



The NCB News

Volume 19

Fall 2009

No. 2

A Publication of the Nebraska Center for the Book

Join Us in Lincoln for the 2009 Nebraska Book Festival

NEBRASKA AUTHORS whose books have been or will be published in 2009 will read from their works at the Nebraska Book Festival. After each reading, there will be a question-and-answer period.

Authors attending will be:

J.V. Brummels
Sean Doolittle
Kelly Madigan Erlandson
Michael Forsberg
Allison Hedge Coke
William Kloefkorn
Ted Kooser
Harley Jane Kozak
The Loren Eiseley Society
Teresa Lorenson
Mary Pipher
Ladette Randolph
Hilda Raz
Don Welch
Stephanie Grace Whitson

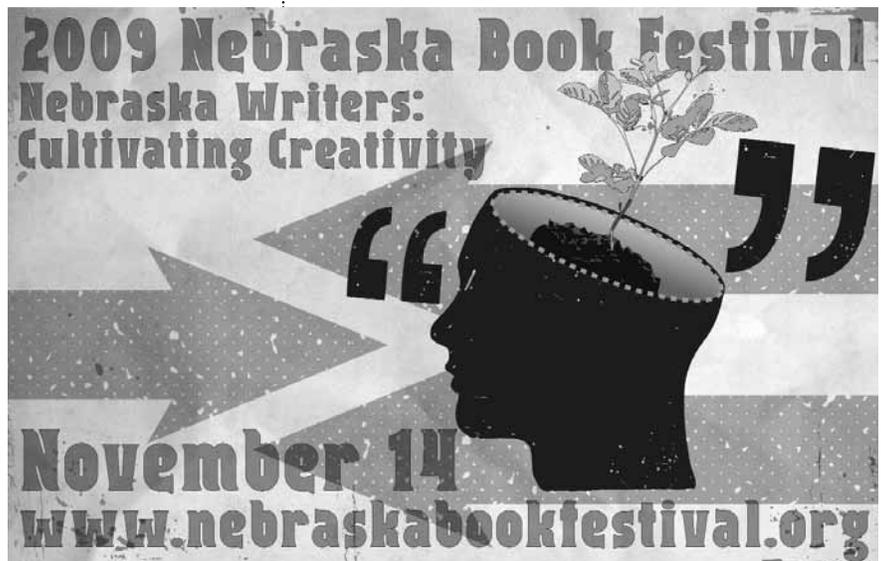
The Nebraska Writers: Cultivating Creativity 2009 Nebraska Book Festival will be held at the Nebraska State Historical Society's Nebraska History Museum, 15th and P Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska, on November 14, 2009.

The festival will include a variety of literary activities. An awards luncheon will honor the winners of the Center for the Book's Mildred Bennett Award, Jane Geske Award, and Nebraska Book Awards. A selection of Nebraska writers will read from their 2009 works, along with readings from the winners of the Nebraska Book Awards. Writers' workshops will be offered free of charge. Teresa Lorenson of the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation will lead a book discussion of Aldrich's *A Lantern in Her Hand*, this year's enormously popular One Book One Nebraska selection.

A Conversation with Three Poets will give Nebraska poets Ted Kooser, Bill Kloefkorn, and Don Welch the opportunity to share insights on reading and writing poetry. These long-time members of an intentional writing community will share insights on how they have supported each other's work through the years. Additional Nebraska author activities and plans for vendors are in the works.

Nebraska Book Festival events and activities are free and open to the public. Pre-registration is recommended for the writers' workshops. Festival luncheon tickets (advance purchase only) are \$12.

The Festival is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Commission, and the Nebraska



State Historical Society, with additional support from Duncan Family Trust, Lee Booksellers, Nebraska Arts Council, Prairie Fire Newspaper, Woods Charitable Fund, and University of Nebraska Press.

For more information see www.nebraskabookfestival.org or contact Mary Jo Ryan at 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665, e-mail: maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov.

Nebraska Center for the Book Annual Meeting Set for November 14

The annual meeting of the Nebraska Center for the Book, open to all members, will be held in conjunction with the Nebraska Center for the Book board meeting. The 2009 annual meeting will be held immediately prior to the Nebraska Book Festival on November 14. NCB members are invited to join the

board for this meeting and enjoy the book festival when the meeting adjourns.

When: Saturday, November 14, 2008, 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Where: Nebraska State Historical Society's Nebraska History Museum, 15th and P Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska

National Book Festival is Fabulous!

Guest Editorial
by
Sherry Houston,
Republican Valley
Library System
and Nebraska
Center for the
Book Treasurer

A warning bell should have sounded when Carol Connor, retired Director of Lincoln City Libraries, said she could not attend the National Book Festival since she couldn't stand as long as was required for the day. But I was thrilled to have a chance to go to Washington, D.C.; so I volunteered. I had read that the Obamas were the honorary chair people and I thought perhaps I would get to glimpse them, and I was totally interested in what Michelle would be wearing as well as their keynote! Mary Jo Ryan just raised her eyebrows when I said I wanted to hear the Obamas. She said, "But, you will be working." I still did not understand the magnitude of what I was going to be doing, but I made my reservations and flew to Washington, D.C.

Saturday morning, Mary Jo, Devra Dragos, and I arrived at the Washington Mall (the park area

between 7th and 14th Streets) and set up our Nebraska display, complete with bookmarks promoting Nebraska authors, pencils, maps, and the biggest hit—crayons made with Nebraska soybeans. People were already milling about even though it wasn't supposed to start for another hour, but we went to work anyway. We stamped a windmill on a United States map on the Nebraska spot and handed out our goodies, talked to people about Nebraska authors, cities, football, and other Nebraska-related topics.

And the people kept coming, and kept coming, and kept coming. Noted authors of all genres were in the other tents speaking about their books, and the people kept coming. So I didn't hear any famous authors, I didn't see the Obamas—they were at the G20 summit (what did Michelle wear?). But I did see people who were thrilled to talk about authors and reading and literature of all sorts. The latest figures estimated that 130,000 people came to hear authors, have books signed, look at the states' tables, think about books, and just wander the grounds. What a tribute to literature and reading!

Laura Bush started this festival seven years ago and I want to write her a fan letter. Everything was done just right. There wasn't much for sale, there was hardly any technology, there were just authors and books and people of all shapes and sizes, young and old, and lots of children who wanted to **see** and **hear** and **be near** authors and books. It was fabulous!



(l. to r.) Mary Jo Ryan, IMLS Director
Dr. Anne-Imelda Radice, Sherry Houston, and Devra Dragos at the Nebraska booth.

This publication is made possible by Library Services and Technology Act funding through the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

The NCB News

Vol. 19 • Fall 2009 • No. 2

Nebraska Center for the Book Board and Committees

Executive Committee

Garry Alkire, President; Sharon Bishop, Vice-President (and Past-President); Carol Connor, Secretary; Sherry Houston, Treasurer

Funding/Membership

Sherry Houston, Chair; Guadalupe Mier; Carol Connor

Nebraska Book Festival

Garry Alkire, Chair; J.V. Brummels; Erika Hamilton; Marge Saiser; Maggie Tarelli-Falcon; Mary Jo Ryan (Nebraska Library Commission staff representative)

Programs/Projects

Sharon Bishop, Chair; Becky Faber; Ellen Scott; Carolyn Clark

Publications/Publicity

Mary Ellen Ducey; Molly Fisher; Mary Jo Ryan (Nebraska Library Commission staff representative)

Awards Art Coordinator

Denise Brady

Letters About Literature Coordinator

Laureen Reidesel

Nebraska Library Commission Director

Rod Wagner is an ex-officio member of all committees.

2009 Nebraska Center for the Book Board Meetings

May 16 Grand Island Public Library
August 8 Scottsbluff, Western Nebraska Community College
November 14 Lincoln, Annual Meeting, 8:00 a.m., Nebraska State Historical Society

Advertising

The NCB News can accept up to four 1/8-page ads for each issue. The advertising rate is \$125 for 1/8-page. NCB News is issued May 1, August 15, and November 1. The advertising and copy deadline is six weeks prior to issue date. For details, contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Center for the Book, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023; phone 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov. www.unl.edu/NCB.

The NCB News is published three times each year by the Nebraska Center for the Book, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023. Subscription is free with membership.

Editor:
Design and Production: Reynold Peterson
Staff: Mary Jo Ryan, Nancy Evans Hammel, David Eckmann, Janet Greser
All book cover art and photos reprinted by permission of the publisher.

Students Invited to Write to Authors

Young readers in grades 4 – 12 are invited to write a personal letter to an author for Letters About Literature, a national letter-writing competition. The letter can be to any author (living or dead) from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic—explaining how that author’s work changed the student’s view of the world. The reading and writing promotion is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership with Target. In Nebraska, Letters About Literature (LAL) is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Library Commission, with support from Houchen Bindery Ltd. and Lee Booksellers.

Letters About Literature awards both state and national prizes on three competition levels: Level 1

for grades 4 – 6; Level 2 for grades 7 – 8; and Level 3 for grades 9 – 12. National winners receive cash awards and grants for their local libraries. Nebraska winners are honored in a proclamation-signing ceremony during National Library Week and receive cash awards and gift certificates.

Teachers, librarians, and parents can download free teaching materials on reader response and reflective writing at www.lettersaboutliterature.org. Submissions must be postmarked by December 12, 2009. State winners will be notified in March 2010 and national winners by mid-April. Nebraska-specific information (including letters from Nebraska winners of past contests) is available at www.nlc.nebraska.gov/publications/lal/aboutcontest.html.

Author Tours Nebraska Schools, Libraries

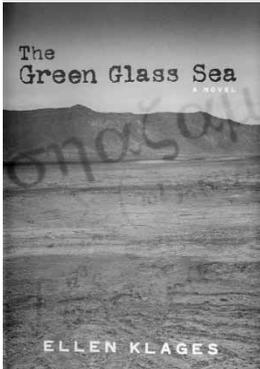
Ellen Klages, author of *The Green Glass Sea*, the current One Book for Nebraska Kids selection, toured Nebraska in October and visited with school and public library students and customers. *The Green Glass Sea* tells the story of 11-year-old Dewey Kerrigan, who travels to New Mexico in 1943 and meets up with her father, who lives on a secret base and is working on a top secret project with a number of other scientists, including J. Robert Oppenheimer.

Klages’ visit helped emphasize that reading is fun and can also spark questions about history, science, family situations, and life.

During her weeklong visit, she spoke to students and library customers in Kimball, Scottsbluff, Mitchell,

North Platte, Gothenburg, Grand Island, Hastings, Seward, Plattsmouth, Prague, Clarkson, Wayne, West Point, Scribner, Louisville, Elmwood, Norfolk, and Omaha. In Lincoln, she spoke and signed books at Lee Booksellers.

The program was presented by the Nebraska Library Commission in cooperation with the Nebraska Regional Library Systems, funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. This project was supported in part by the United States Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.



What is the Nebraska Center for the Book?

The Nebraska Center for the Book brings together the state’s readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book. We are the people who know and love books, and who value the richness they bring to our lives. Our

Nebraska Center supports programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. We have been an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress since 1990.

Join the Nebraska Center for the Book

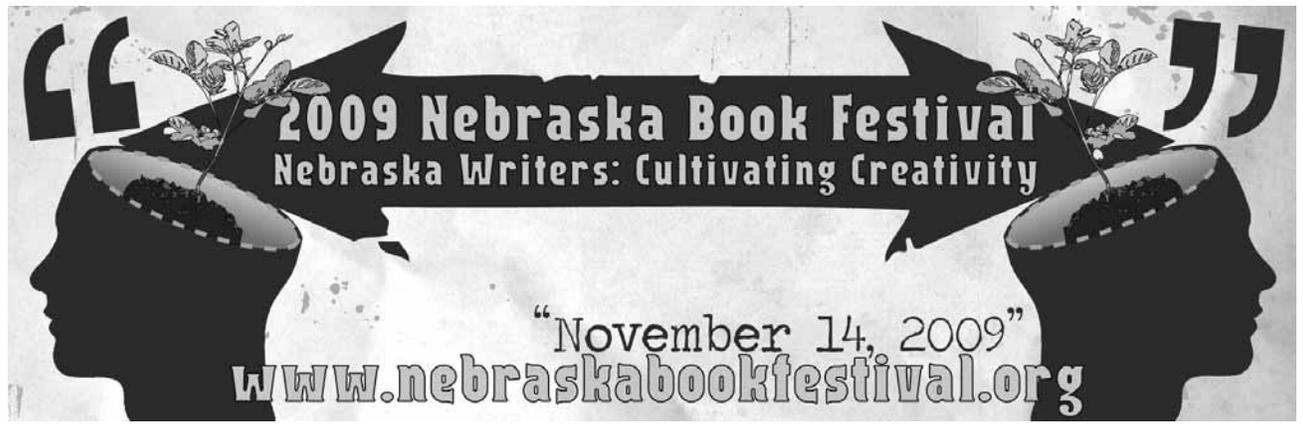
Name _____ Address _____
 Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Name/address of a friend who might be interested in NCB membership:

___ \$15 Individual Membership ___ \$25 Organizational Membership ___ \$50 Octavo Membership
 ___ \$100 Quarto Membership ___ \$250 Folio Membership

**Please send this form and a check to: Nebraska Center for the Book
 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120 • Lincoln, NE 68508-2023**





Schedule of Events

Nebraska State Historical Society's Nebraska History Museum, 15th and P Streets, Lincoln

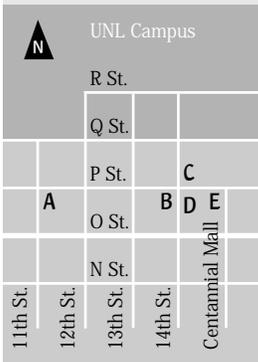
Time	Auditorium	Investigation Station	Gilmore Room	Lobby
8:00 a.m.			NCB Annual Meeting (8:00 - 9:00)	Registration (8:30 - 9:00)
8:30				
9:00	New Works in 2009: Readings by Nebraska Writers	New Works in 2009: Readings by Nebraska Writers	Writers' Workshop I Kelly Madigan Erlandson (9:00 - 11:00)	Registration, Vendors, Exhibitors, Author Signings, Talk Back Board (9:00 - 11:15)
9:30	Mary Pipher (9:15 - 9:45)	Hilda Raz (9:15 - 9:45)		
10:00	Harley Jane Kozak (10:00 - 10:30)	Loren Eiseley Society (10:00 - 10:30)		
10:30	Michael Forsberg (10:45 - 11:15)	Sean Doolittle (10:45 - 11:15)		
11:00				
11:30	Celebrating Creativity through Literature			
Noon	Festival Luncheon @ Chez Hay, 210 N. 14th Street			
12:30 p.m.	Nebraska Book Awards, Mildred Bennett Award, Jane Geske Award, Readings by Nebraska Book Award Winners (11:30 am - 1:30 pm)			
1:00				
1:30				
2:00	Roundtable Discussion with Nebraska Poets			Registration, Vendors, Exhibitors, Author Signings, Talk Back Board (2:00 - 5:00)
2:30	(2:00 - 3:00)			
3:00	New Works in 2009: Readings by Nebraska Writers	New Works in 2009: Readings by Nebraska Writers	Writers' Workshop II Harley Jane Kozak (3:15 - 5:15)	
3:30	Allison Hedge Coke (3:15 - 3:45)	Ladette Randolph (3:15 - 3:45)		
4:00	One Book One Nebraska Discussion	J.V. Brummels (4:00 - 4:30)		
4:30	(4:00 - 5:00)	Stephanie Grace Whitson (4:45 - 5:15)		
5:00				
5:30				
6:00	Hosted Readings			
6:30	@ nuVibe Juice & Java, 126 N. 14th St. Invited writers read from their works (6:00 - 8:00)			
7:00	Open mic with writers' workshop students and other writers (8:00 - ?)			
7:30				
8:00				

2009 Nebraska Book Festival

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THIS YEAR'S SPONSORS:

- Nebraska Center for the Book
- Nebraska Humanities Council
- Nebraska Library Commission
- Nebraska State Historical Society
- Duncan Family Trust
- Lee Booksellers
- University of Nebraska Press
- Woods Charitable Fund
- Prairie Fire Newspaper
- Nebraska Arts Council

FESTIVAL MAP



- A - Parking Garage
- B - Parking Garage
- C - Chez Hay
- D - nuVibe
- E - Nebraska State Historical Society Nebraska History Museum

Our Presenters

J.V. Brummels is a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship and the Mildred Bennett Award for contributions to the literature of Nebraska. A member of the English Department of Wayne State College, he has directed the Plains Writers Series, edited *Nebraska Territory*, is an independent publisher, and runs a horseback cattle operation.

Sean Doolittle grew up in southeastern Nebraska. He is the award-winning author of *Dirt, Burn, Rain Dogs*, and *The Cleanup*. Doolittle was named the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association Honorary Author Member for 2007-08. He holds a Master of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he won the Mari Sandoz Prize for his fiction.

Kelly Madigan Erlandson (Workshop Facilitator) has worked since 1983 as a drug and alcohol counselor and is the award-winning author of *Getting Sober: A Practical Guide to Making it Through the First 30 Days*. She is also a poet and essayist whose work has been published in literary magazines and anthologies. She received a 2008 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and a Distinguished Artist Award from the Nebraska Arts Council. She also won first place in the 2009 International Reginald Shepherd Memorial Poetry Prize.

Photographer **Michael Forsberg** grew up in Nebraska and is dedicated to working extensively in the prairies of the Great Plains. His work has appeared in such publications as *National Geographic*, *Audubon*, *Natural History*, and *National Wildlife* and in books published by National Geographic and Smithsonian, among others.

Allison Hedge Coke holds the Distinguished Paul W. Reynolds and Clarice Kingston Reynolds Endowed Chair in Poetry as an Associate Professor of Poetry and Writing at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, where she directs the Reynolds Reading Series and Sandhill Crane Migration Retreat. Hedge Coke has edited numerous poetry collections and is editing a two-book series of emerging indigenous writing. She is Huron and Cherokee, French Canadian and Portuguese, and came of age working in fields, waters, and factories.

William Kloefkorn was named the Nebraska State Poet by proclamation of the Unicameral in 1982. A retired professor of English at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, he is the author of many collections of poetry, four memoirs, two collections of short fiction, and other books.

Ted Kooser, a two-time U.S. Poet Laureate (2004-2006), is the author of ten collections of poetry, including *Delights & Shadows*, which won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. His other honors include two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, a Pushcart Prize, and the Stanley Kunitz Prize from Columbia University. He teaches in the English department of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as a visiting professor.

Harley Jane Kozak (Workshop Facilitator) grew up in Nebraska, attended New York University's graduate acting program, and starred in fifty plays, ten feature films, and a dozen TV movies, series, and miniseries. She lives in California with her three children, two dogs, and a cat. *A Date You Can't Refuse* is the fourth in her Wollie Shelley Mysteries series. Kozak taught a writers' workshop at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's 2008 Nebraska Summer Writers' Conference.

The Loren Eiseley Society encourages interest in and knowledge of Eiseley's work and preserves material about Eiseley's life and writing. *The Eiseley Reader* includes Eiseley's most popular essays in a single collection. Noted author Ray Bradbury wrote the foreword to this collection.

Teresa Lorenson, Director of the Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation, will moderate a discussion of the 2009 One Book One Nebraska selection, *A Lantern in Her Hand* by Bess Streeter Aldrich.

Mary Pipher — After decades as a psychotherapist and best-selling author of such life-changing books as *Reviving Ophelia* and *The Shelter of Each Other*, Dr. Mary Pipher turns her attention to herself in *Seeking Peace: Chronicles of the Worst Buddhist in the World*, collecting insights from her own life to illuminate the importance of the journey, not just the destination.

Ladette Randolph is director of the journal *Ploughshares* and a Distinguished-Publisher-in-Residence in the Writing, Literature, and Publishing at Emerson College, Boston. Formerly of the University of Nebraska Press, she is the author of the novel *A Sandhills Ballad*, the short story collection *This Is Not the Tropics*, and editor of two anthologies. She is the recipient of the Pushcart prize, a Rona Jaffe Foundation grant, two Nebraska Book Awards, and the Virginia Faulkner Award from Prairie Schooner.

Hilda Raz was born in Rochester, New York, educated at Boston University, and moved to Nebraska in 1963. She has served as editor, scholar, and fellow at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, and is a past president of the Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP). She is a professor of English and women's and gender studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she is the Glenna Luschei Endowed Editor-in-Chief of *Prairie Schooner*.

Don Welch continues to pursue his dual, life-long professional passions as poet and educator; after a distinguished 38-year career in the University of Nebraska at Kearney's English Department, Reynolds Professor of Poetry, Emeritus. His most recent work is *When Memory Gives Dust a Face*. He is a winner of the Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry.

Stephanie Grace Whitson pursues a full-time writing and speaking career from her home studio in Lincoln. Whitson's fiction titles have appeared on the ECPA best-seller list numerous times and have been finalists for the Christy Award, the Inspirational Reader's Choice Award, and ForeWord Magazine's Book of the Year.

What Are You Reading?

Nebraska Center for the Book board members share their thoughts about the books they are reading:

I read Joseph O'Neill's book, *Netherland*. Having read about the book and having heard an interview with the author, I was curious to discover what was behind the book's post-9/11 setting. In brief, it's a story about Hans Van den Broek (a Dutch-born investment analyst), his attorney wife, their young son, the narrator's friendship with a curious entrepreneur and cricket devotee, and the difficult interpersonal relationships that evolve. The story has tragedy, disorientation, discovery, and mystery blended in the rich mix of New York City's multi-racial culture.

Rod Wagner
Nebraska Library Commission

An interesting title can draw a reader in at first glance. That's what happened to me with *Can I Wear My Nose Ring to the Interview?* The subtitle is *Finding, Landing, and Keeping Your First Real Job*. As a career counselor, I've spent a great deal of time explaining to students that they need to take out the piercings, cover the tattoos, and tighten up their appearance to make a good first impression with an employer. I wasn't sure that I really needed to read this book, but it sounded so interesting that I decided to give it a try. What I have found is a cogent and very readable guide to finding a first job. The book stresses organization, networking, and taking responsibility for presenting oneself well as a potential employee. It's a quick read, realistic throughout, and funny in spots. If you know someone who is going out on the job market, this book would definitely be worth their time to peruse.

Every bestseller list that I look at includes *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. The title didn't give me much insight as to what to expect, but when several of my friends highly recommended it, I knew that reading it would be worth my while. The novel is set up as a series of letters between the major characters, a delightful way to learn their backgrounds and attitudes. While this approach is enjoyable, a reader has to be alert to what is being said by whom. My drawback in reading it has been that my time has been limited—five pages here, ten pages there. Putting it down seems like a chore—and that's a sign of a well-written, engaging book! This would make a good cold and snowy, stay inside and read, kind of book.

Becky Faber
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

I'm reading *If Grace Is True* by Philip Gulley and James Mulholland, kind of a theological house-cleaning. I highly recommend it. Also, I'm really enjoying *The Men of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* by Charles G. Clarke. It focuses on the people of the group and gleans from journals, newspapers, and records of the day scraps of information about the humans, all fifty-five of them. Turns out they had personalities and foibles fun to read about. One of my favorites is George Shannon, who was a good singer, hunter, and horseman. However he frequently got lost from the main party. Lewis listed him as one of the "nine young men from Kentucky." Shannon, after the expedition, was shot in the leg in an altercation, and the leg had to be amputated. In 1813 Clark offered him an opportunity to go into the fur business with him and others (and suggested the firm be known as "George Shannon & Company"), but Shannon elected to study law.

Marge Saiser

Sometimes you don't read as much over the summer, but this summer I raced through one series after another. My husband and I really enjoyed William Kent Krueger's mystery series about Sheriff Cork O'Connor, in part because we spent some time on Minnesota's North Shore of Superior, and these books took us there. While the stories are fiction, the places are not, and we could visualize the communities of Finland, Silver Bay, Beaver Bay, Ilgen City, and Two Harbors. There was a sunken ship at Split Rock, and divers were often spotted. We could see and hear the falls: Temperance River, Gooseberry Falls, Baptism River Falls and others, which occur at almost every river along the North Shore.

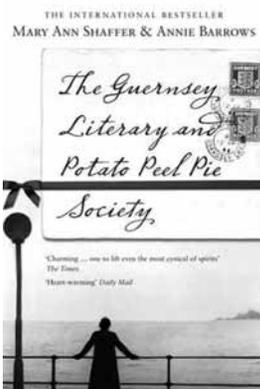
The characters in the series are wonderful too. I especially enjoyed the Native Americans (Wendell Two Knives and Cork's spiritual and healing mentor). Having just returned to Lincoln, I learned that Krueger would be at Lee Booksellers with his new book. We went.

Since we were in Oregon and Washington this summer, I picked up the mystery series of J.A. Jance who writes about Seattle and Bisbee, Arizona. These fast-paced reads feature Sheriff Joanna Brady and Detective J.P. Beaumont.

Molly Fisher

I'm reading *Death at Crane's Court* by Eilis Dillon. This is an amateur detective story, published in 1953 and reprinted in 2009, which takes place at an old-fashioned Irish country hotel in Galway. The story includes a new manager who is ambitious and ruthless and many older people who reside at the hotel. It reflects the life of workers at the hotel, a recent

(continued on page 7)



What Are You Reading? *(continued)*

arrival, and of course murder. If you like Agatha Christie, I think you will enjoy this quick read.

I'm also reading a mystery series by Cleo Coyle that takes place in a coffeehouse in New York City. Characters in the series include the coffeehouse manager and amateur sleuth, her ex-husband, her eccentric ex-mother-in-law, her daughter, and of course a police officer. For the most part the series reflects the complex composition of residents in New York. It is witty at times and is another light read. The most recent title is *Espresso Shot*. If you enjoy spending time at a coffeehouse, you may find this a delightful read.

Carol Connor

I am currently in the middle of *Martin Eden* by Jack London. It was handed to me by a colleague a few months ago when I thought I didn't have anything to read!! I am enjoying the vividness of London's writing and how well he describes the thoughts of his characters. It is lovely to read about Eden's desire to learn and how important books become to him—and how much knowledge he gains through the use of a public library.

Mary Ellen Ducey
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

I'm reading *Breathing In the Fullness of Time*, the fourth of Bill Kloefkorn's memoirs. Like the others, it's a wonderfully fine read. Kloefkorn's prose is inviting, and his storytelling is impeccable. *Breathing In the Fullness of Time* picks up his life in college at Emporia State, moves quickly into his time in the Marines, and then to his distinguished career at Nebraska Wesleyan. I've just finished the section in which Kloefkorn explains how he began writing poems. It's a must for those of us who've read and loved those poems for years, and even those who've never encountered his poems will find it an engrossing record of a literary life on the Plains in the late 20th century.

J.V. Brummels
Wayne State College

I am reading *A Time of Angels* by Karen Hesse for Aardbaarks (Amiable Adult Readers Discussing Books Almost Always Read by Kids). It's a story about a Jewish girl in Boston during the First World War. Her parents are both trapped in Europe by the war and her sister comes down with influenza. Very good.

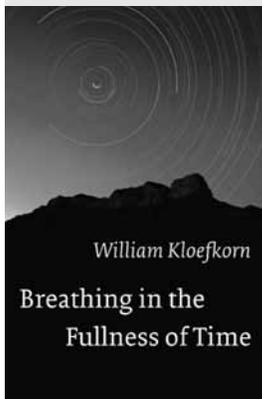
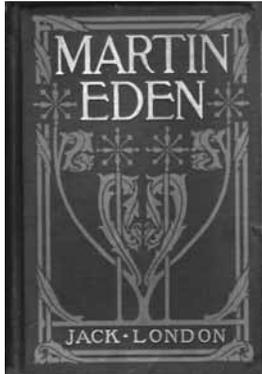
Ellen Scott
The Bookworm

I really want to be sitting in my car right now listening to the last CD of *The Girl who Played with Fire*, by Stieg Larsson.

Larsson, a Swedish journalist, wrote three books with the characters Lisbeth Salander and Mikael Blomkvist before his untimely death at age fifty. *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* was the first. The third, *The Girl who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*, will be published next year. The books are translated from Swedish and tend to be gloomy with a shroud of evil penetrating all the characters lives. Lisbeth Salander reminds me of Carol O'Connell's main character Mallory. Both young women with dysfunctional childhoods have an imbedded moral code concerning right and wrong, but that morality is not necessarily in step with society's code of proper conduct for young women.

In *The Girl who Played with Fire* Lisbeth, a computer hacker genius, is accused of three murders and Blomkvist is one of the few people who believe she is innocent. Listening to the audiobook read by Simon Vance has allowed me to hear the right pronunciation of the Swedish names and streets and added to the excitement of the book, and it is a very exciting book with lots of action, suspense, murder, and sex.

Sherry Houston
Republican Valley Library System



Review:

by **Ted Kooser**

Bison Books,

ISBN

978-0-8032-2642-5

Review by
Linda Hillegas,
Lee Booksellers

Lights on a Ground of Darkness

For fifty years, Ted Kooser waited to record the stories of his family in Iowa, fearing he could not do them justice. Faced with his mother's death, the poet set out to capture his childhood memories including the family's love for his uncle Elvy, a victim of cerebral palsy. With some of his most expressive prose, Kooser halts the erosion of time for just a moment as he recalls "Pickled Apple Cookies," cloudless summer skies across the Great Plains, and

the importance of family. Ted Kooser, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry and former U.S. poet laureate, is the author of twelve books of poetry, including *Delights and Shadows*, *Valentines*, and *The Blizzard Voices*, as well as an award-winning prose book, *Local Wonders*.

Ed. Note: Reprinted with permission from *Lee Reader*, September 2009.



Review:

Sheedy Murder Trial Website Disappoints

Gilded Age Plains
City; The Great
Sheedy Murder
Trial and The
Booster Ethos of
Lincoln, Nebraska.
A Plains
Humanities
Alliance Project
2007-2008.
University of
Nebraska-Lincoln.

gildedage.unl.edu

Review by
John Wiederspan

I tried, I really tried to enjoy and learn from this Website. Having lived in Lincoln since 1966 and being a history buff, an historical look at the Capital City at the turn of the century should have been a treat. It turned out to be a frustrating exercise of site navigation and tedious reading. However, the project is not completely without merit. One must mention the positive: a Document Archive containing 474 items, an excellent interactive map, and all the historic information anyone could possibly hope for. In those respects, it is first rate. However, slogging through the site was confusing and, in the end, (for me) tedious work. "The Great Sheedy Trial," under which main heading would this be found? The choices are, "Explore the City," "Spatial Narratives," and "Interpretation and Narrative." The answer is, "Interpretation and Narrative." Where would one find the story of "Booster Ethos"? One would hardly guess a subsection of "Spatial Narratives." To find what you are looking for is a task of extreme effort. The site was intentionally set up to provide a "non-linear" presentation to facilitate "structural" and "non-linear" thinking. What it provides is an exercise in frustration; a site exceedingly difficult to utilize. In the service of a historical school of thought, the site

was rendered user-unfriendly.

In addition to the above, the text needed a stern (very stern) editor that would have pared it down to make it more concise. One sentence confronted contained sixty words. Excess verbiage is never welcome, in either fiction or non-fiction. The story, a slice of frontier town history, could have been a crisp, ripping good yarn. Instead, it is a ponderous read encouraging one to skim, skip, or stop.

The site, presenting an entertaining and important story, is a true contribution to a better understanding of the Lincoln community. It also acts as an example of the historical development of 1890s Midwest communities. It's obviously a serious and well-intended project put on the Internet to provide easy access for any interested party. In this reviewer's opinion, the historic substance is abundantly present; it is in the presentation that the site disappoints.

It is not the reviewer's intent to discourage anyone from visiting the site and taking from it what they will. Perhaps others will find it highly educational and engaging. This reviewer, unfortunately, did not.

Nebraska Book Award Winners to be Honored at Festival

The Nebraska Book Awards program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB) and supported by the Nebraska Library Commission, recognizes and honors books that are written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or concerning Nebraska.

Nebraska Book Award winners will be presented at the Nebraska Center for the Book's Annual Meeting and Nebraska Book Festival in Lincoln on November 14, 2009.

Award winners for 2009 to be honored at the Nebraska Book Festival on November 14, 2009 are:

Cover/Design/Illustration

BVH Architects: Forty Years
by Suzanne Smith Arney
Publisher: Omaha Books

Cover/Design/Illustration Honor

The Death of Raymond Yellow Thunder
by Stew Magnuson
Publisher: Texas Tech University Press

Fiction

Exiles
by Ron Hansen
Publisher: Farrar, Straus,
and Giroux

Nonfiction

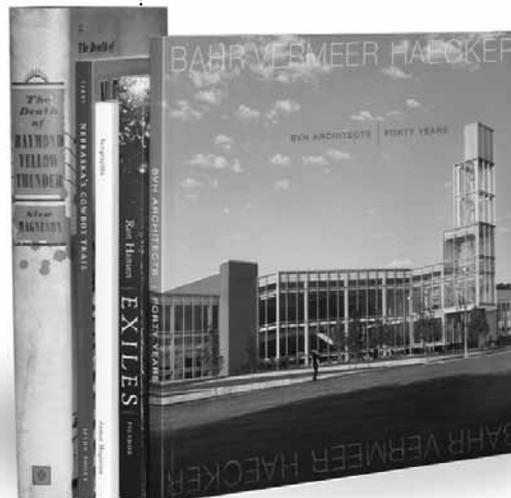
The Death of Raymond Yellow Thunder
by Stew Magnuson
Publisher: Texas Tech University Press

Nonfiction Honor

Nebraska's Cowboy Trail
by Keith Terry
Publisher: University of Nebraska Press

Poetry

Geographia
by James Magorian
Publisher: Black Oak Press



Review:

Talent and the Secret Life of Teams

by Terry Pettit

2008

ISBN:

978-1-4276-3535-8

Review by

Nancy Evans,
Nebraska Library
Commission**TALENT**
and the Secret Life of Teams

When the University of Nebraska became the first, non-West Coast team to win a national championship in women's volleyball in 1995, a reporter asked coach Terry Pettit a predictable question.

How does it feel?

Pettit gave an unpredictable answer, quoting a poet to describe the sweetness of victory.

So what kind of book can you expect from such a literate and successful person? One that spans the horizon of literary styles, from essays and journalistic-style commentaries, to columns about trust, love, and coyotes in the backyard, to poems about time-outs and loss.

"They consider my voice
an inappropriate companion
to the pounding of the blood,
Hot with fatigue and disappointment."

That is the beginning of a poem titled "After the Loss."

Pettit's 151-page book, *Talent and the Secret Life*

of Teams, is part biographical, providing an inner glimpse at the magical 1995 run to a national title and the extraordinary women on that team. It is part analytical, discussing international themes of team-building, leadership development, and nurturing talent. It is part instructional, providing real-life experiences for coaches and other mentors and managers of people, even those in business.

It is also part whimsical.

One chapter, "Coyote Coach," is observations of a coyote family living near a creek below the Pettit home in Fort Collins, Colo. Another, "Snakes, Recruits, and Serendipity," describes a huge snake discovered by a friend on a Rocky Mountain road that slithered off at an incredible speed. Somehow, Pettit turns that tale into a commentary on coaching, luck, and the possibility that a talented foreigner—like that 300-pound snake—might accidentally show up on your campus.

Pettit, now a semi-retired speaker and consultant, is a wise observer of life, and "Talent" enlists you as a shipmate on a very entertaining voyage. ♦

Neihardt Foundation Celebrates Ten Years of Annual Feast

The John G. Neihardt Foundation celebrated the 10th anniversary of its annual fund-raiser, the Laureate's Feast, on Oct. 25. The feast was served up by the students in the renowned culinary arts program at Metropolitan Community College in Omaha.

This year's event honored all the past recipients of the Wordsender Award, and looked back at the development of the Neihardt State Historic Site in Bancroft. Wordsender recipients include the late Tom Allan, *Omaha World-Herald* roving reporter, humorist Roger Welsch, and poets Ted Kooser and Bill Kloefkorn.

Silent and live auctions provided lively action following a program by Neihardt Foundation Board Member Randy Lukasiewicz.

The late John G. Neihardt, author of *Black Elk Speaks* and numerous other works of prose and poetry, is the Poet Laureate in Perpetuity of Nebraska. To commemorate his life and work, the John G. Neihardt State Historical Site was established in Bancroft. A small study, in which he wrote many of his works, is preserved on the site, as is a Native American Prayer Garden. The Neihardt Center is a branch museum of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

The museum and library contain works by and about Neihardt, and a bust sculpted by his wife, Mona, a Paris-trained sculptor. The round memorial room repeats the symbolism of the 'Hoop of the World' and chronicles Neihardt's life, works, and the times in which he lived.

The center hosts many visits by school groups and clubs, and is the site of a spring conference and the annual Neihardt Day program, on the first Sunday in August. New this year was a fundraising, beer-tasting the night before Neihardt Day—there are many stories about Neihardt's love of beer, especially late in his life.

The Foundation also conducts an annual poetry contest for Nebraska schoolchildren, and is in the process of raising money for a bronze sculpture depicting a young Neihardt as he interviewed Black Elk on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

The overall purpose of the Foundation is to preserve the literary and thematic legacy of John G. Neihardt; to preserve the heritage of the Great Plains, and its great voices, those of pioneer and Native American, both past and present; and to inspire all people—especially young people—to live lives of strong moral conviction and purpose in light of their noble heritages. ♦

Thinking Pensively

by **Oliver B. Pollak**,

University of
Nebraska at
Omaha

In 1952 when I left England at the age of nine, I received a going-away present—a silver mechanical pencil. It fell, irretrievably, between the bed and the bulkhead on the *Liberté*. Built by the Germans as the *Europa* in 1930, the ship was turned over to the French as reparations and renamed *Liberté*. She was broken up in 1961. Perhaps a lucky salvage worker claimed the pencil. I have regretted the loss for over half a century.

My father gave my mother a Wyvern 600 fountain pen as a courting gift. He doted on Sheaffer's (with the white dot on the cap) and Parkers. Dad worked for Garrett-AiResearch and had a promotional giveaway, a Chromatic ballpoint with the company name inscribed on the barrel.

Fine pens accompany rites of passage and personal accomplishment. Bar mitzvahs, high school and college graduations, and earning higher degrees garner various pens. After my tenth year at UNO I received a wooden desk set. The two brown plastic pens were soon replaced by long, thin gold Cross ballpoints.

Pens have different functions. The small and colorful Delta Dolce Vita and Jean-Pierre Lépine go nicely with a suit and a concert. Mont Blanc fountain pens suit leisurely writing at home, near a sink to wash fingertips. My comfort pen is a bulky Montegrappa.

Mont Blanc is ubiquitous among the bourgeoisie. High-end manufacturers lure purchasers with discretionary income — limited gold commemorative anniversary editions encrusted with valuable gems. Borsheims and Paradise Pen catalogues are candy stores.

Enter physiology. I like pens that can be opened by bouncing them on my chest or twisting them open with one hand. The oh-so-thin mechanical pencil lead is always breaking. Roller balls break

down in my heavy hand so my German-glazed green Pelikan stands idle.

I have gifted stylish pens to my relatives and friends. My brother-in-law presented me with a high-tech Porsche ballpoint pen. I purchased a Nakimi Pilot, the world's only retractable fountain pen that works well aloft at 38,000 feet, at the Crown Center in Kansas City.

The ink, the ball, the flow of the viscous blue, I almost always use blue so as not to get confused by black ink which could be a Xerox. You cannot personalize a typewriter or laptop. There is no place for a flourish, swirl, loop or follow through. The ink may smudge, bleed through, or leave an impression on the facing page before it dries.

I have also had affairs with Bic, Biro, Lamy, Opera, Papermate, Parker, Pentel, Sheaffer, and Waterman. Collections are easy to start, hard to stop, and impossible to complete. Although I have a number of pens, and two nice glass-topped boxes to hold them (almost like a tie rack) I do not collect; they are tools of the trade.

My current workmate is the Dr. Grip by Pilot with "revolutionary ink." The padded barrel takes the strain off my fingertips. "Write out" or "writing distance" (hello OED) is the length that can be written. The fine Dr. Grip will produce 2,624 feet, the medium 1,968 feet. One hundred thirty empty refills attest to more than fifty miles of writing.

Typing differs from ink as coffee from tea. You drink coffee but tea has ritual. The tongue gets around coffee and tea differently. Fingertips depress keys and hand grasps the pen, ink flows with thoughtfulness.

However you write, pencil, pen, typewriter, selectric, daisy wheel or word processor, dot matrix, inkjet, or laser, a good sentence gives satisfaction.

Nebraska Press Receives Honor

The University of Nebraska Press was named the 2008 Independent Publisher of the Year by *ForeWord* magazine at this year's BookExpo America in New York. In announcing the award, the magazine said, "The University of Nebraska Press makes significant contributions to scholarly publishing, but its innovative achievement has been to go beyond

academia and carve out for itself a brilliant trade niche in the areas of memoir combined with history and travel, translation, and sports." We congratulate this great Nebraska literary resource and thank them for many years of partnership in Nebraska's community of the book.



Preservation Resources Available

Valued objects and artifacts held by Nebraska libraries and museums will be preserved for future generations with help from the IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf, a core set of conservation books and online resources donated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). IMLS has now awarded nearly 3,000 free sets of the IMLS Bookshelf, in cooperation with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).

The Nebraska Library Commission received this essential set of resources (listed below) based on an application describing the needs for the care of its collections and plans to share these resources with museums and libraries across Nebraska. The IMLS Bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in art or history museums and in libraries' special collections, with an added selection of texts for zoos, aquaria, public gardens, and nature centers. It addresses such topics as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness, and culturally specific conservation issues.

To borrow these resources libraries and museums are encouraged to contact Nebraska Library Commission Information and Reference Services at 402-471-4016 or 800-307-2665 (Nebraska only) Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CT; fax: 402-471-6244; e-mail: nlc.ask@nebraska.gov.

Resources in the IMLS Bookshelf include:

The AIC Guide to Digital Photography and Conservation Documentation Z701.3.C65 A33 2008

The Bookshelf User's Guide Z701.2.B665 2007

Capitalize on Collections Care Z683.2.U6 C37 2007

The Care of Prints and Drawings NE380.E45 1995
Caring for American Indian Objects: A Practical and Cultural Guide E77.C28 2004

Caring for Your Family Treasures: A Concise Guide to Caring for Your Cherished Belongings NK1127.5.L66 2000

Connecting the Three C's: Collecting, Conservation and Collaboration N6538.N5 C66 2007

Connecting to Collections (DVD)
Emergency Response and Salvage Wheel Z679.7.E44 2005

Field Guide to Emergency Response AM121.F545 2006

Framework for Preservation of Heritage Collections Z701.F72 2000z

A Legal Primer on Managing Museum Collections KF4305.M35 1998

Museum Handbook, Part 1, Museum Collections Chapters AM5.U55 2007

Museum Handbook, Part 1, Museum Collections Appendices AM5.U558 2007

The National Trust Manual of Housekeeping: The Care of Collection in Historic Houses Open to the Public TX311.N38 2006

The Nature of Conservation: A Race Against Time N8560.W37 1986

Photographs, Archival Care and Management TR465.R58 2006

Preservation Management for Libraries, Archives and Museums Z701.P746 2006

Promoting Preservation Awareness in Libraries: a sourcebook for academic, public, school and special collections. Z701.3.E38 P75 1997

American Life in Poetry: Column 223

by **Ted Kooser**,
 U.S. Poet
 Laureate,
 2004-2006



There's lots of literature about the loss of innocence, because we all share in that loss and literature is about what we share. Here's a poem by Alexandra Teague, a San Franciscan, in which a child's awakening to the alphabet coincides with another awakening: the unsettling knowledge that all of us don't see things in the same way.

Language Lessons

The carpet in the kindergarten room was alphabet blocks; all of us fidgeting on bright, primary letters. On the shelf sat that week's inflatable sound. The "th" was shaped like a tooth. We sang about brushing up and down, practiced exhaling while touching our tongues to our teeth. Next week, a puffy U like an upside-down umbrella; the rest of the alphabet deflated. Some days,

we saw parents through the windows to the hallway sky. "Look, a fat lady," a boy beside me giggled. Until then I'd only known my mother as beautiful.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of *Poetry* magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2008 by Alexandra Teague, whose first book, *Mortal Geography*, winner of the Lexi Rudnitsky Prize, is forthcoming in 2010 from Persea Books. Reprinted from *Third Coast*, Fall 2008, by permission of Alexandra Teague and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2009 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.



THE NEBRASKA CENTER FOR THE BOOK

an affiliate of the Library of Congress

c/o Nebraska Library Commission
The Atrium
1200 N Street, Suite 120
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2023
34-00-00

NONPROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 988
Lincoln, NE

Nebraska Book Festival, November 14, 2009
www.nebraskabookfestival.org



Calendar of Events:

Governor's Lecture in the Humanities: Matt Miller, The Tyranny of Dead Ideas:

Letting Go of the Old Ways of Thinking to Unleash a New Prosperity November 4 Omaha

Contact: Nebraska Humanities Council, Aimee Poor, 402-474-2131 (ext. 102),
nhc@nebraskahumanities.org, www.nebraskahumanities.org/governor/currentlecture.html

Lunch at the Library: "Let's Write!":

Barbara Carlson and Writers from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) . . . November 4 Lincoln

Contact: Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, Lincoln City Libraries, 402-441-8516,
m.mcgowan@lincolnlibraries.org, www.foundationforlcl.org/NLHA

Nebraska Book Festival: Cultivating Creativity & Nebraska Center for the Book

Annual Meeting November 14 Lincoln

Contact: Mary Jo Ryan, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov,
www.nebraskabookfestival.org

John H. Ames Reading Series: Jeff Barnes, Forts of the Northern Plains November 15 Lincoln

Contact: Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, Lincoln City Libraries, 402-441-8516,
m.mcgowan@lincolnlibraries.org, www.foundationforlcl.org/NLHA

Paul A. Olson Seminar: Pekka Hämmäläinen, Imperial Layers:

How an Indigenous Empire Changed the Course of American History November 18 Lincoln

Contact: Center for Great Plains Studies, Kim Weide, 402-472-3964,
kweide@unl.edu, www.unl.edu/plains/seminars/Olson/olsonseminars.shtml

Missouri Valley Reading Series: Steve Langan, Meet Me at the Happy Bar November 18 Omaha

Contact: www.unomaha.edu/creativewriting/mvrs.php

Lunch at the Library: Good Books to Give as Gifts, with Vicki Wood,

Lincoln City Libraries Youth Services Supervisor December 2 Lincoln

Contact: Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, Lincoln City Libraries, 402-441-8516,
m.mcgowan@lincolnlibraries.org, www.foundationforlcl.org/NLHA



Mixed Sources
Product group from well-managed
forests and recycled wood or fibre
Cert no. SW-COC-002827
www.fsc.org
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council