

# NCB Quarterly

Nebraska Center for the Book

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Summer 1996

No. 3

SEATTLE ARCHIVES

## Nebraska Literature Festival 1996



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## 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
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## Nebraska Center for the Book Board of Directors Meetings 1995

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

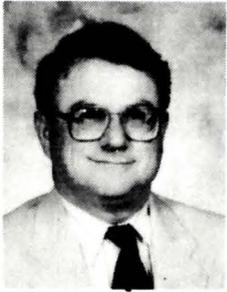
November 7, 1996, Heritage Room, Lincoln City Library.

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

Dear NCB member,  
I hope that you are having a good summer and have caught up on some reading. I have used part of the summer to read recent books on the Civil War and reread

some of John le Carre's spy novels. It is good to be able to revisit some old friends and to meet new authors.

I expect that you are looking forward to another exciting Nebraska Literature Festival. Many details on the Festival are included in this issue of the Quarterly. The Festival committee has done an excellent job of planning a diverse and enjoyable program. After you have read over the program descriptions, I am sure that you will agree that this is a Festival too good to miss. I hope that you will be able to attend.

I especially would like to note that John Cole, head of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, is going to attend

the Literature Festival and give a presentation on the Center for the Book. This would be an excellent opportunity to meet John and learn more about the national programs for the Center for the Book.

In thanking the Festival committee, I want to point out how much work is done for the Nebraska Center for the Book by the Board and various committees. The many successful programs and activities that the NCB has sponsored over the years are testament to the work of the volunteers who have stepped forward to help. I would like to invite and encourage you to play a greater role in the NCB. This fall we will be looking for new board members and the various committees need volunteers. If you are interested in finding out how you could help, contact me or any other Board member.

Let's plan to meet at the Literature Festival in Lincoln.

Tom B

### Nebraska Literature Festival

Friday, September 20 4:00 p.m.

Late Afternoon Roundtable Workshops

Wagon Train Project, 512 South 7th Street in Lincoln

Saturday, September 21 - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Workshops, Book Fair, Sandoz 100th Anniversary Celebration  
VN-L East Campus Union - 37th & Fair Street



# In Our Own Write: The 1996 Nebraska Literature Festival

— *Cynthia A. Schneider*

**T**he University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus Union and Lincoln's Wagon Train Project will be the locations of the Sixth Annual Nebraska Literature Festival. The two-day Festival begins on Friday, September 20, with the Nebraska High School Day. Nearly fifty high schools from across Nebraska have already preregistered teachers and students to attend writing and performing workshops, related in a variety of ways to Nebraska Literature and led by many prominent Nebraska authors and teachers. For information, call (402) 472-1817.

Late Friday afternoon, after the High School Day is complete, the Festival moves to the Wagon Train Project, 512 South 7th Street in Lincoln. Festival participants will preregister via the program brochure for one of 18 roundtable workshops/discussion groups to be held in the Wagon Train's newly renovated loft. Workshops include Grace Bauer's "Finding your Voice Among Others: Writing the Dramatic Monologue/Persona Poem" and Steve Buhler's "Nebraska Poetry in Performance." Kimberly Calvillo, who teaches at the Nebraska Indian Community College, will lead "Respecting Oral Traditions in Writing," while Art Homer will discuss "How I Wrote a Book." John Janovy, internationally recognized author and biologist, will help participants make discoveries

about "Nature Writing: What is It?" Those who enroll in "Nebraska Nightly" reporter Carolyn Johnsen's session, "Sound Writing," will connect the written word with the dynamics of the spoken voice. Author and vocalist Annette Murrell will conduct a workshop on "Freeing the Writer Within." Other leaders include Leon Satterfield, Marly Swick, Paul Eggers, Jim King, John Pepitone, Kay Walter, Sandra Yانونe, and Fredrick Zydek. The workshops will run from 4:00 to 5:30, followed by informal readings and performances by the leaders, lasting about two hours. Hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available.

All festival activities for Saturday, September 21, will take place at the East Campus Union. Registration opens at 8:00 and sessions start at 9:00 a.m. The book fair, always a central part of the Festival, promises to be a fine event again this year. Along with the vendors who sell specialized regional literature, several authors will do book signings. At other tables, local crafts people demonstrate book binding and Nebraska organizations will distribute information and answer questions about volunteering for literacy programs. The Nebraska English Language Council (NELAC) will have the Nebraska Map of Literary Authors for sale, the American

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## In Our Own Write: The 1996 Nebraska Literature Festival

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Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON) will have information about their work on behalf of intellectual freedom, established writing groups will explain how to join them, and many more literary and literacy organizations will be represented. Space is still available at the information tables, so please contact the Festival Director if your group would like to participate.

The Cottonwood Room is the location for this year's Twelve Nebraska Authors Reading Series. Participants will include Susan Aizenberg, Shirley Buettner, Michael Cartwright, Richard Dooling, Norberto Gerardo, Lisa Knopp, Mordecai Marcus, Constance Merritt, Bob Ross, and Craig Womack.

The speakers for the Aldrich, Cather, Eiseley, Morris, Neihardt author groups make up the heart of the festival sessions, and the Saturday luncheon commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Mari Sandoz will also honor the winner of the 1996 Mildred Bennett Award. Other sessions will include Moira Ferguson and "Midwest Women Writers: Friends of China;" Cowboy Poetry of Western Nebraska; and Bob Haller speaking on Francis La Fleshe and his contributions to the preservation of Omaha Indian Heritage.

There will be workshops by romance writer Chery Griffin, children's author Nancy Wager, and journal writer David Martin. Ben Salazar, editor of *Nuestro Mundo* Spanish/English Newspaper, and Keiko Ujikain, reporter for USA ASIAN

Publications, will conduct sessions that explore Nebraska newspapers as literary texts. We'll also showcase Nebraska cowboy poets Deb Carpenter, Mary Rose Randall, and Joel Randall; The Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors; and a panel of three Nebraskans who have recently published books with the University of Nebraska Press. Lela Knox Shanks, also with a recent book published by the Press, will speak on her experiences in writing "Your Name is Hughes Hannibal Shanks." Speakers from the Estuary Bookstore, DuPlay Booksellers, and J & L Books will make up a panel that explores the business side of readership for Nebraska authors.

The Festival offers several opportunities to learn more about Plains-based literature for children. Carla Rosenquist-Buhler will present "Images of the Plains in Children's Literature." Thanks to the Library Power Initiative, Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, a target author for Lincoln Public Schools, will read from her picture books, describe the process of writing them, and be available after this session for book-signings.

The Festival is also honored to present John Cole, Director of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. Dr. Cole will outline the Center's major literary programs and answer questions about the Centers for the Book located across the country. Thomas Boyle, President of the Nebraska Center for the Book, will chair the session.

Finally, a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres reception for all participants will be held in the Great Plains Room from 5:30 to 7:00.

*continued on page 6*



## Inauguration of the First Governor's Lecture in the Humanities

September 19, 1996 will inaugurate the first Governor's Lecture in the Humanities and features Nebraska native, Ted Sorensen. Author of a new best selling book, Sorensen is best-known as a member of the John F. Kennedy administration and as an historian of Kennedy. In addition to the present-

tation by Sorensen, the Nebraska Humanities Council will award its Sowers Award to an outstanding community, individual, and organization. For further information about the Sowers Award Reception, contact the NHC at 215 Centennial Mall South, #225, Lincoln, NE 68508: 402-474-2131.

## New Nebraska Literary Map Available

As a special project of the Nebraska English Language Arts Council, Gerry Cox and Carol Gulyas coordinated a new literary map highlighted by Nebraska's wildflowers. This beautiful map will soon appear in a Library of Congress publication and is sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council, the Nebraska Center for the Book, and Nebraska Tourism.

Maps are available in Lincoln at the Heritage Room of Bennett Martin Public Library, Lee's Booksellers, Nebraska Bookstore, and the Way Home Bookstore.

To order by mail, write NELAC at P.O. Box 83944, Lincoln, NE 68501-2944.

### **In Our Own Write: The 1996 Nebraska Literature Festival**

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We invite you to stay and listen to Jim Cidlik play jazz piano, meet the day's presenters and authors, and talk to both old friends and new.

Sponsors for the 1996 Festival include the

Nebraska Center for the Book, the Lincoln Journal-Star, the Nebraska Humanities Council, Ameritas, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Lincoln Public Schools Foundation/Library Power Initiative. Please direct questions or requests for registration forms to the Festival Coordinator at (402) 472-1817.



# Grasslands & Heartlands: Remembering and Representing the Great Plains in History and Literature: October 2-5, 1996

## *Joint Conference Information*

This joint meeting of the Western History Association and Western Literature Association provides a unique opportunity for members of each group to engage in a lively intellectual exchange while also just getting to know each other better. From the joint welcoming reception on Wednesday to the joint tours on Saturday, registered members of each organization should feel free to attend any session or event at either conference. The WHA headquarters hotel will be the Cornhusker and the WLA will be meeting six blocks away at the Ramada Plaza.

Complete WLA conference programs will be available at WHA conference registration. If you wish to sign up for a ticketed WLA function or want a summary of the WLA activities, you may request a WLA program and registration materials in August by writing Susanne K. George, English Department, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, Nebraska 68849-1320. E-mail: georges@platte.unk.edu. There will be no need to pay an additional conference registration fee, only the actual ticket price. Preference will be given to WLA members but WHA members will be accommodated if space is available. Similarly, WHA conference programs will be available to WLA members at conference registration or by request.

There will be four joint program sessions —

two at the Ramada Plaza and two at the Cornhusker. Shuttles will run between the Cornhusker and the Ramada Plaza before and after each of the four joint sessions, as well as for the welcoming reception on Wednesday evening.

Attention should be drawn to several events of special interest to conference attendees. On Tuesday, October 1, at 7:30 p.m. Brian Dippie will lecture on the sculptures of Charles M. Russell in conjunction with a Russell exhibit at the Great Plains Art Collection on the University of Nebraska campus. On Friday, October 4, immediately following the joint session History and Literature: A Round Table Discussion, there will be a booksigning for all the participants in the joint sessions as well as the presidents and presidents-elect of the WHA and the WLA. The booksigning will be run by the Nebraska Bookstore. More details on this special event will be available at conference registration.

We know we always tell you to register early, but this time we really mean it. If we have conference registration anywhere near the numbers who were at Albuquerque and Denver we will be hard pressed to accommodate everyone. Please get your conference registration and hotel reservations in as early as possible. We look forward to seeing everyone in Lincoln for an exciting and lively meeting.

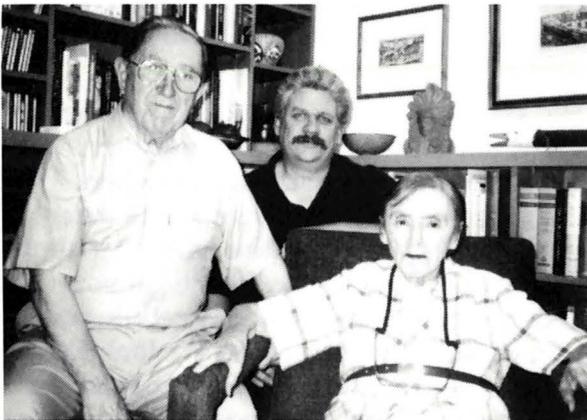


## Three Nebraska Booksellers

by Dick Allen

Just as books vary in format, Nebraska booksellers vary operations: new books or used books; a retail store or out of their homes; year-round operation or periodical sales. The three booksellers portrayed here illustrate these variations. They will be appearing as panelists at the 1995 Nebraska Literature Festival to discuss "Buying and Selling Nebraska Authors."

**Niobrara Book and Art Services**, Lincoln, was started in Norman and Jane Geske's home in 1982. This was just before Norman retired from his position as Director of the Sheldon Gallery, UNL, and after Jane had left the Nebraska Library Commission with two terms as Director. Michael Hare, who has University of Nebraska-Lincoln credentials in Valuation Services, joined the Geskes in 1986. Estuary Books, which opened as a retail outlet in Lincoln's Haymarket in 1986, will be closing, but Nio-



Norman Geske, Michael Dare, Jane Geske

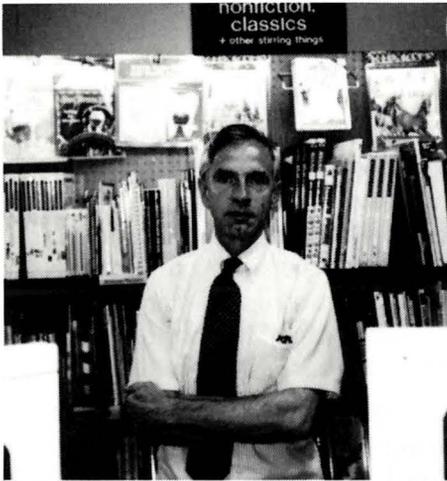
brara Book and Art Services will continue from the Geske's and Hare's residences. "Our specialties in the used book field will remain Nebraska authors, Irish authors, children's books, and general literature. In addition, we will continue to provide book searches as well as appraisals of books and art (private, academic, and institutional holdings)," said Norman Geske. It should be mentioned that Jane Geske was instrumental in bringing about the creation of the Nebraska Center for the Book. One of the Center's two annual awards is the "Jane Geske Award," which is given to a Nebraska organization or institution that has made significant contributions to the causes of literacy, reading, and "the community of the book."

**Lee Booksellers** with three Lincoln locations (East Park, 66th and O Streets, 402-467-4416; Piedmont Shops, Cotner and A Streets, 402-488-4416; and Edgewood Center, 56th and Hwy.. 2, 402-420-1919) is owned and operated by Jim McKee and Linda Hillegass. "Since both of our middle names are 'Lee', that is the name we chose," Jim said. The business was begun in 1978; there have been a number of changes over the years, resulting in the present configuration of three stores. The stores stock general, new books; the largest inventory is at the Edgewood Center. Emphases are on children's books, science fic-

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Three Nebraska Booksellers *continued from page 6*



*Jim McKee*

tion, travel, and current magazines. Jim has been in the book and publishing business (J & L Lee Co.) in Lincoln since 1963. He is also widely known for his knowledge of Nebraska and Lincoln history. Linda, a professional librarian, formerly Assistant Director, Lincoln City Libraries, is very interested in gardening and has just finished the first draft of a book on gardening in a climate like Ne-



*Linda Hillegass*

braska's. Lee Booksellers offers a free book club, has a knowledgeable staff (some 30), and will order any book in print.



*Donald N. Dupley*

**Donald N. Dupley, Book Dealer, Omaha (402-393-2906)** limits his used book selling to two book fairs per year. These are regularly held on weekends in rented space at the Holiday Inn Central, 72nd and Grover, Omaha. Dates for 1997 are January 25-26 and July 26-27. Some 6000 books are divided into 24 categories at the fairs; the largest of these, fiction, is followed by Nebraska history and Western Americana. Some 25 percent of sales are made to other book dealers from Nebraska and surrounding states. Of the 500 persons on Don's mailing list, about half of these will be seen waiting for the Saturday 10:00 a.m. "bell" for the fair to open. "Our book sales are unique; there is no other operation like this anywhere else in the country," Don said. He added that he once worked for the famous Shorey Bookstore in Seattle.

This later led to his own special method of selling used books in 1964. That was 32 years ago and has meant setting up many a book fair for Don and his wife Marilyn. Don is a book collector in his own right with special interests in Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Aldous Huxley, and Robertson Davies.



## Magic

Jude Richardson

I am sitting in my first graduate class. The professor tells us, "Define 'reading' in twenty-five words or less." My classmates begin diligently scribbling around me. Apparently I am the only one dumb! Oh, pain and humiliation, he is going around the class, randomly asking for responses. My classmates are proudly reciting impressive, lengthy definitions with words like "morpheme" and "phoneme." I try to shrink. He calls on me. I quietly read my one-word answer: "magic."

Since that day I have had the good fortune to see the impact literacy has in the lives of people, young and old. I have seen the pride and humiliation attached to the ability to read. I have seen lives change dramatically because of this skill so many of us take for granted.

I was a literacy volunteer and worked with a woman my age with twice as many children. Her husband threatened her each time we met saying she, "didn't need to go gettin' any smarter than anybody else around here." Her two goals were, to be able to read the notes her kids brought home and move up to a waitress job at the diner where she was a dishwasher.

Soon we were meeting in her trailer when her husband was on the road. This is where we stumbled on her key. She had been struggling with the phonetic step-by-step materials provided by Project Literacy. Each meeting I would hear her recite

how stupid she was and how she "couldn't never learn." I was close to believing it when her eight year old began fixing supper. I had an idea! I asked her to "read" the front of the macaroni and cheese box. She did, protesting that, "It's not reading, it's cheating."

"That's what reading is," I answered. We began scouring the kitchen for labels she could read and used them to uncover the sounds connected to the letters. We moved to cutting out labels from the paper and ultimately to words on a page. Eventually, she started keeping a journal and wrote her first letter home. She brought in a letter from a brother she hadn't seen in years and cried as she read it to me.

I have many more stories...children struggling to find their key to understanding, another whose first experience with death is softened by Katherine Paterson's *Bridge to Terabithia*, a fifty year old who beams saying, "This is the first book I ever read all the way through, do ya know any other ones?"

When someone learns to read, they learn to see themselves with new eyes. They are more powerful; they have an impact on the world. Today, after years of experience and official papers declaring my expertise in the area, if that professor asked me to define reading, I would be more assertive and knowledgeable as I would write: "magic."



## Girl Scouts Debut the Nebraska Women Authors Patch

Homestead Girl Scout Council is pleased to announce the debut of our newest Council Patch Program — the Nebraska Women Authors patch. This year we are featuring Bess Streeter Aldrich.

Required activities include visiting the Bess Streeter Aldrich House and Museum in Elmwood, NE and reading some of her writing. The Girl Scouts will also have number of age appropriate activities including the following: a rubbing of Bess Streeter Aldrich's grave; drawing a picture of a scene from a Aldrich book or short story; visiting a library and creating a list of all of Aldrich's books; reading a biography written about Aldrich; and writing a short story and sharing it at a troop meeting.

Carol Miles Peterson, author of Bess Streeter Aldrich and speaker for the Nebraska Humanities Council, was on hand in Elmwood during our kickoff event for this Patch Program. She tailored her presentation toward her audience of first through sixth grade girls. She shared information about her resource process, told anecdotes about Bess Streeter Aldrich, and signed autographs for many of the participants.

More than 85 Girl Scouts visited Elmwood and completed the patch requirements.

If you would like more information about this patch, please contact Lorri Kentner by phone at 402-476-7539 or 1-800-487-2578 and by e-mail at [bkentner@inetnebr.com](mailto:bkentner@inetnebr.com).

## “Singing For a New Dawn” celebrated freedom of expression and cultural renewal in Africa

The new dawn of democracy began in 1994 with the elections which reversed 30 years of brutal dictatorship. During the harsh years of repression, some of Malawi's writers and artists were imprisoned, silenced, exiled and even killed. Malawi became culturally, educationally and socially isolated from the rest of Africa and the world.

*Singing for a New Dawn* was held July 15-17 and aimed at fostering the end of Malawi's cultural isolation, helping effect the reconciliation of Malawi's writers, and focusing energy and attention on remedying the

country's high illiteracy rate. NCB's Board member Frank Chipasula attended this conference.

The Literary festival celebrated the resilience of Malawian writers, their creativity and its products. Such an event was impossible during the years of the oppressive first republic. Literature, often labeled subversive, had to be “smuggled” clandestinely into cultural shows or art festivals, for fear of reprisals. Now, literature is free to stand on its own platform and openly perform its once subversive acts.



**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  
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