



The NCB News

Volume 17

Summer 2007

No. 1

A Publication of the Nebraska Center for the Book

Book Festival Rescheduled for October 26-27

The **2007 Nebraska Book Festival**, rescheduled for **October 26-27**, is moving to downtown Lincoln. Most events will be staged in three locations on Centennial Mall near 15th and P Streets, including the Nebraska History Museum, Lincoln Children's Museum, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UN-L) College of Journalism and Mass Communications in Andersen Hall.

The **Warner Chamber of the Nebraska State Capitol Building** will serve as the site for the keynote address on Friday, **October 26**. Native American scholar and author Joseph Marshall III will open the Festival with an address focusing on the great Sioux warrior and tactician, Crazy Horse (the subject of Nebraska author Mari Sandoz' biography, *Crazy Horse: Strange Man of the Ogallala*, the One Book One Nebraska selection for 2007). Marshall was born on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He is an award-winning author of many books, including *The Journey of Crazy Horse: A Lakota History* and *The Day the World Ended at Little Bighorn: A Lakota History*. The keynote address, sponsored by the Office of the Nebraska Secretary of State, will begin at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free of charge, but seating is limited.

Located on the west side of the 15th Street Centennial Mall that stretches from the Nebraska State Historical Society on the north to the Nebraska State Capitol on the south, the **Lincoln Children's Museum** will provide an exciting and colorful setting for the Children's program. There will be no admission charge on Saturday, October 27, for parents and children visiting the Museum, and all will be welcome to take part in the Festival events featuring storytellers and hands-on activities. According to Sarah DeWald, the Museum's Director of Education, "Encouraging literacy is one of the main goals of the Museum and the Festival program for children will be a perfect complement to our other educational programs." Erika Hamilton, Nebraska Humanities Council Program Officer, will coordinate the Children's program.

Panel discussions, special presentations, and other features of the adult program will be hosted by the UN-L College of Journalism and Mass Communications, located in **Andersen Hall** (directly east

across the Mall from the Children's Museum). Dean Will Norton commented, "Nebraska has produced many fine writers and we want to do all we can to bring them to the attention of the reading public." Ladette Randolph, editor of *Voices of a Different Plain and The Big Empty*, will coordinate sessions on nonfiction prose writing.


The **Nebraska History Museum** (directly south across P Street from the Lincoln Children's Museum) will serve as another venue for the adult programs. In addition to rooms for readings and presentations, the museum features a fine book and gift shop and current displays of artifacts of Nebraska history. Given the enduring influence of historical events (from pre-European contact, through European settlement, to the 21st Century) on writings about and by Nebraskans, the Nebraska History Museum provides a vibrant context for the Festival.

The locations for the Festival are surrounded by coffee houses, restaurants, book stores, theatres, shops, and night spots—within easy walking distance. Planning is underway for festival events, including a luncheon, awards ceremony and keynote address, and Nebraska Book Festival Director Michael Cartwright comments, "The 2007 Nebraska Book Festival is shaping up to be a memorable event."

On Saturday, **October 27**, the Nebraska Center for the Book will announce the winners of the annual Nebraska Book Awards in a ceremony to be held in the Nebraska State Capitol Rotunda. The ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m., to be followed by the annual Book Festival luncheon in the Chez Hay banquet hall in the Noodles and Co. building at 14th and P Streets. Luncheon guests will hear readings by Nebraska Book Award Winners.

The Nebraska Book Festival is sponsored by the Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Commission, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For more information contact Michael Cartwright, 800-307-2665, 402-471-4006, e-mail: mcartwright@nlc.state.ne.us, Nebraska Library Commission, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023 or see www.nebraskabookfestival.org. This site will be updated throughout the coming months.

www.nebraskabookfestival.org



**2007 Nebraska
Book Festival**

**October 26-27
Downtown
Lincoln**

My Year as Librarian of the Year

Guest Editorial
by Rivkah Sass,
Omaha Public
Library



On the day before Thanksgiving 2005, I got a call from Francine Fialkoff, editor of *Library Journal*. “Rivkah, I’m calling to tell you that you’re the 2006 Librarian of the Year,” she said. “You’re kidding, right?” was my incredibly articulate response.

She assured me she wasn’t. “No! We’re supposed to be Library of the Year in 2008, how can this be happening?!” was my second incredibly articulate response. After a few more minutes, I settled down and pulled myself together, to express the emotion I should have expressed in the first place—gratitude.

When I think back on the past year, the acknowledgement of a lifetime doing something I think I was born to do, the smiles, the flowers, and the wonderful notes from friends near and far, the thing I feel most profoundly is gratitude.

I’ve had a great time this year. For some reason, my peers from other libraries are interested in what I have to say. All of a sudden there’s cachet to my words because they are spoken by The Librarian of the Year! Everyone here in Omaha has been terrific. The Mayor designated January 27, 2006, Rivkah Sass Day. The Friends of the Library decided to celebrate my honor by putting my face on the back of a bus. That generated a whole new wave of acknowledgement from people. I mean, how lucky am I?

I’ve been invited to speak at conferences and gatherings in Missouri, California, South Carolina, Oregon, and Utah. I’ve served as the first Virtual Director in Residence for the Urban Libraries Council Executive Leadership Institute. I’m having fun.

I’ve been a librarian for twenty-eight years. I’ve done children’s work, reference work, training, managed branches and coordinated reference service in public libraries, staff development and library development in two state libraries, and I’ve done product development and co-founded a virtual community. Since arriving in Omaha three years ago I’ve had the opportunity to be creative, speak my vision, and to work with wonderful staff, an amazingly supportive Board, and a community that doesn’t mind me saying that we deserve more support so that we can be the library the community deserves. I’ve always been a bit of a maverick and I’ve always been a salmon who swims upstream, so my professional life hasn’t always been easy. It’s been fulfilling, exciting, challenging, never boring, but sometimes frustrating. To be recognized for being different and for being myself is the best thing I can imagine, and now it’s happened to me.

Ed. Note:

Omaha Public Library Director Rivkah Sass was recently roasted and toasted as the **Omaha Press Club’s 110th Face on the Barroom Floor**. The tradition, begun in 1971, has grown into one of Omaha’s most prestigious awards and recognizes outstanding individuals who have made an impact on the community. In announcing the award, the Omaha Press Club said Rivkah has “labored with passion, joy, and courage to begin to push the Omaha Public Library toward greatness.”

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

2007 Nebraska Center for the Book Board Meetings

August 11 Scottsbluff
October 28 Annual Meeting,
Lincoln
November 10 York

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 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us, www.unl.edu/NCB.

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Young Nebraskans Win State Writing Contest

Gov. Dave Heineman honored Nebraska student writers by presenting them with Letters about Literature award certificates and signing a proclamation proclaiming April 15-21, 2007, as National Library Week in Nebraska. Students recognized for their letters to influential authors were:



Winners

- ~ Kassy Pepper, Bellevue, for a letter to Margaret Peterson Haddix
- ~ Tayler Hough, Omaha, for a letter to Ann Martin
- ~ Carrie Chen, Lincoln, for a letter to Louisa May Alcott

Runners-Up

- ~ Brooke Klebe, Lincoln, for a letter to Jeanne Birdsall
- ~ Claire Wiebe, Lincoln, for a letter to J.R.R. Tolkien
- ~ Katie Kutsenko, Lincoln, for a letter to Leo Tolstoy

Award of Merit

- ~ Lilyane Sanchez, Lincoln, for a letter to Harriet Beecher Stowe

Approximately 56,000 young readers across the country participated in this year's Letters about Literature competition, a reading promotion program of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, presented in partnership with Target Stores. In Nebraska, the contest is coordinated by the Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Center for the Book, with additional support from Lee Booksellers and Houchen Bindery Ltd.

To enter, young readers write a personal letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Readers select authors from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. The program has three competition levels: upper elementary, middle school, and secondary. The contest theme encourages young readers to explore their personal response to a book and express that response in a creative, original way.

Nebraska finalists each receive cash prizes, and gift cards to Target Stores and Lee Booksellers. For more information see www.nlc.state.ne.us, search on Letters about Literature.

Library Commission Initiates One Book One Nebraska Kids



Wouldn't it be great if kids all over Nebraska were discussing the same book? The Nebraska Library Commission developed **One Book One Nebraska Kids** to encourage young people across Nebraska to read and discuss the same book. This year's selection, *Rescue Josh McGuire* by Ben Mikaelson, is aimed at fourth to sixth graders and is about a boy who risks a lot to try to rescue a bear cub. A book bag containing fifteen paperback copies

of the book (along with discussion questions, activities, and background information) is available from the regional library system offices and Nebraska Library Commission Information and Reference Services, 402-471-4016, 800-307-2665, e-mail: ready@nlc.state.ne.us. For more information contact Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Services, 402- 471-4003, 800-307-2665, e-mail: ssnyder@nlc.state.ne.us.

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 _____

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**



Columbus Library Mural Illustrates Local History

by Robert Trautwein,
Columbus Public Library

Soon after arriving in Columbus in 1980, I was fortunate enough to work for a few weeks with the retiring Library Director W. (Win) O. Jacobson. Of the many valuable things I learned from him, I remain grateful that he showed me a book of particular interest to Columbus, *Indian Skin Paintings from the American Southwest*, by Gottfried Hotz. Mr. Jacobson was worried that I would not understand the significance of the book because of its deceptive title and I might eventually throw it away.

In Lucerne, Switzerland shortly after World War II, the author of the book, a scholar of American Indian history, learned of two wall-sized skin paintings that depict battles between the Indians and the Spaniards. These paintings were owned by a Swiss family, the Segessers, who were collateral descendents of a Jesuit missionary who worked in the American Southwest in the latter part of the 1700s.

As the story unfolds, the reader learns that the Father Philipp Segesser had somehow acquired the two paintings and had sent them back to Switzerland as what we would now consider "souvenirs." The painting Hotz entitled "Segesser II" depicts an attack on a contingent of Spanish soldiers and their Indian guides in a forested area between two rivers—an expeditionary force sent north from Santa Fe, NM to root out any French fur trappers/traders in the northern territories claimed by Spain (including modern-day Nebraska). Lieutenant Governor Pedro de Villasur, the expedition's leader, saw little evidence of Indians or Frenchmen until his group descended from the bluffs into the Platte River basin on August 13, 1720. Battle losses were heavy and only twelve of the Spanish soldiers and some of the Indians escaped and made their way back to Santa Fe.

In further research, Holtz learned that a military inquiry was held in Santa Fe to gather more information from the surviving soldiers. A painting on three buffalo hides was commissioned to illustrate how nearly one-third of Spain's provincial army had been wiped out. After the 1726 inquiry, the painting vanished, unrecognized for its historical significance for more than two hundred years.

Hotz's book also records a part of a diary that had been kept by one of the Spanish soldiers who survived and returned to Santa Fe. The diary was discovered at a flea market in Paris around 1900. Using a 1921 translated version of the diary and the painting, Hotz placed the battle at the confluence of the Platte and Loup Rivers—just south and east of Columbus, Nebraska.

Nebraska history buffs may wish to visit the Columbus Public Library to view a photo of a reproduction of the skin painting. This large mural-type photograph hangs in the east wing of the first floor of the library. For more information see Martha M. Turner's *Our Own History: Columbus, Nebraska 1541-1860* (1936), Margaret Curry's *History of Platte County, Nebraska* (1958), *NEBRASKALand* magazine (March 2005), and *Nebraska History* magazine, Volume 69 (1988) and Volume 74 (1993).

Ed. Note:

The Nebraska State Historical Society's *First Nebraskans* exhibit at the Museum of Nebraska History in Lincoln interprets 10,000 years of American Indian life on the Plains. This exhibit features the hand-painted reproduction of the skin painting that was used as the model for the Columbus photo-mural .

Hide painting reproduction at the Museum of Nebraska History in Lincoln



2007 Golden Sower Award Winners Announced



"The Golden Sower" was created expressly for the Golden Sower Award program by Peter H. Reynolds, author/illustrator of *The Dot*, a 2005-2006 Nominee. All rights reserved by Peter H. Reynolds. Image used by the Golden Sower Award Committee with permission. May NOT be copied or reproduced without permission from Peter H. Reynolds.

The Sower was chosen as the symbol of Nebraska's children's choice literary award because the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln is topped by a 19,000-pound bronze statue known as the Sower. He stands barefoot and without hat, sowing seeds in the most primitive manner. Symbolizing the state of Nebraska as a major agricultural state, he sows not only seeds of grain, but also something much greater—he sows the seeds of agriculture, life, hope, and prosperity.

The Nebraska Library Association sponsors this annual competition to encourage young readers across Nebraska to read current literature and vote for their favorites, sowing seeds that:

- stimulate children's thinking,
- introduce different types of literature,
- encourage independent reading,
- increase library skills, and
- foster an appreciation for excellence in writing and illustrating.

Whether seeking information or reading for pleasure, the quality literature promoted through the **Nebraska Golden Sower Award** enriches the lives of Nebraska children and sows the seeds of the future. Nebraska's young readers are encouraged to

visit their local public library or school library media center to participate in the Nebraska Golden Sower Award program.

2007 Winners

- ~ Primary Winner: *My Lucky Day*, by Keiko Kasza
- ~ Primary Honor: *Pinduli*, by Janell Cannon, and *The Toughest Cowboy: Or How the Wild West Was Tamed*, by John Frank, illustrated by Zachary Pullen
- ~ Intermediate Winner: *The Old Willis Place: A Ghost Story*, by Mary Downing Hahn
- ~ Intermediate Honor: *The Million Dollar Strike*, by Dan Gutman, and *Gregor the Overlander*, by Suzanne Collins
- ~ Young Adult Winner: *Perfect*, by Natasha Friend
- ~ Young Adult Honor: *So B. It*, by Sarah Weeks, and *The Pack*, by Elisa Lynn Carbone

All the winners plan to attend the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association (NLA/NEMA) Conference in Kearney on Friday, October 26, 2007, to receive their awards. For more information contact Kathy Schultz, Golden Sower Award Committee Chair, kschultz@hastings.lib.ne.us.

Center Offers Writers Time, Space, and Privacy

by Cathy Smith,
Kimmel Harding
Nelson Center for
the Arts

photo by Denise Brady



Poet Kim Roberts in her writing studio.

The Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, founded in 2001, serves visual artists, writers, and music composers from around the world by providing them the space and time to create new work. Fifteen to twenty 2-8-week residencies are awarded to writers annually. Last year the Center granted twenty residencies to writers from places as far away as New Zealand, and as close as Iowa City, IA.

The newly renovated Center, inspired by the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, is located in the historic Missouri River town of Nebraska City. Facilities include studio and living space for up to five artists at a time. Each apartment has a balcony and access to a private landscaped courtyard. Writers-in-residence enjoy a private bedroom and bath, shared kitchen and living area, and a private writing studio. When asked what she enjoyed most about her residency, poet Kim Roberts (from Washington, DC) said, "My beautiful second floor writer's studio with the view toward Central Avenue."

Another poet-in-residence, Colleen Abel (from Wisconsin), commented that the Center provides "ample space and lots of privacy" and is "not at all Spartan." Along with the relaxed atmosphere, our residents appreciate the \$100 weekly stipend.

But most of all, writers enjoy the time and concentration to simply write. Fiction writer Justin Quarry (from Arkansas) commented, "The Kimmel Harding Nelson was above and beyond what I expect of a residency. I have enjoyed complete freedom in when and how I write in an incredibly supportive environment with fellow artists."

Residencies are awarded through a juried process. Application deadlines are September 1 for residencies between January 1 and June 15, and March 1 for residencies between July 1 and December 15. Full details and the application form are available on-line (address below).

The Center also houses a gallery that is free and open to the public. Recent exhibits included *Bradypress: 1984-2006*, featuring handmade books by Denise Brady, Center director and former Nebraska Center for the Book board president.

For more information regarding the Kimmel Harding Nelson residency program or gallery schedule, see www.khncenterforthearts.org or contact 402-874-9600, info@khncenterforthearts.org.

Review: *Devils in the Sugar Shop*

by Timothy Schaffert,

Unbridled Books,
2007, ISBN:
978-1932961331

Reviewed by
Barbara Rixstine,
University of
Nebraska-Lincoln



Jruthful. Witty. Sincere. Deeply human. And well, maybe just a teensy bit adults-only-rated. Nebraskan Timothy Schaffert's new novel, *Devils in the Sugar Shop*, is all of the above and more.

The devils in this case have nothing to do with nefarious exorcists. These devils are women, all based in Omaha, all preparing for Ashley's Sugar Shop party. Sugar Shop is a "marital aids" business that's light on the tawdry and heavy on the euphemism, but still spills over some terms not used by the general public.

The story? Well, it's a little complicated. DeeDee, the owner of the Sugar Shop franchise, is still in love with her ex, Zeke, who's sort of sneaking around with Vivienne, a good friend of Ashley's, whose husband Troy is seeing Peach, who runs the Mermaids Singing bookstore with her sister, Plum, who's seeing a "tallish dwarf," and so on. Really, once you get going, the story winds around like a

Chutes and Ladders game, but is more than twice the fun.

Schaffert, the author of *The Singing and Dancing Daughters of God*, among others, does a masterful job of creating real, flawed, but down-to-earth women—the kind we all know. They say believable dialogue. They treat each other honestly (for the most part) and have children they'd like to change, if they could. And they're just a little bit worried about getting old and losing what love they have.

Being old myself, I probably missed other references, but did catch Schaffert's nod to Virginia Woolf and *Mrs. Dalloway* in the book's opening: "Ashley Allyson, the failed erotic novelist, stood in Mermaids Singing, Used and Rare, with an armful of pink, freckled lilies, the stems wrapped in tissue, bought from the corner florist in the Old Market." Like Clarissa Dalloway, Ashley's having a party. And the Devils in the Sugar Shop make it quite a party indeed. ❧

Norfolk Public Library Festival Planned for July

Norfolk Public Library's Thirteenth Annual Literature Festival is planned for July 28 at North-east Community College/Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk. This year's Festival is funded by the Norfolk Library Foundation, the City of Norfolk, and the Nebraska Library Association's School, Children's, and Young People's Section. The Festival will feature:

- ~ Karen Kaufman Orloff, 2008 Golden Sower Award nominee for *I Wanna Iguana*
- ~ Trinka Hakes Noble, 2008 Golden Sower Award nominee for *The Scarlet Stockings Spy*

- ~ Rick Riordan, 2008 Golden Sower Award nominee for *The Lightning Thief*
- ~ 2007-2008 Golden Sower Previews by Karen Drevo and Marci Retzlaff
- ~ Book Display and Discount Sales by Norfolk Public Library Foundation
- ~ Door Prizes

For more information contact Karen Drevo, Norfolk Public Library Literature Festival, 308 Prospect Avenue, Norfolk, NE 68701, 402-844-2100, kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us. ❧

American Life in Poetry: Column 091

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



How many of us, when passing through some small town, have felt that it seemed familiar though we've never been there before. And of course it seems familiar because much of the course of life is pretty much the same wherever we go, right down to the up-and-down fortunes of the football team and the unanswered love letters. Here's a poem by Mark Vinz.

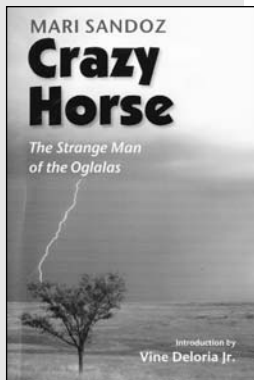
Driving Through

*This could be the town you're from,
marked only by what it's near.
The gas station man speaks of weather
and the high school football team
just as you knew he would--
kind to strangers, happy to live here.*

*Tell yourself it doesn't matter now,
You're only driving through.
Past the sagging, empty porches
locked up tight to travelers' stares,
toward the great dark of the fields,
your headlights startle a flock of
old love letters--still undelivered,
enroute for years.*

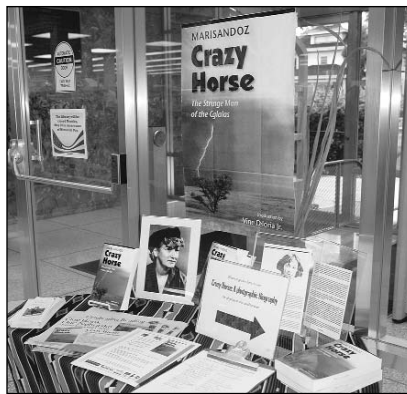
Reprinted from *Red River Blues*, published by College of the Mainland, Texas City, TX, 1977, by permission of the author. Copyright (c) 1977 by Mark Vinz, whose most recent book is *Long Distance*, Midwestern Writers Publishing House, 2005. This weekly column is supported by The Poetry Foundation, The Library of Congress, and the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This column does not accept unsolicited poetry. ❧

Sandoz Book is 2007 One Book One Nebraska



Crazy Horse: The Strange Man of the Oglalas, by Mari Sandoz is the featured selection for the 2007 One Book One Nebraska celebration. Author, historian, and member of the Nebraska Hall of Fame, Sandoz was one of the most outspoken advocates for fair treatment of Native Americans and for the documentation of Plains heritage. She worked to shed light on the challenges native people faced in the wake of the expansion of a growing American nation.

Libraries and other cultural and educational organizations around the state are participating in **One Book One Nebraska** events throughout 2007. These activities help provide Nebraskans the opportunity to come together to learn about and discuss Native American culture, Plains history, and contemporary issues. One Book One Nebraska is sponsored by a



(Above) Fremont Public Library display promotes the traveling exhibition
(Below) Ron Hull speaks about his personal remembrances of Mari Sandoz.

coalition of organizations (including Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Humanities Council, and the Nebraska Center for the Book), and organized under the leadership of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society and the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College. A list of events, reading guide and discussion questions, poster, and sample press release are available at www.onebookonenebraska.org.

The Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center has transformed Bill and Jan Moeller's book *Crazy Horse: A Photographic Biography* into a traveling exhibition. By visually exploring the locations Crazy Horse lived and traveled, viewers form a portrait of Crazy Horse as he related to his environment. The exhibition is available to libraries and museums, at no cost. For more information contact Sarah Polak, Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, 308-432-6401, or see www.marisandoz.org.

Mari Sandoz Conference Held

by Meredith McGowan,

Jane Pope Geske
Heritage Room of
Nebraska Authors,
Lincoln City
Libraries

The Eighteenth Annual Conference of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society was held this spring in Chadron. It focused on the featured book for the 2007 celebration of One Book One Nebraska, *Crazy Horse: Strange Man of the Oglalas*, by Mari Sandoz.

Highlights included:

- Preconference: "Archives at the Sandoz Center at Chadron State College." Susan Rolfsmeier talked about the Sandoz letters – forty-five boxes of themofax copies from Caroline Sandoz Pifer.
- Discussion: "Crazy Horse in Juvenile Literature." Becky Pasco and Karla Wendelin provided examples and evidence that most of the literature about Crazy Horse for young people has misinformation, lack of sources and photo credits, and/or too little information.
- Presentation: "Braiding the Rope: Interweaving the Introductions to *Crazy Horse*." Kimberly Lee discussed Mari Sandoz' own foreward, as well as Stephen B. Oates' introduction to the Bison 50th anniversary edition in 1992 and her favorite introduction in the 2004 University of Nebraska Press edition by the late Lakota scholar, Vine Deloria, Jr.
- Student Presentations: "Comparing Crazy Horse with Another Leader." University of Nebraska-

Lincoln students discussed a class assignment. One compared Crazy Horse to Robert E. Lee and another compared him to Shigeru Kayano, a leader of the Ainu, the indigenous people of Japan.

- Program: "Crazy Horse Genealogy." Grandsons of Crazy Horse, representing the Crazy Horse Family Association, spoke about recent efforts to explain and document their connection to Crazy Horse through various official records (probate, census, allotments, and rations). A DVD showed the connection through Crazy Horse's sister, illustrated with a number of genealogical charts. In their words, "It's time to tell the truth; we have a tree."
- Reception and Dinner: "Exhibit and Readings from *Crazy Horse*." The evening featured the presentation of the In the Spirit of Mari Sandoz Award to Michael Cartwright, Nebraska Book Festival Director, and the announcement of Lynn Roper as the new president of the Sandoz Society.
- Driving tour: "Sites Important in the Life of Crazy Horse." Joseph Marshall III made remarks at the site where Crazy Horse was killed at Fort Robinson. Dawes County Historical Society members drove and narrated the story of "The Forgotten Trail from Fort Robinson to Camp Sheridan to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation."



Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival Scheduled for Fall



The twelfth annual Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival will be held October 4-6, at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska.

Laura Numeroff, author of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, will keynote the endowment dinner and auction on October 4 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. October 5 is Children's Day, with Concordia University hosting children from across Nebraska. Teachers and their students can pre-register to hear **Laura Numeroff, Andrew Clements, Ted Lewin, Betsy Lewin, Peg Kehret** and **Robin Brickman**. Nebraska Humanities Council speaker **Jerome Kills Small** will present "Stories for Children of All Ages," and performing artist **Pippa White** will share her message, "Voices from Ellis Island."

On October 6, teachers, administrators, media specialists, and book lovers will hear visiting authors and illustrators, as well as literacy experts. **Richard Peck**, author of the 2001 Newbery award for *A Year Down Yonder*, will be the author luncheon speaker.

Authors and illustrators for the 2007 Conference include:

- ~ **Andrew Clements**, author of multi-award winning *Frindle* and other chapter books for middle school children
- ~ **Ted Lewin**, illustrator of the 1994 Caldecot Honor book *Peppe the Lamplighter* and author of *Elephant Quest*, in collaboration with his wife, Betsy
- ~ **Betsy Lewin**, illustrator of *Click Clack Moo: Cows that Type*
- ~ **Peg Kehret**, two-time Golden Sower award winner for *Nightmare Mountain* (1993) and *Escaping the Giant Wave* (2006)
- ~ **Robin Brickman**, award-winning illustrator of many science books, including *Swallows in the Birdhouse*

See www.cune.edu/plumcreek for further details and registration forms or contact PlumCreek@cune.edu.

Pimp My Bookcart

by Nancy Chmiel,
Omaha Public
Library Benson
Branch

It all started with a simple e-mail... My group of teens at the Omaha Public Library Benson Branch had decided to enter a "Pimp My Bookcart" contest, sponsored by Overduemedia.com. They wanted to "retro-pimp" our bookcart into a Hippie VW Bus.

I faithfully sent an e-mail to all Omaha Public Library staff to see if they could help us acquire VW parts, shag carpet, and anything else that could help up transform a lowly wooden bookcart into a hip bus that any righteous dude would want to push.

April Nedved, whose husband Dan is part of the VW Club of Omaha, sent back a reply that if I could tone down the "librarianese" in the e-mail, Dan would send it out to the club. I did my best and the very next morning I walked into work and was handed a message from Phil Cram. Phil offered to let the teens wander around the basement of Cram Auto Parts and take whatever they could use. He graciously donated every piece of genuine VW history on the cart. I've never seen three

teens so excited about an adventure! I drove Scott, Ben, and Sara to "South O" for an afternoon of VW parts shopping. They were in heaven!

The first afternoon I gathered teens to start painting and creating our masterpiece, VW Club member Scott Wiley showed up to find out more about the venture and ended up sitting in on our creativity fest. He brought us a model VW bus to use as we painted, drew, nailed, and drilled our way to the perfect Hippie Mobile. After finishing our cart within 24 hours of the contest deadline, the kids asked every day if we'd won. It took over a week for the judges at Overduemedia.com to make up their minds. It was a joy to be able to tell the teens that we tied for runner-up in a contest that had more than one hundred entries nationwide. The judges

were most impressed with the fact that we used genuine VW parts. For more information see www.overduemedia.com/blog.aspx?post=745 or contact Nancy Chmiel, 402-444-4846, NChmiel@omahapubliclibrary.org.



Park Once Shop Twice at Benson's Used Book Row

by **Oliver B. Pollak,**

University of
Nebraska at
Omaha

In the process of writing *Intellectual Piracy, Russian Proverbs, Anti-Semitism and Little Blue Books*, I discovered that Emanuel Haldeman-Julius (the phenomenal Girard, KS, publisher of 2,200 titles that sold for five cents each) had reproduced already published works. His nineteen volumes on national proverbs that started to appear in 1921 in great part copied the *National Proverb* volumes published in London, which also appeared in an American imprint, McKay Publishers in Philadelphia, between 1913 and 1920.

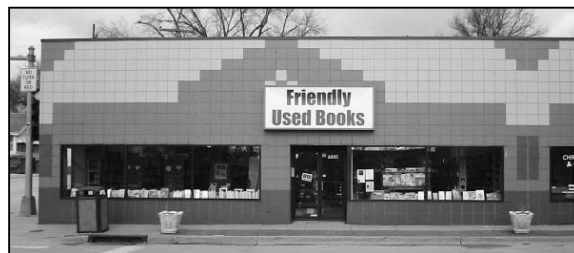
A search on AbeBooks.com revealed twenty-three of the London imprint for sale in England, Canada, United States, Italy, Germany, and Argentina. Ten copies of the Philadelphia imprint were available in America, five of them at Backshelf Books in the Benson neighborhood of Omaha. I had often peered into the windows of Backshelf at night while dining at Espanas restaurant across the street. But I was never in the area during normal store hours (10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.).

Described on the Web as a "Brick & Mortar (and lots of shelving) storefront which caters to all tastes, from children through physicists, mystics and musicians, et cetera. Located in historic downtown Benson (Omaha, Nebraska)."

Harry and Jeanne Wilkins opened Backshelf in February 2002. They have a stock of about 30,000 volumes; about 2,500 are on the Web. About twenty percent of sales are via the Web. Harry has haunted used book stores since his youth. An Air Force veteran, he earned a masters degree in history and taught history in high schools in Alabama and Japan. A used bookshop was his retirement parachute.

My visit was productive. Harry thinks he got the five volumes (*Arabia, France, Italy, Spain, and Russia*) about five years ago. They are "slow" or "no"

movers. One volume contained the name C. L. Saunders, Omaha, which a Google search identifies as a member of the Board of Governors of the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben and treasurer of the Omaha Club.



Harry referred me to a neighboring used bookstore, Friendly Used Books. This store had been at 120th and Center since 1998 and moved to Benson in July 2006. Mary Ann and Bart Nyberg have a stock of 50,000 books, about 10,000 of which are offered for sale on the Web. The store name comes from a poem,

*Books are the land
Where friendly people dwell
Where loved ones never die
And the old continue well.*

I browsed and came across the 282-page *Finding List of Books in the Lincoln City Library, Lincoln, Nebraska as of June 1, 1905*. Handwritten on the cover was the name Juliet M. Vore. While writing *A State of Readers, Nebraska's Carnegie Libraries*, I discovered that Juliet, who worked for the Nebraska Library Commission, had died on December 1918 at the height of the influenza epidemic. I asked how they got the book, they responded, "Sorry, I can not say where we got that—most likely someone was cleaning out a house and brought it in."

The owners (and the stock) of used or antiquarian book stores, provide fascinating vignettes of the book trade. These booksellers can be reached at books@backshelfbooks.com and MADitch@aol.com.



Great Plains Great Books on NET Radio

by **Deb Miller,**
NET

How did it feel to be a young Jewish bride homesteading on the North Dakota frontier? Ever wonder how the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally got its start? Want to tempt your taste buds with the culinary delights along Route 66? These experiences and many more can be yours through *Great Plains Great Books*, a series of ten short pieces that will begin airing on NET Radio this summer, beginning August 14. Each of the four-and-a-half minute stories will air three times during the week: Tuesday afternoons during "All Things Considered" at 4:44 p.m. CT, Friday mornings during "Friday Live" (9 - 10 a.m. CT) and Saturday afternoons during "Weekend America" (12:30 p.m. CT).

NET Radio is partnering with the Plains Humanities Alliance (PHA), Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, to present insightful radio essays about the rich and varied cultures and people of the Great Plains, as revealed in some of the greatest books about the region, taken from "Great Books of the Great Plains," the PHA's annotated and edited list of essential Plains books in the humanities (<http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/bibs>).

Tune in this summer and fall to NET Radio for *Great Plains Great Books* or listen online at netNebraska.org/radio.

Funding for the series was provided in part by the Cooper Foundation, TierOne Charitable Foundation, Woods Charitable Fund, and the Jim and Elaine Wolf Foundation.



Italian Cookbooks, That's Amore

by Robert Trautwein,
Columbus Public Library



More than thirty-five years ago, while in the Navy, I had my first taste of “real” Italian cooking. My ship, the USS Brownson, an old WW II-vintage destroyer, had sailed into the harbor in Naples. There were many other ships docked along the wharves. In the distance, smoke or steam was rising from Mount Vesuvius.

When I had a chance to spend my first afternoon on shore, I happened to be with some Italian-American shipmates. After a couple of weeks of shipboard food, the only thing on their minds was a good Italian meal. It didn't take us long to find a great little restaurant in that ancient port city.

As a farm boy from Idaho, Chef Boyardee home-made pizza in a box was about all I knew about Italian cuisine. I asked one of my Italian navy buddies to order my meal. He chose cannelloni, served bubbly hot from the oven with lots of creamy béchamel sauce. With chewy Italian bread and a glass of wine, it was a meal I will never forget. Back in the USA, I had to describe the meal to various waiters in Italian restaurants before I re-learned the name—cannelloni—of this wonderful Italian specialty.

I suppose that Italian foods are my favorite. I had to marry my girlfriend after she stole my heart by cooking Zucchini Rapieni. If she could cook a meal like that, I had to stay close by. She found the Rapieni recipe in the then-new *Time-Life Italian Cookbook*. It's a treasured recipe for which we always grow zucchini in our summer garden.

Many Nebraska public libraries have a large collection of cookbooks, arranged by country or specialties. The Italian section of the Columbus Public Library contains about thirty books, some

older, but mostly all new. *Everyday Italian, 125 Simple and Delicious Recipes*, by Giada De Laurentiis, a cook on the *Food Network*, tells how to make fresh and delicious Italian meals using pantry ingredients and imagination. *Cooking With Grace*, by Grace Pilato, is a beautifully-printed book with a section of colored pictures of the foods she prepares. The book is arranged from the simple recipes to the more complex. Her cannelloni recipe isn't quite the one I love, as she uses a fontina cheese sauce rather than a béchamel sauce. But, I am adventurous enough to try it, if I can get my wife to make it.

In her book, *Rustico, Regional Italian Country Cooking*, Micol Negrin offers the reader—and there are people who just **read** cookbooks—ten authentic recipes from each of the twenty regions of Italy. For each region, there is an overview of the region and its history, the culinary influences, the most commonly eaten foods, and the most representative recipes. Also included for each region is a list of the favorite restaurants. For the Sardinia region, a recipe that reads deliciously is one for eggplant-walnut ravioli in a tomato sauce.

The *Williams-Sonoma Savoring Italy*, by Michele Scicolone, is yet another new and beautiful cookbook. I'll forgive the author for not including a cannelloni recipe as there are many other dishes I would love to taste. Her recipe of pasta with tuna and bread crumbs uses spaghetti, canned tuna, and lots of butter, garlic, and fresh parsley to make a great tasting tuna and noodles dish.

The reader is advised to pick up a new cookbook when visiting your local library or bookstore. Sometimes the recipes in that book will be more imaginative than the latest romance or western. ➤

Governor Proclaims 'Adopt A Library' Day

Gov. Dave Heineman
(center) proclaims
“Adopt A Library Day.”

April 23 was “Adopt A Library Day” and the celebration began with Gov. Dave Heineman



presenting a proclamation at a signing ceremony at the State Capitol in Lincoln. “Adopt A Library Day” is a spinoff of AdoptALibrary.org, a literacy advocacy Website that encourages visitors to donate books

and money to featured libraries, including Little Priest Tribal College/Winnebago Public Library in Winnebago.

“I'm really excited at all the attention on libraries and their importance in our communities,” said Lynn Gaubatz, creator of AdoptALibrary.org. “When the governor of Nebraska decided to proclaim ‘Adopt A Library Day’ in recognition of the books donated to tribal libraries in his home state through AdoptALibrary.org, I was over the moon!”

AdoptALibrary.org is designed to encourage and facilitate donations to schools and libraries in prisons, on Native American reservations, and around the world. AdoptALibrary.org does not ask for or accept donations. All donations go directly to libraries and schools, or organizations that aid them. For more information contact Gretchen Healy, Library Director, Little Priest Tribal College, 402-878-3335, e-mail: ghealy@lptc.bia.edu. ➤

Saving Nebraska's Treasures to Air July 26

Nebraska State Historical Society staff evaluate objects for the *Saving Nebraska's Treasures* broadcast.



Photos courtesy Tom Sain

Saving Nebraska's Treasures will air on NET Television July 26 at 9:00 p.m. CT. The Nebraska Library Commission, the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS), and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) partnered on a \$249,837 grant awarded by the Partnership for a Nation of Learners, a collaboration of the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, to produce the show and accompanying training.

Saving Nebraska's Treasures will create awareness of the importance of preserving the state's cultural heritage, and will educate families, museum workers, and librarians about how to slow the deterioration of artifacts, photographs, and documents. This is expected to impact how heritage collections in the state's museums and libraries are handled, raise awareness among the general public, and increase

participation in the Library Commission's Nebraska Memories project. Nebraska Memories (www.nebraskamemories.org) makes digitized copies of Nebraska-related historical and cultural heritage materials accessible via the Internet for researchers of all ages.

A complementary Website is in development, along with free distance learning workshops on preventive conservation for museum, historical organization, and library staff and volunteers. Nebraska libraries and other cultural/educational organizations are invited to serve as local hosts for the satellite-delivered (or Web-based streaming video) workshops. Upcoming workshops will be delivered to distance learning sites around the state:

- July 12: Preserving Your Collections: Metal, Glass, Ceramic, Stone, and other Inorganic Materials
- August 16: Preserving Your Collections: Paper, Photographs, Books and other Paper-based Objects
- September 11: Care and digitization of materials for accessibility through the Nebraska Memories Website

For more information contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Library Commission Communications Coordinator, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us.

Windmill Projects Launched

The Center for Rural Affairs launched a statewide arts and tourism project, **Winds of Life:**

Windmills across Nebraska and Governor Dave Heineman declared 2007 as the "Year of the Windmill."

Windmills were essential to the sustainability of early Nebraska settlement and today, remain a symbol of the life and culture they enabled. The

statewide arts project calls on Nebraskans to rekindle interest in the revitalization of rural Nebraska by uniting artists, communities, libraries and other organizations, and corporate sponsors to create works of art depicting windmills, as well as supporting events. Activities include literary events such as collecting oral histories about windmills or holding windmill poetry or short story contests,

readings, windmill art contests, or other windmill-themed activities.

The Nebraska State Fair (August 24 through September 3) will feature several Winds of Life activities. The open class photography exhibit will include a special section for Winds of Life: Windmills Across Nebraska photos. The open class quilts will have a special Winds of Life award that will go to the quilted item that best represents the spirit of Winds of Life: Windmills Across Nebraska. Activities related to windmills (including historic accounts, displays, and activities for kids) will take place at the Train Depot at the State Fair.

Another special project merges the poem, "Platte Valley Homestead," by Nebraska State Poet Bill Kloefkorn, with the calligraphy skills of Arthur Pierce to produce a framed piece of art, starring Kloefkorn's poem.

For more information contact Julie Paschold, 402-528-3750, e-mail: jpaschold@gmail.com, or see www.windsoflife.com.



The NCB News



THE NEBRASKA CENTER FOR THE BOOK

an affiliate of the Library of
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c/o Nebraska Library Commission
The Atrium
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Nebraska Book Festival
October 26-27, Downtown Lincoln
www.nebraskabookfestival.org



Calendar of Events:

- Will Thomas Reading/Signing: *The Hellfire Conspiracy*** July 20 Lincoln
Contact: Linda Hillegass, Lee Booksellers, 402-420-1919, info@leebooksellers.com,
www.leebooksellers.com
- Harry Potter Book Release Party** July 20 Omaha
Contact: Ben Brick, 402-444-4846, omahapubliclibrary.org
- Saving Nebraska's Treasures: NET Television Program** July 26 Statewide
Contact: 402-471-3271, treasures@nebraskahistory.org
- Dennis Jacobs Reading/Signing** July 28 Omaha
More or Less Loess: Exploring Iowa's Loess Hills and the Missouri River Valley
Contact: Ellen Scott, 402-392-2877, Tbookworm_kids@qwest.net, www.bookwormomaha.com
- Norfolk Public Library Literature Festival** July 28 Norfolk
Contact: Karen Drevo, 402-844-2100, kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us
- Summer Reading Program Whodunit Lock-In Party** July 28 Scottsbluff
Contact: Scottsbluff Public Library, www.scottsbluff.org/lib/tsrpsched2007.html
- Howard Mosher Reading/Signing: *On Kingdom Mountain*** August 3 Lincoln
Contact: Linda Hillegass, Lee Booksellers, 402-420-1919, info@leebooksellers.com,
www.leebooksellers.com
- Neihardt Day** August 5 Bancroft
Contact: John G. Neihardt State Historic Site, 402-648-3388, neihardt@gpcom.net,
www.neihardtcenter.org
- NE Center for the Book Board Meeting** August 11 Scottsbluff
Contact: Gary Alkire, 308-635-6075, galkire@wncc.net
- Summer Reading Program Recognition Night—Lincoln Saltdogs Game** August 15 Lincoln
Contact: Lincoln City Libraries, www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/ys/summerreading.htm
- Saving Nebraska's Treasures: Distance Learning Program** August 16 Statewide
Preserving Your Collections: Paper, Photographs, Books, Other Paper-based Objects
Contact: 402-471-3271, treasures@nebraskahistory.org
- Harley Jane Kozak Reading/Signing: *Dead Ex*** August 25 Lincoln
Contact: Linda Hillegass, Lee Booksellers, 402-420-1919, info@leebooksellers.com,
www.leebooksellers.com
- Library Card Sign-Up Month: The Smartest Card@your library®** September Nationwide
Contact: www.ala.org
- "The Amazing Library of Thomas Jefferson Fitzpatrick" by Jim McKee** September 9 York
Contact: Kilgore Memorial Library, Kent Bedient, 402-362-2054
- Saving Nebraska's Treasures: Distance Learning Program** September 11 Statewide
Care/Digitization of materials for accessibility through the *Nebraska Memories* project
Contact: 402-471-3271, treasures@nebraskahistory.org