

## Nebraska Book Festival Set for July 14-15 in Lincoln

*T*he Nebraska Book Festival is Nebraska's premier opportunity to meet, hear, and talk with some of our area's many talented authors who have published new works. Join us in Lincoln for fun for the whole family.

by regional authors and host author signings throughout the day.

Family programming will be emphasized with Lincoln City Libraries sponsoring puppet shows by Mesner Puppets, a globally known

professional puppet theatre company based in Kansas City, MO. Paul Mesner, puppeteer, author and performer, studied puppetry as a teen in Lincoln before starting his own puppet theater in Omaha. The Nebraska Writers

### SAVE *the* DATE

July 14-15, 2017

Lincoln, NE

Constellation Studios • 255 O St.  
&

Union Plaza • 21<sup>st</sup> & Q St.

<http://bookfestival.nebraska.gov>

NEBRASKA  
*book festival 2017*

*Celebrating the Reading and Writing Life of the Great Plains*

Activities begin Friday evening, July 14, at Constellation Studios, 2055 O Street in Lincoln. This opening evening event is sponsored by Karen Kunc, Willa Cather Professor and Professor of Art at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). Nebraska State Poet Twyla Hansen and Daniel Simon, Editor of *Nebraska Poetry: A Sesquicentennial Anthology, 1867-2017*, (Stephen F. Austin State University Press, 2017), will celebrate 150 years of Nebraska's rich literary history with a program that will draw from the NE150 anthology. A letterpress keepsake will be offered to attendees.

Saturday activities at Union Plaza in the Antelope Valley neighborhood will feature presentations by authors, who will read and discuss their work. Participating authors will answer questions from the audience and be available for book signing. Literary and cultural organizations, publishers, and vendors will be present. Indigo Bridge Books will sell books

Guild will offer Writers Workshops and a variety of panel discussions are planned, including one on publishing options.

Junto Winery will offer an outdoor tasting room. The winery is located between Seward and Lincoln, with a mission to offer great wine produced and bottled locally from the rolling Garland Hills. They tell us, "Growing grapes in Nebraska puts you at the mercy of Mother Nature, but the risk is worth the reward."

The Nebraska Book Festival is coordinated by University of Nebraska Press and co-sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, Indigo Bridge Books, Lincoln City Libraries, Nebraska 4-H, and Redbrush. The festival is free and open to the public.

More details about presenters are forthcoming. Keep up with the Festival at [www.facebook.com/NebraskaBookFestival](http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaBookFestival) and <http://bookfestival.nebraska.gov>. 

# The One Book One Nebraska Experience

Guest Editorial by  
Karen Gettert  
Shoemaker

## 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.*

The night I wound up my One Book One Nebraska (OBON) travels, snow was making its winter debut in the western part of the state. I admit I breathed a sigh of relief as I pulled into Lincoln with just under 8,000 miles on my 2016 book trip meter and no harrowing road stories to tell.

When I add up the miles and count the number of presentations I've made (sixty-eight in 2016), the numbers seem small in comparison to the heft and weight of the experiences I've had. I'm not going to lie, having people read my book and say nice things to me about it never gets old, but my true satisfaction about this past year comes on a deeper level, one that involves my hopes for the book industry and the world in general. I learned that book lovers and avid readers populate every corner of this state. Since May 2014 when *The Meaning of Names* (Red Hen Press, 2014) was released, I've attended in person or via Skype more than sixty private book clubs. That doesn't count the presentations I made at libraries and civic groups where the audience numbered anywhere from 15 to 150. People came to those gatherings not just to be entertained, but to engage. They came with

questions and stories and an amazing capacity to listen to others.

The true value of literature lies in its ability to teach and encourage empathy, to help us understand people who are not like us. In this current season, it's easy to believe that we have lost touch with that side of ourselves that allows us to understand the "Other," but in my travels across the state I found so many readers who recognized the connections between the dark past and a darkness in our present. I saw again and again a recognition that we all have to do better in our everyday lives in order to prevent repeating the mistakes of our history. I have been humbled and honored to be a part of the process that brings books and discussion opportunities to communities all over Nebraska.

None of that would have been possible if not for Humanities Nebraska, the Nebraska Center for the Book, the Nebraska Library Commission and a host of dedicated volunteers. I am deeply grateful to everyone who made OBON 2016 a success. I'd also like to offer a special thanks to those in charge of the weather: dry roads and clear skies were a welcome bonus.

Thank you all. 

The **NCB**  
*News*

Spring 2017 | Volume 27 | No. 1

*This publication is supported in part by state aid funding appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.*

### Nebraska Center for the Book Board and Committees

#### Executive Committee

Sherry Houston, President; Mary Ellen Ducey, Past President; Lois Todd-Meyer, Secretary; Donna Kennedy Marvin, Treasurer

#### Funding/Membership

Sherry Houston, Donna Kennedy Marvin

#### Celebration of Nebraska Books

Molly Fisher, Sherry Houston, Lois Todd-Meyer

#### Nominating

Scott Abels, Kate Borchman Hassebrook, Becky Faber, Sherry Houston

#### One Book One Nebraska

Becky Faber, Erika Hamilton, Nancy Johnson, Lois Todd-Meyer, Christine Walsh

#### Publications/Publicity

Mary Ellen Ducey, Molly Fisher, Donna Kennedy Marvin (Letters about Literature Promotion), Christine Walsh, Mary Jo Ryan (Nebraska Library Commission staff representative)

#### Letters About Literature Coordinator

Laureen Riedesel

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

#### Nebraska Center for the Book Board Meeting

February 25 . . . . . 10:00 a.m.

Nebraska Library  
Commission  
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, 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; 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov, [centerforthebook.nebraska.gov](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov)

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Editor: Mary Jo Ryan

Design and Production: Reynold Peterson  
Staff: Tessa Terry, Janet Greser, and Mary Sauers  
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## Governor Proclaims 2017 One Book One Nebraska: *Black Elk Speaks*

On Jan. 9, 2017 Governor Pete Ricketts signed a proclamation honoring 2017 One Book One Nebraska: *Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt. This year people across Nebraska are encouraged to read this story of the Oglala Lakota visionary and healer Nicholas Black Elk (1863-1950) and his people. It offers readers much more than a glimpse of a vanished time. Black Elk's searing visions of the unity of Humanity and Earth, conveyed by John G. Neihardt, have made this book a classic that crosses multiple genres and generations. The 2017 One Book One Nebraska selection is among 150 books chosen to highlight the 150th year celebration of Nebraska's statehood. Rod Wagner, Director of the Nebraska Library Commission, presented the governor with a copy of the book.

"The John G. Neihardt Foundation and State Historic Site in Bancroft is honored to take part in sharing this story, as well as our heritage and history, together with Nebraskan readers and beyond," said Amy Kucera, Executive Director at the John G. Neihardt State Historic Site. "This transcendent tale is a true gift – created from a remarkable past so we might better understand the present, it continues to inform and inspire the future as each generation takes its turn through the pages."

The One Book One Nebraska reading program is entering its thirteenth year and is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, John G. Neihardt Foundation, Nebraska State Historical Society, University of Nebraska Press, Humanities

*(continued on page 8)*

*Celebrating the 2017 One Book One Nebraska Proclamation are (l-r) Mike Fisk, Walt Duda, Joe Green, Mary Ellen Lincoln and Randy Lukasiewicz, all John G. Neihardt Foundation Board; Amy Kucera, John G. Neihardt State Historic Site; Tim Anderson, John G. Neihardt Foundation Board; Erika Hamilton, Humanities Nebraska; Governor Pete Ricketts; Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission; Pat Leach, Nebraska Center for the Book board and Lincoln City Libraries; Kate Borchman Hassebrook, Nebraska Center for the Book board; Anna Weir, University of Nebraska Press; Paul Hammel, John G. Neihardt Foundation Board; Tayler Lord, University of Nebraska Press; and Lois Todd Meyer and Donna Kennedy Marvin, both Nebraska Center for the Book board.*

### **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**



## Support for Letters About Literature

*Wow! I learned about Letters About Literature many years ago and am just coming back to having my students write them again this year. Also, it turns out many of the winners have been from my school. This is going to be great to share with my students. They will be very inspired. THANKS! for the information.*

...from a Nebraska Middle School Teacher

Humanities Nebraska joins the Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Library Commission in a new pilot program to increase participation in the 2017 Letters about Literature (LAL) competition. Humanities Nebraska will contribute \$1,500 to help fund expenses for Letters About Literature Letter Writing Clinics. Nebraska teachers and librarians are invited to apply for \$300 grants to conduct Letter Writing Clinics. Clinics will introduce students to the Letters about Literature contest and letter writing techniques, as well as book selection. Grant funds will be used for instructor honorariums, supplies, marketing, small participation prizes, etc. Applicants will target their efforts to specific age groups: grades 4-6, grades 7-8, or grades 9-12.

For more information about the LAL Letter Writing Clinic grants (due March 30), see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/lalwritingclinics> or contact JoAnn McManus, Nebraska Library Commission, 402-471-4870, 800-307-2665, [joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov](mailto:joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov). More about how the LAL national reading and writing promotion

program encourages young readers in grades 4-12 to explore what books mean to them by writing a personal letter to an author is available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>. Get inspired by listening to Nebraska winners Ashley Xiques and Sydney Kohl read and talk about and their winning letters to the authors that meant something to them at NET Radio's All About Books (<http://netnebraska.org/basic-page/radio/all-about-books>).

The Letters About Literature national competition is made possible by a generous grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, with additional support from gifts to the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, which promotes the contest through its affiliate Centers for the Book, state libraries, and other organizations. Letters About Literature is coordinated and sponsored in Nebraska by the Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Library Commission, with support from Houchen Bindery, Ltd., and Chapters Bookstore in Seward. 📖



**LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE**  
A Library of Congress National Reading and Writing Promotion

### Letter Writing Clinics Grant Opportunity

**Applications Accepted: Feb. 1, 2017 - Mar. 30, 2017 • 11:59 P.M.**

**“ Take part in this national contest & help your students succeed with a Letter Writing Clinic ”**

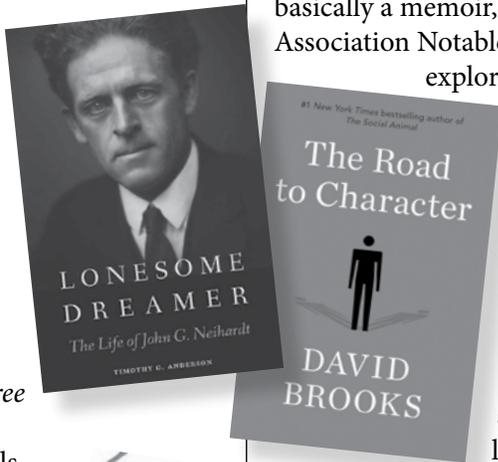
Introduce students to the *Letters About Literature* contest & letter writing techniques, work with them to select books, and craft letters to the authors.



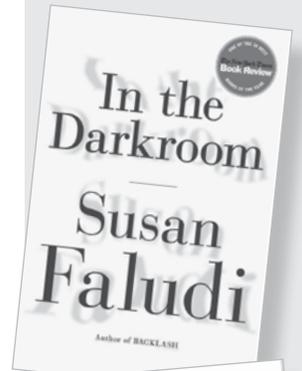
# What Are You Reading?

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

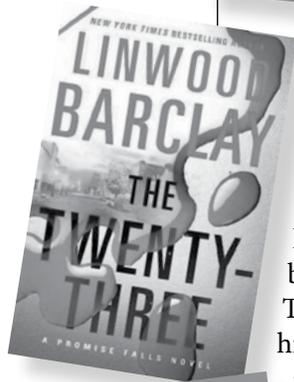
I am reading *Lonesome Dreamer* (Bison Books, 2016) by Timothy G. Anderson, an engaging read, and *The Road to Character* (Random House, 2016) by David Brooks, an interesting character study.  
**Kate Borchman Hassebrook**



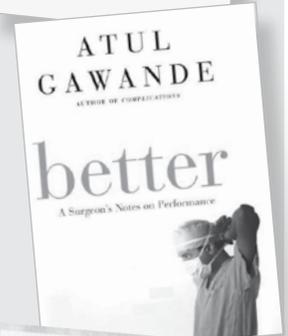
I'm reading *In the Darkroom* (Metropolitan Books, 2016) by Susan Faludi, a nonfiction book, basically a memoir, from the American Library Association Notable Books list for 2017. She explores her relationship with her father, who transitioned from male to female in his seventies.  
**Pat Leach**



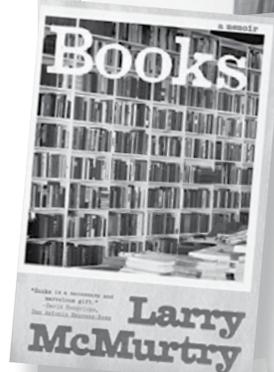
I'm reading *The Twenty-Three* (Berkley, 2016), which is the third book in the Promise Falls Trilogy by Linwood Barclay. It's a fast-read thriller with several characters and plenty of things happening. I've read some reviews that say the ending leaves you hanging, suggesting that there needs to be another book forthcoming. So far, I'm enjoying the book and hoping I won't be disappointed with the ending.  
**Diane Downer**



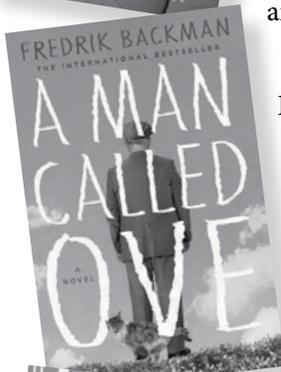
I'm reading *Better* (Picador, 2008) by Atul Gawande. This book speaks to the struggle to perform well in the field of medicine and a look at how we all can learn from failure.  
**Lois Todd-Meyer**



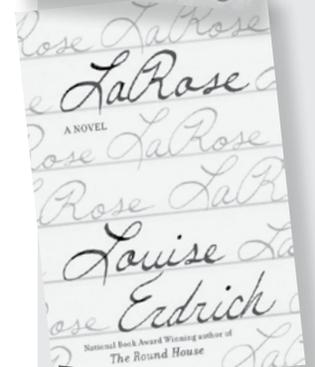
I'm reading Larry McMurtry's *Books: A Memoir* (Simon & Schuster, 2009). McMurtry is well known for his prolific writing as a novelist and screenwriter. But his true passion is that of a bookseller and bookstore owner (Booked Up in Archer, TX). *Books* is McMurtry's memoir about his years as a buyer, seller, and collector of antiquarian books.  
**Rod Wagner**



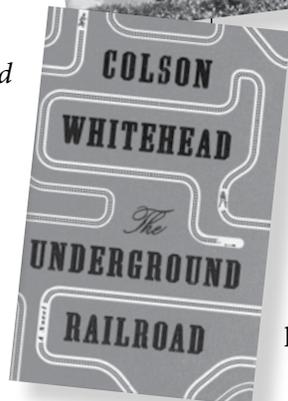
I read *A Man Called Ove* (Washington Square Press, 2015) by Fredrik Backman, a heartwarming read about a retired curmudgeon who helps everyone in his neighborhood. I also saw the movie and really liked it. My book club loved it too.  
**Molly Fisher**



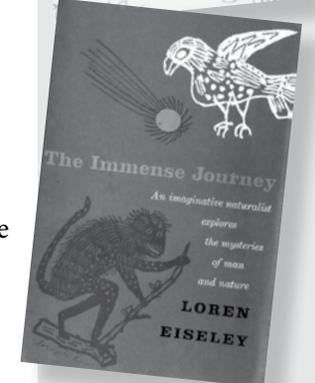
I am reading *LaRose* (Harper, 2016) by Louise Erdrich. It is a heart-breaking novel about a man who accidentally kills the son of his best friend. He feels that the only way to handle his guilt and the grief of the bereaved parents is to give them his own son, who is the same age as the boy who was killed. Erdrich is an incredible story teller, and this book holds up to the high standard of her previous novels.  
**Becky Faber**



I just finished *The Underground Railroad* (Doubleday, 2016) by Colson Whitehead. This book has been nominated for several prestigious awards and it is a fabulous read. I have read many books about slavery, but I don't think any have affected me as much. It is easy to read, yet profound.  
**Sherry Houston**



I came across *The Immense Journey* (Random House, 1957) by Loren Eiseley while cleaning the bookshelves, and since having never read it, I dove right in. What a fascinating read. It is fun and filled with awesome factoids about living things and the planet Earth. I highly recommend!  
**Donna J. Kennedy Marvin** 📖



## American Life in Poetry: Column 616



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

Marjorie Saiser is a Nebraska poet about whose work I have said that no contemporary poet is better at writing about love. Here's a love poem from her new book, *I Have Nothing to Say about Fire*, from Backwaters Press.

### The Print the Whales Make

You and I on the boat notice  
the print the whales leave,  
the huge ring their diving draws  
for a time on the surface.  
Is it like that when we  
lose one another? Don't  
know, can't. But  
I want to believe  
when we can no longer  
walk across a room  
for a hug, can no longer  
step into the arms of the other,  
there will be this:

some trace that stays  
while the great body  
remains below out of sight,  
dark mammoth shadow  
flick of flipper  
body of delight  
diving deep.

### We do not accept unsolicited submissions.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)), publisher of *Poetry* magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2016 by Marjorie Saiser, "The Print the Whales Make," from *I Have Nothing to Say about Fire*, (Backwaters Press, 2016). Poem reprinted by permission of Marjorie Saiser and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2016 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. 

## Review:

Review by  
Faith A. Colburn

### Farthest House

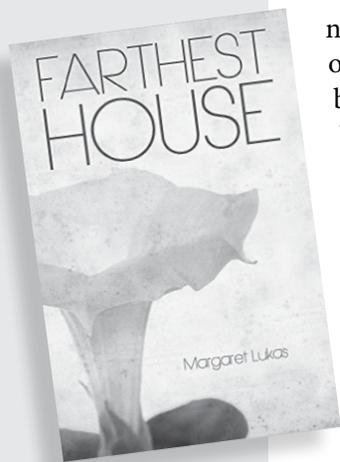
by Margaret Lukas  
Boutique of Quality Books, 2014  
ISBN: 9781608080809

In so many ways, a daughter was slain when her father no longer lived to speak her name into the world, no longer held the space of it open, insisted on it" (301). A woman bleeds to death giving birth with the word "murder" on her lips. So begins Nebraska author Margaret Lukas's book, *Farthest House*. Narrated by a ghost, *Farthest House* reveals how abuse and guilt affect lives many generations into the future.

Willow, the child born that night, and her father Julian, a police officer, live in Omaha. The little girl has a scapula that looks much like the bud of a wing and throughout the novel, that wing becomes an angel wing—or a deformity. An isolated little

girl, Willow spends much of her time with her ghostly ancestor—which only she can sense—and her drawings. The darkness of a previous generation, removed from Nebraska by more than a century, half a continent, and an ocean, weaves itself around the lives of people who know nothing of the tortured past. Only the ghost knows.

When she turns six, Willow's father takes her to *Farthest House* where she enters the circle of her extended family, a place full of anger and grief. As her life descends into misery and loss, Willow's paintings remain a comfort, giving her release from isolation and creating beauty from the perceived ugliness of her unusual shoulder. But can Willow's art rescue her from "otherness" as well as the less obvious deformities of her family and associates, who would make her life a living hell—or worse? 



## Poetry Anthology to Mark 150 Years of Statehood

Just in time for this year's statehood commemorations, *Nebraska Poetry: A Sesquicentennial Anthology, 1867–2017* will celebrate 150 years of the state's rich literary history. Edited by Daniel Simon, this landmark collection includes poems by authors best known for their prose—like Willa Cather, Loren Eiseley, and Tillie Olsen—as well as some remarkable but relatively forgotten writers from the late 19th to the mid-20th centuries. Among the contemporary writers, it includes poets of Nebraska's renowned "second renaissance" along with a rich array of younger authors who are redefining what poetry from and about the state might represent. A broadly inclusive as well as diverse anthology—featuring 80-plus poets and more than 180 poems—*Nebraska Poetry* celebrates the state's brilliant contribution not only to Great Plains literature but to the broader tradition of American letters.

The introduction lays out the rich diversity and thematic scope of Nebraska poetry from the earliest days of statehood to the present. In

Twyla Hansen's foreword, the current State Poet calls the book "a historic record of our state as reflected through the hearts and minds of its poets." *Nebraska Poetry* also includes a list of recommended readings and resources for exploring the state's poetry in depth. Published by Stephen F. Austin State University Press, the anthology will have its official statewide launch at Lincoln's Bennett Martin library on April 2, with readings by featured poets. As part of the John H. Ames Reading Series, the program is sponsored by the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors. All royalties from the first edition will be donated to the Heritage Room Endowment Fund.

The Sesquicentennial Commission has endorsed *Nebraska Poetry* as an official Legacy project of the Nebraska 150 Celebration. The April launch also coincides with the beginning of National Poetry Month, and the book will be showcased at a July 14 evening kickoff event for the 2017 Nebraska Book Festival at Lincoln's Constellation Studios. 📖

by Daniel Simon,  
University of  
Oklahoma



## Nominate Now for 2017 Nebraska Book Awards

We know there are great Nebraska writers and stories that deserve recognition. You can help make that happen by nominating your favorites for the 2017 Nebraska Book Awards program. Sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB) and Nebraska Library Commission the competition recognizes and honors books written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or relating to Nebraska. Books published in 2016, as indicated by the copyright date, are eligible for nomination. They must be professionally published, have an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), and be bound.

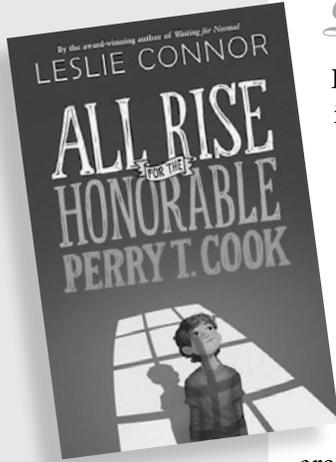
Nominate books in one or more of the following categories: Anthology, Children/Young Adult, Cover/Design/Illustration, Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry. Certificates will be awarded to the winners in each category at the Nebraska Center for the Book's Annual Meeting and Book Awards Celebration this fall in

Lincoln. The entry fee is \$40 per book and per category entered. **Deadline for entries is June 30, 2017.** For more information—including entry forms—see <http://www.centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards/nebookawards.html> or contact Mary Jo Ryan, [maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov](mailto:maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov), 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665. Enter by sending the entry form (<http://www.centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/docs/BookAwardsEntry.pdf>), three copies of the book, and the entry fee to NCB Book Awards Competition, Nebraska Library Commission, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023. 📖



**Review:**

Review by  
Sally Snyder,  
Nebraska Library  
Commission

**All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook**

by Leslie Connor  
Katherine Tegen Books, 2016  
ISBN: 9780062333469

Perry, age 11, was born and has lived all his life with his mother in the fictional Blue River Coed Correctional Facility in Surprise, NE—thanks to the warden pretending he isn't there. Then the new district attorney discovers his existence and “rescues” him from his mother and friends by bringing him home and becoming his foster family with his wife and his step-daughter, Zoey. Zoey is Perry's best friend at school.

For his class project, Perry decides to write the story of several inmates, who are his friends, and who agree to be interviewed.

Regret for what they, including Perry's mother Jessica, had done and how they have changed and are working toward parole (staying positive as much as possible) sends a different message than one might expect from prisoners. Perry is a wonderful character, with a positive viewpoint and an understandable confusion about things he has never encountered before, such as how to make the bathtub become a shower. His upbringing in the correctional facility has prepared him to give others a chance. Other characters are well developed and offer additional viewpoints as to how things can go terribly wrong and hopefully be forgiven. A terrific choice for grades 5-8 as well as adults.

Above review originally appeared in *NLCompass Blog*: “Friday Reads” feature ([nlc.nebraska.gov/nlcblog](http://nlc.nebraska.gov/nlcblog))

**Review:**

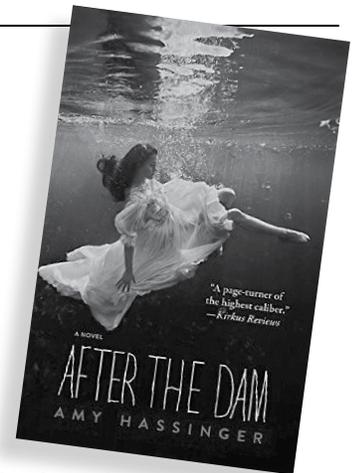
Review by  
Karen Shoemaker

**After the Dam**

by Amy Hassinger  
Red Hen Press, 2016  
ISBN: 9781597097536

I am reading Amy Hassinger's novel *After the Dam*. Hassinger's writing is taut and lovely and full of surprises. The novel, as much a love story as it is an environmental critique, tells the story of one young mother's struggles to find a balance between her responsibilities to her family and to herself, to the past and to the

future. Hassinger does not shy away from tough questions about mothering, nor about America's questionable ownership of the land our ancestors settled. It's a lyrical page-turner.

**Governor Proclaims 2017 One Book One Nebraska: Black Elk Speaks (continued from page 3)**

Nebraska, and Nebraska libraries and regional library systems. 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. Borrow a book club kit through your

local library. Check to see if your organization is eligible for Humanities Nebraska support for a public program featuring a Neihardt scholar. Check out the support materials to assist with local reading/discussion activities available at <http://onebook.nebraska.gov>. Updates and activity listings will be posted there and on <http://www.facebook.com/onebookonenebraska>.



## Behind the Scenes: Recording Books

Librarians are recognized for knowing the contents of books and how to organize them, but a special kind of library work at the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service brings books to life as Talking Books. Creating audio versions of printed materials is a unique art form with many steps, and here's an overview of how we do it.

**MAPPING:** Once books and magazines have been selected for recording, studio staff begin the process of “mapping,” which involves poring over the text to create a logical flow between printed elements. Narrative fiction works can be relatively simple, but magazines can require lots of attention to make sense in audio. Texts are annotated with a series of numbers and arrows to move between titles, bylines, main texts, sidebars, captions, and graphs or charts. Talking books and magazines include the unabridged content of print editions (except for advertising), and the mapping process assures that our recordings flow without missing anything.

**NARRATION:** Studio staff members work with volunteer narrators. Volunteers come in to record an audition. And if they pass, they sign up for weekly two-hour recording sessions. As the volunteer narrators read, Commission staff record them and follow along with another copy of the text, correcting mispronunciations, bad phrasing, missed words, or extraneous sounds. It's difficult for anyone to read perfectly from the printed page, and we pause many times on each page to perfect the recording. Staff work with narrators as a narration coach, helping to coax accurate and compelling performances from narrators.

**REVIEW:** Books go through an additional stage of review, with another staff person listening to the recording while following along with the text to catch any additional errors and fix them before the recording is completed.

**POSTPRODUCTION:** Staff apply digital tools to the finished recordings to make sure they sound their best. This can include making sure volume levels are consistent, equalization to improve voice and recording quality, noise reduction, and minimizing undesirable sounds (like loud breaths).

**MARKUP:** To make a finished book, the audio is imported into a specialized program for Digital Talking Books. Navigational markers are added to the audio, along with print descriptions of relevant navigational elements, such as tables of contents, parts, and chapters. For more complex works, the navigational structure can involve “nesting” elements to make them easier for readers to locate and use. For example, a cookbook could have food categories at level one, recipes at level two, and instructions at level three. Once the navigational structure is complete, the files are converted to a specialized audio format and the data is encrypted for copyright protection.

**DUPLICATION:** Books and magazines are copied onto digital cartridges for library customers to use with the Digital Talking Book Players we provide. Books are shelved and circulated upon request, and the latest issues of magazines are automatically sent to subscribers. It may be a complicated process, but careful attention to detail makes for a rewarding experience for Talking Book borrowers.

For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/tbbs/>. To volunteer as a narrator, contact Annette Hall, Volunteer Services Coordinator, 402-471-4033, 800-742-7691, [annette.hall@nebraska.gov](mailto:annette.hall@nebraska.gov). 

by Scott Scholz,  
Nebraska Library  
Commission



Scott Scholz, Talking  
Books and Braille  
Service Director

Photo courtesy of Rachel Kenny



# Treasures of the Heritage Room

by Erin Willis,  
Lincoln City  
Libraries

*Black Elk Speaks* has had many lives in the past 85 years and it continues to attract a broad and diverse readership. Each new publication since 1932 has adapted to a changing culture of readers and the book continues to grow in popularity. While the text itself remains the same, each volume unveils new insights into life of the Lakota holy man, Nicholas Black Elk, and his biographer, John G. Neihardt.

Originally published in 1932 to critical acclaim, *Black Elk Speaks* was a disappointment to Neihardt and his publisher, William Morrow & Company, because of its failure to reach any real audience. The book died quickly following its publication and, until it was republished

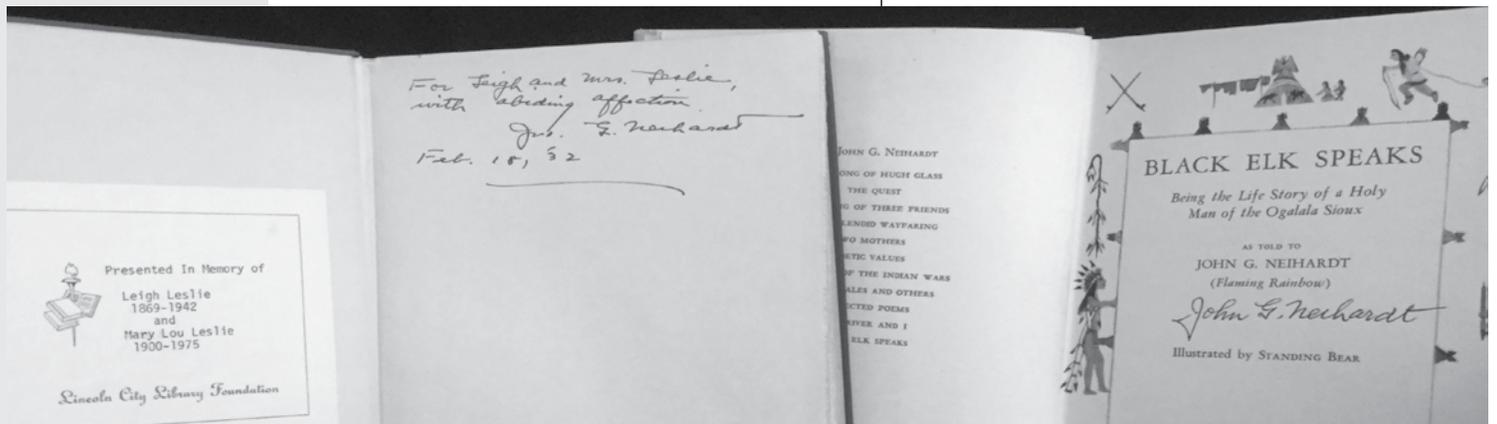
decades later, copies of *Black Elk Speaks* were nearly impossible to find. The book was “discovered” and found a new relevance among the counter-culture after its 1961 publication by Bison Books. It had a second renaissance in 1971 after Neihardt, at 90 years old, was interviewed by talk show host Dick Cavett. There was surge in sales following the interview broadcast, and publishing rights were sold to Pocket Books in hopes that it would reach an even wider audience. The University of Nebraska Press won back publishing rights in 1979 for hardcover, and paperback rights were obtained in 1988. Publishing rights would change hands again until they were finally secured by the University of Nebraska Press in 2013. As the 2017 One Book, One Nebraska selection, *Black Elk Speaks* will find a new audience and new meaning as we celebrate Nebraska’s history in our Sesquicentennial year.

The trajectory of this Nebraska treasure can be seen in the current Heritage Room display, which contains examples from each printing of *Black Elk Speaks* from the original First Edition, with an inscription by Neihardt to an original reader of the book, through the most recent printed edition of the book, including a half dozen foreign language editions. The display exemplifies how *Black Elk Speaks* has been rediscovered over time and its profound influence on each new generation of readers.

**Ed. Note:** The NCB News runs an article in each edition featuring an item from the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Lincoln City Libraries, <http://lincolnlibraries.org/heritage-room-of-nebraska-authors>. 📖



Photos from the Neihardt display at the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Lincoln’s Bennett Martin Library, 136 So. 14th Street.



## Vol. 1, No. 1: Firsts and Lasts

Moving is like peeling an onion. Each layer reveals structure, revelations, and tears. We have seen the beginning and ending of newspapers, journals-periodicals-magazines, newsletters, ephemera, and bookstores. We dispersed our 6,000-volume Omaha library: 1,250 to Omaha and Lincoln libraries, 250 to scandal-ridden Goodwill, sold 300–200 at the end of the driveway. We reduced our trove by one third, way short of the targeted 1,500 volume California “bookprint.” We took some by a 17-foot U-Haul, but most went in a 53-foot United Van Lines truck. The boxes weighed 15 to 40 pounds. I dreaded carrying them up three flights of stairs, garage to loft, so I repurposed the ground floor guest room into a library for 1,900 volumes. Eighty boxes remain in the garage.

Perusing the accumulation revealed several journals starting with Vol. 1. Subscribing at the beginning to new subjects has a founder atmosphere, a coterie of pioneers. The following roughly chronological list reflects emerging intellectual interests. Asterisks following the year indicates Volume 1, but not Number 1.

- *Zambezia* (1969), a journal of social studies in Southern and Central Africa and *Rhodesian History*, *The Journal of The Central Africa Historical Association* (1970) Salisbury/Harari, Rhodesia/Zimbabwe came from my African apprenticeship. I have no idea how I acquired *Media History Digest*, *A Magazine of Journalism Heritage* (1981\*).
- The Nebraska Jewish Historical Society, founded in 1982 by Mary Arbitman Fellman and myself, published *Memories of the Jewish Midwest* (1985). *The Newsletter* (1983) became *L’Dor V’ador*, from generation to generation, in 2002. *News* put out by the Center for American Jewish History started in 1995, and *Heritage Newsletter of the American Jewish Historical Society* commenced in 2003.
- Ephemera included the first *The Republic of Tea Catalogue* (1993), and a November 1995

broadside, “Grand Opening Celebration, Borders Opens in Omaha!”

- As a Creighton University law alumnus I received *Creighton Window* (1984), *Creighton University Magazine* (1999), and *Creighton Lawyer* (2005). World History replaced Western Civ. prompting the publication of *World History Bulletin* (1983) and *Journal of World History*, the newsletter and Official Journal of the World History Association (1990).
- Interests sparked subscriptions: *Common Quest*, *The Magazine of Black Jewish Relations* (1997\*); *Pakn Treger [The Book Peddler]* (1996) published by the National Yiddish Book Center; *Firsts, Collecting Modern First Editions* (1993); *Biblio, The Magazine for Collectors of Books, Manuscripts, and Ephemera* (1996\*); *Exploring History in Omaha-Council Bluffs Newsletter* (1997\*); *NCH Alumni News*, Nebraska Humanities Council (2003); *Food & Spirits* (2007); and *Jewish Review of Books* (2010).
- In 2004 we purchased the library of Neil Shaver, proprietor of Yellow Barn Press in Council Bluffs, IA. Neil had first issues of *Typographer’s Digest* (1959), *Ligature* (1966), *Fine Print* (1975), *Printing History* (1979), *Parenthesis* (1998), and *Journal of the Printing Historical Society* (2000).

We witnessed beginnings, print to electronic transitions, and closings. *The Illinois Quarterly*, announcing “Final Issue!” on the cover of volume 44 in 1982, contained my essay, “Down and Out in Lincoln and Nettleham—An English Commonman’s Diary.” These firsts were acquired with little consciousness of purpose. Purchased and courtesy copies, they reflect changes in print culture and intellectual interests. I’ve worked with the Nebraska Center for the Book since 1997, and returned Newsletter No. 1 to the Nebraska Library Commission. 📖

by Oliver B. Pollak,  
UNO Professor  
Emeritus



# The NCB News

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**Join us for the Nebraska Book Festival: July 15, 2017**  
<http://bookfestival.nebraska.gov>

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DRIVE

*It's time to renew your NCB membership.*

President Sherry Houston recently sent out membership renewal reminders.

Please show your support and 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](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/get_involved/calendar.html)

- Sundays at Red Path: NE Writers Guild Author Kim Stokely** ..... March 19 ..... Seward  
http://www.redpathgallery.com/events.html, jeanne.redpathgallery@gmail.com, 402-540-6929
- Nebraska through Song and Story**..... March 24 ..... Grand Island  
Contact: <http://humanitiesnebraska.org/speaker-events/nebraska-through-song-and-story-12/>, 402-429-3655
- National Poetry Month** ..... April ..... Nationwide  
Contact: [www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/home](http://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/home)
- WillyCon XIX Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention**..... April 1-3 ..... Wayne  
Contact: <https://www.wsc.edu/willycon>, ScFanta1@wsc.edu, or Dr. Hayford, 402-375-7338
- Children's Stories, Animal Stories, and Traditional Lakota Stories**..... April 2 ..... Norfolk  
Contact: <http://humanitiesnebraska.org/speaker-events/childrens-stories-animal-stories-and-traditional-lakota-stories-8/>, 308-227-3221
- John H. Ames Reading Series:**  
*Readings from Nebraska Poetry: A Sesquicentennial Anthology, 1867-2017* ..... April 2 ..... Lincoln  
Contact: <http://lincolnlibraries.org/heritage-room-of-nebraska-authors>, 402-441-8516, [heritage@lincolnlibraries.org](mailto:heritage@lincolnlibraries.org)
- Nebraska Writers Guild Spring Writers' Conference** ..... April 7-8 ..... LaVista  
Contact: <http://nebraskawriters.org/content/spring-conference>
- National Library Week**..... April 9-15 ..... Nationwide  
Contact: [www.ala.org/nlw](http://www.ala.org/nlw)
- John and Mona Neihardt: Brad Kellogg**..... April 13 ..... Hartington  
Contact: <http://humanitiesnebraska.org/speaker-events/john-mona-neihardt>, 402-841-8730
- Poetry from the Plains: Nebraska State Poet Twyla Hansen**..... April 13 ..... North Platte  
<http://humanitiesnebraska.org/speaker-events/poetry-from-the-plains-5>, 308-535-8036
- Willa Cather Spring Conference:**..... June 1-3 ..... Red Cloud  
Contact: Willa Cather Foundation, <https://www.willacather.org/events/62nd-annual-spring-conference>, 866-731-7304
- "World War I: Legacies of a Forgotten War" Chautauqua**..... June 15-18 ..... Seward
- "World War I: Legacies of a Forgotten War" Chautauqua** ..... June 21-24 ..... Nebraska City  
Contact: Humanities Nebraska, 402-474-2131, [info@nebraskahumanities.org](mailto:info@nebraskahumanities.org), <http://NebraskaChautauqua.org>

