

# The **NCB** News

Volume 11

Fall 2001

No. 3

A Publication of the Nebraska Center for the Book

## Prairie Schooner Celebrates Seventy-five Years

*The Prairie Schooner is the oldest and one of the most distinguished literary magazines in the country. Housed in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln English Department, Hilda Raz serves as only its fifth editor.*

In a three-day conference in Lincoln the *Prairie Schooner* celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary with Joyce Carol Oates as the banquet keynote speaker. More than eighty



**Keynote Speaker Joyce Carol Oates helps celebrate *Prairie Schooner's* 75 years of continuous publication.**

*Prairie Schooner* contributors presented papers and gave readings.

At the conference, editor, publisher, and businesswoman Glenna Luschei announced her gift of an endowed editorship and flexible funds in perpetuity for *Prairie Schooner*. Luschei will also fund the Glenna Luschei Prize for Literary Distinction, a \$1,000 annual prize to be given for the first time this spring to a contributor of *Prairie Schooner* from the previous year. ▲

## Cather Symposium Scheduled for Spring 2002



*The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's UNL Libraries, Cather Project, School of Music, Center for Great Plains Studies, and University of Nebraska Press, in conjunction with Nebraska*

*Humanities Council, Friends of the UNL Libraries, Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Education Foundation, and Nebraska State Historical Society plan a symposium, Great Passions and Great Aspirations: Willa Cather and World War I, for April 4-5, 2002 in Lincoln.*

The symposium will focus on Cather's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *One of Ours*, and introduce the recently acquired George Cather Ray Collection. The collection includes letters written by G.P. Cather (Willa Cather's cousin) to his mother during World War I. These letters inspired Willa Cather to create the character of Claude Wheeler, the central character in *One of Ours*. Speakers include Mary Weddle of the Cather family; Richard Harris, volume editor for *One of Ours* of the Cather Scholarly Edition; and Steven Trout, author of the forthcoming *Memorial Fictions: Willa Cather and the First World War*. The symposium will also include panel and paper presentations, exhibits including a World War I poster collection, and musical performances. For more

information contact Margie Rine, Cather Project, 1213 Seaton Hall, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0692, 402-472-1919, e-mail: <mrine@unlserve.unl.edu>. ▲



NEBRASKA  
HUMANITIES  
COUNCIL

# The Nebraska Center for the Book and the U.S. Day of Terror

by **Dick Allen**,  
Founding  
President,  
Nebraska Center  
for the Book

*On September 15, 1990, the Nebraska Center for the Book was formally dedicated in Omaha. John Y. Cole, Director of the National Center for the Book, U.S. Library of Congress, made the dedicatory address and welcomed Nebraska into the fold of state Centers. Keynote Speaker Robert Knoll, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Professor of English Emeritus, indicated that books and the written word remain the primary vehicles for expressing and discussing ideas.*

Some eleven years later Knoll's wise words remain true. Then, in 1990, and up to September 11, 2001, we were confident in our "continental security." A global player, to be sure, but we were not particularly concerned about international terrorism affecting us. Since the events of September 11 of this year, our "Day of Terror," we "the Survivors," are tending to take our day-to-day lives less for granted. Perhaps we have become (or ought to become) more serious about world affairs, about other cultures, and about ideas that might seem remote and foreign. And what better way (as Robert Knoll said eleven years ago) than to read about Islam, about Afghanistan, about the Arab world, about U.S. foreign policy, to reflect and to

discuss, and ultimately to take part in the democratic process of governance.

My friend Bob Boyce also suggests that this is the time to reconsider and to reaffirm our own particular American principles and values. We do not assert our beliefs through terror, but through example. We have shown that our "democratic experiment" has worked since 1776 and that it is still working in 2001. We are fortunate enough to live in a society where a Nebraska Center for the Book can be established, where we have free access to the written word in all forms and in all languages. And to enable our democratic form of government to survive in the future, we as U.S. citizens have the responsibility to become and continue to be informed citizens through our reading, reflecting, and group discussions. Patriotic citizens are informed citizens!

(Just for the record, a reprise of the 1990-1991 Nebraska Center for the Book Board of Directors: Dick Allen, Golda Bockbrader, Elaine Booth, Thomas Boyle, Carol Connor, Molly Fisher, Kira Gale, Ron Hull, Barbara Leffler, Roland Luedtke, Elaine Norton, Robert Runyon, Mary Jo Ryan, Ellen Scott, and Rod Wagner. It should be added that Jane Pope Geske was highly instrumental in starting this organization. D.A.)

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### Nebraska Center for the Book Board and Committees

#### By-Laws

Molly Fisher, President; Joan Birnie, Vice President/President Elect; Katherine Walter, Past President; Dee Yost

#### Funding/Membership

Connie Osborne, Committee Chair; John Butler; Molly Fisher; Mel Krutz, Secretary

#### NE Literature Festival

Katherine Walter, Committee Chair, Past President; Jerry Kromberg, Treasurer; Kathy Johnson; Dee Yost

#### Programs/Projects

Joan Birnie, Committee Chair; Vicki Clarke; Laureen Riedesel; Andrew Wertheimer

#### Publications/Publicity

Gerry Cox, Committee Chair; Richard Allen; Shelly Clark; Oliver Pollak; Mary Jo Ryan, staff

#### Awards Art Coordinator

Denise Brady

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

#### 2002 Nebraska Center for the Book Board Meetings

##### February 9

Fremont

##### May 4

Broken Bow

##### August 10

Omaha

##### November 3, Annual Meeting

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 May 1, August 15, and November 1. The advertising and copy deadline is six weeks prior to issue date. For details, contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Center for the Book, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023; phone 402-471-2045, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us>.

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# Nebraska Literature Festival Draws 200 to Testimonial Dinner

by Shelly Clark,  
Teacher and Poet

*It was a celebration of "The Writing Life" at the Nebraska Center for the Book's tenth annual Literature Festival held at Peru State College and the Steinbart Lodge in the Lied Center complex in Nebraska City.*

More than two hundred attended the central event of the festival, the Friday evening testimonial dinner at the Lodge honoring Nebraska State Poet William Kloefkorn and Don Welch, Professor Emeritus of English and Reynolds Chair of Poetry at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Colleagues and friends gathered to give tribute to two of Nebraska's finest poets for their enormous contributions to Nebraska's literary heritage. Gov. Mike Johanns and First Lady Stephanie Johanns attended the event.

Dr. Chuck Peek, University of Nebraska at Kearney English professor, served as emcee and introduced speakers as they shared testimony of how Kloefkorn and Welch contributed so much and influenced so many

in this state and beyond. Poets Ted Kooser, Marjorie Saiser, Twyla Hansen, Barbara Schmidt, and J.V. Brummels were among the presenters. "When I was asked to stand at the microphone at the banquet and say a few words about Bill and Don, I felt I was standing in for and representing many, many writers, as if scores of people stood behind me in a long line, writers of all ages who have been encouraged and nurtured, wanting to express gratitude to these two poets," said Saiser.

Dr. John Walker and his blues band and Blues Singer Annette Murrell, all of Lincoln, provided musical tributes to Kloefkorn and Welch. Winners of the Mildred Bennett Award and the Nebraska Book Awards were announced. (See page 6.)

The Nebraska Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, Peru State College, and the Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) provided major funding for the event. The NHC is a private, nonprofit organization funded with support from the National Endowment for the

Humanities, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the State of Nebraska, and private contributions. The sponsoring institution for next year's festival is the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The specific sites for festival activities and dates are yet to be determined.



## 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 Library of Congress National Center for the Book since 1990.



## Join the Nebraska Center for the Book

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

# Review: We Rode the Orphan Trains

by **Andrea Warren**

Houghton Mifflin,  
2001. ISBN:  
0618117121;

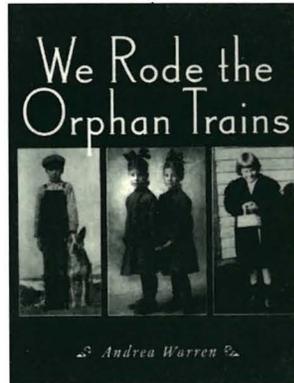
Review by  
**Sally Snyder,**  
Nebraska Library  
Commission

Andrea Warren has collected stories of nine men and women riders in this follow-up to her award-winning book *Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's True Story*. According to the opening chapter, the first group of children to ride a train to another state left the Children's Aid Society in New York in 1854. Those forty-six children found homes in Michigan. It is estimated that 200,000 children rode the trains between 1854 and 1929 in search of new homes.

Warren's personal stories have a strong impact. Memories are very clear for most of the riders. Nettie tells of some of the abuse she and her twin sister, Nellie, suffered in their first new home, and how they were removed and placed in a loving home with strong family support. There are happy stories of new families and love. There are heart-wrenching

stories of siblings torn apart, some never to see each other again. Each story touches on the feelings and fears of the riders as they discover the purpose of the train ride. They are placed on display, hoping (yet fearing) they will be selected. One chapter concerns two brothers who came to Nebraska and found families near each other, one on a farm near Stromsburg and the other on a farm near Clarks. Black-and-white photographs of the rider as a child and as an adult personalize the stories. One photo shows the two brothers standing beside a tree in Osceola soon after arriving on the train. It is recreated almost seventy-five years later, the brothers standing on either side of the same tree.

Well written and well researched, this book will be enjoyed by adults and children, ages ten and up. ▲



## Arcadia Publishers Covers Nebraska

by **Oliver B. Pollak,**  
University of  
Nebraska at  
Omaha

**A**rcadia Publishers was founded in 1993 and established a Midwest office in Chicago in 1998.

Producing two books a week, they now have a catalogue of about one thousand titles. Their format lends itself to local enthusiasts producing attractive and economical local histories, selling for \$19.99.

Nebraska has recently benefited from the appearance of *Alliance*, by the Knight Museum Board and Partners; *Boys Town, the Constant Spirit* by James R. Ivey; *Mari Sandoz's Native Nebraska* by Laverne Harrell Clark; and *Norfolk* by Sheryl Schmeckpeper. *Hastings: The Queen City of the Plains* by Monty McCord and a volume on Peony Park will appear shortly. My volume, *Jewish Life in Omaha and Lincoln: A Photographic History* should appear in November and my *Courthouses of Nebraska* in 2002.

The possibilities for further Nebraska volumes is virtually limitless, so long as there are about two hundred and twenty good photographs and postcards accompanied by a lively and informative text of fifty to seventy words per picture. Possibilities include the Union Pacific, Willa Cather, Aksarben, Central High School, Durham Western Heritage Museum, Highway 80, the Lincoln Highway, Strategic Air Command, the State Capitol, institutions of higher education, the Sandhills, Fort Robinson, Kearney, Grand Island, Columbus, and the Missouri River from the South Dakota to Missouri borders.

Thinking visually reconfigures our image of place. Arcadia is prepared to preserve our vision in an economical and readily accessible format. If you have ideas about producing a volume, contact: Oliver B. Pollak, 402-345-1717 or e-mail: <OBPOMNI@aol.com>. ▲

# One Hundred Years at the Nebraska Library Commission

by **Maggie  
Harding**

**N**ebbraska's library world was coming alive at the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century.

Public libraries were being established in many towns across the state. The next logical step appeared to be the establishment of a state agency to help guide the growth of these libraries. Seven states had already established state library commissions.

Our first efforts began in 1897 and did not pass the legislature until 1901. Efforts of the Lincoln Woman's Club, the fledgling Nebraska Library Association, and the Nebraska Teacher's Association combined to support the establishment of a Library Commission in Nebraska. The first board, by law, was comprised of the State Librarian, the Chancellor and the Librarian of the University of Nebraska, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and a person appointed by the Governor. Edna Bullock was hired as the first Executive Secretary.

Space to house the operations was found in the basement of the State Capitol. The board met in various places, mostly in offices of the board members. The mission of the Library Commission was to encourage the growth and spread of public libraries throughout the state. Traveling libraries were established in order to bring books into the hands of the majority of people. Towns were encouraged to apply for the libraries. Special loans were made to women's clubs in return for book donations. Green wooden boxes were fabricated to ship the books. A collection of approximately forty books was sent at regular intervals. Books in German, Czech, and Swedish were added as special collections to satisfy the needs of ethnic groups beginning to settle in Nebraska.

The early Executive Secretaries of the Commission were enthusiastic in their support of library outreach. They spent much of their time encouraging the development of libraries. Lists of recommended books were compiled for rural, school, and town libraries. Courses of study were developed to encourage librarians to improve their library skills.

The struggle to maintain the Commission as a viable player in the library world of Nebraska became more intense as the years passed. In 1933, Governor Charles W. Bryan abolished the Commission in a

budget-cutting measure and Commission duties were placed under the direction of Gilbert H. Doane, Librarian of the University. Through the heroic efforts of Aileen Cochran, wife of Governor Roy Cochran, the Commission was revived in 1935.

Wars came and went. The Depression came and went. The Commission threw itself into efforts to establish libraries and traveling collections for people who were thirsty for books. Commission staff organized Victory Book campaigns to establish libraries for service men and women. They also did their part by staffing camp libraries. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) helped Nebraska libraries during the hard times between World War I and World War II. They paid staff to build the Union Catalog, holding the records of many of the major Nebraska libraries and providing the foundation for book loans between libraries. They also paid staff to help with cleaning and upkeep of libraries.

The seventies, eighties, and nineties were active years of library service growth in Nebraska. This era featured the creation of regional library service organizations, state documents program, state aid to public libraries and regional systems, library automation, the formation of NEBASE (Nebraska's OCLC Network), public library accreditation, public librarian certification and training, Nebraska Online, and Internet-based online information services. In 1990, the Library Commission acted as the lead agency, helping to initiate the Nebraska Center for the Book. The Library Commission also became responsible for overseeing the dispersal of federal funds, as they were made available. These funds helped to build libraries, to improve book collections, to provide information technology hardware and software, and to provide support to make these projects happen.

Children's Services, Talking Book and Braille Service, Library Development, State Documents, Reference Services, Statistical Support and Collection, Continuing Education, Technology Services, and a host of other activities comprise today's Nebraska Library Commission. The success of libraries in Nebraska owes a great deal to the men and women who dedicated their efforts to provide for the information needs of the people of Nebraska, and to those who continue to do so. While the methods and technologies have changed over the years, the charge to the Library Commission remains much the same as when it began...to encourage and support the growth of libraries and library service throughout Nebraska. ▲



**Rod Wagner, Library Commission Director, accepts a commemorative window from Sally Payne, Nebraska Library Association President, at the Nebraska Library Commission Centennial event, celebrating November 11, 1901, the date that the first office opened in the basement of the Capitol building.**



## Awards Presented

This fall at the Tenth Nebraska Literature Festival, the Nebraska Center for the Book awarded the Mildred Bennett Award to an individual who has made a significant contribution to fostering the literary tradition in Nebraska. Marion Marsh Brown, a former high school teacher and author of historical books for young adults, received the award posthumously. For more information about Mildred Bennett's contribution to the Nebraska Community of the Book, see

[<net.unl.edu/artsFeat/cather/cather03.html >](http://net.unl.edu/artsFeat/cather/cather03.html).

The Nebraska Center for the Book Board of Directors selected the Friends of the Omaha Public Library to receive the Jane Geske Award. The award is presented annually to an organization, business, library, school, association, or other group that has made an exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, or Nebraska literature. The award was presented in November at the 2001 Nebraska Center for the Book Annual Meeting. ▲

## Nebraska Books Honored

The 2001 Nebraska Book Awards program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, recognizes and honors books that are written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, and/or set in Nebraska or relate to Nebraska. The following awards were presented at the 2001 Literature Festival:

- ▲ **Non-Fiction:** Marion Bahensky, Ron Sack. *Entering Howard County: a history of the people and the land of Howard County, Nebraska*. Publisher: Howard County Historical Society.
- ▲ **Non-Fiction (Honor Book):** Esther Black Elk DeSersa, Olivia Black Elk Pourier, Aaron DeSersa Jr., Clifton DeSersa. Editors: Hilda Neihardt, Lori Utecht. *Black Elk Lives: Conversations with the*

*Black Elk Family*. Publisher: University of Nebraska Press.

- ▲ **Poetry:** Ted Kooser, *Winter Morning Walks: One Hundred Postcards to Jim Harrison*. Publisher: Carnegie Mellon University Press.
- ▲ **Children/Young Adult:** Susan Buckley, Elspeth Leacock, Randy Jones. *Places in Time: A New Atlas of American History*. Publisher: Houghton Mifflin.
- ▲ **Cover Design/Illustrations:** Robert Richter. *Homefield: Sonata in Rural Voice*. Publisher: The Backwaters Press.
- ▲ **Fiction:** John McNally. *Troublemakers*. Publisher: University of Iowa Press. ▲

## Fine Lines Solicits Writings

*Fine Lines* is a national, quarterly publication, published in Omaha, printing poetry and prose that shares life's experiences, brings order to chaos, revels in the beauty of our existence, and celebrates the mysterious through writing. *Fine Lines* accepts submissions via e-mail and 3.5 disks formatted in Microsoft Word. All subjects and genres are accepted.

All ages and skill levels are welcome. Work is edited to fit space requirements. Writing with a focus on profanity, sexuality, and violence is rejected. Contact: Dave Martin, 9905 Rockbrook Road, Omaha, NE 68124-1931, e-mail:  [<finelines@aol.com >](mailto:finelines@aol.com),  [<www.finelines.org >](http://www.finelines.org), 402-391-2937, fax: 402-557-3339. ▲

## Reading and Writing Groups Sought

**T**he Nebraska Center for the Book has sought to discover the extent of reading and writing groups across the state, to come to know who and where they/we are, and to document them. The Center for the Book wishes to explore, interact with (network where possible), and celebrate readers and writers.

In the past year and a half, we discovered that Nebraska is rich with this kind of literary activity. We

have heard from one hundred and sixty-four groups in forty-seven communities covering the whole state, border to border. We know that there are many more groups that we have yet to hear from. Our search will continue as information continues to come in. We will keep you apprised of progress. When the project is completed, all who have responded will receive a listing. We invite any leads and inquiries. Contact Mel Krutz, 2625 Bluff Rd., Seward NE 68434, 402-643-3464. ▲

## Literary Scene in Hastings

by **Marlene Mullen**,  
Hastings Public  
Library, and **Dee Yost**, Hastings  
College

*Hastings has always had a rich literary tradition. The early pioneers valued what the written word could bring to the prairie. The addition, in 1889, of a private college to the city's educational system enriched the literary scene in the city.*

Hastings boasts at least ten book clubs. Among those are several of the oldest book clubs in the state and one is exclusively for couples. The Hastings Public Library hosts Junior Great Books discussion groups with trained adult volunteers serving as discussion leaders, meeting weekly for eight weeks during the summer. At least one informal writing group meets to share their passion for the written word.

Sixteen members of the Public Library staff and community participate on the Golden Sower selection committee, a Nebraska book award voted on by the school children of the state. The selection committee

narrows the field of nominees prior to the voting. The local YWCA sponsors classes in journaling and memoir-writing for children and adults. The Hastings College Student Association regularly publishes *Spectrum*, showcasing literature and art by Hastings College students. *Rerum Scriptor*, another local publication, records historical information about the college.

There is a nice sprinkling of literary programs from the Nebraska Humanities Council each year and the city hosted Chautauqua twice in recent years. The local schools also contribute heavily to the literary scene in Hastings with innovative programs designed to attract young minds to reading and writing. A literary event on the horizon this spring is a Cather in Context conference, sponsored by the Hastings College English Department. For more information regarding that conference, contact Antje Anderson, e-mail: <aanderson@hastings.edu>. ▲

## Letters to the Editor

*What a great edition! I especially enjoyed the book reviews. I am going to order at least two of them for our University library.*

Susanne George Bloomfield

**Editor's note:** This unsolicited e-mail refers to the Spring 2001 NCB NEWS

*Dear, Molly,*

*I will be book hunting in Chicago on November 4th and will miss the annual meeting. However, I wanted to be sure to toss in my two cents' worth of appreciation and encouragement! Thank you for your good work. NE Center for the Book is an important part of the literary culture here.*

*Best Wishes,*

Cinnamon, A Novel Idea Bookstore

*Hello M. Ryan,*

*I was searching the net for recent Nebraska authors when I ran across the Nebraska Center for the Book. I am submitting my membership today! I*

*hope to keep our school media center supplied with current Nebraska authors, as our literature teachers require students to read at least one book by a Nebraska author.*

Gladys Jones, Media Specialist  
Platteview Jr./Sr. High, Springfield, NE

*Dear Molly,*

*It was wonderful to see you yesterday at the Gere Branch Library! Thanks so much for inviting me to be a part of a very important event for the Nebraska Center for the Book. I am always so pleased to do anything I can for this fine organization, which continues to keep literature alive and well in Nebraska.*

*My best,*

Jonis Agee

**Editor's note:** We invite you to join Jonis Agee and more than one hundred of your fellow Nebraskans. Become a member of the Nebraska Center for the Book. (See page 3.) ▲

# The NCBNews



# Calendar of Events:



**THE NEBRASKA  
CENTER FOR  
THE BOOK**

*an affiliate of the Library of Congress*

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

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Permit No. 988  
Lincoln, NE

## Nebraska Library Commission Celebrates Centennial

- John H. Ames Reading Series**, Ruth Thone, essayist, Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors  
Contact: Joanna Lloyd, 402-441-8516, <heritage@rand.lcl.lib.ne.us> ..... Jan. 17 ..... Lincoln
- Used Book Sale**, Lincoln Area Retired Teachers, Gateway Shopping Center, Contact: 402-466-9022, 402-489-6438. .... Jan. 24-27 ..... Lincoln
- Paul Olson Seminar: Pirate Cows and Other Mysteries of Nebraska**, Author Jonis Agee  
Contact: Great Plains Studies, 402-472-3082. .... Jan. 30 ..... Lincoln
- Bess Streeter Aldrich's Birthday Celebration**, Bess Streeter Aldrich House and Museum  
Contact: Teresa Lorensen, 402-994-3855, <bsafmus@yahoo.com> ..... Feb. 17 ..... Elmwood
- Paul Olson Seminar: The Great Body of the Republic: Abraham Lincoln and the Great Plains**, Kenneth Winkle  
Contact: Great Plains Studies, 402-472-3082 ..... Feb. 20 ..... Lincoln
- John H. Ames Reading Series**, Poet Roy Scheele, Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors  
Contact: Joanna Lloyd, 402-441-8516, <heritage@rand.lcl.lib.ne.us> ..... Feb. 21 ..... Lincoln
- Nebraska State Reading Council Spring Conference**, Contact: Tom Hansen, 308-865-8537, <hansent@unk.edu> .. Feb. 22-24 ..... Kearney
- Great Plains Studies 26th Annual Interdisciplinary Symposium, Great Plains Migrations**  
Contact: Great Plains Studies, 402-472-3082 ..... March 7-9 ..... Lincoln
- Neihardt Center: Western Plains Art of Women Artists**, Omaha Artist Linda Duda  
Contact: John Neihardt Center, 888-777-4667, <neihardt@gpcom.net> ..... March 10 ..... Bancroft
- Paul Olson Seminar: From This Place? Native Plants in Nebraska Landscapes**, Kim Todd  
Contact: Great Plains Studies, 402-472-3082 ..... March 13 ..... Lincoln
- John H. Ames Reading Series**, Historian David Bristow, Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors  
Contact: Joanna Lloyd, 402-441-8516, <heritage@rand.lcl.lib.ne.us> ..... March 21 ..... Lincoln
- Nebraska English/Language Arts Council Spring Conference**  
Contact: Clark Kolterman, 402-643-6138, <ckolte00@connectseward.org> ..... March 23 ..... Seward
- Cather Symposium: Great Passions and Great Aspirations: Willa Cather and World War I**  
Contact: Margie Rine, 402-472-1919, <mrine@unlserve.unl.edu> ..... April 4-7 .. Red Cloud, Lincoln
- Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation Spring Dinner**, Vera Maybaw: Depression Use of Feed Sacks  
as Clothing and Quilts, Contact: Teresa Lorensen, 402-994-3855, <bsafmus@yahoo.com> ..... April 13 ..... Elmwood
- Paul Olson Seminar: Critical Mass and Mentors: UN-L Women Scientists, 1876-1915**,  
Margaret Bolick, Professor/Curator of Botany. Contact: Great Plains Studies, 402-472-3082 ..... April 17 ..... Lincoln
- Cather in Context Conference**, Hastings College English Department  
Contact: Antje Anderson, <aanderson@hastings.edu>..... April 18-20 ..... Hastings
- John H. Ames Reading Series**, Novelist Richard Dooling, Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors  
Contact: Joanna Lloyd, 402-441-8516, <heritage@rand.lcl.lib.ne.us> ..... April 18 ..... Lincoln
- Bountiful Book Sale**, Planned Parenthood Educational Services, Contact: <JUDY68502@aol.com> ..... April 19-21 ..... Lincoln
- Cather Spring Festival: Quilt Show**, Willa Cather Foundation,  
Contact: Steve Ryan, 402-746-2653, <sryan@gpcom.net> ..... May 3-4 ..... Red Cloud