

Celebration of Nebraska Books November 3 in Lincoln

The Celebration of Nebraska Books is set for November 3, 2012, from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m., at the Nebraska State Historical Society's Museum of Nebraska History, 15th and P Streets

in downtown Lincoln. This event will feature the 2012 One Book One Nebraska selection, honor winners of the 2012 Jane Geske and Nebraska Book Awards, and announce the choice for the 2013 One Book One Nebraska.

The celebration, free and open to the public, will feature presentation of the Nebraska Center for the Book's Nebraska Book Awards and Jane Geske Award. The 2012 Nebraska Book

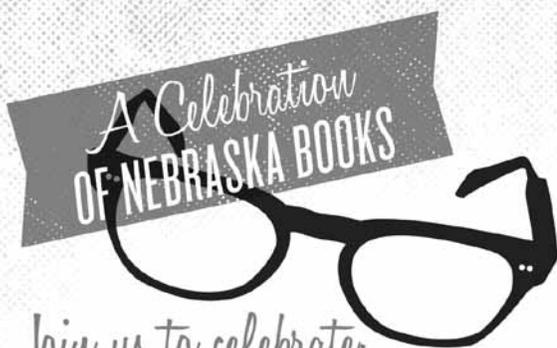
passion for books, and was established in recognition of her contributions to the well-being of the libraries of Nebraska. Jane Pope Geske was a founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book, former director of the Nebraska Library Commission, and a long-time leader in Nebraska library and literary activities.

This year the Celebration marks the eighth year of One Book One Nebraska—selecting and promoting a title for Nebraska citizens to read to celebrate the literary richness of our state. "I Am a Man:" Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice is the 2012 One Book One Nebraska selection, and Nebraska libraries and other literary and cultural organizations across the state are hosting activities and events to encourage all Nebraskans to read and discuss the same book (see <http://onebook.nebraska.gov/2012/index.aspx>). Author Joe Starita will speak about his book and the experience of discussing his book with Nebraskans across the state through the One Book One Nebraska program.

The **Nebraska Center for the Book Annual Meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m.**—just prior to the November 3 Celebration. An Awards Reception honoring the winning authors, book signings, and announcement of the 2013 One Book One Nebraska book choice will conclude the festivities.

The 2012 Celebration of Nebraska Books is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, and Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the Nebraska State Historical Society and Museum of Nebraska History. For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665, maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov or see www.centerforthebook.nebraska.gov or www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook. 

Awards honor authors and publishers of books with a Nebraska connection published in 2011 (see article on page 7). Featured winning authors will read from their work and sign copies of their books. The 2012 Jane Geske Award will be presented to an organization, business, library, school, association, or group that has made an exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, or literature in Nebraska. The Jane Geske Award commemorates Geske's



Join us to celebrate:

- 2012 Nebraska Book Award Winners
- "I Am A Man:" Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice, with Author Joe Starita
- 2013 One Book One Nebraska Announcement
- 2012 Jane Geske Award Presentation
- Reception and Book Signings

November 3, 2012 • 3:30 - 6:30 P.M.

Nebraska History Museum
15th & P Streets • Lincoln, NE

For more info,
centerforthebook.nebraska.gov
facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook

Idea Exchange Unites State Centers

Guest Editorial
by Ryan Tewell

Earlier this year, as the result of scheduling problems for our board's president and vice president, I was asked to attend the Library of Congress Center for the Book's annual Idea Exchange meeting in Washington, D.C. Of course, I agreed immediately in part because in many ways the Library of Congress is for bibliophiles what Cooperstown is for baseball fanatics— a place worthy of pilgrimage.

It is largely my connection to the poetry community in Nebraska that led to my service as a volunteer for the Nebraska Center for the Book. I tell you this so that you'll know, without much explanation, why the greatest thrill of the pilgrimage for me was meeting and getting to chat about writing programs with former Poet Laureate Robert Hass. He initially took me for a Scandinavian high school student, which I suppose I should take as a compliment as I approach middle-age, but once we got that sorted out we had a lovely chat about the work being done in Nebraska and about his work in ecoliteracy, including the *River of Words* program. That said, and surprising though it may be, I wasn't sent to D.C. to meet Robert Hass but rather to convey at this annual gathering the current status of our organization and its efforts in Nebraska, and to bring back with me a sense for what's happening both at the national level and at the Centers for the Book around the country.

I focused my comments on the challenges we have faced and are facing as the economic climate has changed in Nebraska and resources to support our work have become both less plentiful and more difficult to secure. If nothing else, I learned that we are far from alone in facing these challenges. In fact, there are some ways in which we are on the leading edge of change in the country and many states had questions for us about how our transition was going. Most Centers for the Book still operate as a programming arm of another organization— usually the state's arts council, humanities council, state library, or library commission. While there is momentum gathering behind incorporating as an independent 501(c)(3) organization as we have, many are fighting to maintain their status within “more traditional” state agencies and arts patronage organizations. This is largely because staffing the effort, or at least doing so in a way that allows for consistent service delivery, is more difficult for volunteer organizations than it is when an existing agency has dedicated a salary line or part of a staff member's time to the work of their Center.

The hottest topic in D.C. this year, by far, was the upcoming change to the Letters About Literature (LAL) program. For many years, Beatrice Public Library Director Lauren

(continued on page 7)

The **NCB**
News

Fall 2012 | Volume 22 | No. 2

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Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner is an ex-officio member of all committees.

2012 Nebraska Center for the Book Board Meetings

November 3 Annual Meeting,
2:30 p.m., Nebraska
History Museum,
Lincoln

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 March 15 and October 15. 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.centerforthebook.nebraska.gov

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Staff: Dave Eckmann

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Finalists for 2013 One Book One Nebraska Announced

One nonfiction book and three novels—all stories with ties to Nebraska and the Great Plains—are the four finalists for the 2013 One Book One Nebraska statewide reading program. The finalists are:

O Pioneers! by Willa Cather

Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen by Bob Greene

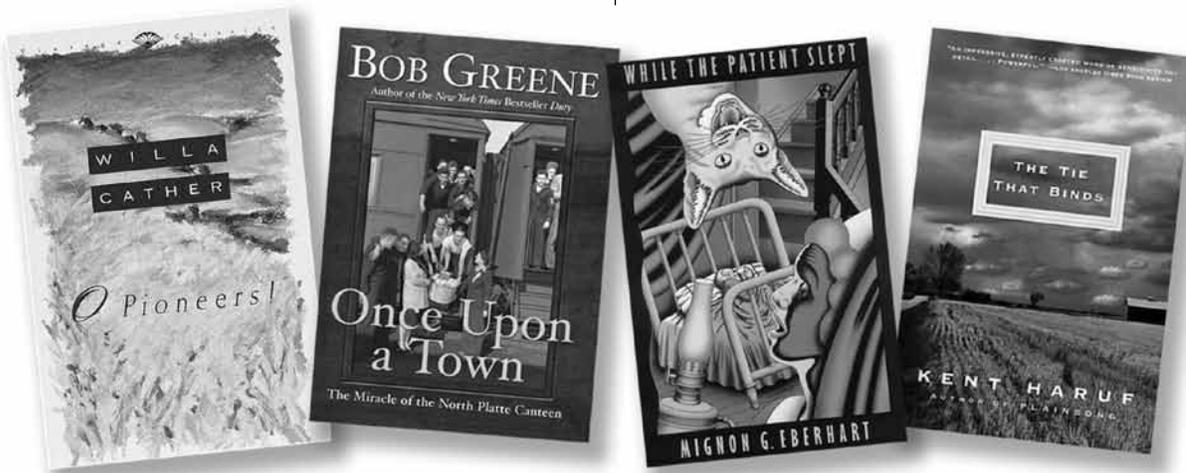
While the Patient Slept by Mignon Eberhart

The Tie That Binds by Kent Haruf

The One Book One Nebraska reading program—sponsored by the Nebraska Center

for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, and Nebraska Library Commission—is now in its ninth year. It encourages Nebraskans across the state to read and discuss the same book, chosen from books written by Nebraska authors or that have a Nebraska theme or setting. A committee of the Nebraska Center for the Book selected the finalists from a list of twelve titles nominated by sixty Nebraskans.

The choice for the 2013 One Book One Nebraska will be announced at 5:30 p.m. at the **Celebration of Nebraska Books on November 3** at the Nebraska State Historical Society's Museum of Nebraska History. See page 1 for more details on the Celebration. 📖



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 _____

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

\$15 Individual Membership \$25 Organizational Membership Additional Contribution

Contributions above \$15 are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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



What Are You Reading?

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

One of my favorite books from summer reading is *The Last Chinese Chef* by Nicole Mones, author of *Lost In Translation*. Mones spent eighteen years in China and the book celebrates Chinese cooking and culture. The philosophy of the culture dating back to Imperial times is that food is meant to be shared and given—a philosophy that I like. Before each chapter, she quotes Liang Wei’s book written in 1923. In the final chapter, Mones includes a Wei comment that says it all, “The high point of every meal is never the food itself, but always the act of sharing it.” The book is described as mouth-watering, delicious, and a feast of the human heart. It is all of the above, and it makes me hungry just thinking about it.

Molly Fisher

I’ve just finished a marvelous book entitled *Nothing Daunted: The Unexpected Education of Two Society Girls in the West* by Dorothy Wickenden. In highly readable prose, Wickenden tells the story of how in 1916 her grandmother, Dorothy Woodruff, as well as her best friend Rosamond Underwood, left their comfortable, socialite lives in Auburn, New York, for a year of teaching in a very rural school in northwest Colorado. Wickenden reconstructs the year chiefly from the numerous letters the two young college graduates wrote home to their families (and which they thankfully preserved!), but she also presents all kinds of other research she did to document what an impact these two college graduates had on the children they taught as well as other people in local communities. This is a fascinating page-turner—one that, in the end, is both very poignant and uplifting.

Chuck Johanningsmeier

Pride and Prejudice and Zombies by Jane Austen and Seth Grahame-Smith: A fun read. I hate to admit it, but I haven’t read Austen before,

so I enjoyed how the book kept so much of her writing here to be enjoyed. The additions were a nice, fun touch to such a book, showing care to be entertaining without taking things too far into the stupid (in my opinion). Overall, it’s a creative mash-up which made me appreciate BOTH the listed authors.

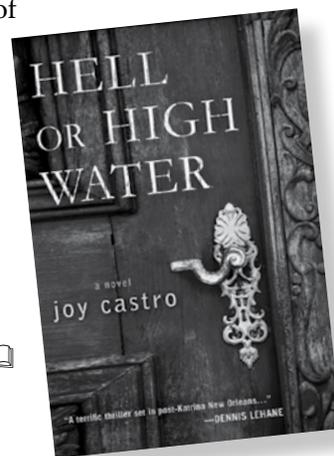
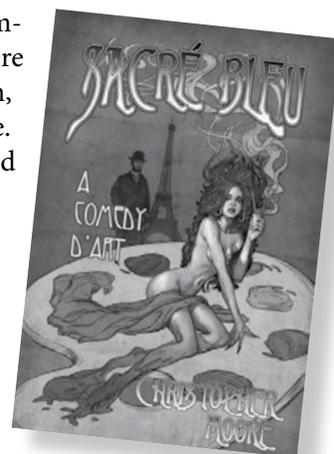
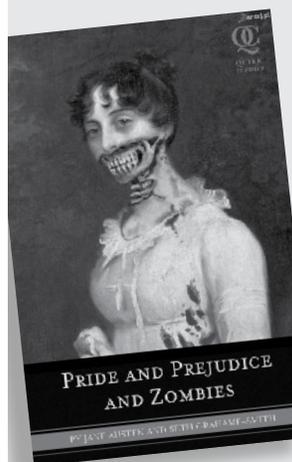
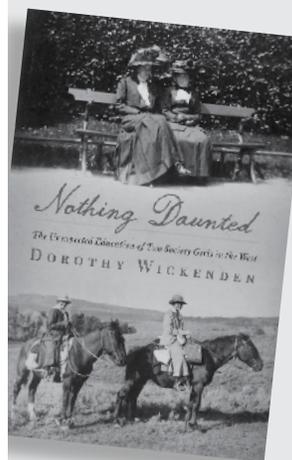
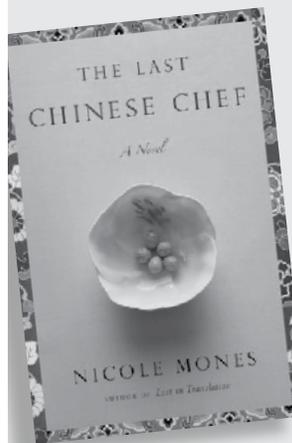
Matt Mason

One book I read this summer is *Sacre Bleu* by Christopher Moore. The book is set in Paris during the time that Impressionist painters were exploring their passion, both for art and for life. It is well researched and includes tidbits about the lives of most of the major artists of the period. It begins as a “murder mystery,” as people are trying to make sense of the death of Van Gogh, and evolves into a search for the source of a mysterious blue pigment sold by the “Color Man.” It is humorous, but not raucously so, a bit raunchy, and an aesthetic experience with full-color pictures of works by the Impressionist artists and text printed in the color blue.

Lois Todd-Meyer

I read Joy Castro’s novel *Hell or High Water*. Castro is a University of Nebraska-Lincoln English Department faculty member. I was attracted to the book based on its New Orleans setting. Castro’s writing is superb and the story is compelling.

Rod Wagner 📖



American Life in Poetry: Column 383

Sometimes, when we are children, someone or something suddenly throws open a window and the world of adults pours in. And we never quite get over it. Here's a poem about an experience like that by Judith Slater, who lives in New York.

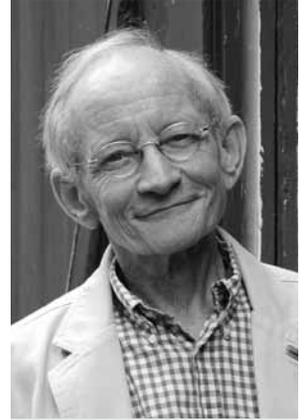
Zippo

I didn't think *handsome* then, I thought *my father* the way he saunters down Main Street, housewives, shopkeepers, mechanics calling out, children running up to get Lifesavers. The way he pauses to chat, flipping his lighter open, tamping the Lucky Strike on his thumbnail.

I sneak into his den when he's out, tuck into the kneehole of his desk and sniff his Zippo until dizzy, emboldened; then play little tricks, mixing red and black inks in his fountain pen, twisting together paperclips. If I lift the telephone receiver

quietly, I can listen in on our party line. That's how I hear two women talking about him. That's why my mother finds me that night sleepwalking, sobbing. "It's all right," she tells me, "you had a nightmare, come to bed."

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 ©2011 by Judith Slater from her most recent book of poems, *The Wind Turning Pages*, Outriders Poetry Project, 2011. Poem reprinted by permission of Judith Slater and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2012 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. 



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

An Evening with David Sedaris on October 31

On October 31 at 7:30 p.m. on the Lied Center for Performing Arts Main Stage, David Sedaris will bring his sardonic wit and incisive social critiques to Lincoln. One of America's preeminent humor writers, he slices through cultural euphemisms and political correctness to address the human condition today. His best-selling collections of personal essays *Naked*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, and *When*

You Are Engulfed in Flames and regular contributions to *The New Yorker* give Nebraskans a good idea of what to expect in his live reading. His latest work, a collection of fables entitled *Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modest Bestiary* and upcoming book *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls* will be featured during the event, along with a book signing. For more information and tickets see <http://liedcenter.org/event/evening-david-sedaris>. 

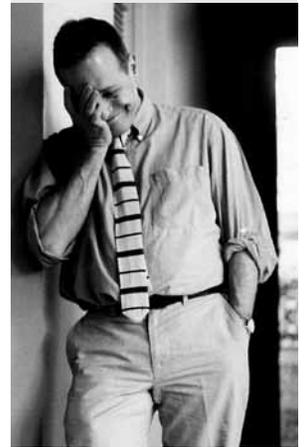


Photo courtesy of
Anne Fishbein

Cather Conference Focuses on Her Poetry

The 57th annual spring conference of the Willa Cather Foundation took place in Red Cloud from May 30 to June 2 this year, drawing participants and attendees from across the United States and even from as far away as Japan. This year's theme was "Willa Cather, Poet: Making Herself Born," and everyone in attendance came away with a much better

understanding of Cather as a poet, as well as how her poetry connects to her fiction. The 2013 spring conference will take place May 31 - June 1 and will focus on Cather's novel *O Pioneers!*, which is only natural considering that 2013 will mark the centennial of its publication. All are invited for an exciting two days of readings, presentations, meals, and more. 



Young Nebraskans Win Writing Competition

Young Writers being honored by Gov. Dave Heineman (far right).



Young Nebraska writers received **Letters About Literature (LAL)** award certificates from **Gov. Dave Heineman** at a proclamation-signing ceremony in April celebrating National Library Week. Letters about Literature is a national reading and writing promotion program sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress to foster a love of reading among children. The Nebraska competition is coordinated and sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Commission, and Houchen Bindery Ltd.

2012 HONOREES WERE:

WINNERS

- **Ethan Vanneman**, Lincoln, to Gary Paulsen about *The Legend of Bass Reeves*
- **Marin Harrington**, Omaha, to Kathryn Stockett about *The Help*

- **Arash Hamidi**, Omaha, to Maya Angelou about *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

ALTERNATE WINNERS

- **Taisha Morris**, Omaha, to Faith Ringgold about *My Dream of Martin Luther King*
- **Tyson Hostert**, O'Neill, to Gary Paulsen about *Hatchet* series
- **Maria Terrazas**, Ansley, to Joseph Bruchac about *Code Talker*

The students wrote personal letters to authors explaining how his or her work changed their view of themselves or the world. Winners were chosen from three competition levels: upper elementary, middle, and secondary school. The Nebraska winners were honored at a luncheon, received cash prizes and gift certificates to Target Stores, and their winning letters were placed in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln. 📖

2013 Letters About Literature Contest Now Open

Young readers in grades 4 - 10 are invited to write a personal letter to an author for the **2013 Letters About Literature** reading and writing promotion program. 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. Prizes will be awarded on both the state and national levels. The Nebraska Center for the Book's panel of judges will select the top letter writers in the state, to be honored in a proclamation-signing

ceremony at the state capitol during National Library Week in April 2013. National winners, to be announced in late April, will receive additional prizes. Teachers, librarians, and parents can download free teaching materials on reader response and reflective writing at www.lettersaboutliterature.org. Submissions must be postmarked **by January 11, 2013**. Nebraska-specific information (including letters from Nebraska winners of past contests) is available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>. 📖



Award Winners to be Honored at Celebration of Nebraska Books

An awards presentation ceremony will highlight the Nebraska Center for the Book's Celebration of Nebraska Books on November 3 at the Nebraska State Historical Society's Museum of Nebraska History in downtown Lincoln. (See page 1 for more details on the Celebration.) Winners of the **2012 Nebraska Book Awards** will be honored and the celebration will include readings by some of the winning authors. And the winners are:

2012 NEBRASKA BOOK AWARD WINNERS

Anthology: *Aspects of Robinson: Homage to Weldon Kees*, edited by Christopher Buckley and Christopher Howell. The Backwaters Press.

Anthology Honor: *Women on the North American Plains*, edited by Renee Laegreid and Sandra K. Mathews. Texas Tech University Press.

Cover/Design/Illustration: *First Telegraph Line Across the Continent: Charles Brown's 1861 Diary*, edited by Dennis Mihelich and James E. Potter. Book design by Reigert Graphics. Nebraska State Historical Society Books.

Cover/Design/Illustration Honor: *Flushed During Play: 51 Pet Rodent Deaths*, compiled by Jeff Lacey. Artwork by Calvin Banks.

Fiction: *To Be Sung Underwater*, by Tom McNeal. Little, Brown and Company.

Non-Fiction Biography: *Rattlesnake Daddy: A Son's Search For His Father*, by Brent Spencer. The Backwaters Press.

Nonfiction History: *The Rhythm Boys of Omaha Central: High School Basketball at the '68 Racial Divide*, by Steve Marantz. University of Nebraska Press.

Non-Fiction Nebraska as Place: *Portraits of the Prairie: The Land That Inspired Willa Cather*, by Richard Schilling. University of Nebraska Press.

Nonfiction Reference: *Field Guide to Wildflowers of Nebraska and the Great Plains*, by Jon Farrar. University of Iowa Press.

Poetry: *Dirt Songs: A Plains Duet*, by Twyla M. Hansen and Linda M. Hasselstrom. The Backwaters Press.

The Nebraska Book Awards program is sponsored by Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, and Nebraska Library Commission. 



Idea Exchange Unites State Centers (continued from page 2)

Riedesel has coordinated this program for Nebraska and made it a great success. At the national level Target has been a major corporate sponsor of this program, but they have chosen to eliminate their support for LAL. Without a corporate sponsor the program was reduced to include fewer grade levels/age groups, but there remains a long-term commitment to continuing the program.

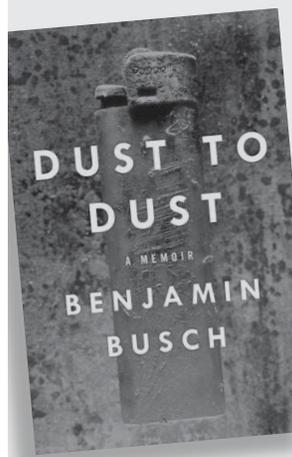
Our challenges going forward are numerous. Fortunately, our relationships with the Nebraska Library Commission and Nebraska Humanities Council remain strong and our relationship with the Nebraska Arts Council

is growing stronger little-by-little. But like many of our counterparts nationally, securing the future of the work we do depends increasingly on the board's capacity to find and effectively use resources. In some ways this has been done for us in the past and our changing economic climate means an increased personal responsibility for each of us as board members and for each of us as Nebraskans who are part of the community of the book to support and fund the bringing together of readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars in our state. 



Benjamin Busch Book Tour Odyssey – *Dust to Dust*

by Oliver B. Pollak



In the month since retirement I have reread Nebraska Hall of Fame nominee Alvin Johnson’s 1952 autobiography *Pioneer’s Progress*; read *New School* (1986) by Peter M. Rutkoff and William B. Scott (brought to my attention by a graduate student); *How to Cook Like a Man* by Daniel Duane (spurred by NYT-Mag “Lives” endpaper essay)—with Omaha family and culinary connections—(sent copies to my two sons); and best seller *Fifty Shades of Grey*, exposed by newspaper reports of library patron waiting lists. A chance encounter at Omaha’s Bookworm introduced me to *Dust to Dust* by Benjamin Busch. I stopped to get a Moleskin and Paul Theroux’s *Tao of Travel* on a Monday at 5:45 and hung around for a 6:00 p.m. reading. The audience comprised myself and another retired teacher.

Busch was 55 readings into a six month, 197 bookstore, 25,000 mile, fifty-state tour. He spends his days and nights in a borrowed hybrid Prius with California plates converted with mosquito netting into a camper. His Marine experience prepared him for roughing it and deprivation, including separation from his three and seven-year-old daughters and history professor wife Tracy, who live on a farm in Reed City, Michigan. His Odyssean enterprise continued. He arrived in Lincoln on the next day, talked on KLIN, read at Indigo Bridge Books, and then departed for The Raven in Lawrence, Kansas.

Busch is a Vassar Studio Art graduate, photographer, film maker, actor with appearances in *The Wire*, *Homicide* (he played a corpse), and *West Wing*. He provides a variegated pen and lens to scour his childhood through a prism of the death of his parents and his service as a Marine.

Born in 1968, Busch “burrows” back to his formative years, identifying consistencies with adult interests and behavior. His father was the novelist Frederick Busch and his mother a librarian. A Marine, he served two combat tours in Iraq. Writing is a therapeutic catharsis, exorcising personal and social demons and the darkness of mortality. His chapter titles: Water, Metal, Soil, Bone, Wood, Stone, Blood, and Ash are reminiscent of Primo Levi’s *The Periodic Table*, which assigned characters Mendeleevian weights.

Many authors, less than 100% happy with the publishing industry, choose to personally flog the book to get their message out. Busch believes booksellers are crucial to sales. His book tour is filled with unpredictable exhilarations and disappointments. In Minot, North Dakota only the bookstore owners attended.

At 7:00 p.m. I invited Ben to dinner at Twisted Cork, and to spend the night at our house, eliminating his \$7.00 truck stop shower fee.* He declined my offer of scotch, bourbon and wine. He is abstaining on this trip. We talked until 1:00 a.m. Iraq peppered and punctuated the evening—my perspective came from the time of his birth, Vietnam.

For more insight into this author, Amazon.com provides information on books “frequently bought together” and “Customers who bought this item also bought,” as well as glowing excerpts from two dozen reviews.

**Governor Frank Morrison gave a reading at the Bookworm in 2001. I invited him, his wife, Maxine and publisher, Jerry Kromberg, to dinner on three hours’ notice. My wife, Karen, put together an extraordinary, memorable meal. It’s not our habit to appropriate people we have not met before, unless it’s an exciting opportunity. 📖*

Thanks so much to all of you that renewed your membership. You will continue to receive this print newsletter in your mailbox. If you haven’t renewed your membership, it’s not too late (form on page 3). Please continue to support your Nebraska Center for the Book



Review: *Magic Words*

by **Gerald Kolpan**

Pegasus Books, 2012

ISBN: 978-1-60698-369-1

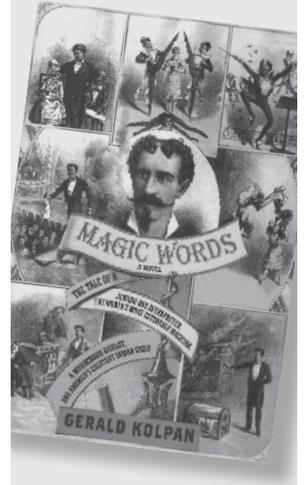
Julius Meyer, a Jew born in Bromberg, Prussia, arrived in Omaha in 1866, was found dead in Hanscom Park in 1909—shot in the chest and head. His demise was declared a suicide. Meyer, a multilingual merchant adventurer who traded with the Indians is almost an iconic figure. His photographic portrait with Standing Bear, his Indian Wigwam Store at 163 Farnam St., and stereographs, are familiar to many Nebraskans. If not, try Google images.

Gerald Kolpan, a television feature reporter, earned eight Emmy Awards during twenty years working at WTXF TV in Philadelphia. This is his second novel. The colorful dust jacket twice

announces the novel’s alluring story line: “The tale of a Jewish boy-interpreter, the world’s most estimable magician, a murderous harlot, and American’s greatest Indian chief.”

Kolpan’s imagination transforms Meyer’s life, mysterious ending, and Omaha’s early rough and tumble history into dramatic fiction. If you are fond of novels fabricating the history of early Nebraska urban history this is for you. If you favor scholarly research with reliability, footnotes, bibliography, and index, you may be interested in the process of fictionalization. Why does Julius Meyer have such staying power? Mikal Brotnov, a UNL history graduate student, is studying shared experiences of Jews and Native Americans on the Great Plains, 1863-1920. 

Reviewed by
Oliver B. Pollak



Review: *Riding the Trail of Tears*

by **Blake M. Hausman**

University of Nebraska Press, 2011

ISBN 987-0-8032-3926-5

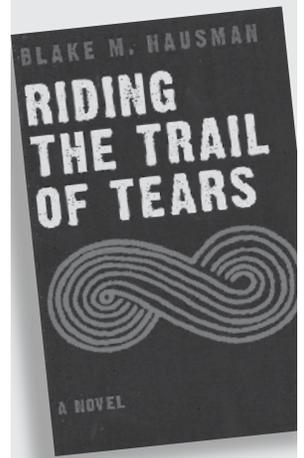
Blake M. Hausman certainly is not afraid of making powerful statements in this novel, an intersection of science and historical fiction, and the first line is a stunning example: “Tallulah Wilson never dies in her dreams.” This intriguing statement sets a tone for the rest of the novel, which is in many ways a meditation on dreaming and remembering.

The novel follows Tallulah Wilson, a Cherokee woman who works as a guide on a virtual, multisensory tour of the Trail of Tears, and eleven tourists, including two young girls and four college students. Programmed to involve all senses and adjust to participants’ responses, the tour can be unexpectedly brutal, forcing tourists to endure abuses similar to those of the indigenous peoples who were forcibly removed from the

American Southeast in 1838. Early in the tour, however, the disappearance of one tourist triggers Tallulah’s rapid loss of control over the other tourists, who rapidly begin (virtually) dying. The remaining tourists find themselves in a struggle to survive, reunite with their loved ones, and find meaning in their horror.

Seen as a piece of contemporary fantasy literature, the novel is enjoyable, but where it sparkles is in its complex and troublesome depiction of a largely under-represented period of American history. What makes it especially engaging is the conflict between the beauty of the American Deep South and the gruesome violence once inflicted on the indigenous peoples of the area. By creating a novel that allows readers a vicarious experience of the cruelties through the richness of the characters’ struggles, Hausman poses one very earnest question: what do we remember, and what do we want to forget? 

Reviewed by
S.R. Aichinger



The NCB News

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**Celebration of Nebraska Books
November 3, 2012**

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of people work in
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one of them.

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Calendar of Events:



View the complete
Nebraska Literary
Calendar at
centerforthebook.
nebraska.gov/
get_involved/calendar.
html

- An Evening with David Sedaris**..... October 31 Lincoln
Contact: <http://liedcenter.org/event/evening-david-sedaris>
- Anime NebrasKon, with Steve Blum and Keith Silverstein**..... November 2-4 ... Omaha
Contact: www.animenebraskon.com
- NE Center for the Book's Celebration of Nebraska Books**..... November 3 Lincoln
Annual Meeting at 2:30 p.m.
Contact: Mary Jo Ryan, maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov , 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665,
<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov>, www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook
- "The Story Behind the Journey that Saved Curious George"** November 7 Lincoln
Contact: <http://www.foundationforcl.org/nlha.htm>, 402-441-8516,
m.mcgowan@lincolnlibraries.org
- One Book One Nebraska: Meet Joe Starita** November 10 La Vista
Contact : Rose Barcal, 402-537-3900, rbarcal@cityoflavista.org
- John G. Neihardt Foundation Laureate's Feast** November 11 Bancroft
Contact: 402-648-3388, 888-777-4667, neihardt@gpcom.net, www.neihardtcenter.org
- Honoring American Indian Heritage Month** November 11 Beatrice
Contact: Merrith_Baughman@nps.gov, 402-223-3514,
<http://www.nps.gov/home/planyourvisit/150th-event-detail.htm?eventID=303776>
- The Northern Cheyenne Exodus in History and Memory** November 14 Lincoln
Contact: <http://www.unl.edu/plains/seminars/Olson/olsonseminars.shtml>
- The Plains Tribes & the Homestead Act** November 18 Bancroft
Contact: 402-648-3388, 888-777-4667, neihardt@gpcom.net, www.neihardtcenter.org
- Cheers for Miss Bishop Film** February 16..... Lincoln
Contact: Teresa Lorensen, 402-994-3855, tlorensen@windstream.net,
www.bessstreeteraldrich.org/events.html
- Nebraska Book Festival, with Kurt Andersen** April 5 & 6..... Omaha
Contact: Chuck Johanningsmeier, 402-554-3319, jmeier@unomaha.edu,
<http://bookfestival.nebraska.gov>, www.facebook.com/NebraskaBookFestival

