

## Book Festival Set for April 5-6 in Omaha

Article courtesy  
Nebraska Humanities  
Council December  
2012 newsletter.

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

The 2013 Nebraska Book Festival will be held April 5-6, 2013, in the Thompson Alumni Center of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. 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 and be available for book signings.

Activities begin Friday evening, April 5, with a 7:00 p.m. keynote presentation by Kurt Andersen, author of *True Believers* (2012), *Heyday* (2007), and *Turn of the Century* (1999). Born in Omaha, Andersen graduated from Harvard College, co-founded *Spy Magazine*, and wrote for *New York Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Time*, and *The New York Times*.

Saturday will include presentations by authors who will read and discuss their work, including:

- Creative Non-Fiction author John Price reads with UNO Creative Non-Fiction students
- Poet Fred Zydek, *At The Edge of the Ancient Inland Sea*

- Poet Stacey Waite, *Butch Geography*
- Essayist Lisa Knopp, *What the River Carries: Encounters with the Mississippi, Missouri, and Platte*
- Essayist and Novelist Joy Castro, *Island of Bones and Hell or High Water*

- Poet Art Homer, *Blind Uncle Night*
- Editor Andrew Jewell, *The Selected Letters of Willa Cather*

The festival will include free poetry and prose workshops with opportunities for writers to discuss their craft and receive feedback from award-winning authors. The festival will conclude with performances by high school students who compete in the Louder than a Bomb: Omaha Youth Poetry Festival.

The Nebraska Book Festival is presented by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Commission, and University of Nebraska at Omaha with support from the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. Keep up with the Festival at [www.facebook.com/NebraskaBookFestival](http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaBookFestival) and <http://bookfestival.nebraska.gov/> 



## Notice to Researchers and Genealogists:

The Nebraska Legislators, Past and Present database is now available on the Nebraska Library Commission's NebraskaAccess Website. See <http://nebraskaccess.ne.gov/legislators.asp>

for information about all past members of the Nebraska Legislature—beginning in 1857—some with biographical sketches scanned from the *Nebraska Blue Book*. 

# Today's Libraries Connect (E-)Readers but Face Roadblocks

## Nebraska eReads

Digital Books from Nebraska Libraries

*Guest Editorial*  
by Mary Jo Ryan,  
Nebraska Library  
Commission

Book. Kindle. iPad. Your local library. You've heard of all of these and you know that all four deliver digital content? According to the Pew Internet Project, most people **don't** know that U.S. public libraries provide ebooks and other digital resources. In fact, today's libraries offer books in a variety of formats—and so much more! Our Nebraska libraries continue to change and offer new services and programs to meet the ever-changing needs of our communities. The number of Nebraska public libraries offering ebooks has more than doubled in the last two years, with fifty percent now offering the service. This is just the latest chapter in the story of our commitment to reading, knowledge, imagination, and lifelong learning for all Nebraskans.

Libraries help readers find authors, and authors find readers. We do this by selecting locally relevant materials, and through programs like One Book One Nebraska, as well as other collaborations with authors and publishers. Libraries are also engaged in growing and

supporting the next generations of readers — encouraging children and young adults to read for fun and for success in school and life. If you haven't checked out your local library recently, now is a great time to stop by, log on, renew your library card or join a program or class.

But libraries face roadblocks. For the first time ever, we are barred from purchasing some materials our communities deserve. Right now, several of the largest trade publishers (known as "the Big Six") refuse to sell e-books to public libraries. As a result, Nebraskans are not getting a fair deal. If our libraries' digital bookshelves mirrored the *New York Times* fiction bestseller list, we would be missing half of our collection on any given week due to these publishers' policies.

On the other hand, other publishers — including hundreds of smaller, independent presses and a rising tide of self-published authors — do understand the value of placing books in libraries. A recent report from *Library Journal* found that more than half of all library users report purchasing books by an author they discovered through the library. Publishing is not just another industry. It has special and important significance to society. Libraries complement and actively support this industry by supporting literacy and seeking to spread an infectious and lifelong love of reading and learning. Library

(continued on page 8)

The **NCB**  
*News*

Winter 2013 | Volume 23 | No. 1

### Nebraska Center for the Book Board and Committees

#### Executive Committee

Matt Mason, President; Mary Ellen Ducey, Vice-President; Becky Faber, Past-President; Lois Meyer, Secretary

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Denise Brady

#### Letters About Literature Coordinator

Lauren Riedesel

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

#### 2013 Nebraska Center for the Book Board Meetings

February 16..... 10:00 a.m.,  
Seward Memorial  
Library,  
Seward, 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 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](http://www.centerforthebook.nebraska.gov)

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# 2013 One Book One Nebraska Announced

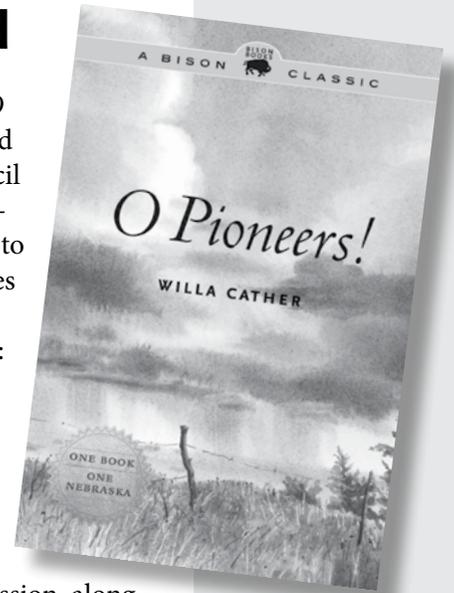
Willa Cather was taking a risk when her first prairie novel was published in 1913. In her essay, "My First Novels (There Were Two)," Cather tells us that, in the early 1910s, "the drawing-room was considered the proper setting for a novel, and the only characters worth reading about were smart people or clever people." Alexandra Bergson of *O Pioneers!* was smart, but her setting— her farmhouse, her barn, her prairie turned-cornfield—were "distinctly déclassé." Who would want to read about that? Plenty of people. Now, one hundred years later, we consider *O Pioneers!* a classic and remembered tale of love, devotion, destiny, murder and redemption in rural Nebraska.

The One Book One Nebraska reading program, now in its ninth year, 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. A committee of the Nebraska Center for the Book selected the finalists from a list of twelve titles nominated by sixty Nebraskans from across the state. The Nebraska Center for the Book board announced the choice for the 2013 One Book One Nebraska at the Celebration of Nebraska Books on November 3, 2012, in Lincoln.

**One Book One Nebraska** encourages schools, libraries, and other literary and cultural organizations to plan book discussions, activities and

events focusing on Willa Cather's *O Pioneers!* Resources will be provided by the Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC), Nebraska Library Commission, and Willa Cather Foundation to assist local activities. NHC resources include videos on Cather's life and work, including "The Golden Years: Willa Cather's University," "Singing Cather's Song" "Willa Cather's America," and "Willa Cather: The Writer and the Word." The DVDs will be distributed through the NHC's Humanities Resource Center at the Nebraska Library Commission, along with book club kits circulated through school and public libraries (contact: 800-307-2665, 402-471-4016, or [nlc.ask@nebraska.gov](mailto:nlc.ask@nebraska.gov)). Speakers' programs such as Andrew Jewell's "Willa Cather's My Antonia: The Story Behind Its Writing and Publication," are available to any nonprofit group for a processing fee. Details are available at the Speakers & Resources tab of the NHC Website, [www.nebraskahumanities.org](http://www.nebraskahumanities.org). In addition, Willa Cather is a featured character in the NHC Chautauqua, see related article on page 8.

A proclamation-signing ceremony in the Nebraska State Capitol was held January 23. For more information see [onebook.nebraska.gov](http://onebook.nebraska.gov) or <http://www.facebook.com/OneBookOneNebraska>. 



Article courtesy Nebraska Humanities Council December 2012 newsletter.

## 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



# The Joy of Interlibrary Loan or How WorldCat Changed my Life

by Oliver B. Pollak

Interlibrary loan (ILL) breaks down geographic isolation and cures deficiencies of smaller libraries, and libraries of recent establishment. I have made hundreds of ILL requests.

UCLA, founded in 1919, lacking the 19th century British Parliamentary Papers filled the gap with pesky 1950's Readex Microprint technology. ILL obtained easier to read hard copies from older libraries. In London the same documents contained eyewitness marginalia disputing the account. At the University of Rhodesia in 1971, I obtained an 1857 book on Burma from England. The arrival of books from Harvard, Cleveland, and small town public libraries is thrilling. The cost is free, the value inestimable. Two dozen microfilms on Nebraska Carnegie libraries from Columbia University's Butler Library facilitated *A State of Readers* (2007).

UNO's Eppley Library, dedicated in 1956, housed ILL at the Dodge Street entrance. Requests were made by mail and teletype. Microfilm superseded hardbound copies of newspapers, a mixed blessing according to Nicholson Baker's *Double Fold, Libraries and the Assault on Paper* (2001). Newsbank, NEH Historic American Newspapers, Newspaperarchive.com, Google Books, Hathi Trust, ProQuest and other ventures expand patron access. Abebooks and eBay, price and availability permitting—perhaps an ex library copy—bypass the library.

The 754-volume *National Union Catalog, pre-1956 imprints* and the dark blue *British Museum Catalogue of Printed Books to 1975*—listing millions of books, representing the great age

of printed catalogues—gave way to WorldCat and online British Library catalogs. Research frequently requires resources beyond Nebraska. Marginal notes, 3x5 cards and bibliography are marked NIL (not in library), NOS (Not on shelf), NBM (not in British Museum). PDFs via email have largely replaced photocopies.

There are disappointments such as “Library will not lend,” receiving the wrong edition, and learning to live with delay. A Burmese cookbook recently arrived from Australia. When all else fails, especially in the case of rare books, I visit libraries like Chicago's Newberry, Berkeley's Bancroft Library, and Grinnell College's wonderful 18th century collection bequeathed by Omaha's Dr. Penne in the 1960s who sought safety for his collection from an attack on Offutt Air Force Base. Unique manuscripts demand on-site perusal.

UNO dispatched a book on interlibrary that I donated several years ago, the biography of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Aung San Suu Kyi's father, *Aung San of Burma* (1962) by Maung Maung. WorldCat changed my life. A thought, idea, thread, patchwork quilt were enhanced by ILL providing strands and puzzle pieces.

**Ed. Note:** ILL can be a great gift to a researcher. It is important to note that when the service is offered free to Nebraska library customers, it is paid for by the local library, with some support from the Nebraska Library Commission... another example of your local, state, and federal tax dollars at work for you. 📖

## Louder Than a Bomb: Omaha Youth Poetry Festival



**L**ouder Than a Bomb: Omaha Youth Poetry Festival is scheduled for March 17 - April 20. Students from more than twelve area junior high and high schools will compete in team poetry slams. There will also be workshops by touring artists and more. Louder Than a Bomb is a youth poetry festival that originated in Chicago and was featured in an eponymous documentary. It aims to increase poetry appreciation through participation—bringing teens

together across racial, gang, and socio-economic lines and creating a friendly competition that emphasizes self-expression and community via poetry, oral story-telling, and hip-hop spoken word. It focuses on cooperation, with teams of students working together to write, revise, and rehearse their performances. Keep up with announcements and events at <https://www.facebook.com/ltabomaha> or <http://ltabomaha.org>. 📖

## What Are You Reading?

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

I recently read a novel, *Crooked Letter*, *Crooked Letter*, by Tom Franklin. The setting is Mississippi (hence the title, the way we all learned to spell the name of that state and river) in the 1970s. It is the story of Larry, a lower class white boy and Silas, a poor black boy. Their lives are mysteriously bound together. The disappearance of a teen-aged girl throws suspicion on Larry. Years later, an adult Silas returns to take a job as a police officer, as another murder again throws suspicion onto Larry. This is more than a mystery or crime story. This is a superbly written novel; the characterization is believable and without stereotype. The book jacket states that Franklin's "narrative power has been compared to the likes of Harper Lee, Flannery O'Connor, Elmore Leonard, and Cormac McCarthy." High praise indeed for an excellent read!

**Sharon Bishop**

I'm reading *Killing Lincoln*, and finding it pretty darn interesting, (even knowing how it ends!). All this in spite of my dislike for the author, Bill O'Reilly. Pretty open-minded, don't you think???

**Carolyn Clark**

*Trickster's Point* is the twelfth Cork O'Connor novel of William Kent Krueger, a Minnesota mystery writer. My husband Jerry and I went to hear him read at Lee Booksellers about five years ago, and we have read all of his O'Connor books. All of the books are good reads and I would encourage the reader to start at the beginning of the series, with *Iron Lake*. *Trickster's Point* investigates the murder of Cork's good friend, Jubal Little. Jubal is friend of school days and is about to become the first Native American to become the Governor of Minnesota. Cork, a former law enforcement officer, is a suspect in the murder, and as he clears himself, the reader again looks at human frailty, the capacity for love and hate.

**Molly Fisher**

I'm reading a book I've assigned to one of my classes, *You Are Not a Gadget: A Manifesto* by Jaron Lanier. It's a provocative, contrarian

discussion by a prominent technologist about how software design and online environments are eroding our individuality and creativity.

**Amanda Gailey**

Each week I eagerly await writer Joel Stein's column in the back pages of *Time* magazine. So when for my birthday my wife gave me a copy of his book, *Man Made: A Stupid Quest for Masculinity* (2012), I was thrilled. My expectations that Stein would provide me with lots of laughs and plenty to think about were completely met by this excellent work of creative nonfiction. The basic premise is that Stein, after the birth of his son Laszlo, is extremely anxious about how he will teach him to be a "real man." Stein figures the best way to do this is to toughen himself up first. He then leads the reader through a hilarious tour of his "real man experiences." Not only is this a really fun page-turner, but it also sheds a lot of light about gender expectations in contemporary America. Definitely worth reading!

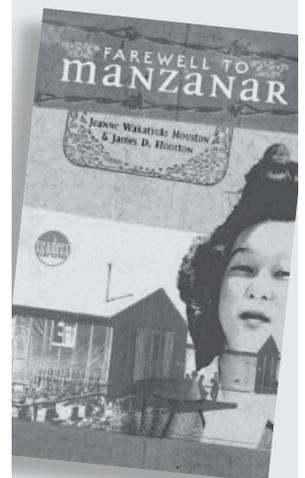
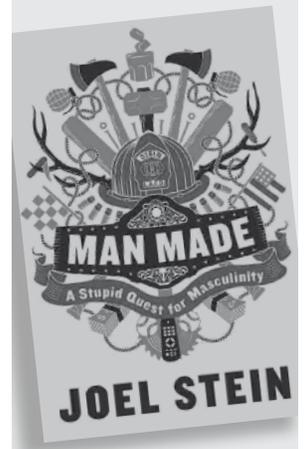
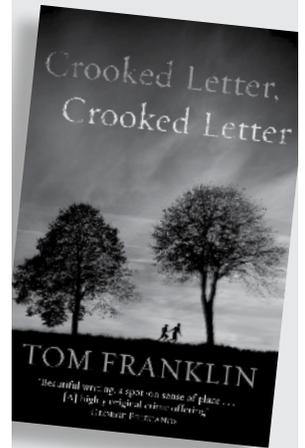
**Chuck Johanningsmeier**

I am reading *Pushcart Prize XXXVII: Best of the Small Presses*, edited by Bill Henderson. It's fun to read and really surprising to me how I am so far enjoying the prose selections in this year's edition more than I am the poetry (surprising as I am a major poetry snob).

**Matt Mason**

I'm reading another book with one of my English classes: *Farewell to Manzanar* by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston. This is an autobiographical account of a piece of American history that is often overlooked. During WWII, by the authority of Executive Order 9066, nearly 120,000 Japanese-Americans were forced from their homes and businesses and sent to internment camps away from the west coast. In 1942, the author and her family were sent to Manzanar, a fenced in camp complete with searchlight towers and armed guards. Paradoxically, the camp also featured cheerleaders, a school year book, Boy Scouts, sock hops, baton lessons— even a dance band. It is a sometimes sad, sometimes heartwarming, touching and funny account of how one family dealt with the indignity of forced detention.

**Lois Meyer** 



## American Life in Poetry: Column 356



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

Nothing brings a poem to life more quickly than the sense of smell, and Candace Black, who lives in Minnesota, gets hold of us immediately, in this poem about change, by putting us next to a dumpster.

### Mr. D Shops At Fausto's Food Palace

For years he lived close enough to smell chicken and bananas rotting in the trash bins, to surprise a cashier on break smoking something suspicious when he walked

out the back gate. Did they have an account? He can't remember. Probably so, for all the milk a large family went through, the last-minute ingredients delivered by a smirking bag boy.

He liked to go himself, the parking lot's radiant heat erased once he got past the sweating glass door, to troll the icy aisles in his slippers.

This was before high-end labels took over shelf space, before baloney changed its name to mortadella, before water came in flavors, before fish got flown in from somewhere else.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation, publisher of *Poetry* magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2010 by Candace Black, from her most recent book of poetry, *Casa Marina*, RopeWalk Press, 2010. Reprinted by permission of Candace Black 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. 📖

## One Book for Nebraska Kids/Teens

Wouldn't it be great if kids all over Nebraska were talking about books? The Nebraska Library Commission and the Regional Library Systems annually sponsor a One Book for Nebraska Kids and One Book for Nebraska Teens program that encourages Nebraska young people to all read and discuss the same book. Book bags are circulated through libraries and school media centers. The 2013 One Book

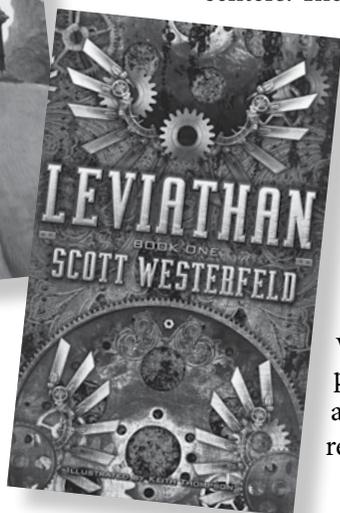
for Nebraska Kids is *Aliens on Vacation* by Clete Barrett Smith.

In this book, a young boy visits his grandmother's Bed and Breakfast—populated by visitors from other planets. Certain to appeal to reluctant readers, this could

be the beginning of a wonderful series.

The 2013 One Book for Nebraska Teens is *Leviathan* by Scott Westerfeld. Set in an alternate version of World War I, German Central Powers (Clankers) use mechanized war machines opposed by British Entente Powers (Darwinists) who fabricate living creatures genetically. Heroes are teens Aleksander, son of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and Deryn, a Scottish girl with dreams of joining the British Air Service with her brother. This award-winning, first-in-series novel epitomizes the steampunk genre in young adult fiction.

Libraries and media centers can borrow the book bags by using the request form at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ref/bookclub/form.asp> or contacting Nebraska Library Commission Reference Services, 402-471-4016, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [nlc.ask@nebraska.gov](mailto:nlc.ask@nebraska.gov). For more information contact Sally Snyder, Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services, 402-471-4003, 800-307-2665, or see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/youth/obok>. 📖



## Review: **Hotwire**

by **Alex Kava**

*Doubleday, 2011,*

ISBN: 978-0385532013

Alex Kava's Maggie O'Dell series is as full of excitement as her heroine, an FBI profiler who is often sent by her boss on wild-goose chases. She nevertheless encounters crime and solves mysteries—all the time putting her life on the line. Often she operates in Nebraska, and that is where we find her in *Hotwire*, the ninth book in Maggie O'Dell series. A crime occurs in the artificial forest that is federal property, and Maggie springs into action.

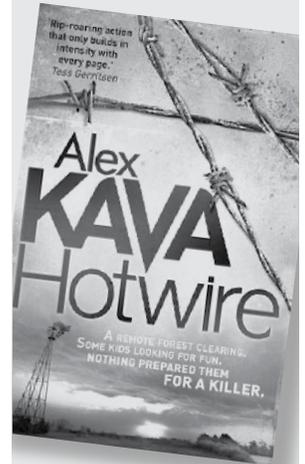
A group of teenagers, on a hallucinogenic bingie on a mix of salvia and Oxycontin, seem to encounter some kind of red eyed monster. Maggie gets involved to the displeasure of the local authorities. At the same time Army

Colonel Benjamin Platt is desperately trying to identify the pathogen that has infected children at a Washington, D.C. elementary school. With wonderful tension Kava brings these two strands together.

The beauty of this book is that it is not transparent. You do not immediately sense the outcome. Like the characters, including Maggie, you are trying hard to sort out the real from the imaginary, the supernatural from the all too feasible. Driving us on is the fact that Maggie O'Dell is such a likeable character—a Nebraska girl, feminine, but tough as any man.

In a scary scenario that seems to run the gamut from red-eyed monsters and cattle mutilation to UFOs, Alex Kava gives you a fast paced read that will keep your mind on a *Hotwire*. 📖

Reviewed by  
**Layne Pierce,**  
**Lincoln City**  
**Libraries**



## Review: **What the River Carries: Encounters with the Mississippi, Missouri, and Platte**

by **Lisa Knopp**

*University of Missouri Press, 2012,*

ISBN 987-0-8262-1974-9

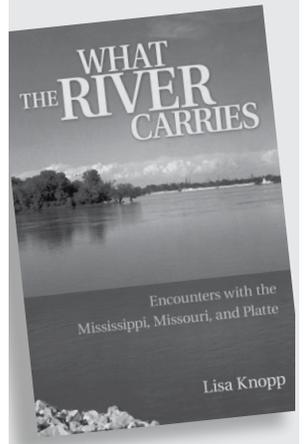
Lisa Knopp's fifth collection of essays, *What the River Carries: Encounters with the Mississippi, Missouri, and Platte*, isn't about rivers—not exactly. It's about membership, belonging, and relationships with place (as an insider, outsider, or one transitioning from outsider to insider). Knopp, who grew up on the Iowa banks of the Mississippi and now lives in the region of the Platte's confluence with the Missouri, uses the rivers of her life to explore different modes of knowing—particularly experience, intuition, and expert research. The resulting essays meander elegantly from research to reflection and back.

Knopp finds something to talk about in everything, from the grand rush of the Mississippi to the sediment suspended in the murky

Platte. Sometimes humorous, sometimes unnerving, but always enchanting, the collection is an informed tour of not only the rivers but also the industries, lives, and cultural communities influenced by them. She leads us to unexpected and rewarding places—including the sugar-beet fields of Nebraska, 18th-century Mississippi panoramas, and a pile of mussel-shell buttons at the Muscatine History and Industry Museum—connecting her impressions and reflections to our own through landscape.

What the river carries, Knopp seems to say, are insights into who we are, where we come from, and where we're going. Knopp concludes her collection with an illustrative thread, riding the surface of Antelope Creek in her Lincoln, NE neighborhood, merging with the Platte, then the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, until she is at the Gulf Coast where Old Blue meets the Atlantic Ocean. 📖

Reviewed by  
**S.R. Aichinger,**  
**University of**  
**Nebraska at Omaha**



# Chautauqua Scheduled for June

Papillion and Grand Island will host the “Free Land? 1862 and the Shaping of Modern America” Chautauqua in June 2013, part of a four-year Chautauqua series (2012-2015) presented by the Nebraska Humanities Council. Papillion will be the site of Chautauqua’s week-long events June 19-23, and Grand Island will host Chautauqua June 26-30. Continuing the NHC’s tradition of nearly thirty years of sponsoring educational and entertaining Chautauqua programming statewide, the “Free Land” Chautauqua will address 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 scholar 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 as moderator. 



# From the Page to the Silver Screen

Two works by Nebraska writers will be enjoyed by film-goers. A short film by Dan Butler, inspired by Ted Kooser’s poem “Pearl,” has been making the rounds of film festivals. In the film, when a midwestern poet (Dan Butler) visits an elderly relative (Frances Sternhagen) to bring news of his mother’s recent death, the visit takes an unsettling turn. The New England Film Festival posted it online at <http://newenglandfilm.com/festival/2012/pearl>.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) English Professor Joy Castro’s debut novel,

*Hell or High Water*, has been optioned by Zoe Saldana and partners Jane Startz and Aida Bernal. The mystery thriller, *Hell or High Water*, follows New Orleans reporter Nola Céspedes as she is dragged into the city’s post-Katrina underworld on the trail of what she thinks will be her big scoop. The novel was called one of the best books of 2012 by *The Kirkus Review*.

For more on the upcoming film adaptation see <http://www.deadline.com/2012/12/zoe-saldana-option-hell-or-high-water-novel-star-trek-into-darkness/>. 

# Today’s Libraries Connect (E-)Readers (continued from page 2)

lending encourages sampling new authors, topics, and genres. This experimentation stimulates the market for books, with the library serving as a discovery, promotion, and awareness service for authors and publishers. Every publisher must allow libraries to lend e-books so libraries can continue to work toward the mission of access for all.

But even if the publishers change their policies tomorrow, Nebraska libraries would have difficulty accessing the local funds to purchase all the ebooks and audio books that library customers need. Library customer demand

continues to outpace supply. To address this, the Nebraska Library Commission has requested direct state funding to expand ebook and audio

book borrowing access for Nebraskans. With an investment of less than 50 cents per person, Nebraskans can be assured that local libraries will do their best to continue their commitment to reading, knowledge,

imagination, and lifelong learning for all Nebraskans. For more information about **Nebraska eReads**, contact Francine Canfield, NE Library Association Advocacy Chair, 402-331-7636, [fcanfield@cityofralston.com](mailto:fcanfield@cityofralston.com). 

## Supply Not Meeting Increasing Demand



Increased use of downloadable digital books by Nebraska public library users



Increase in number of times Nebraska public library users had to wait for downloadable digital books



Increase in number of downloadable digital books held by Nebraska public libraries

(Five-year trends)



## Buffalo Commons Festival Set

The Seventeenth Annual Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival, *Patterns of the Prairie: A Celebration of Story and Song*, is scheduled for May 31-June 1 in McCook. It begins with a Wild West Bus Tour to Dancing Leaf Cultural Learning Center near Wellfleet. Participants will experience primitive Native American life along the banks of the Medicine Creek, exploring a reconstructed earthen lodge inhabited 800-1300 years ago by Native Americans known as the Upper Republican Culture, and thought to be ancestors of the Pawnee.

An afternoon workshop will feature author, playwright and teller of tales, Kevin Kling—a Midwesterner whose zodiac sign is “Minnesota with Iowa rising.” Enjoy his stories, learn the “how to” of telling your personal life stories, and prepare to chuckle at his unique sense of humor. Kling lives in Minneapolis and is a well-known playwright and storyteller, perhaps best known for his commentaries on NPR’s *All Things Considered*. He has headlined storytelling festivals around the United States, including

the National Storytelling Festival in Tennessee.

Headliners include musical entertainers Brad Colerick, Steve Hanson, and Jim Pipher. Billboard Magazine called Colerick, “...one of a Baker’s Dozen of acts to watch in the folk community around the world.” His CDs have landed in the top five of the Folk DJ and Euro-Americana charts. Hanson, a versatile musician, is part of the eclectic music scene in Lincoln. Not only does he play in bluegrass, rhythm and blues, jazz bands and duos, he teaches aspiring players to do the same—including hosting a summer Bluegrass Camp on the banks of Long Pine Creek. A versatile bass and guitar player, Pipher has been performing in Nebraska and throughout the Midwest for more than 40 years—in bands covering musical styles from the jazz standards of the 1930s to 1970s country rock, Motown soul to traditional Gospel and Bluegrass. For more information contact festival-director@buffalocommons.org or see <http://buffalocommons.org/site/en/>. 



Featured author, playwright and teller of tales, Kevin Kling  
Photo by Tom Sandelands

## Nebraska Writers Win Awards

Just a few of our award-winning Nebraska writers and their recent awards:

- An edition of Catharine Sedgwick’s novel *Clarence*, co-edited by UNL English department faculty member Melissa J. Homestead, was awarded an Honorable Mention by the Society for the Study of American Women Writers for its First Edition Award.
- Kwame Dawes, UNL Chancellor’s Professor of English and Glenna Luschei Editor of *Prairie Schooner*, received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. The fellowship will support his work on the poem cycle, “August: A Quintet,” based on the work of August Wilson, an American playwright and Pulitzer Prize winner whose work illustrated the African-American experience in the 20th century.
- emily m. danforth is one of five nominees for the 2013 Morris Award, given for a first-time

young adult book, *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*. School Library Journal says, “This finely crafted, sophisticated coming-of-age debut novel is multilayered, finessing such issues as loss, first love, and friendship. An excellent read for both teens and adults.” danforth holds a Ph.D in English-Creative Writing, from UNL.

- UNL James Ryan Professor of Film Studies Wheeler Winston Dixon’s book *A History of Horror* was chosen by *Choice*, the American Library Association journal of current reviews for academic libraries, as an Outstanding Academic Book of the Year for 2011. *A History of Horror* was also released as an audio book in 2012.
- *Hell or High Water*, by UNL English Professor Joy Castro, was chosen as the September 2012 Book of the Month by the Las Comadres and Friends National Latino Book Club. 

by Rex Walton,  
*Wrex’s Wreathing  
Gnus*



# The NCB News

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**Attend the 2013  
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April 5 & 6 in Omaha**

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## Calendar of Events:



View the complete  
Nebraska Literary  
Calendar at  
centerforthebook.  
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get\_involved/calendar.  
html

- Louder Than a Bomb: Omaha Youth Poetry Festival** ..... March 17 - April 20... Omaha  
Contact: mtmason@gmail.com, <http://ltabomaha.org>
- National Poetry Month** ..... April..... Nationwide  
Contact: [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org)
- Nebraska Book Festival**..... April 5-6 ..... Omaha  
Contact: Matt Mason, 402-453-5711, [mtmason@gmail.com](mailto:mtmason@gmail.com),  
<http://bookfestival.nebraska.gov>, [www.facebook.com/NebraskaBookFestival](http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaBookFestival)
- Wine, Writers & Song Festival**..... April 12-14 ..... Brownville  
Contact: [www.brownville-ne.com](http://www.brownville-ne.com)
- 29th Annual Adult Spelling Bee**..... April 23 ..... Lincoln  
Contact: Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, Lincoln City Libraries,  
402-441-8516, [m.mcgowan@lincolnlibraries.org](mailto:m.mcgowan@lincolnlibraries.org), [www.foundationforlcl.org/nlha.htm](http://www.foundationforlcl.org/nlha.htm)
- 31st Annual Neihardt Spring Conference** ..... April 27 ..... Bancroft  
Contact: 402-648-3388, 888-777-4667, [neihardt@gpcom.net](mailto:neihardt@gpcom.net), [www.neihardtcenter.org](http://www.neihardtcenter.org)
- Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival**..... May 31-June 1 ..... McCook  
Contact: [festival-director@buffalocommons.org](mailto:festival-director@buffalocommons.org), <http://buffalocommons.org/site/en/>
- 58th Annual Willa Cather Spring Conference, featuring O Pioneers!**..... May 31-June 1 ..... Red Cloud  
Contact: Willa Cather Foundation, 866-731-7304,  
[www.WillaCather.org/conferences/spring-conference](http://www.WillaCather.org/conferences/spring-conference)
- Story Catcher 2013 Summer Writer's Workshop and Festival** ..... May 28-June 1 ..... Chadron  
Contact: Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, <http://www.storycatcherworkshop.com>
- "Free Land? 1862 and the Shaping of Modern America" Chautauqua** ..... June 19-23 ..... Papillion
- "Free Land? 1862 and the Shaping of Modern America" Chautauqua** ..... June 26-30 ..... Grand Island  
Contact: Nebraska Humanities Council, 402-474-2131, [nhc@nebraskahumanities.org](mailto:nhc@nebraskahumanities.org),  
<http://www.nebraskahumanities.org/programs/chautauqua.html>

