

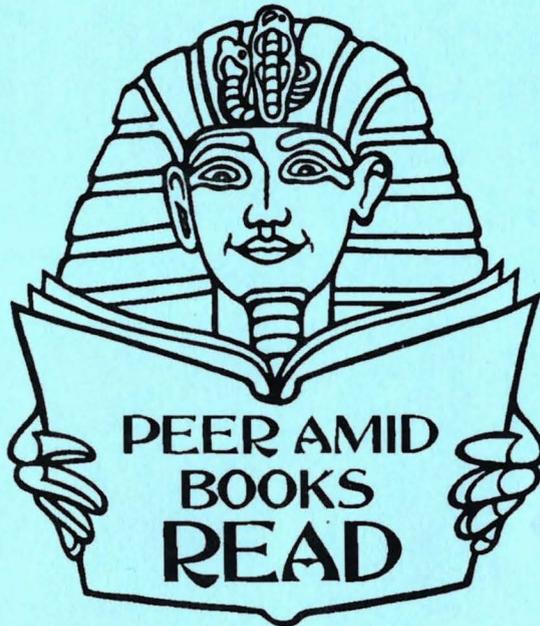
# *NCB Quarterly*

Nebraska Center for the Book

Vol. 6

Spring 1996

No. 2



## Summer Reading In Nebraska



## 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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Katherine Walter	Lincoln
Dee Yost	Hastings

## Nebraska Center for the Book Board of Directors Meetings 1996

June 1, 1996, Grand Island Public Library,  
Grand Island, NE

Week of August 19-24, 1996, East Campus  
Union Bldg., Lincoln, NE

November 7, 1996, Heritage Room, Lin-  
coln City Library.

Note: All Board of Directors Meetings are preceded by morning programs and committee work convening at 9:30 a.m. All NCB members are encouraged to join us for these activities and become more involved in our planning programs. Members may also attend Board Meetings in a non-voting status.

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Tom Boyle

## President's Message — Tom Boyle

**S**pring and summer are finally here after a long Nebraska winter. Hopefully, the Nebraska Center for the Book has helped to put a little life in your winter

and will continue to enrich your life of the mind with programs and publications you find interesting and entertaining.

Nebraska is a busy place this year. The Literature Festival is planned for September 21st at the East Campus of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. The Festival committee is planning an exciting program with something for all Nebraskans. This April the Neihardt Foundation hosted a very successful conference on "Who Speaks for Black Elk" while the Sandoz Heritage Society is planning a Centennial celebration of Mari Sandoz on June 7-8th at Chadron State College. I hope that you are able to attend and enjoy all these programs.

At the first NBC Board meeting for 1996, the Board reviewed the goals and objectives for the Nebraska Center of the Book as well as a summary of the various activi-

ties hosted by the NBC since its founding in 1991 (a copy of this list of activities is included). I hope that you agreed with the Board that the Nebraska Center for the Book has proven to be a success initiating and sponsoring the type of programs needed in the state. We on the Board, with your support, pledge ourselves to a continuing effort to ensure that the Center makes a difference in the lives of our citizens. As president of the NBC I would like to thank all the members of the Board for their ideas and efforts that make the Center work.

One of the most important actions taken by the Nebraska Center for the Book each year is the selection of the Jane Geske Award recipient. The Jane Geske Award recognizes a Nebraska group, association, academic institution, library, or other organization that has made an exceptional contribution to the written word in Nebraska. A nomination form is included in this issue of the Quarterly, and I encourage you to nominate one of the many deserving Nebraska organizations.

Have a good summer of reading.  
Tom Boyle, President, NBC

## Gilded Age Chautauqua

The Gilded Age Chautauqua will be in Chadron, Nebraska, from July 5-9, 1996 and Seward, Nebraska, July 12-16, 1996. Featuring Kate Chopin, Zitkala-sa, W.E.B. DuBois, Stephen Crane, Jack London and Mark Twain, this scholar-in-residence pro-

gram will include children's and adult workshops throughout the week. For complete schedules contact Mike Whiteford in Chadron, 308-432-4401 and Clark Kolterman in Seward, 402-643-6138, or the Nebraska Humanities Council, 402-474-2131.



## The Nebraska Center for the Book

*Ron Norman, Kearney, Nebraska*

I begin with an assumption and a belief: the assumption is that Nebraska librarians and school media specialists know the Book and what its purpose is; and the belief is that Nebraska librarians and school media specialists would benefit by being members of the Nebraska Center for the Book and by actively promoting it in their communities and work place.

For those who have some doubt as to what the Nebraska Center of the Book is all about, I can tell you that it is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word.

I'll repeat so there is absolutely no doubt about the reason for the existence of the Nebraska Center for the Book; it is a non-profit corporation whose purpose—whose sole purpose—is to stimulate public interest in books, reading and the written word.

To do this, the center serves as a partner and supporter of program, events, and unique projects which celebrate the book, reading, and the written word.

Since 1990, the center has participated in the sponsorship of, among other activities:

- the Nebraska Literature Festival which has been held successively on the campuses of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, at Kearney, at Lincoln, again at Omaha and in 1995 at Kearney;
- the Nebraska Writing and Storytelling

Festival held at the Southeast Community College campus in Lincoln in 1993 and the campus of the Northeast Community College in 1994;

- "Six Nebraska Authors; a Catalog of Commemorative Items and Resource Material;"
- Willa Cather Speaks: a one-woman production at the Nebraska Veterans Home in Grand Island;
- The Lila Wallace/Reader's Digest Grant for reading circles held in Ainsworth, Alliance, Beatrice, Bellevue, Broken Bow and Minden to discuss works of Nebraska's Big Six authors;
- The Share the Joy of Christmas Book Drive. In 1992, for example, the center, in cooperation with the Grand Island Lion's Club collected over 2,000 new and nearly-new used books for distribution to children of needy families; and in 1994 the Friends of the Kearney Public Library, with the assistance of the local Salvation Army in the distribution, collected over 500 new and nearly-used books.
- the distribution of the NCB Quarterly to all members.

It should be emphasized that the Center has been able to be a sponsor for these activities despite having an extremely limited budget. As of August 30, 1994, for exam-

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## The Nebraska Center for the Book

*continued from page 4*

ple, the Center's total resources were a little over \$12,000, of which \$5,000, was a Library of Congress grant and \$2,310 was dues.

The Nebraska Center for the Book is the 23rd state affiliate of the Library of Congress's National Center for the Book. It was dedicated in September, 1990, as the result of the efforts of several dozen librarians, readers, writers, booksellers, educators, scholars, radio and television broadcasters and public and private sector leaders under the leadership of Dick Allen, then with the Nebraska Library Commission. The members of this group had one purpose: to build the Nebraska community of the book. They received no compensation for their expenditure of time, efforts, and resources. They have done, and continue to do, what they do because of their belief in the power of books, reading, and the written word.

This is why I believe that all Nebraska librarians and school media specialists would benefit by being members of the Nebraska Center for the Book and by actively promoting the center in their communities and work places. Despite the wide variety of media and computer-related equipment which we all to some degree have and despite the on-going dire predictions regarding its fate, the book, reading, and the written word remain supreme.

Do you sometimes have the feeling, as I do, that countless numbers of lay people, that is those who are not librarians and school media specialists, continue to have

an almost mystical appreciation for the book? How many people do you think (including you the reader of these words) recall with great fondness books from their past and even books that have had a significant, even profound, influence on their lives?

If you, as I, respect and live the book and believe in the power of the written word and wish to be a part of efforts in Nebraska to promote and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word, this is what you can do: send your check for \$15.00 for an individual and/or \$25.00 for an organization made out to "Nebraska Center for the Book" to:

Nebraska Center for the Book  
%Lincoln City Libraries  
136 S 14th Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Also, seek out those in your community who share your feelings and beliefs and encourage them to become members, too.

*About the Author:* Ron Norman was formerly the Director of the Kearney Public Library and Information Center and had served libraries in a number of other capacities including that of NLA President.

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*"Some say space flight begins at the count-down. Others believe it begins at launch. And still others insist space flight begins in earth orbit. But for me, space flight began a long time ago. It began for me as a child on weekday evenings and Sunday afternoons in the reading rooms of my hometown libraries."*

*—Guion Bluford, Astronaut*



## Nebraska Center for the Book Programs

- *NBC Quarterly*  
*Literary events*  
*articles on Nebraska authors*  
*and literary programs in Nebraska*
- Nebraska Literature Festivals(Annual)  
*Omaha 1991, 1994*  
*Kearney 1992, 1995*  
*Lincoln 1993, 1996*  
*Preconference Programs for High*  
*Schools students*  
*Publication of Nebraska High School*  
*authors and Nebraska Poets*  
*Reader's Guide to Nebraska Authors*  
*Supplement for six additional*  
*Nebraska authors*  
*Promotional materials on Nebraska*
- Literary Map of Nebraska (Poster)
- Nebraska Writing and Storytelling  
Festival 1992, 1994
- Award Program  
*Jane Geske Award*  
*Mildred Bennett Award*
- Cooperative Programs with Six Authors'  
groups
- Nebraska Adult Literacy State  
Conference
- Panel Presentations:  
*Book selling*  
*Book discussion groups*
- Academic Freedom Coalition of  
Nebraska (AFCON)
- Christmas Gift Book Program
- Lila Wallace Grant 1994-95  
*Reading groups in six Nebraska Libraries*
- Speakers  
*Ron Hansen*  
*Tillie Olsen*  
*Ken Lincoln*  
*John Casey*  
*Morrie Tuttle (published talk)*
- Special Programs  
*Bonfire of Liberties*  
*Censorship Play*  
*"White Thunder" Benefit Play*

**FYI...The National Center for the Book is on the World Wide Web with a home page which links the user to:**

- The full text of the center's brochure,
- Articles about the center in LC's *Information Bulletin*
- A list of state centers with addresses, phone numbers and home pages where available,
- Publications list,
- Full text of the "Shape Your future—READ!" reading promotion brochure, and
- John Y. Cole's introduction in the *Community of the Book* (COB).

The home page address is: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/loc/cfbook>



## Summer Reading In Nebraska

Mary Jackson

As spring approaches, the tempo quickens in public libraries throughout Nebraska. Children's librarians are preparing for a major effort of their year — Summer Reading! Summer reading programs may mean recording the number of books read and rewarding the effort with a certificate in some communities. In other communities, storytelling and other special events such as craft programs and special presenters are tied to a theme. The state-wide summer reading theme for 1996 is *Peer Amid Books* and features ancient Egypt.

Summer reading programs are valuable to many groups and on more than one level. For children the program can ignite an ongoing love of reading as well as interest on a variety of subjects. Also, studies have indicated that children who are involved in a summer reading program are not as likely to regress in their reading skills during the summer when they are not receiving formal reading instruction. They return to the classroom with relatively little loss on reading level. In addition, summer reading programs provide social contact for children in isolated areas and offer opportunities for creative responses to problems, issues, and unfamiliar realities as depicted in books. Parents can feel assured that their children are engaged in wholesome, challenging programs and that there is balance between intellectual and physical develop-

ment for the child who takes swimming lessons or turns out for Little League.

For children's librarians the summer is an opportunity to persuade children of the pleasures of reading and books when the pressure of school and homework is removed, when children are likely to have some leisure time and reading, listening to stories, finding out about books are elective, relaxing activities rather than classroom obligations. For the entire library the children who are involved with the library during the summer will return to the classroom more ready to learn. In many communities partnerships and collaborations between businesses, service groups and the library to support summer reading result in increased community cohesion.

With few expectations, all public libraries in Nebraska adopt the same theme and enjoy the benefits of purchasing attractive posters, bookmarks, certificates and other incentives at discounted prices. A state-wide program has several advantages—reduced prices for material, more sharing of thematic ideas and, most important, children who split their time between the homes of divorced parents can find stability and continuity in participating in similar programs in different libraries. The first statewide theme was *Fantasy Summer* and the program has grown every year. In 1995 nearly 50,000 children discovered that *Adventure Begins at Camp Read-A-Lot* as

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## Summer Reading in Nebraska

*continued from page 6*

they participated in a variety of outdoor camp activities. And they read! — more than 600,000 books. Compare that to homeruns or laps swum. When summer ended, these children were recognized for reading success with a special certificate signed by Governor Ben Nelson.

Successful summer reading programs owe a considerable debt to community members who are generous with their time, money and talents. This summer a media director and her husband, who have visited Egypt, will be fascinating children in area libraries with their tales of Egyptian lore and culture. Storytellers will be telling about ancient Egyptian libraries in modern Nebraska libraries. Volunteers will be visiting with children about the books they've read. Such one-on-one interactions are one of the most valuable experiences a child

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### June 1 AFCON Meeting

The Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON) has planned an exploratory discussion between professionals in telecommunications and members of the AFCON Board on the effects of the new telecommunications legislation. The focus will be such issues as public access and involvement and local coverage and control. The meeting is open to the members of the Coalition, which includes NCB, and to the general public.

June 1, 1996 — 10:00 a.m.

Anderson Public Library,

Fremont and Touzalin, Lincoln, NE

For further information contact Bob Haller,  
402-472-1814 or haller@unlinfo.unl.edu.

can have after finishing a book. If you are interested in supporting the reading habits of Nebraska's future adults and taxpayers, call your local public library and ask how you can help with summer reading. If you would like to know more about summer reading programs in general, call Mary Jackson, Coordinator of Children's and Young Adult Services at the Nebraska Library Commission, 1-800-307-2665.

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### Ideas for shaping futures

#### For Individuals

- ▣ *Read while exercising on your bike or treadmill*
- ▣ *Read about possible careers*
- ▣ *Get a library card and use it*
- ▣ *Volunteer as a literacy tutor*
- ▣ *Give a book as a gift*
- ▣ *Read aloud to family and friends*
- ▣ *Recommend a favorite book to a friend*
- ▣ *Visit your local bookstore*
- ▣ *Join a book discussion group*

#### For Schools and Libraries

- ▣ *Sponsor career workshops*
- ▣ *Encourage personal recommendations of books worth reading*
- ▣ *Publicize and distribute lists of recommended books for readers of all ages*
- ▣ *Invite local authors and well-known personalities to speak about how reading has influenced their future*
- ▣ *Sponsor writing contest—for poems, stories, or descriptions of favorite books*
- ▣ *Use local newspapers to encourage reading and discussion of interesting topics*
- ▣ *Participate in National Young Reader's Day*

#### For Organizations

- ▣ *Use your newsletter to spread the word about the importance of reading*
- ▣ *Provide literacy training classes for employees*



# The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society

Annual Program Meeting  
June 7-9, 1996, Chadron State College

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society's annual program meeting, open to all members of the public, will be held this year from June 7 to 9 in Chadron. This year the Society will commemorate the 100th anniversary of Sandoz's birth by focusing the program activities on the author's first and best-known work, *Old Jules*. The featured speaker this year will be Roger Welsch, familiar to all Nebraskans as the state's foremost folklorist, author of numerous books, and regular contributor to PBS and CBS television. The three-day program will feature speakers from several disciplines—history, literature, folklore—to create a broad context for understanding and appreciating Sandoz's novel and the issues it raises, including the accomplishment and struggles of men and women on the Plains, past and present; domestic relations; the psychological demands of prairie life; responses to hardships; and the achievements of the human spirit in the face of adversities.

The program will begin at 5 p.m. on June 7 with a social hour and dinner at the Chadron Elks Club, followed by a readers' theater presentation of a dramatic adaptation of *Old Jules*, written by Mimi Loring of the Sandoz Society board of directors and featuring local readers in the parts of Mari, Jules, Jules' two wives (Mary and Henriette), and several area settlers.

The following morning, June 8, a day-long program will begin at 9 a.m. at the Chadron State College Student Center with Don Green, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Chadron State College, presenting a discussion of Sandoz's novel. At 10 a.m., Dan Holtz, Professor of English at Peru State College, will discuss music in Sandoz's work accompanying himself on his guitar. Barbara Rippey, of St. Mary's College of Omaha, will present a Nebraska Speakers' Bureau "living history" interpretation of Mari Sandoz, followed by a presentation by Evelyn Hisel, author of *Mari Sandoz: A Wildflower*, talking about Sandoz's life among her Sandhills neighbors.

The noon meal will be followed by the presentation of Betsy Downey, of Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington. Professor Downey will review Sandoz's place in historical writing and present a slide show of her own photographic images to illustrate Sandoz's relationship to the Great Plains. The afternoon's activities will culminate in a pre-dedication ceremony at the future home of the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, on the campus of Chadron State, and a public business meeting of the Society. The evening's programs will begin with a banquet in the Student Center Ballroom at 7 p.m., followed by the Fifth Annual Mari Sandoz Lecture delivered by Roger Welsch.

*continued on page 10*



## Book Parties Close Out Discussion Groups

Three book parties have been held to close the Nebraska Authors Discussion Groups sponsored by the Nebraska and National Center for the Book with support from the Lila Wallace Readers' Digest Fund. Special celebrations were held in Beatrice on November 16, 1995, Ainsworth, December 2, and Minden, December 10, 1995. Angela DeBolt was on hand at the Ainsworth party to autograph copies of the study guide.

In addition, book discussions were held at Alliance, Bellevue, and Broken Bow, with over 600 citizens participating at all sites. Each of the parties distributed study guides, *Nebraska Writers*, *Nebraska Readers* to the participants in the reading/discussion series. The study guide contains questions, anecdotes, and other information about the Nebraska authors studies.

According to Laureen Riedesel, coordinator of the project, the guide, prepared by the local leaders, represents the success of the various discussions groups, their ability to bring the state's literary heritage to life. Laureen hopes that the guide will encourage others to read and study Nebraska authors. Books and authors up for study included *My Antonia* (Cather), *Black Elk Speaks* (Neihardt), *Old Jules* (Sandoz), *A White Bird Flying* (Aldrich), *The Home Place* (Morris) and *Shingling the Fog and Other Plains Lies* (Welsch).



*Angela DeBolt signing her name to the study guide. Book party, Ainsworth Public Library.*

### **The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society** *continued from page 9*

On Sunday, June 9, participants are invited to take a tour of Sandoz country in the Sandhills region east of Chadron, accompanied by knowledgeable local guides.

Anyone who would like more information about the program, including registration materials, may write to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society in care of the School of Liberal Arts at Chadron State College or may contact Andrew Elkins (308-432-6307; email: aelkins@csc1.csc.edu) or Don Green (308-432-6276; email: dgreen@csc1.csc.edu). The program is made possible in part through the support of Chadron State College and the Nebraska Humanities Council.



## 9th Annual Storytelling Festival of Nebraska

People of all ages share a common thread: our lives are made up of stories. In a tribute to this oral tradition, the 9th Annual Storytelling Festival of Nebraska is offering a wide variety of events at the College of Saint Mary in June 21, 22 and 23, guaranteed to enthrall, entertain and enlighten. The line-up of talent features six nationally recognized storytellers and 26 wonderful regional tellers.

On Friday afternoon, June 21, there will be workshops at 1:45 and 3:30 p.m. That evening regional tellers will present a "Family Showcase" of stories from 7:00-9:15 p.m., followed by the ever-popular "Ghosting" by the guest tellers held, weather permitting, in the moonlight. Dry site available in case of rain. We're expecting a bumper crop of tall tales, ghosties, traditional tales, personal stories, and some special stories for and by kids. Yes, this is the Festival for kids! This is our first year to feature student tellers, and we are excited about it.

And there is to be an expanded time and space for impromptu story swapping in addition to the scheduled tellings—just the right combination for all ages to be recognized for those wonderful stories only they know how to tell. Three days and two nights of stories to keep your mind in its most imaginative gear. And then the Festival will disappear again, but the memories of the stories will linger on.

Saturday's offerings promise two morning workshops and an afternoon of options: the Children's Festival with 2 hours of storytelling for kids beginning at 1:30, the

Adult Olio with regional tellers at 1:30 and 3:00 p.m., and the Swapping Ground with an opportunity for anyone to try her/his hand at telling at 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. Saturday night gives audiences a chance to hear the guest tellers sharing stories for adults at 7:30 p.m.

On Sunday, after guest teller appearances at local morning worship centers, the Festival will conclude with these same folks telling Sacred Stories for Families from 2:00-4:15 p.m.

Regular prices are \$70 for full weekend registration. Prices at the door for concerts are \$5/adults, \$4/seniors and \$3/children. Call 402-498-9129 for group rates and group ticket reservations.

### Nebraska Literature Festival 1996

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 1996 Nebraska Literature Festival. Plans are underway for a high school day on September 20th with the festival taking place on the 21st.

**That's September 20-21, 1996!**

Contact Cindy Schneider  
UNL Department of English  
for further information (402)

472-1817



**Help us celebrate the written word by joining the Nebraska Center for the Book.**  
**Application for Membership:**  Individual Membership  Organizational Membership  
 Renewal  New

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

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

Home Telephone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Will you serve on a committee?  Yes  No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Individuals please enclose a check in the amount of \$15.00 made out to "Nebraska Center for the Book."  
Organizations 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**

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