian prose, I who delights in children's book illustration to you who would write and publish your family's life story.

I who am paid by selling books, you who are paid for lending them. I who read also Spanish, you who worry about preserving the right to read and a Shakespeare Quarto.

We are all in this together. Let us declare our commonality, and, at the same time, delight in our differences, each of us having a firm base on which to stand in an ever-shifting world.

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## Letters to NCB

Dear NCB:

Just a note, to say how fine I think volume 1, number 4 issue of *NCB Quarterly* is. Reading it makes me realize—again—what a vital community we have in Nebraska of booklovers/readers, and what a dramatic demonstration of that community the First Nebraska Literature Festival was.

*NCB Quarterly* is especially rich visually, an example being the phot0graphic essay covering the First Nebraska Literature Festival.

All this is to say many thanks for the issue.

With best wishes,

*Sue Rosowski  
Department of English  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Dear NCB:

The Nebraska Center for the Book should take note of the fact that we are now entering into the "post-book" age. Books were fine in their day, but we are now living in the Information Age.

Therefore, I suggest that you should change your focus and stress what is really important: technology! This is the Computer Age! And the Age of Telecommunications. Just look around--people are communicating with one another by E-Mail and fax machines.

Books! Well, I may look at one now and then, but eagerly await the day when I can read whatever I want on my portable laptop computer!

Haven't you heard about the library of the future? There won't be any books. Just computer screens. And we will have access to everything! I can hardly wait!

*A Forward-Looking Nebraskan*

*We welcome your contributions and correspondence.  
Write to NCB Quarterly, C/O Lincoln City Libraries,  
136 South 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.*

## New Board Members and Officers



*NCB Board Members Kira Gale, Morrie Tuttle,  
Brenda Cornelius, and Elaine Booth*

At the November meeting, the Center approved the election of four members to its board of directors. Elected for a second term were Elaine Booth, Bellevue, and Kira Gale, Omaha. New members to the Board include Brenda Cornelius, Tekamah, and F.M. Tuttle, Lincoln. These individuals began three-year terms on January 1.

At its January 7th meeting in Lincoln, the Center elected the following officers: Dick Allen, President; Elaine Booth, Vice-President; Tom Boyle, Treasurer; and Ellen Scott, Secretary.



## 1992 Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival

The Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival has had a successful eleven-year history. It is held each year to enable Nebraskans to share their experiences in stories, poems, histories, and reminiscences. This year the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB) is proud to announce that the Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival has become an official committee of the NCB.

This year's Festivals are sponsored by Central Community College—Platte Campus, co-sponsored by Mid-Plains Community College, and given additional support by the National Book Foundation. The Festivals will be held on the campuses of Mid-Plains Community College, McDonald-Belton Campus, North Platte, on April 11th and Central Community College—Platte Campus, Columbus, on May 30th. The programs will cover a variety of topics, feature keynote speakers, individual manuscript conferences, and exhibits by publishers and booksellers.

The 1992 keynote speakers are 1989 National Book Award recipient John Casey and Plains writer/humorist of CBS Sunday Morning fame Roger Welsch. Workshop leaders include Richard Chamberlain, Lorraine Duggin, Nadine Hengen, Ted Kooser, David McCleery, Robert Reed, Sheila Reiter, Leon Satterfield, Colin Taylor, Don Welch, Connie Yost, and others. Registration is \$40 per Festival and includes membership in the Nebraska Center for the Book. This year a special rate of \$55 has been arranged for those who wish to participate in both Festivals.

For more information, contact Dr. Mel Krutz, Co-Chair, Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival, Central Community College—Platte Campus, Box 1027, Columbus, NE, 68602, 402-564-7132.

## NCB Directory Coming: Don't Be Left out!

Our Directory Committee is planning to publish a directory of our individual members in the Spring (May) issue of this publication. If you are not yet a member of the Nebraska Center for the Book, or if you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so today. We want everyone in our growing coalition for the advocacy and support of literacy, reading, books, libraries, and writing in Nebraska to be included.

If you have already paid your 1992 membership fee but have not yet filled out the "Directory Interest Information" on the enclosed blue insert to this newsletter, please do so. This information will enable all of us to get to know one another better.

The Committee plans to publish a directory of our organizational members in the December issue. If you are a member of an organization which shares the goals and interests of the Nebraska Center for the Book, please urge them to join.

Membership fees have not changed. They remain at \$15.00 per year for individual members, and \$25.00 per year for organizations.

We hope you will continue your affiliation with the Nebraska Center for the Book and help us to bring together individuals and organizations to build the Nebraska community of the book.

# Nebraska

## Center for the Book



### *What is the Nebraska Center for the Book?*

The Nebraska Center for the Book is the Nebraska Affiliate of the Library of Congress' National Center for the Book. The National Center promotes reading, literacy, books, and libraries through annual themes, such as "1992: Explore New Worlds—READ!"

The purpose of the Nebraska Center for the Book is to stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word, all central to ourselves and the world around us.

The Nebraska Center for the Book is a non-profit corporation which acts as a catalyst, bringing together Nebraska readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, scholars, radio and television broadcasters, public and private sector leaders, and others to build the "Nebraska community of the book."

The Nebraska Center for the Book is not a library, but a coalition of organizations and individuals advocating the values and traditions that are recorded in the written word. 

*"Let us dare  
to read, think,  
speak and write."*

**-John Adams**

# Individual Membership

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone with area code (not for directory use): Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Will you serve on a committee? \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**We will be publishing a membership directory.**

**Help us learn your Center for the Book interests by circling all that apply:**

|                             |    |                      |    |
|-----------------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| Book Arts                   | BA | Nebraska History     | NH |
| Book Collecting             | CO | Popular Culture      | PC |
| Book Discussions            | DI | Preservation         | PV |
| Book Illustration           | IL | Print-Handicapped,   |    |
| Book Selling                | SE | Special Needs        | SP |
| Censorship, Right to Read   | CN | Printing             | PG |
| Children's Books            | CH | Promotion of Reading | PR |
| Foreign Language            | FL | Publishing           | PB |
| Libraries                   | LB | Reading              | RD |
| Literacy                    | LC | Storytelling         | ST |
| Nebraska Authors and        |    | Teaching             | TG |
| Nebraska Literary Tradition | NE | Writing              | WR |

### **Sample Individual Listing:**

*Note that directory of individual members will not include telephone numbers.*

John Smith, 1234 Reading Ave., Literacy, Ne 68000 CO, DI, LC, PC, RD

**Please enclose a check in the amount of \$15.00 made out to "Nebraska Center for the Book."  
Mail your check and this form to:**

**Nebraska Center for the Book  
c/o Lincoln City Libraries  
136 South 14th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508**

# Organizational Membership

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_

Name of organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone with area code (for directory use): \_\_\_\_\_

Name and title of contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information about organization: \_\_\_\_\_

(Attach sheet if needed)

**We will be publishing a membership directory  
so Center Members will be aware of interests and services.**

**Circle all the Center for the Book interests that apply to your organization:**

|                             |    |                      |    |
|-----------------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| Book Arts                   | BA | Nebraska History     | NH |
| Book Collecting             | CO | Popular Culture      | PC |
| Book Discussions            | DI | Preservation         | PV |
| Book Illustration           | IL | Print-Handicapped,   |    |
| Book Selling                | SE | Special Needs        | SP |
| Censorship, Right to Read   | CN | Printing             | PG |
| Children's Books            | CH | Promotion of Reading | PR |
| Foreign Language            | FL | Publishing           | PB |
| Libraries                   | LB | Reading              | RD |
| Literacy                    | LC | Storytelling         | ST |
| Nebraska Authors and        |    | Teaching             | TG |
| Nebraska Literary Tradition | NE | Writing              | WR |

### Sample Organizational Listing

*Note that the directory of organizational members will include a telephone number, a contact person with title, and a brief description of the organization.*

#### **Nebraska Literary Foundation,**

Nebraska State College, 1234 Writers Way, Bookville, NE 68000. Tel 308-123-4567. Contact: Jane Bookworm, President. NE, PB, WR. Publishes "The Nebraska Muse," holds an annual meeting in July. Supported in part by Nebraska State College. Promotes programs and research on published Nebraska women writers.

**Please enclose a check in the amount of \$25.00 made out to "Nebraska Center for the Book."**

**Mail your check and this form to:**

**Nebraska Center for the Book  
c/o Lincoln City Libraries  
136 South 14th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508**

**Dedicated in September, 1990,  
the Nebraska Center for the Book  
has sponsored or cosponsored such  
worthwhile programs and projects as:**

-  Production of a video tape, "Literacy in Nebraska"
-  Public programs on book discussion groups, book selling, book buying, and book collecting in Nebraska
-  The Nebraska Literature Festival
-  Sessions at the Nebraska Library Association Conferences on the Nebraska literary tradition and publishing in Nebraska
-  Publication of a *Resource Guide to Six Nebraska Authors*



**If books are an important part of  
your life, please consider becoming  
a member of the Nebraska Center  
for the Book. Help us celebrate the  
written word.**

**Membership benefits include:**

-  Four issues of the Nebraska Center for the Book Quarterly. (Members may supply listings for the "Calendar of Events" in each issue.
-  New members receive a copy of *Alive and Writing in Nebraska*, an anthology of recent Nebraska writers and excerpts from their works.
-  Members will be advised of all public events sponsored or co-sponsored by the Center.
-  Members attending the annual meeting may vote for Board Members.
-  Members may run for election to the 15-member Board
-  Most importantly, members will be supporting: literacy, reading, books, and libraries in Nebraska.

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## NCB Spring Book Programs

The Nebraska Center for the Book invites you to take part in two exciting public meetings Thursday April 16th in the Heritage Room of the Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln.

The first featured presentation, beginning at 9:30 a.m., will be a panel discussion of the topic "What is Reading?" Dr. Ann Trinkle, reading service specialist and principal of Avery Elementary in Bellevue, will serve as moderator and frame the issues to be considered. Golda Bockbrader will join the panel as a literacy advocate, and other panelists will be chosen to speak for concerns of young readers, new adult readers, the community, business and politics.

Some of the ideas which may be explored by these reading "experts" include approaches in reading education, coordination of literacy efforts, development and nurturing of lifetime readers, the importance of role models in the promotion of reading and effects of modern media on reading habits.

Elaine Booth, vice president of the NCB, is coordinating this program.

The afternoon program begins at 1:30 p.m. and features a group discussion of 1989 National Book Award recipient John Casey's novel *Spartina*. Casey will be in Lincoln and Columbus May 29th and 30th respectively as part of the Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival. Everyone attending the April 16th event is encouraged to read the novel and participate in a lively and thought provoking discussion led by Great Books discussion leader Barbara Leffler of Lincoln.

### NCB Seeks Calendar Listings

Your organization is invited to submit items for the NCB Calendar, a free listing of literary and book events and activities in Nebraska. If you would like to be included, please send a description of the event; time, date and place, including street address; and a name and daytime telephone number. Deadline for our next issue is April 15th. Send to:

Nebraska Center for the Book Calendar  
c/o Lincoln City Libraries  
136 South 14th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

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### Want to Advertise?

If you have a business or product that you would like to let people know about, *NCB Quarterly* is a great way to get your message out. Our advertising rate per issue is:

|               |                 |         |
|---------------|-----------------|---------|
| —full page    | 7" x 8 1/2"     | \$60.00 |
| —half page    | 7" x 4 1/4"     | \$35.00 |
| —quarter page | 3 1/2" x 4 1/4" | \$20.00 |

*NCB Quarterly* prefers photo-ready ads. Typesetting and layout services are available to advertisers for a fee:

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| —full page    | \$15.00 |
| —half page    | \$8.75  |
| —quarter page | \$5.00  |

Deadline for our next issue is April 15th



## Off the Press

Recent Books by or of Interest to  
Nebraskans

*Vermilion Sea:*  
*A Naturalist's Journey in Baja California*  
by **John Janovy Jr.**

*The Lowe Down:*  
*Sixty Years of the American Dream...*  
*With an Occasional Nightmare*  
by **Jack Lowe**

*Instruments of the Bones*  
poems by **Stephen C. Behrendt**

*Butterfly Against the Gale*  
by **Norris Alfred**

*From The Heart*  
poems by **Jeffrey H. Williams**

*Tri-County Pioneers*  
by **Judge H. Halderson**

*Swedish Omaha - Past and Present*  
edited by **L. Dale Lund &**  
**Reuben T. Swanson**

*Thanks to Herb Hyde for supplying copies of his Sunday Lincoln Journal-Star book columns so that this listing could be compiled. If you know of other recently published books that would be of interest to the members of the Nebraska Center for the Book, please contact us.*

---

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR NEBRASKA  
CENTER FOR THE BOOK MEMBERSHIP?**  
Please see the blue insert in this issue for  
**important information on the new  
NCB Membership Directory!**

## A Flowering: A Festival

The Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival, a non-profit venture dedicated to providing support for writing and storytelling across the state, has produced their annual anthology. This year's anthology is filled with work by presenters and participants of the 1991 Festival.

*A Flowering: A Festival* may be purchased from:  
**The Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival  
Department of English  
Central Community College—Platte Campus  
PO Box 1027  
Columbus, NE, 68602**

—ADVERTISEMENT—

### Tri-County Pioneers

The Newman Grove Library Foundation is republishing *Tri-County Pioneers*, written by Judge H. Halderson in 1940, and offering it for sale to raise money for the library addition. The book is about Boone, Platte and Madison County residents who were early settlers around Newman Grove. Available about May 1, the softbound book is \$18.75 plus \$2.50 postage. Library discount available. Send checks to:

**Newman Grove Library Foundation  
Newman Grove Public Library  
Box 430  
Newman Grove, NE 68758-0430  
Phone 402-477-2331**

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## New NCB Member Publishes 2nd Book Jeffrey H. Williams

Jeffrey Williams released his second book of poetry, *From The Heart*, in January 1992. Originally from Washington, DC, Jeffrey is a graduate of Drake University. He moved to Nebraska four years ago from Montana, where he was stationed at Malmstrom AFB in Great Falls. Currently, he lives in Omaha and is the Chief of the Logistics Control Division at SAC Headquarters. Jeffrey was one of the featured authors at the First Nebraska Literature Festival, where he signed copies of his first book, *Thoughts Of Mind*. Jeffrey credits Nebraska for his return to writing: "I hadn't written any poetry for 10 years, however, Nebraska created the right atmosphere. *From The Heart* has something for everyone. Though an African-American, I do not limit my writing to ethnic issues—whatever touches my heart, guides my hand."

*From The Heart* is a collection of poetry covering a variety of topics including romance, spirituality and human relationships. It is a hand-numbered and signed edition of 450 plus 50 artist proofs. 160pp. 8 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches. \$15 plus 6.5% tax and \$2.50 shipping.

*From The Heart* is available from  
Diamondback Consultants, 15010  
Eureux Circle, Omaha, NE 68123

### Come Walk With Me

The gift of language illuminates my world of secluded dreams, allowing your perusal of these conscious thoughts, no longer kept as silent partners of my heart.

Come walk with me with an open mind so we may touch the secret depths of your heart where you hide for soft reflection and quiet meditation.

Walking through murky caverns within my mind, I pause to gently chip a rough idea from a once well hidden corner of special times. Slowly, I cut and grind, searching for that glowing crystal which shall unlock the mystic spectrum of this thought of mind.

Finally, the search is over, the polishing complete, I carefully examine every facet for understanding and intrinsic need then display this thought of mine like a sparkling gem, not for touching, but for feeling and sometimes challenging...

the caverns of your mind.

Jeffrey H. Williams  
© '90



## 1992 Nebraska Literature Festival at UNK

The University of Nebraska at Kearney, in cooperation with the Nebraska Center for the Book, will be sponsoring the Second Nebraska Literature Festival to be held at the Nebraskan Student Union at the Kearney campus on September 25 and 26. The event will celebrate Nebraska's literary heritage as well as its contemporary writers.

The Festival will begin on Friday morning with a special day dedicated to high school students who will visit the campus and participate in a variety of events. Highlights for the day will include Nebraska State Poet William Kloefkorn as keynote speaker, and a presentation by Dr. James Work, Colorado State University professor and specialist in Western Literature.

Friday evening the Museum of Nebraska Art, which will have a special exhibit in conjunction with the Festival, will host a reception featuring a program by Hilda Neihardt accompanied by her son Robin. Later that evening a dramatic presentation, still pending, is being planned.

Saturday's activities will offer a variety of options, and Festival-goers may choose to attend any one of seven different sessions each hour. Panels of scholars and literary enthusiasts will hold lively discussions on Aldrich, Cather, Eiseley, Neihardt, Morris, and Sandoz, while selected speakers will present programs on the diversity in Nebraska literature with special subjects such as Weldon Kees, Tillie Olson, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, and Malcolm X. In addition, Nebraska Native Americans will add their special resources to the program. Sitting Bear (Matt Jones) will discuss the oral tradition and Native American storytelling, and Phyllis Stone will explain Indian customs and traditions in her teepee set up outside the Nebraskan Student Union.

Meanwhile, contemporary creative writers will be reading their works. One location will feature an "open mike" where anyone who likes may read his or her works, and the other session will stage formal readings by invited poets. Workshops on poetry, fiction, and mystery writing as well as a publishing workshop also will be running throughout the day, or Festival-goers may choose to watch video presentations of Nebraska writers or attend story-reading sessions with their children.

In the Atrium and throughout the Nebraskan, bookstores and literary organizations from across the state will set up booths to disseminate information and "peddle their wares." A two-hour lunch break has been scheduled to allow ample time for people to eat at a special buffet as well as browse through the book fair and meet their favorite authors who will be signing books. Again, the Festival will offer for sale special T-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, and posters of Nebraska writers as well as two different resource guides to Nebraska authors.

The grand finale of the afternoon will be the special musical and narrative production, "A Vision for All," an adaptation of *Neihardt's Black Elk Speaks* composed, arranged, and conducted by Rick Swanson (formerly with Mannheim Steamroller and Fresh Aire). Afterward, the public will be invited to the UNK Walker Art Gallery to view a special exhibit and enjoy refreshments.

The UNK Literature Festival Committee is planning two exciting days for Nebraskans that will highlight the depth and diversity of fine arts in Nebraska. For more information about the Festival, please contact Dr. Susanne George, 204 Thomas Hall, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, Nebraska 68849, (308) 234-8294.

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# Nebraska Literature Festival T-Shirts

These wonderfully designed T-Shirts bearing David Routon's drawings of Aldrich, Cather, Eiseley, Morris, Neihardt, and Sandoz, sold out just hours after the Nebraska Literature Festival opened its doors. Now, due to popular demand, you too can show the world you appreciate literature and Nebraska's great literary tradition. Proceeds from the sale of these T-Shirts go toward on-going support of the Nebraska Literature Festival.

Short-sleeved Gray/Ash \$11.95 + tax (M,L,XL)  
Long-sleeved Green \$14.95 + tax (M,L,XL)

Please use or photocopy order form below:

I would like to order:

\_\_\_\_\_ Grey/Ash Short-sleeved T-shirts  
(\$12.73 each w/tax) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Green Long-sleeved T-shirts  
(\$15.92 each w/tax) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping (regardless of number): \$2.00

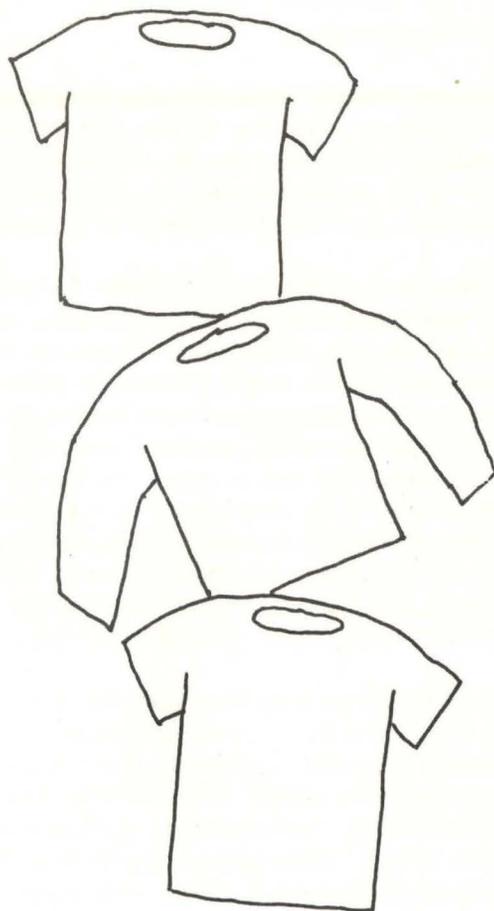
TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the Nebraska Center for the Book:  
all proceeds go toward on-going support of the Nebraska  
Literature Festival.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Mail to:  
Heritage Room  
Lincoln City Libraries  
136 South 14th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508



## From the Editor: Censorship and Exploration

-David McCleery

### *The First Amendment*

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for redress of grievances.*

By now most everyone is familiar with the trials and tribulations of novelist Salman Rushdie. After all, he is the most written about writer of the '90s. Censorship not only turned his book *The Satanic Verses* into an international best seller, but the whole affair became the preeminent symbol of censorship and freedom of speech throughout the world. With all the attention paid to Rushdie the writer, sometimes it was easy to forget about the other injured parties in Khomeini's decree, Viking Penguin, and to some degree all publishers and all who wish to explore the world through books.

Edwin McDowell in the New York Times, February 27, 1989, wrote that "Ayatollah Khomeini has probably succeeded in preventing publication in this country of books critical of Muslims and Islam." And on the day of the Ayatollah's death, novelist Susan Sontag, addressing the American Booksellers Association, predicted "a globalization of fear and vulnerability."

Sontag didn't need to tell Viking about fear and vulnerability. Historically, publishers do not often have a reason to be security-conscious, yet Viking was believed to have spent nearly \$3 million on security measures during the first half of 1989. Its London offices resembled an armed camp, with

around-the-clock police protection, metal detectors, and escorts required for visitors. Yet, through all the threats and violence, Viking's position and determination in the whole affair was, and is, commendable. They only flinched once, in February of 1989, when they recalled the paperback edition of *The Satanic Verses*.

Granted, the Rushdie/Viking case is a complicated and high profile example of a social and political attempt to censor a writer and his publisher, but their case is no more or no less important than the many smaller, less publicized attacks on freedom of speech that occur each year in the United States and elsewhere in the world.

This year the National Center for the Book's theme is **1992: Explore New Worlds—READ!** Censorship and attacks to First Amendment rights are major roadblocks to this exploration. Unless we exercise our right to the free and open examination of all writing, we as intellectual explorers will always be held back by those who say "Don't go there. The world is flat. You'll disappear over the edge."

In 1928, John Dewey wrote in *The Public and Its Problems*, "Democracy will come into its own, for democracy is a name for life of free and enriching communion. It had its seer in Walt Whitman. It will have its consummation when free social inquiry is indissolubly wedded to the art of full and moving communication."

What can we do to prepare and help in the fight to keep the "new worlds" of writing and books open so

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that this "life of free and enriching communion" might take place?

One of the best sourcebooks now available is *Censorship and First Amendment Rights: A Primer*, recently published by the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression. Although the guide is published primarily for booksellers, it contains valuable information for all who wish to "explore new worlds". The guide includes an introduction by *New York Times* columnist Anthony Lewis on "The Bill of Rights: The First 200 Years."; a section on how to work with lawyers, lobbyists, and public officials; case studies of *American Psycho* and other battles against censorship; a listing of national organizations concerned with censorship; and more.

In the Autumn 1991 *Free Expression*, the quarterly for the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, Joe Moreau suggests these other titles which may be helpful to readers wishing to learn more about freedom of speech, censorship, and the Bill of Rights:

*Visions of Liberty: The Bill of Rights For All Americans*, Ira Classer, photos by Bob Adelman. Arcade Publishing, 288 pages. 1-55970-104-8.

*Information Freedom and Censorship: World Report 1991*, Article 19 International Centre on Censorship, ed. by Frances D'Souza (available through National Book Network). 471 pages. ISBN 0-8389-2156-6.

Following is a list of organizations that produce materials which may be of assistance to readers who are concerned about the growth and impact of censorship. Many of these groups have local and state branches.

American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression  
137 West 25th Street  
New York, NY 10001-7296

National Coalition Against Censorship  
2 West 64th Street  
New York, NY 10023

People for the American Way  
2000 M Street, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20036

American Library Association  
Office for Intellectual Freedom  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-944-6780

American Civil Liberties Union  
22 East 40th Street  
New York, NY 10016  
212-528-0700

Americans for Religious Liberty  
P.O. Box 6656  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
301-598-2447

Freedom to Read Foundation  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-944-6780

National Education Association  
Human and Civil Right Division  
1201 16th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036



## Dr. Ken Lincoln to Speak on "The Native American Experience"



Dr. Ken Lincoln, Professor of English and American Indian Studies at the University of California at Los Angeles, will be in Nebraska in April to speak on "The Native American Experience", highlighting aspects of Lakota culture and literary approaches to that lifestyle. Dr. Lincoln will speak in Lincoln on April 16th, in Gordon on April 17th, and in Alliance on April 18th. Locations and times are to be announced.

Lincoln's works include: *The Good Red Road: Passages into Native America*, with Al Logan Slagle (Harper & Row 1987); *Native American Renaissance* (Univ. of California Press 1983); *Native American Literatures: "—old like hills, like stars"* (Modern Language Association 1982). Lincoln also edited eight volumes in the UCLA Native American Poetry Series and has forthcoming *Orpheus Afoot*, linked sonnet sequence from Cummington Press (Omaha 1991), Harry Duncan, fine press editor.

Lincoln's visit is part of the Nebraska Center for the Book's "Creative Process Series" and is co-sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the National Book Foundation via Nebraska Center for the Book.

## NCB Sponsors Creative Process Series

This spring the NCB is offering a series of free public lectures on the creative process. The "Creative Process Series" will offer a wide range of topics by well-known writers and scholars.

The series begins April 11, with Nebraska humorist and folklorist Roger Welsch as keynote speaker for the 1992 Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival on the Mid-Plains Community College, McDonald-Belton Campus, North Platte. Other programs in the series include:

April 16-18 (Lincoln, Gordon, and Alliance, respectively) Writer and scholar Ken Lincoln speaking on "The Native American Experience." (Locations and times to be announced.)

May 29 (Lincoln)  
1989 National Book Award recipient John Casey speaking on "The Creative Process" in the Christlieb Room, 2nd floor, Love Library, University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus, 2:30 p.m.

May 30 (Columbus)  
John Casey as keynote speaker for the 1992 Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival at Central Community College—Platte Campus, Columbus.

June 3 (Kearney)  
Mystery writer Nancy Pickard speaking on "The Female Detective in the Mystery Novel", as part of the Meridian and Republican Valley Library Systems Annual Meeting. (Location and time to be announced.)

These events are made possible by a generous gift to the National Book Foundation from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, which promotes the growth and appreciation of the arts in America through community outreach, partnerships, and collaboration to support artistic endeavors. The National Book Foundation, sponsor of the National Book Awards, promotes the cultural value of good writing in America.

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# Welcome New Members!

New members as of February 15, 1992

## Organizational

Organizational memberships allow the organization to exhibit at both Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festivals and the Nebraska Literature Festival without charge.

Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs  
Southeast High School  
Republican Valley Library System  
Broken Bow Public Library  
Eastern Nebraska Reading Council

Omaha  
Lincoln  
Hastings  
Broken Bow  
Fremont

## Individual

Kristine Moulds  
Diane Potter  
Ruth Swingle  
Senator Jennie Robak  
Florence Smith  
Kathy Rosenberg  
Hal Colony  
Eileen Noonan  
C. Kay Stahly  
Rose Beck  
Delphine Sanks  
Carol Zuegner

Seward  
Omaha  
Hastings  
Columbus  
Kearney  
Omaha  
Kearney  
Grand Island  
Kearney  
Lincoln  
Kearney  
Omaha

Our Directory Committee is planning to publish a directory of our individual members in the Spring (May) issue of this publication. If you are not yet a member of the Nebraska Center for the Book, or if you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so today. We want everyone in our growing coalition for the advocacy and support of literacy, reading, books, libraries, and writing in Nebraska to be included.

If you have already paid your 1992 membership fee but have not yet filled out the "Directory Interest Information" on the enclosed blue insert to this newsletter, please do so. This information will enable all of us to get to know one another better.

RESOURCE GUIDE



TO SIX



NEBRASKA AUTHORS

"One of the best things to come out of the Nebraska Literature Festival was the **Resource Guide to Six Nebraska Authors....**"

-Herb Hyde  
Lincoln Journal-Star

**RESOURCE GUIDE TO SIX NEBRASKA AUTHORS.** This 93-page book contains vital material about Bess Streeter Aldrich, Willa Cather, Loren Eiseley, Wright Morris, John G. Neihardt, and Mari Sandoz. For each of the six, there is a biographical sketch by a noted scholar, photographs, a bibliography, descriptions of the author's works, a list of research archives, a list of audiovisual materials, and lists of foundations, places to visit and annual events. There is a literary map of Nebraska and much other valuable information....

Copies may be obtained for \$5.95 each plus 39 cents sales tax and \$1.50 for shipping from the Lincoln City Libraries Foundation/Heritage Room Gift Shop at the Bennett Martin Public Library, 136 S. 14th St., Lincoln, NE 68508.

**HELP SUPPORT  
THE 1992 NEBRASKA LITERATURE FESTIVAL  
TO BE HELD IN KEARNEY!**

**Proceeds from the sale of the *Resource Guide To Six Nebraska Authors* go toward on-going support of the Nebraska Literature Festival.**

**Nebraska Center for the Book  
c/o Lincoln City Libraries  
136 South 14th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508**

# NEBRASKA CENTER FOR THE BOOK

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

1 2 3 4 5

# CALENDAR

1992: EXPLORE NEW WORLDS—READ!



**Book Sorting** — Volunteers from the Grand Island Area Retired Teachers Organization (from left) Birdene Ingerson of Grand Island, Ruby Schultz of Cairo, Audrey Long, Golda Bockbrader and Willmetta Clausen of Grand Island, and Elsie Hendrickson of Cairo sort donated books for the Christmas Cheer Children's Book Drive sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book. Over 3000 books were donated and books were distributed to 1100 needy children at Christmas. The response to the campaign was overwhelming and many new books were purchased and donated. The books that could not be given as gifts due to being in poor condition were given to the Headstart Program to be used for storytime.

Calendar items in bold are sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book

## March

- March 7 **Lincoln. Nebraska Center for the Book Board of Directors meeting, University of Nebraska Press, 327 Nebraska Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1:30 p.m.**
- March 6 **Lincoln. "A Book Collector Speaks," featuring Morrie Tuttle, Christlieb Room, Love Library, 2nd floor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 7:30 p.m.. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries.**
- March 8 Omaha. Boystown CAMEO Writers Club Book Show, Millard Social Hall, 10508 South 144th Street, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, call 402-571-7666.
- March 19 Lincoln. Fred Luebke, Nebraska historian, in celebration of the Nebraska Quasquicentennial, reading in the Heritage Room, Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th & N Streets, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, John H. Ames Reading Series.
- March 29 Grand Island. Lecture/Discussion with author Nancy Peterson "Footprints Along the Platte." Stuhr Museum, 2:00 p.m. Funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council.

## April

- April 11 North Platte. 1992 Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival, Mid-Plains Community College, Roger Welsch, Keynote Speaker. Contact Dr. Mel Krutz, Co-Chair, Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival, Central Community College—Platte Campus, Box 1027, Columbus, NE, 68602, for more information.\*
- April 16 Lincoln. Poet and fiction writer Sally Herrin, reading in the Heritage Room, Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th & N Streets, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, John H. Ames Reading Series.
- April 16 Lincoln  
17 Gordon  
18 Alliance. "The Native American Experience," featuring Dr. Ken Lincoln, Professor of English, UCLA, Los Angeles. Co-sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the National Book Foundation.\*
- April 16 Lincoln. "What is Reading?" panel discussion with Elaine Booth, Dr. Ann Trinkle, and Golda Bockbrader, Heritage Room, Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th & N Streets, 9:30 a.m.
- April 16 Lincoln. "Reading John Casey's *Spartina* : A Book Discussion", Barbara Leffler, Heritage Room, Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th & N Streets, 1:30 p.m.

## May

- May 21 Lincoln. Poet Fred Zydek, reading in the Heritage Room, Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th & N Streets, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, John H. Ames Reading Series.
- May 29 Lincoln. "The Creative Process," featuring 1989 National Book Award recipient John Casey, Christlieb Room, Love Library, 2nd floor, UNL, 2:30 p.m. To be followed by book signing. Co-sponsored by Friends of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries and the National Book Foundation.\*
- May 29 Columbus. Public Reception for National Book Award recipient John Casey, Columbus Public Library, Art Gallery, 2504 14th Street. 8:00 p.m.\*
- May 30 Columbus. 1992 Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival, Central Community College—Platte Campus, novelist John Casey, Keynote Speaker. Contact Dr. Mel Krutz, Co-Chair, Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival, Central Community College—Platte Campus, Box 1027, Columbus, NE, 68602, for more information.\*

## In The Months To Come

- June 3 Kearney. "The Female Detective in the Mystery Novel," featuring Kansas mystery writer, Nancy Pickard, speaking at the Annual meeting of the Meridian and Republican Valley Library Systems (location to be announced.) \*
- Sep. 25-26 Kearney. Second Nebraska Literature Festival, University of Nebraska at Kearney

\* The NCB Creative Process Series events are made possible by a generous gift to the National Book Foundation from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, which promotes the growth and appreciation of the arts in America through community outreach, partnerships, and collaboration to support artistic endeavors. The National Book Foundation, sponsor of the National Book Awards, promotes the cultural value of good writing in America.

Your organization is invited to submit items for the Nebraska Center for the Book Calendar, a free listing of literary and book events and activities in Nebraska. If you would like to be included, please send a description of the event; time, date and place, including street address; and a name and daytime telephone number for verification. Deadline for next issue is April 15th.

Send to: Nebraska Center for the Book Calendar,  
Dave McCleery, Editor, c/o Lincoln City Libraries, 136 South 14th Street, Lincoln, NE, 68508