

Nebraska Book Festival Set for April 25-26 at UNO

The next Nebraska Book Festival, *Deliberate Shapes and Senses*, will be held April 25-26 in the Thompson Alumni Center of the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO). The festival is free and open to everyone who wishes to meet, hear, and talk with a few of Nebraska's

many talented authors who have published new works. All participating authors will answer questions from the audience, be available for book signing, and attend the concluding reception. Writers will conduct **writers workshops**. The Nebraska Center for the Book will present the **Mildred Bennett Award** to an individual for significant contributions to fostering literary tradition in Nebraska. Organizations, publishers, and vendors will be present. Activities begin Friday evening, April 25, with a **key-note presentation** by Nebraska native **Don**

Welch, poet and author of *Gnomes* (2013) and *Travels* (2010). In 1980, Welch won the Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry, judged by William Stafford. He retired as Reynolds Poetry Professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, but was re-appointed to that post as Interim Reynolds Poetry Professor for 2012-2013.

Saturday will include **presentations by authors** who will read and discuss their work:
Lucy Adkins, Becky Breed: *Writing in Community: Say Goodbye to Writer's Block and Transform Your Life*

Paul Dickey: *Wires Over the Home Place*
Marcia Calhoun Forecki: *Blood of the White Bear*

A.E. Fairfield: *The Polaris Effect*
Nancy Isom: *A Name to Remember*

Kent Krause: *Behind in the Count*
Tosca Lee: *Iscariot*

Kelly Madigan: *The Edge of Known Things*
Matt Mason: *The Baby That Ate Cincinnati*
John Price: *Daddy Long Legs: The Natural Education of a Father*

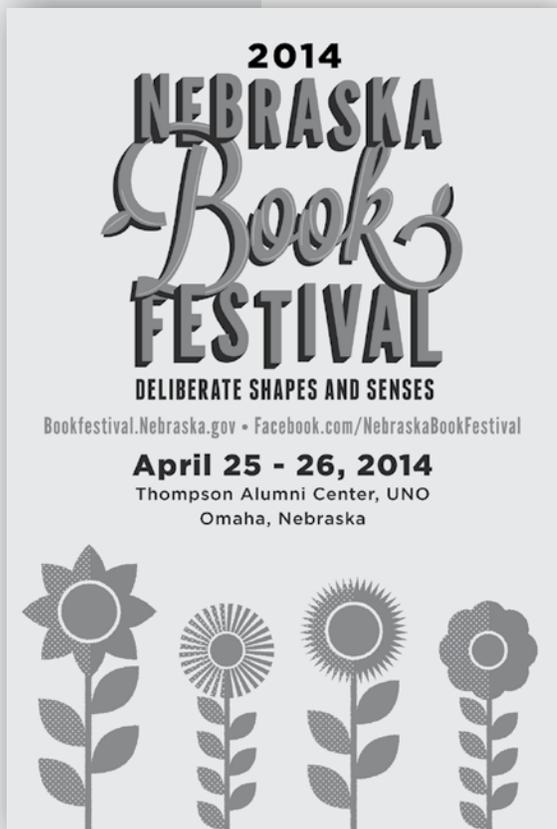
Jim Reisdorff: *The Un-Driving of the Golden Spike*
Marge Saiser: *Losing the Ring in the River*
Mary Kay Stillwell: *Fallen Angels, The Life & Poetry of Ted Kooser*

Lisa Kovanda, Brian Thomas: *Modified Flight Plain*

Benjamin Vogt: *Afterimage*
Darrell Wendt: *Confessions of a Railroad Crew Van Driver*

Eileen Wirth: *From Society Page to Front Page: Nebraska Women in Journalism*

The Nebraska Book Festival is presented by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Library Commission, Omaha Public Library, and University of Nebraska-Omaha College of Arts and Sciences—with support from the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. Keep up with the Festival at www.facebook.com/NebraskaBookFestival and <http://bookfestival.nebraska.gov>. See schedule of events on Page 4. 



Contact and Association Help Writers

Guest Editorial
by Gina M. Barlean,
Nebraska Writers
Guild



A founding member of The Nebraska Writers Guild in 1925, Bess Streeter Aldrich has been quoted as having said, “I am in favor of the open door policy, including anyone who actually writes. Contact and association help struggling writers and such assistance should be given them.” Ms. Aldrich is referring to the benefits writers gain when belonging to a writing group—“*contact and association for struggling writers*,” as she put it, is a positive thing. We at the Nebraska Writers Guild could not agree more.

Rubbing shoulders with Ms. Aldrich as founders of our organization were the likes of Willa Cather, Mari Sandoz and John G. Neihardt, among other prominent writers. We are proud of our history, but the 2014 progressive board of directors is also focused on the future. It’s a twenty-first century world and for the many young writers in our state, that means we must provide a tech-savvy organization. And we do. The Nebraska Writers Guild has an updated and well-maintained website, <http://www.nebraskawriters.org>, explaining the many benefits we provide our members. It lists our members’ biographies, websites and blogs, notes on whether they are available to speak—along with their topics, and upcoming events (such as the NWG Spring Conference to

be held at Mahoney State Park on April 11-12). The website also provides links to a variety of writing resources, the opportunity to join or renew membership online, and access to our blog, which offers insight and inspiration from our members. The Nebraska Writers Guild has a Facebook page, a Write Across Nebraska group page on Facebook, and a Yahoo email group. Technology is provided, but we also keep our traditions intact. We publish *The Broadside*, our quarterly newsletter, and *The Bulletin*, an annual catalogue that includes Guild member activities, and a membership directory via email or in print.

Annual dues for The Nebraska Writers Guild are reasonable. The Guild has members across the state and provides two annual conferences—one at Mahoney State Park and one further west. The Nebraska Writers Guild would like to promote what Nebraska’s local libraries are doing for readers and writers. We hope local libraries will update us about their wonderful events and speakers, and we encourage Nebraska libraries to seek out our members to give presentations; lead book discussions, book clubs or writing groups; or teach classes about editing, publishing, writing; and so much more. Ms. Aldrich’s words were very true. Contact and association help struggling writers. 

The **NCB** News

Spring 2014 | Volume 24 | No. 1

Nebraska Center for the Book Board and Committees

Executive Committee

Mary Ellen Ducey, President; Amanda Gailey, Vice-President; Matt Mason, Past-President; Lois Meyer, Secretary; Donna Kennedy Marvin, Treasurer

Funding/Membership

Donna Kennedy Marvin; Suzanne Wise

Nebraska Book Festival

Matt Mason; Mary Ellen Ducey; Erika Hamilton; Cindy Grady; Chuck Johanningsmeier; Becky Faber

Programs/Projects

Sharon Bishop, Chair; Becky Faber; Carolyn Clark; Lois Meyer; Nancy Johnson; Donna Kennedy Marvin

New Members

Christine Walsh; Neil Harrison; Marvel Maring; Cathy Mohnike

Publications/Publicity

Mary Ellen Ducey; Molly Fisher; Amanda Gailey; Chuck Johanningsmeier; Mary Jo Ryan (Nebraska Library Commission staff representative)

Awards Art Coordinator

Denise Brady

Letters About Literature Coordinator

Laureen Riedesel

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

2014 Nebraska Center for the Book Board Meetings

March 29 . . . 10:30 a.m.,
Kilgore Memorial Library
York, Nebraska

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, June 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, centerforthebook.nebraska.gov

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: Mary Jo Ryan
Design and Production: Reynold Peterson
Staff: Janet Greser
All book cover art and photos reprinted by permission of the publisher.



Governor Heineman Proclaims 2014 One Book One Nebraska: *Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen*

On Jan. 16, 2014 Governor Dave Heineman signed a proclamation honoring **2014 One Book One Nebraska: *Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen*** by Bob Greene. In this year people across Nebraska are encouraged to read this story of how North Platte, Nebraska—a plains community of only 12,000 people—came together during World War II to provide welcoming words, friendship, and baskets of food and treats to young people heading off to war. Award-winning journalist Bob Greene is a CNN contributor and a New York Times bestselling author who originally set out to write *Once Upon a Town* because, as he says on the book's first page, he was looking for "...the best America there ever was." He found it in North Platte, on the site of the old Canteen down by the railroad tracks. In this nonfiction story, Greene discovers the echoes of a love story between a country and its young people. During World War II, American soldiers from every city and walk of life rolled through North Platte on troop trains en route to their ultimate destinations in Europe and the Pacific. This small town, wanting to offer warmth and support to the servicemen and women, transformed its modest railroad depot into the North Platte Canteen. Every day of the year, every day of the war, the Canteen—staffed



l. to r.: Chris Sommerich (Humanities Nebraska), Mary Ellen Ducey (University of Nebraska-Lincoln), Governor Dave Heineman, Rosalie Lippencott (former North Platte Canteen volunteer), Rose Barcal (La Vista Public Library) and Rod Wagner (Nebraska Library Commission).

Photo courtesy Humanities Nebraska

and funded entirely by local volunteers—was open from 5:00 a.m. until the last troop train of the day pulled away after midnight. *Once Upon a Town* tells the story of how this plains community and the surrounding towns stepped up to boost the morale of more than six million GIs by the time the war ended.

One participant in the signing ceremony was Rosalie Lippencott, of Shelton, NE, who worked at the North Platte Canteen during her teen years, serving meals to soldiers passing through

(continued on page 7)

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 _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

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**



Nebraska Book Festival: Deliberate Shapes and Senses

Schedule of Events / April 25-26, 2014 / Omaha, Nebraska

Friday: April 25

Keynote Address

7:00 p.m.		Don Welch
-----------	--	-----------

Saturday: April 26

Writers Workshops

9:00-10:45 a.m.		Karen Shoemaker Tosca Lee
-----------------	--	------------------------------

Readings

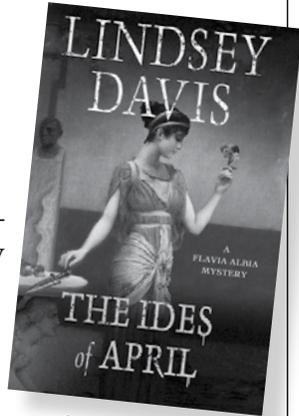
12:00 -1:00 p.m.	Session (Mystery):	A.E. Fairfield: <i>The Polaris Effect</i> (Tribeca Press, 2013) Nancy Isom: <i>A Name to Remember</i> (Tate Publishing, 2013) Marcia Calhoun Forecki: <i>Blood of the White Bear</i> (WriteLife, 2013)
	Session (Poetry):	Benjamin Vogt: <i>Afterimage</i> (Stephen F. Austin University Press, 2013) Marge Saiser: <i>Losing the Ring in the River</i> (University of New Mexico Press, 2013) Mary K. Stillwell: <i>Fallen Angels</i> (Finishing Line Press, 2013)
1:15-2:00 p.m.	Session (Poetry):	Matt Mason: <i>The Baby That Ate Cincinnati</i> (Stephen F. Austin University Press, 2013) John Price: <i>Daddy Long Legs The Natural Education of a Father (Trumpeter, 2013)</i>
	Session (History):	Tosca Lee: <i>Iscariot</i> (Howard Books, 2014) Eileen Wirth: <i>From Society Page to Front Page: Nebraska Women in Journalism</i> (University of Nebraska Press, Bison Books, 2013)
2:15-3:00 p.m.	Session (Railroad):	Jim Reisdorff: <i>The Un-Driving of the Gold Spike</i> (South Platte Press, 2013) Darrell Wendt: <i>Confessions of a Railroad Crew Van Driver</i> (South Platte Press, 2013)
	Session (Fiction):	Lisa Kovanda, Brian Thomas: <i>Modified Flight Plan</i> (CreateSpace, 2013) Kent Krause: <i>Behind in the Count</i> (Kodar Publishing, 2013)
3:15-4:00 p.m.	Session (Poetry):	Paul Dickey: <i>Wires Over the Home Place</i> (Pinyon Publishing, 2013) Kelly Madigan: <i>The Edge of Known Things</i> (Stephen F. Austin University Press, 2013)
	Session (Writing):	Lucy Adkins, Becky Breed: <i>Writing in Community: Say Goodbye to Writer's Block and Transform Your Life</i> (WriteLife, 2013) Laura Madeline Wiseman: <i>Women Write Resistance: Poets Resist Gender Violence</i> (Hyacinth Girl Press, 2013)
4:30 p.m.	Reception	



What Are You Reading?

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

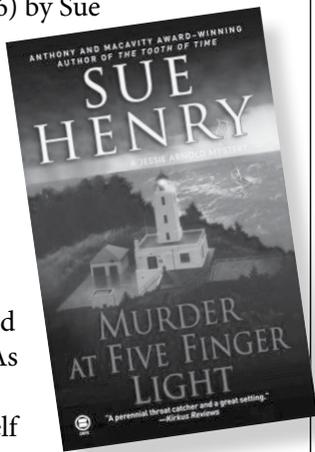
I picked up *The Ides of April* (Minotaur, 2013) by Lindsey Davis on a new book shelf at the public library. After the first few pages I was hooked. I really enjoyed it. I particularly liked that the setting for the story is Rome, with plenty to learn about Roman customs and



society. It turns out that this is the first in a new series by Davis. She has an earlier series of mysteries set in Rome, associated with the character in *Ides of April*. I look forward to being caught up in that series soon!

Mary Ellen Ducey

Since my husband and I volunteer at lighthouses, I am always on the lookout for a lighthouse story. I recently read *Murder at Five Finger Light* (Onyx, 2006) by Sue Henry. This Alaska story features Alaska's first light house along the Inside Passage and provides some historical information along with the mystery. The light still functions. The lighthouse is square. And it is accessible by boat. As is true with many lighthouses, the building itself belongs to a private party, although the Coast Guard maintains the light.



Molly Fisher

I am reading *The Dream Saga* (Temple House Pty Ltd., 2005) by Matthew Mason (a different Matthew Mason—as in: “not me”). This Matthew Mason lives in Australia. We were randomly connected via email and got to talking, finding we're both published writers. We exchanged books and I've just started on his sci-fi adventure.

Matt Mason

Charles Bowden's subtitle for his book *Killing the Hidden Waters* (University of Texas Press, 1977) addresses its content: *The Slow Destruction of Water Resources in the American Southwest*, a topic that should be of interest to Nebraskans, considering present concerns with the Ogallala Aquifer: the potential for pollution from the Keystone XL Pipeline, the proliferation of irrigation wells tapping into the aquifer, the amount of agricultural and industrial chemicals that eventually filter back into it, and the ever-present threat of drought in a state a good portion of which was once considered part of the Great American Desert.

Neil Harrison

My fourteen-year-old daughter recently gave me a wonderful present, *The Book Thief* (Knopf, 2007) by Markus Zusak. I spent many pleasurable hours during the recent cold snap following a cast of memorable characters through their difficult times in Nazi Germany, both before and during the second world war. The book's narrative form was much more experimental than I had expected from the movie trailers. It is definitely a book for older, more experienced readers who can appreciate its nuances. A great winter read!

Charles Johanningsmeier

I just finished *The Tower, the Zoo and the Tortoise* (Anchor, 2011) by Julia Stuart. I am currently reading *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (Dover, 2005) by Harriet Beecher Stowe and *Lady Almina and the Real Downton Abbey: The Lost Legacy of Highclere Castle* by The Countess of Carnarvon—and it is really fun!

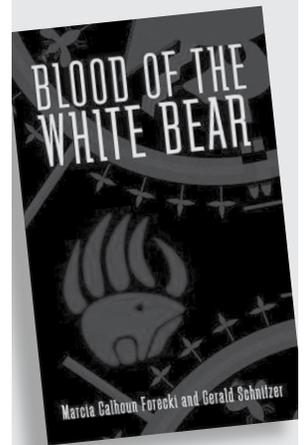
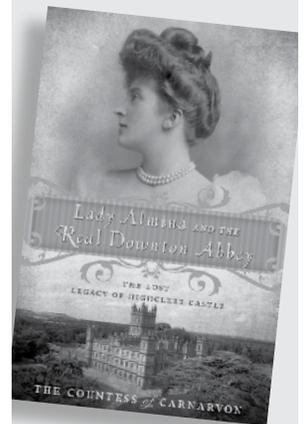
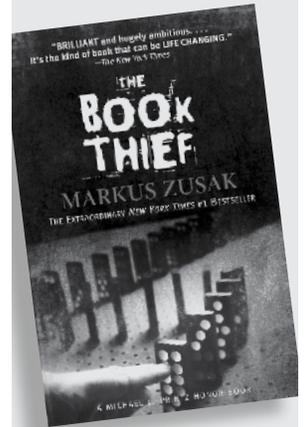
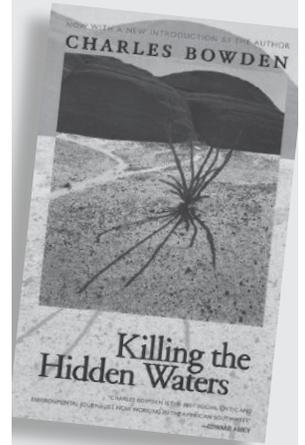
Donna Kennedy Marvin

I just read *Blood of the White Bear* (WriteLife, 2013) by Marcia Calhoun Forecki and Gerald Schnitzer. This new release is a medical thriller full of twists and turns. It is set in the Four Corners area and the focus of the story is the hunt for a cure for a 100% lethal pandemic that has erupted. If you love strong female protagonists and memorable characters, this novel is for you. It's a fast read, and in the end I was sad that the ride ended so quickly.

Cindy Grady

I am re-reading *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (E-M Press, 2012) by Thomas Hardy with my senior College English class—one of my favorite classics.

Lois Todd-Meyer 



American Life in Poetry: Column 461



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

So much of what we learn about life comes from exchanging stories, and this poem by a Californian, Peter Everwine, portrays that kind of teaching. I love the moment where he says he doesn't know if the story is true but it ought to be.

A Story Can Change Your Life

On the morning she became a young widow,
my grandmother, startled by a sudden shadow,
looked up from her work to see a hawk turn
her prized rooster into a cloud of feathers.
That same moment, halfway around the world
in a Minnesota mine, her husband died,
buried under a ton of rockfall.
She told me this story sixty years ago.
I don't know if it's true but it ought to be.
She was a hard old woman, and though she knelt
on Sundays when the acolyte's silver bell
announced the moment of Christ's miracle,
it was the darker mysteries she lived by:
shiver-cry of an owl, black dog by the roadside,

a tapping at the door and nobody there.
The moral of the story was plain enough:
miracles become a burden and require a priest
to explain them. With signs, you only need
to keep your wits about you and place your trust
in a shadow world that lets you know hard luck
and grief are coming your way. And for that
—so the story goes—any day will do.

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 © 2012 by Peter Everwine, whose most recent book of poems is *Listening Long and Late*, University of Pittsburg Press, 2013. Poem reprinted from *Ploughshares*, Winter 2012-13, Vol. 38, No. 4, by permission of Peter Everwine and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2013 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. 📖

Mastering the Art of Choosing a Title

by Oliver B. Pollak

Reviewing *Mastering the Art of Soviet Cooking* (2013) by Anta von Bremen, a delightful Proustian romp about Cold War diets, prompted me to research iconic titles. I already knew that Edward Gibbon's 1776 publication of *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* spawned the unending use of "Decline and Fall" in titles to assist sales by its referential authority. Believe it or not Julia Child's "Mastering the Art of French Cooking," appearing in 1961, was (according to WorldCat) the first time the term "Mastering the Art of" was seen as the first clause in a book title. Since Julia Child's introduced the trope, emulation has proliferated. There is "Mastering the Art of" performance, Chinese cooking, Southern cooking, French pastry, French eating, beekeeping, war, asset allocation, selling real estate, equity trading, dictation, painting, drawing, Q & A, creative

collaboration, solution-focused counseling, beading, embroidery, winning tennis, fly-tying, tying flies, and horsemanship. It is too early to tell if the 2009 film, "Julie and Julia," further impacted the use of "Mastering."

The Joy of Sex (1972) by Alex Comfort was not a pioneer, it probably stemmed from Irma S. Rombauer's *Joy of Cooking* (1931) or Leonard Bernstein's *The Joy of Music* (1959). I am not sure how Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club* (1989) fits. *Dummy* and *Idiot* guides are famously marketable, succeeding Cliff Notes pioneered by Nebraskan Cliff Hillegeass. Titles are mediated by authors, editors, marketers, focus groups, discussion, collaboration, REM sleep, and the Ouija board. Choosing a link to an icon combines the flattery of plagiarism and hooking one's star to another's groundbreaking achievement. 📖



Gov. Dave Heineman Names Twyla Hansen Nebraska State Poet

Twyla Hansen is an accomplished poet with an extensive publishing history, both in books and periodicals. She has received numerous awards and honors for her poetry, including the High Plains Book Award and the WILLA Literary Award. The Nebraska Center for the Book twice awarded her the Nebraska Book Award. Gov. Heineman named the State Poet from the recommendation of a five-person State Poet Selection Committee, coordinated by the Nebraska Arts Council, Humanities Nebraska, and the Nebraska Library Commission. State Poet Selection Committee member and Executive Director of the Nebraska Arts Council, Suzanne Wise, said, "We are excited that Governor Heineman has named Twyla as State Poet. She forms a nice bridge between the older generation of Nebraska poets and the younger poets, who know her as a good collaborator and mentor in her own right."

"There are so many fine writers in this state; I am truly honored and humbled by this selection. I look forward to working with students and citizens in the creative writing process throughout our great State of Nebraska," said Hansen. Hansen has done a great deal of community outreach, poetry workshops, and readings. She has an undergraduate degree in Horticulture and a Master's degree in Agroecology, both from the

University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She was officially introduced to the public on January 13 at the State Capitol in Lincoln. First Lady Sally Ganem made the introduction. Hansen read her own work and shared some insight about what she plans to accomplish during her five-year tenure. The other two Nebraska State Poet finalists, Matt Mason and Roy Scheele, also read their poetry.

The position of State Poet was created in 1921, honoring John Neihardt who was named Nebraska Poet Laureate "in perpetuity" by the state legislature in 1927. Hansen is the third poet and first woman to hold this position. William Kloefkorn, Hansen's poetry mentor, was named Nebraska State Poet by former Governor Charles Thone in 1982, a position he held until his death in 2011. Keep up with Hansen's activities at <https://www.facebook.com/twylamhansen>. [nebraskastatepoet](https://www.facebook.com/twylamhansen). 📖



Twyla Hansen
Nebraska State Poet

Photo courtesy Humanities
Nebraska

Governor Heineman Proclaims 2014 One Book One Nebraska: *Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen* (continued from page 3)

on troop trains. On the evening of the ceremony, she made a presentation in Aurora, Nebraska, her 41st such presentation. To view a video of a presentation she made on November 13, 2011 to the Hall County Nebraska Historical Society, see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYHQRKUB62I>

The One Book One Nebraska reading program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska Library Commission, and Humanities Nebraska is entering its tenth year. It encourages

Nebraskans across the state to read and discuss one book, chosen from books written by Nebraska authors or that have a Nebraska theme or setting. Libraries across Nebraska will join other literary and cultural organizations in planning book discussions, activities, and events to encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this book. Support materials to assist with local reading/discussion activities are available at <http://onebook.nebraska.gov>. Updates and activity listings will be posted there and on <http://www.facebook.com/onebookonenebraska>. 📖



Review:

Reviewed by
Lois Todd-Meyer,
Sutton High School

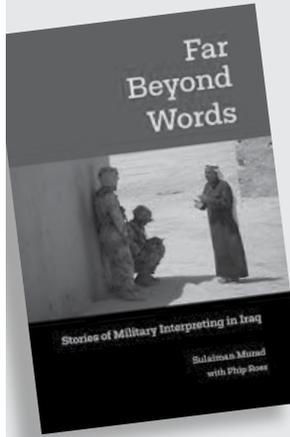
Far Beyond Words: Stories of Military Interpreting in Iraq

by Sulaiman Murad and Phip Ross

I just finished reading a brand-new book, *Far Beyond Words: Stories of Military Interpreting in Iraq* by Sulaiman Murad and Phip Ross, both Lincoln residents. I found out about the book because Ross and I were both students in the same educational doctorate program at UNL. This book opens the door to a compelling look at the experience of war from the point of view of a man who served as an interpreter for US military forces in Iraq. The author's voices come through as authentic and honest, describing and explaining the very real pitfalls that arise for an army when they invade a country not knowing the language, culture, and intricate tribal customs of the people they intend to liber-

ate. There are stories of terrible tragedy, as well as stories of laughter and camaraderie that developed between the interpreters and the people for whom they worked.

For many Americans, the war our country fought in Iraq was not front/center in the list of things we thought about every day. I confess to more of an interest because my son served a deployment in Iraq. This book offers a chance for any American reader to see what war looks like through the eyes of a local person. What emerges is complex, sometimes heart-rending, at times confusing, but always very real. There's nothing sanitary or sugar-coated about this depiction of a war that had a tremendous impact on the country and people of Iraq, as well as the American soldiers who experienced the war first-hand. 📖



The Great Plains in Black and White

by Oliver B. Pollak

The Great Plains area welcomes photographers, writers and filmmakers who use black and white. Maybe it's a tradition, maybe the dictates of the landform, maybe the citizenry lend themselves to stark and nuanced shades of grey. Maybe something would be lost with color added. Novelist and photographer Wright Morris used black and white in his classic *The Home Place* (1948), which stands with work by Willa Cather and Marie Sandoz as Nebraska emblems. Now we have the enshrinement of Cuming County in *This Place, These People: Life and Shadow on the Great Plains* (Columbia Univ. Press, 2013), in photographs by San Franciscan Nancy Warner and text by Columbia University sociologist David Stark—two cousins with Nebraska links. Stark observes, listens, interviews, and extracts pithy and taciturn words of Nebraska farming life. Warner captures abandoned deteriorating former homesteads with peeling paint and wall-paper, exposed lath and plaster, rubble on the floor, broken and missing windows, and gaping

holes in the roof. West and east coast combine their sensitivities to record in photos and words what they left behind in the plains—what they missed and what no longer exists. Wright Morris's mid-twentieth century photos were of the

bleak living present foreshadowing Warner's images of a bleak past.

Back in the mid-1970s I got a Great Plains railroad map framed with weathered wood from an old barn—now an artifact. On a recent trip to the incredibly exciting Crystal Bridges American Art Museum in Bentonville, AR, I repeatedly exclaimed “Look at the tumble-down, flattened farm building.” Omaha native Alexander Payne directed “Nebraska.” His earlier films include “Citizen Ruth,” “Election,” “About Schmidt,” “Sideways,” and “The

Descendants.” I cannot imagine “The Descendants,” set in Hawaii, in black and white. But Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Norfolk, Hooper, and Lincoln—now that's another story. The characters' dementia, resentment, and failed promises of life, all dark feelings, couple well with black and white. 📖



Poster Courtesy
Paramount Studios



Chautauqua Set for Scottsbluff-Gering and Norfolk

The 2014 Chautauqua will be held in Norfolk on June 18-22 and in Scottsbluff-Gering on June 25-29. The theme of the 2014 Chautauqua is “Free Land? 1862 and the Shaping of Modern America,” part of a four-year Chautauqua series (2012-2015) presented by Humanities Nebraska. The “Free Land” Chautauqua encourages Nebraska audiences to experience and explore the collective impacts of the Homestead Act, the Pacific Railway Act, and the Morrill Act on Nebraska, the Great Plains, and the nation. The influences of these three pieces of legislation, all passed within six weeks of each other in 1862, will be explored through scholarly portrayals of six prominent historical figures: Union general and railroad builder Grenville Dodge, author Willa Cather, Ponca

chief Standing Bear, author and homesteader Laura Ingalls Wilder, homesteader and inventor George Washington Carver, and humorist Mark Twain. Central to the Chautauqua experience are these scholarly portrayals of historical figures every evening under the Chautauqua tent. Each Chautauquan will deliver a 40-minute, first person presentation as his or her historical figure, followed by questions from the audience. In addition to their evening presentations, the Chautauquan scholars will hold educational workshops for both adults and children throughout the week.

Local community libraries will host discussions of books that help illuminate this theme. For more information see <http://humanitiesnebraska.org/program/chautauqua/>. 



30th Annual Adult Spelling Bee on March 20

The Nebraska Literary Heritage Association (NLHA) will sponsor the thirtieth anniversary edition of their annual Adult Spelling Bee on March 20 at The Single Barrel in Lincoln. The event begins with a 6:00 p.m. social hour and the spelling begins at 7:00 p.m. The Bee will once again feature popular Emcee John Baylor and Judges Kit Keller, John Keller, and Layne Pierce. Special Anniversary Celebrity Spellers will include Ted Kooser, Carol Connor, and Pat Leach. Spectators: \$10. Contestant Entry

Fee: \$30—individual and corporate sponsors are welcome. To enter or sponsor, return a completed contestant form early or at the door. For questions or entry forms, contact nlhaspellingbee@gmail.com, or 402-441-8516. All proceeds support the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors—a unique resource of more than 13,000 books by nearly 4,000 writers with a Nebraska connection, located at the Bennett Martin Public Library. 



Educators Invited to Apply for Teacher Programs

The Library of Congress is now accepting applications for its week-long summer programs for K-12 educators. Held at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., this professional development opportunity provides educators with tools and resources to effectively integrate primary sources into K-12 classroom teaching. The 2014 Summer Teacher Programs emphasize student engagement, critical

thinking, and construction of knowledge in the areas of Civil Rights and Science. Applications are due March 24 and require a letter of recommendation. Read more and apply now at <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/professionaldevelopment/teacherinstitute>. For more information contact: Cheryl Lederle, Educational Resources Specialist, clcd@loc.gov, 202-707-3550. 



2014 New Teen Book List

by Paul Christopherson, Omaha Public Library

I have always enjoyed teens and working with teens. What makes my job at Omaha Pubic Library so great is that I get a chance to work with my favorite group, teenagers. I just love what I do! I have a lot of stories to tell. Just last week a mother came to the reference desk and she said to me as I placed a book on hold for her, "I just want to thank you for helping my daughter get excited about reading. Several years ago you came to Anderson Middle School and you spoke and she got really interested in reading and now that she is in High School, she has been reading ever since." I do a lot of programming in the summer and every summer we do a number of different lock-ins or after hours parties for teens. Every once in a while there is one student who comes into our library during a holiday break from the University of Nebraska where he is majoring in Archaeology. He said to me one day about a year ago, "You know when I came to your lock-ins years ago, I had the best time." I work with many teenage volunteers during the summer and they learn a great deal about serving the community and developing a genuine love for the library. Samuel, one of those teenagers

volunteered seventy-two hours, last June and July. Isn't that incredible? He is really remarkable. I plan to continue to post verbal snapshots of the wonderful teens that I have the opportunity to work with, along with my teen booklists featuring the best books I read in the month's prior to the publication of each edition of *NCB News*. Teen reading highlights from October, November, and December include:

Champion by Marie Lu. Day and June find out that a powerful plague has invaded the colonies and they believe that the Republic has a solution. But if they don't come forward and offer the cure the colonies are going to start a war.

Just One Year by Gayle Forman. Allyson spends a whole year trying to find Willem after they spent a wonderful day together, but the truth is Willem is also trying to find Allyson in this story of unrequited love.

Foul Trouble by John Feinstein. Danny Wilcox is one of the best High School basketball players in the country. He then becomes a target of several college coaches who try to convince him to come

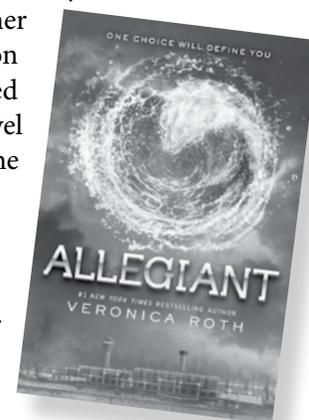
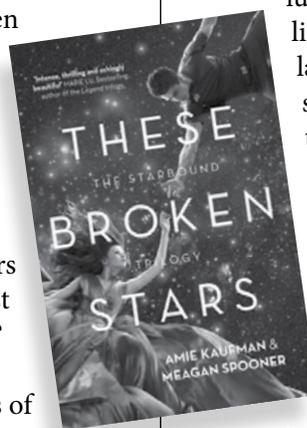
to their school even if it means that they are guilty of recruiting violations.

These Broken Stars by Amie Kaufman. Lilac and Tarver surprisingly survive the crash of a

luxury space-liner called the Icarus, which lands on a nearby planet. Will they be stuck here forever or can they find a way to escape? Lilac and Tarver eventually discover they really need each other in order to discover answers for the crisis that they find themselves in.

Allegiant by Veronica Roth. Tris and Tobias have joined a group of rebels and they want to find out, among other things, the reason why their society is based on factions. As they travel outside the borders of the city, secrets are revealed and a battle is brewing.

For more teen reading lists or to share your favorites, contact Paul Christopherson, Teen Librarian, Millard Branch Library-Omaha Public Library, PChristopherson@omahalibrary.org 



Hey Kids! What Are You Reading?

The Nebraska Center for the Book would like to hear from Nebraska's kids. Send us a note describing your favorite books, what you're reading, why you like to read, or any other thoughts on books and reading, and we will select some for publication here. Please include your name, grade, hometown, and a note from your parents giving us permission to publish your comments. Send contributions to maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov. We can't wait to hear from you!

Our first contribution is from Millie, a third grader in Lincoln. Millie writes:

A LEMONY SNICKET RIDDLE
Who is the best children's writer?

Who writes scary, funny books such as *The Composer is Dead*, *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, *The Beatrice Letters*, *All the Wrong Questions*, and *The Unauthorized Autobiography*?

Hint: He was born in San Francisco.

Answer: Lemony Snicket 



Writers Camps to be Held in June

Registrations are being accepted now for the **Summer 2014 "Young Writer's Camp"** June 16-27 on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) city campus. This camp is open to aspiring young writers, grades 9-12, and presented by the Nebraska Writing Project and UNL. See brochure and registration form at <http://www.unl.edu/newp/Docs/2014YWCampBrochureFinal.pdf> and register by May 15. For more information contact Stacey Waite, swaite2@unl.edu, 402-472-1827, or see the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQRw4hCv3CA&feature=youtube> and

registration form at <http://nebraskawritingproject.org/newp-events/youngwriterscamp/>

Registrations are also being accepted now for the fifteenth year of **Fine Lines Writing Summer Camps** for creative writers—students of all ages, including grades 4-12, college, and adult. The camps will be held June 9-13 at Beveridge Magnet Middle School in Omaha. For more information contact David Martin, fine-lines@cox.net, 402-871-3682, http://finelines.org/?page_id=1311, or see the registration form at <http://finelines.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/2014-Bev-SumCampflyer.pdf>. 

Hometown Teams Exhibit to Tour Nebraska

Hometown Teams is a compelling Smithsonian exhibition that explores how sports have helped shape our national character for well over a hundred years. Whether it's professional sports, college or high school teams, or community leagues and whether we are one of the players or one of the fans, sports are a big part of what we do. Join us for a fascinating look at the way sports have reflected the triumphs and trials of the American experience.

Exhibit Schedule:

March 1 – April 5: Morton-James Public Library, Nebraska City

April 13 – May 17: Wahoo Public Library, Wahoo

June 1 – July 5: El Museo Latino/The Latino Museum, Omaha

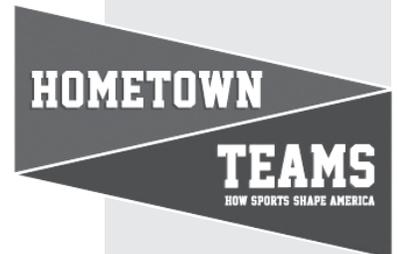
July 13 – August 9: Saint Paul Library, Saint Paul

August 17 – September 20: Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library, Tilden

September 28 – October 31: Knight Museum & Sandhills Center, Alliance

November 9 – December 13: Dawson County Historical Museum, Lexington

For more information and to share the story of your Hometown Teams hero, see <http://humanitiesnebraska.org/nebraska-hometown-teams-2014/> 



The NCB News



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
34-00-12

**Attend the 2014
Nebraska Book Festival
April 25 & 26 in Omaha**

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DRIVE

It's time to renew your NCB membership.

President Mary Ellen Ducey will soon be sending out membership renewal reminders. Please show your support and save us the postage—send your check now to the Nebraska Center for the Book.

Membership form on page 3.

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

Calendar of Events:



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

- 30th Annual Adult Spelling Bee**..... March 20..... Lincoln
Contact: Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, Lincoln City Libraries,
402-441-8516, nlhaspellingbee@gmail.com
- National Poetry Month** April Nationwide
Contact: www.poets.org
- Center for Great Plains Studies Symposium: Drought in the Life, Cultures and
Landscapes of the Great Plains, featuring Ian Frazier**..... April 1-4 Lincoln
Contact: 402-472-3082, gps@unl.edu, http://www.unl.edu/plains/2014-symposium
- Read Aloud Nebraska Workshop, with Rob Reid**..... April 4 Seward
Contact: nfo@readaloudnebraska.org, http://www.readaloudnebraska.org/robreid.html
- WillyCon Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention, with Chloe Neill and Arden Ellen Nixon** April 4 - 6 Wayne
Contact: scifi@wsc.edu, http://wildcat.wsc.edu/clubs/willycon/currentcon/
- Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation Spring Banquet**..... April 5 Elmwood
Contact: Teresa Lorensen, 402-994-3855, florensen@windstream.net,
http://www.bessstreeteraldrich.org/events.html
- NE Writers Guild Spring Conference**..... April 11-12 .. Mahoney State Park
Contact: www.nebraskawriters.org/content/spring-conference
- Nebraska Book Festival, featuring Don Welch** April 25-26 Omaha
Contact: Mary Ellen Ducey, mducey2@unl.edu, 402-472-5076
http://bookfestival.nebraska.gov, www.facebook.com/NebraskaBookFestival
- ConStellation 5, with Carrie Vaughn, A.B. Word, and Daniel C. Nielsen**..... Lincoln..... April 25-27
Contact: help@constellationne.net, http://www.constellationne.net/
- 58th Annual Willa Cather Spring Conference: Mapping Literary Landscapes:
Environments and Ecosystems**..... June 5-7..... Red Cloud
Contact: Willa Cather Foundation, 866-731-7304,
http://www.willacather.org/conferences/spring-conference
- Superior Summer Screenwriting Colony** June 14-27 Superior
Contact Lew Hunter, lew1@windstream.net, 402-879-3617,
www.lewhunter.com/SuperiorColony.html
- "Free Land? 1862 and the Shaping of Modern America" Chautauqua** June 18-22 Norfolk
- "Free Land? 1862 and the Shaping of Modern America" Chautauqua** June 25-29 Scottsbluff-Gering
Contact: Nebraska Humanities Council, 402-474-2131, nhc@nebraskahumanities.org,
http://humanitiesnebraska.org/program/chautauqua/

