

# NCB Quarterly

Nebraska Center for the Book

Vol. 2

No. 4



**TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**



### Board of Directors

The Nebraska Center for the Book is the 23rd state affiliate of the Library of Congress's National Center for the Book. The Center is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. The Center acts as a catalyst, bringing together individuals and organizations to build the Nebraska community of the book. The Center serves as a partner and supporter of programs, events, and unique projects which celebrate the written word. The current board members are:

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**About the cover: Nebraska Literature Festival Committee Chairs, Past, Present, and Future.** From right to left: 1991 Nebraska Literature Festival Chair, Kira Gale; 1992 Nebraska Literature Festival Chair, Susanne George; and 1993 Nebraska Literature Festival Committee Co-Chairs, Robert Narveson, and Stephen Shively.

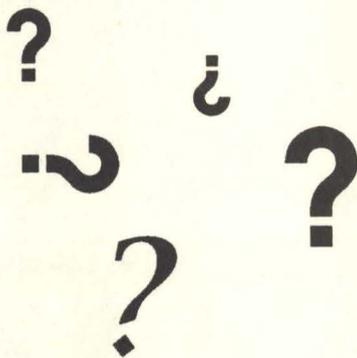
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David McCleery—*NCB Quarterly* Editor/Designer

### Publication Schedule

*NCB Quarterly* is published four times a year: March, May, September, and December

## Want to Advertise?



If you have a business or product that you would like to let people know about, *NCB Quarterly* is a great way to get your message out. Our advertising rate per issue is:

• full page	\$60.00
• half page	\$35.00
• quarter page	\$20.00

*NCB Quarterly* prefers photo-ready ads. Typesetting and layout services are available to advertisers for a fee:

• full page	\$15.00
• half page	\$8.75
• quarter page	\$5.00

SEE INSIDE OF BACK PAGE!

Deadline for our next issue is February 15th

*NCB Quarterly*  
**INSIDE**

As you peruse this issue (and in all upcoming issues) of the *NCB Quarterly* you will come across poems and short prose pieces.

When you see this:

*Nebraska  
Writing and  
Storytelling  
Festival* 

it's our way of letting you know that the fine work you're reading was written by a participant in the Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival (NWSF).

This last spring The NWSF became an official committee of the Nebraska Center for the Book. One of the goals of the Festival is to encourage people to find writing a significant "moment" in their lives. The NWSF tries hard to involve not only people who already write, but also encourages those who may be apprehensive or less experienced. The *NCB Quarterly* and the Nebraska Center for the Book are pleased to provide a forum for all writers to publicly share their writing. We hope you'll enjoy this new addition to our publication.

*Participants of the 1992 NWSF are urged to send their work for possible publication in the NCB Quarterly to: David McCleery, Editor, 2746 Everett, Lincoln, NE 68502.*

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*Camerado, this is no book,  
Who so touches this touches a  
man.*

— Walt Whitman



# 1992 Nebraska Literature Festival



After the final performance of "A Vision for All," the last event of the 1992 Nebraska Literature Festival held at Kearney this September, I returned to the Nebraskan Student Union to check out the state of the facilities. As I walked into the Atrium, I was surprised the custodians had carted away all of the tables and chairs and had already scrubbed the floor. I went from room to room, finding the same emptiness, and an eerie feeling swept over me. Would I wake up in the morning and find that it was just a dream? That it really hadn't happened at all?

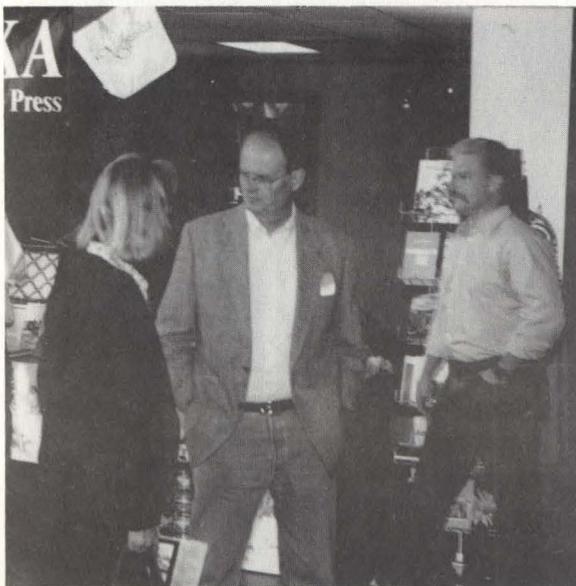
Well, it did happen and it was wonderful, due largely to all of the speakers, panelists, and exhibi-

tors who excited, inspired, and broadened the knowledge of the Festival participants. I had arranged seating for 500 people in the Ponderosa room and 400 in the Cottonwood room, and although not all of the chairs were full, usually one third to one half were occupied. We had a good crowd at all of the sessions, often equaling or exceeding the attendance at the UNO Festival. Their success last year and your contribution this year made it all possible.

The High School participation surprised us the most, for nearly 500 students and their teachers arrived at the Nebraskan Friday, double our expect-

tations, and enthusiastically joined in the activities. The winning poems, stories, and essays were published in a book available to students and the first place winners of the various categories were offered scholarships if they choose to major in English at UNK.

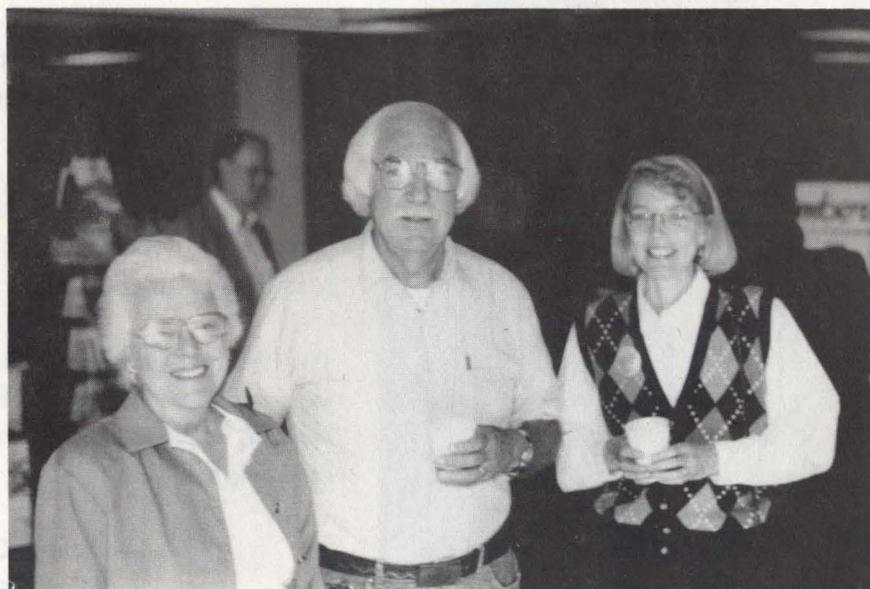
For those who were unable to attend the Festival, or who had to make the difficult choice of which program to attend, you will have a second chance to hear many of the sessions. Nebraska Public Radio taped most of the sessions of Nebraska authors as well as the second performance of "A Vision for All." They are tentatively scheduled for broadcast in January.



I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone who helped make the 1992 Literature Festival such a success. As I filled out the Project Director's Report concerning the "Scholars Who Participated," the total, including speakers, panelists, and "workers," came to 84. Thank you all so much for your contribution.

The 1993 Festival will be held in Lincoln, so get in touch with Steve Shively and Robert Narveson at the UNL English Department and ask them, "How can I help next year?" 

— Susanne George  
1992 Literature Festival Chair



Nebraska Literature Festival Photographs by David McCleery

# Thank You Dick Allen!



*In appreciation of all his good work on behalf  
of the Nebraska Center for the Book,  
Board member Carol Connor presents out-going  
president Dick Allen with the Smithsonian Book of Books*

Members of the NCB recently said good-bye to out-going president Dick Allen. At the recent annual meeting for the Center, board member Carol Connor presented Dick with a plaque and a book as a small thank you for the hard work and long hours he has given the Nebraska Book Community.

Dick was a founding member of the NCB, and has

served the last two years as the Center's first president. Without Dick's leadership the Center would not be the viable, strong organization it is today.

The NCB thanks Dick for his generous, selfless work on behalf of books, reading, writing, and literacy in Nebraska. He will be sorely missed.



## President's Corner

— Dick Allen

With the ending of my two-year term as president of the Nebraska Center for the Book I want to say "thank you" to past and current board members, committee chairs and committee members, and to the many good people and organizations that have made the Nebraska Center for the Book a successful endeavor. While I can't list everyone of you individually I would like to indicate several persons that need to be recognized for outstanding contributions to the Center.

Your outgoing treasurer, Tom Boyle, has served the Center for the past two years and had been both a faithful account keeper, and an active fund raiser. Without him we could never have made it. Thank you, Tom Boyle, for your many, many hours of work for the Center!

Earlier both Elaine Norton, as Membership Chair and Vice President, and more recently Peggy Benjamin and Jane Neal, have all helped the Center to grow to the extent that it has. Who would have imagined a paid membership of over 300 individuals and organizations in just over two years!

We don't want to overlook the contributions made by past Festival chairs: Kira Gale and Susanne George for the past two, highly successful Nebraska Literature Festivals, and Mel Krutz for the past Nebraska

Writing and Storytelling Festival.

Bob Runyon, Elaine Booth, and Golda Bockbrader have done much to keep our commitment to literacy valid. Barbara Leffler has worked hard to promote, develop, and list Nebraska book discussion groups. And Chlorene Hardy has maintained the Center's contribution to the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs ESO Reading Program.

Finally, without the many contributions made by Carol Connor, Molly Fisher, and Rod Wagner, the Nebraska Center for the Book would never have become a reality and an important factor in the enhancement of the written word in our state.

You have all been great to work with. You may be sure that I will keep my membership current and will continue to work for the causes the Center stands for by helping out with the 1993 Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival to be held in Lincoln.

Thanks again to all of you! 

P.S. Our publications owe their vitality to the Center's excellent editor, David McCleery. What would we do without you, Dave?

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# NCB Annual Meeting



*The Coordinators for Adult Literacy, Family Literacy Conference played host to the 1992 NCB annual meeting*

The 1992 NCB annual meeting was held November 12, in Grand Island on the occasion of the Coordinators for Adult Literacy, Family Literacy Conference. The Center sponsored a discussion on "Libraries and Literacy," featuring Golda Bockbrader, Dianne Muhlbach, and Mary Von Segern.

At the meeting, the Center approved the election of seven members to its board of directors. Elected for a second term were Golda Bockbrader, Carol

Connor, Robert Runyon, and Ellen Scott. New members of the board include Peggy Benjamin, Denise Brady, and Laureen Riedesel.

Following the annual meeting the board elected the following officers: Elaine Booth, President; Golda Bockbrader, Vice-President; Ellen Scott, Secretary; and Morrie Tuttle, Treasurer. 



## Fossils

My feet in the water of the Platte  
out by Silver Creek, Nebraska,  
I find a fossil and laugh  
at the vastness of the prairie academics  
who know nothing of us Poles  
and Czechs and Swedes  
we who routinely destroyed crisis after crisis  
with the anthropology of plows  
and fishing rods  
and thick forearms,

I worry the gar with sandstones  
and long for the opening of trees  
rather than convenience stores  
along the Nebraska plateau  
my home,

and I, steward feet  
in the glop of river sand,  
turn west  
from miles of population rising like the pickled  
scent of fertilizer,  
turn and wish,  
within the next arc of stone into water,  
for a liberation most clustered  
of farmhouses and barns which once were,

Can we maintain this time  
which causes rural tremblings  
to glean riches from setaside acres  
while Russians go mad  
for the lack of corn . . .

It is the fading sun of this nuclear age  
that consumes me in the shallows of the Platte,

I think of those  
who did not need 1929, and yet survived,

of those who did not need  
the separation craziness  
of alcohol  
and farm jobs lost in 1981, and yet endured.  
of those who vivisection wheatfields  
into acreages for those city dwellers who are coming  
their hands full of money and hearts tuned  
to satellite dishes  
those who want to live forever, and yet will fade,

I think of those who need instead  
the solitary path and the voices  
of campfires and streams which vanished  
as this wilderness was twisted  
from wagon ruts  
into a state.

Nebraska . . .

In forty years or a hundred, they say,  
Nebraska will become a desert  
as the great Ogallala Aquifer  
gives out somewhere beneath my feet

which will be dust  
by then,  
too . . .

and the only gar left  
will be untroubled rock remnants  
as fossilized as my thoughts on this page.

— Jay Garrison  
Eagle, NE

*Nebraska  
Writing and  
Storytelling  
Festival*

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# Looking Back, Looking Ahead

— Dick Allen

The attendance at the Nebraska Center for the Book's Annual Meeting in Grand Island on November 12, 1992, was anything but large. Yet those there were interested in hearing about the Center's 1992 activities, a list of which appears elsewhere in this issue. The fact that our annual meeting was at Grand Island on the occasion of the Coordinators for Adult Literacy (CAL) Family Literacy Conference again underscores the Center's sponsorship of the Conference segment, "Libraries and Literacy".

In the same way the Nebraska Center for the Book's advocacy of libraries was seen by the aforementioned session, by working closely with other libraries and library groups. The first Jane Geske Award was made to the Lincoln City Library Heritage Room, a "library within a library," dedicated to bringing together the written Nebraska opus. Libraries have served as ideal meeting places for public programs and a number of NCB Board meetings. You may have noticed participation of librarians of all type — public, school, academic, and special — in the NCB's membership, committee work, and board membership. We librarians, who tend to be generalists by nature anyway, like to cut across "party line" and bring diverse communities together for the sake of a common cause. (Note: There are now more than 75 NCB organizational members reflecting a broad spectrum of activities.)

In order for publishers and booksellers to succeed there must, of course, be readers and all of these are additional NCB emphases. Publishing is not "big" in Nebraska (save for the exemplary University of Nebraska Press), but small-scale publishing along

with printing are important Nebraska industries. We need more newspaper publisher and commercial printer involvement. We already have a number of Nebraska booksellers as members and have featured some of them in past programming. They have also taken part in our two sponsored festivals. A number of reading and book discussion groups and associations are NCB organizational members, but there are many out there that need to be recruited. Somehow we need to do more to explore and explain why the act of reading is important — easier said than done! Have you ever argued with someone who says: "It don't matter none how you get the facts — they is all that count!"?

Last but not least Nebraska writing has been celebrated by the two Nebraska Literature Festivals and by the Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festivals. The Nebraska Literature Festivals emphasize writing and writers that have become established, that have "made it," and the Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festivals provide models and criticism for would-be writers and storytellers.

Future NCB projects and programming will hopefully "target" our special audiences and special interests, but also include things of interest to our entire Nebraska Community of the Book.

Lots of accomplishments, lots of challenges. Now that I am no longer an NCB Board member I can confide to you, good member of the Nebraska Center for the Book, that the 1993 Board and Officers are of exceptional quality, and that they will continue to reflect both your diverse and your common interests.





# Heritage Room

## Recipient of Jane Geske Award



*NCB President-elect Elaine Booth presents  
Nebraska Literary Heritage Association President  
Judy Keetle with the first Jane Geske Award.*

At this year's annual meeting the Heritage Room of the Lincoln City Libraries became the first recipient of the Jane Geske Award.

The Heritage Room is a "library within a library." The room contained one of the finest collections of Nebraska literature and culture. The room, located on the third floor of the Bennett Martin Public Library in downtown Lincoln, is filled with books, photographs, maps, manuscripts, tapes, art, and other treasured objects created and/or donated by Nebraska's literary greats. The Heritage Room also supports many public programs and readings celebrating not only Nebraska's rich literary past but contemporary writing as well.

The Heritage Room is supported by The Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, a friends group formed under the auspices of the Lincoln City Library Foundation.

The Jane Geske Award was established in March of this year and is presented on an annual basis to an organization, business, library, school, association or other group which has made an exceptional contribution to literacy, books, libraries or Nebraska literature.

The award is given in honor of Jane Geske, a founding member of the NCB, and long time active member in many library and literary activities. 

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# Nebraska Writers Guild Fall Conference



What do murder, romance, nature, ghosts, and publishing have in common? They were the featured topics for the Nebraska Writers Guild Fall Conference at Central Community College in Columbus, Nebraska. Rod Colvin, author of *Evil Harvest*, set a tone of excellence that would remain throughout the day. David McCleery, Linda Dageforde, and Manya Nogg, led a lively discussion on the merits and pitfalls of self publishing. Then, Pam Hart, the author of *Lies and Shadows*, January release, revealed the unromantic side of romance writing. After a deli luncheon of croissants and broccoli soup, acclaimed author, Dr. John Janovy, Jr. gave personal insights into author rejection when he told the audience, "save those unpublished manuscripts." Finally, Duane Hutchinson, master

storyteller, told the Guild how to construct stories and finished with a verbal visualization of a fight with a grizzly. Thanks to Central Community College Coordinator, Ron Kluck, the facilities and amenities were first class. After election of new 1993 Guild officers, Rosalie Shimerda, President; Linda Dageforde, Vice President and Membership Chair; Jane Graff, Treasurer; Jeff O'Donnell, Secretary; and Diane Kirkle, Program Chair, everyone went home a little smarter and a lot happier. 📖

—Diane Kirkle  
1992 President  
Nebraska Writers Guild

YEAR IN REVIEW

**FEBRUARY 28**

☞ Morrie Tuttle talked on book collecting. His talk was co-sponsored with the Friends of the UNL Libraries.

**APRIL 16**

☞ The Center sponsored two public programs: a panel discussion on literacy and a book discussion of John Casey's novel *Spartina*.

**APRIL 17 - 18**

☞ Ken Lincoln and Mark Monroe spoke on the Native American Experience in Alliance and Crawford. The talks were co-sponsored with the Nebraska Humanities Council.

**MAY 29 -30**

☞ John Casey signed books and lectured at Love Library. Casey also gave the keynote address at the Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival. John Casey's visit was made possible in part by a grant for the National Book Foundation.

**SEPTEMBER 25 - 26**

☞ NCB helped sponsor the Second Nebraska Literature Festival at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The Festival was made possible in part by a grant from the Nebraska Humanities Council.

**OCTOBER 16**

☞ Art Pierce lectured on the art of calligraphy. Art's talk was co-sponsored by the Friends of the UNL Libraries.

**NOVEMBER 13**

☞ The Center co-sponsored a panel discussion on literacy and libraries in Grand Island. The discus-

sion was co-sponsored with Coordinators for Adult Literacy and was a component of the Center's annual meeting.

☞ The Center presented the Heritage Room of the Lincoln City Libraries with the first Jane Geske Award.

**DECEMBER**

☞ The Center helped with the publication of Morrie Tuttle's talk on book collecting. The booklet was co-sponsored with the Friends of the UNL Libraries.

**PLANNED FOR DECEMBER**

☞ The Center will help with a book distribution to children in Grand Island.

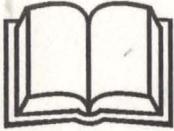
☞ The Center plans to host a social event for Omaha-area members (co-sponsored by the Friends of the UNO Library).

**OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 1992 INCLUDED:**

☞ The Center accomplished regular publication of the *NCB Quarterly* with two special issues: (1) individual membership roster with special interests; (2) Nebraska book discussion groups directory.

☞ The Center contracted with the Wooden Horse Co. to provide for sale and distribution of Nebraska Literature Festival Items.

☞ The Nebraska Center for the Book membership passed the 320 mark!



## Off the Press

Recent Books by  
or of Interest to Nebraskans

**Touch the Fire: Buffalo Dancers,  
the Sky Bundle, and Other Tales**  
by Roger Welsch

**Of Sunflowers, Coyotes and Plainsmen:  
A History of Nebraska Wesleyan University**  
by David H. Mickey

**Nebraska Moments: Glimpses of Nebraska's Past**  
by Donald R. Hickey

**Legacy of Images: Four Decades of  
Lincoln Journal-Star Photojournalism**  
edited by Steve Batie

**The Marginalist and Other Poems**  
poems by Don Welch

**In the Kingdom of Grass**  
Photographs by Margaret A. Mackichan  
text by Bob Ross

**A Bibliographic Introduction  
to Poetry in Nebraska**  
by Mark Sanders

**North Window**  
poems by Mark Sanders

**The Lost Book**  
poems by Mark Sanders

**Ten Poems**  
poems by Mark Sanders

*Thanks to Herb Hyde for supplying copies of his Sunday Lincoln Journal-Star book columns so that this listing could be compiled. If you know of other recently published books that would be of interest to the members of the Nebraska Center for the Book, please contact us.*

**Guilty Parties & Infidels**  
poems by Mark Sanders

**University of Nebraska: A Timeless Experience**  
Photographs by Tom Tidball

**Wild and Free on the High Plains**  
by Karyn Stansbery

**Annie Banty and Mouser's Kittens**  
by Linda Garvel

**Help the Children When the Children Cry**  
by Michael Barrett

**The Job Shuffle**  
by Douglas Erlandson

**Big Book of Poems**  
poems by J. Bodie

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## Six Nebraska Authors

### A Catalog of Commemorative Items and Resource Materials

The NCB recently contracted with the Wooden Horse Company to market and handle the distribution of items which commemorate the work of John G. Sandoz, Loren Eiseley, Willa Cather, Bess Streeter Aldrich, and Wright Morris. Items include mugs, T-shirts, sweat shirts, tote bags, and the *Resource Guide to Six Nebraska Authors*. 10% of the purchase price will be returned to the Center.

To obtain a catalog write: Wooden Horse, 8612  
Dakota Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20977, or call 301-  
990-1106.



## "They Are Mine, and I Am Theirs" Fifty Years of Book Collecting by Morrie Tuttle

For fifty years Morrie Tuttle has been a book buyer and collector. And for the most part he has done his work quietly and carefully and with the purest of intentions . . . he just loves books and can not live without them.

On February 18 of this year, Morrie came out of his personal library and treated fellow book lovers with some personal words about his life-long pursuit. He spoke at meeting of the Friends of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries. Morrie's talk was co-sponsored by the NCB.

If you are a current member of the Center, you've probably already come across "*They Are Mine, and I Am Theirs*" *Fifty Years of Book Collecting*, inserted into the newsletter. The booklet contains the entire text of Morrie's talk. So impressed were those that gathered to hear Morrie in February, that they decided to join together and publish his words so that all book lovers could read and share Morrie's passion and energy.

The booklet was published by the NCB and Friends of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries and was distributed to current members of both groups. Some additional copies are still available and may be obtained by contacting the NCB. 

## South Dakota Humanities Foundation Reprints Two Books

Two books, *The Golden Bowl* and *The Land They Possessed* have recently been reprinted by the South Dakota Humanities Foundation. The South Dakota Humanities Council would like people in Nebraska to have the opportunity to rediscover good stories about life in the Upper Plains during an earlier time.

Mary Worthy Breneman's, *The Land They Possessed* is many things — a love story, a descriptive narrative of northern South Dakota Plains, and an examination of the tension between the Germans from Russia and the English-speaking cultures in the Eureka area in the late 1800s.

Frederick Manfred's *The Golden Bowl*, has been out of print for nearly a decade. *The Golden Bowl* is the story of a South Dakota farm family's battle to survive the dustbowl years. The novel is often compared to Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*.

Both books are available from the South Dakota Humanities Foundation, Box 7050, University Station, Brookings, SD 57007

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"Wish I could find a good book, to live in.  
Wish I could find a good book.

If I could find a real good book,  
I'd never have to come out and look  
at what they've done to my song."

- Melanie

## New NCB Board Members

At the annual meeting held November 12, the Center approved the election of three new members to its board of directors. New members of the board include:

### Peggy Benjamin

Peggy has served on several boards of organizations including the Nebraska Writers Guild, and the Woman's Faculty Club of the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Peggy is also an author and does watercolors.

### Denise Brady

Denise is especially interested in printing, publishing and contemporary poetry. Her work at the Nebraska Book Arts Center at UNO involves distributing hand made books and providing information and support to regional printers and writers. In addition, she has established her own press, bradypress, which publishes limited first edition poetry. Denise has also helped shape the first Nebraska Literature Festival at UNO.

### Laureen Riedesel

Laureen is particularly interested in the Center's involvement in the Annual Literary Conferences. She is also interested in literacy and libraries and is fortunate in having all these areas come together in her job as Director of the Beatrice Public Library. She has been actively involved in area literacy programs for the past fifteen years. 

## Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival

### Brave Roses of Summer

The weather man had warned and preached  
Of the early killing frost for two days,  
So with my six geraniums safely stowed  
On the heated porch I went for my evening walk  
Out along the September creek and fields  
At the edge of town.

Two fence posts south of the dead elm tree  
I suddenly spied the wild blooming roses  
Like I hadn't seen since last July, and certainly  
Never this late in the season.  
I was shocked and delighted by this unexpected reprieve,  
This one last vestige of the beloved summer  
That already seemed so long in the past.

I knelt to examine the brave blooming little bush  
In the already chilling sunset air.  
Six immature buds not yet showing color nestled close  
Beside one large bud of wrapped pink,  
With the crowning glory one fully opened rose.

The thought of them helpless against the merciless frost  
Knifed grimly through me so I quickly walked on —  
Only to come back after twenty paces  
To more deeply etch their final beauty,  
For here were truly the last roses of summer  
And it would be a long time until summer again.

I debated wildly whether to pick them or not,  
Then finally decided it was nature's way  
To let them die in their intended place.

When I finally tore myself away  
I counted again: two fence posts south  
Of the dead elm tree.  
I wanted to be able to find tomorrow  
The beautiful corpses.

— Valerie Vierk  
Ravenna, NE



## From the Editor: The Unbearable Heaviness of Books

— David McCleery

A friend of mine collects books. Well, actually he only collects one book, a novel by Milan Kundera, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*. The novel deals with the problems of the world in how they relate to lightness and weight. Art is light, says Kundera, politics is heavy, and so on, and so forth. My friend has about twenty paperback copies of the novel. They fill an entire shelf of his bookcase. Once I asked him why he had so many. He replied that he did not know, only that he loved the book and whenever he came across a copy at a used bookstore he had to purchase it.

My friend owns about 17 pounds of *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*. I on the other hand am free from that weight. Instead I own several hundred volumes of poetry. They take up little space. Most are so thin you can barely make out the title on the spine. They are like nothing to lift and carry about. I think Kundera was correct about art being light. When I moved about six years ago I set the thin undernourished books into boxes, one weightless volume at a time. But when it was time to move the boxes I could not lift them. A friend had to help me. How did all that lightness become so heavy? As we carted the boxes out to the van, I concluded that nothing in this world is so heavy as books.

I have other friends who collect books. They are more imaginative than my “Kundera” friend. These friends collect massive amounts of books. Because of the extreme weight they have had to reinforce the structure of their homes. They have put steel girders under their sun porches, they have doubled the

thickness of the timbers of their attics. Such is the gravity of books.

I conclude that if you have 20 pounds of potatoes in one box, and 20 pounds of books in another, one could lift the potatoes — the books would be another matter. Books are the heaviest substance known to man. Rarely are they taken into space. They are used to press wild flowers. They hold open the largest of doors. Throughout history manufacturers have designed all kinds of devices for carrying them — book bags, shoulder bags, briefcases, satchels, etc. Our society, no, our whole civilization, is built not around the automobile, but rather on how to move massive amounts of books from one location to another.

Books are heavy, they have always been heavy. It is only recently that they have become lighter. First we had hard backs, then paper backs, now we have software. Even the name implies lightness.

Recently Apple Computer came out with its Powerbook, a device for reading “books” written to computer disks. In a recent article in *Publish* magazine, the producer Michael Cohen said, “Eight out of ten people who try it [electronic books] realize this is a viable alternative to paper.” One reason is what he calls the “argument from gravity.” He explains: If you travel with a Powerbook, “you can carry ten books with you as easily as one.” I find the notion intriguing. My friends, I’m afraid, call that the “unbearable lightness of being.” 

1993 *Nebraska*  
*Writing and*  
*Storytelling*  
*Festival* 

**Announced**

The Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival Committee of the Nebraska Center for the Book is planning to sponsor the 1993 Festival in Lincoln on June 5 in cooperation with Southeast Community College.

The 1993 theme will be "Writing for and Storytelling to Children and Young Adults." The emphasis will be on helping adults interested in writing and/or storytelling for this audience to improve their skills.

Suggestions for the 1993 Festival are welcomed. Please send these to Rose Beck, Secretary, 1993 NWSF, 701 South 21st Street, Lincoln, NE 68510.

**Fifth International Seminar  
on Cather announced**

"Willa Cather: After the World Broke in Two" is the topic of the fifth international seminar on Cather, to be held June 19 -26, 1993, in Hastings and Red Cloud, Nebraska. Focus will be on Cather's later writing. Submission of papers are invited. For information, contact Susan Rosowski, Department of English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0333, 402-472-6645; or Pat Phillips, Director Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial, 326 North Webster, Red Cloud, NE 68970, 402-746-2653.

**Dr. Fritjof Capra  
to speak at  
Neihardt Spring Conference**

The 1993 John G. Neihardt Spring Conference will take place Saturday, April 24 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The title is "Exploring the Mystery: The Philosophy of John G. Neihardt." The Conference will examine the influences that shaped Neihardt's philosophy from his early interest in Eastern Mysticism, the Native American tradition, and the new physics. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Fritjof Capra, internationally known physicist and author of the *Tao of Physics*, *The Turning Point*, *Uncommon Wisdom*, and *Belonging to the Universe*. Also on

the program are Arthur Amiotte and Hilda Neihardt. Hilda will talk about the biographical pattern — the influences that shaped Neihardt's philosophy — and Amiotte, artist and scholar (and grandson of Standing Bear, who participated in the 1931 interviews with Black Elk), will discuss the Native American, particularly Lakota, spiritual tradition.

For more information contact the John G. Neihardt Center, P.O. Box 344, Bancroft, NE 68004, or call 402-648-3388.



# The Shaping of a Scientist/Poet

— Robert S. Runyon

“Standing in front of this house, I believe that one feels closer to the spirit of Loren Eiseley than anywhere else.” Thus, Rev. Darrel Berg (United Ministries for Higher Education, UNO) described one of the boyhood homes in Lincoln of famed Nebraska author, scientist, naturalist and poet Loren Eiseley.

“It was along that alley over there as he came home from school one afternoon, that young Eiseley found his way blocked by a bully demanding his subservience. Seeing no escape, he was provoked into fierce and violent combat. After beating up the bully, he went to the water faucet on the north side of the house to wash away the blood from his wounds. His mother, noting this from a window, preceded to berate the young boy in her characteristic, high-pitched screeching voice. She had been stone deaf from a childhood illness and was thus unaware of the sound of her voice.

“It was here too that the young Eiseley used to lie awake in bed at night listening to the sounds of his parents arguing in an adjoining room.”

These anecdotes and personal recollections taken from his autobiographical writings, were shared with an enthusiastic and appreciative audience of 30 pilgrims who toured the sites of Eiseley’s youth. Drawing from his extensive reading and knowledge of Eiseley’s works, Berg helped to recreate the physical and emotional experiences that shaped the personality of the man whose scientific and literary achievements we celebrate.

Lincoln looked its very best on this warm and mellow Sunday in late October. Halloween decorations hung on the trees in the front yards of the compact houses nestled close to one another. Our little caravan strung its way from house to house, to frog pond and culvert, and finally to his mother’s grave site, to which he returned with sorrow in later life. At each stopping place, Berg reconstructed the scene and related the memories and meanings which Eiseley himself had attached to these places.

Later that evening, in the beautifully renovated Elephant Hall of the University of Nebraska State Museum on the UNL campus, we dined among the encircling elephants, and felt ourselves to be privileged travelers on that Immense Journey from prehistoric times to today, that Loren Eiseley so beautifully evokes in his books. The murals by Mark Marcuson depicting 20,000 year-old mammoths that roamed the Platte River are truly spectacular. After dinner, Dr. Michael Voorhies (Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, Nebraska State Museum) spoke to us of Eiseley’s dinosaur digs in western Nebraska, and showed us striking color slides of the Wildcat Hills, locale of his first book, *Night Country*.

Special thanks for organizing this special day with its memorable insights and literary enrichment are due to Kira Gale and the Friends of Loren Eiseley. It was just one in a full series of offerings that Ms. Gale and the Friends have sponsored this Fall in Omaha and Lincoln.

Six superb book talks by Darrel Berg and Bing Chen have been scheduled in Omaha at UNO and at



Rev. Darrel Berg tells the story of "The Gold Wheel" from Loren Eiseley's *Night Country*, in front of Maple Lodge, "The Gold Wheel Mansion", 20th & Euclid, Lincoln. (Photograph by Kira Gale)

the Omaha Public Library. Berg and Chen have each spent many years in dedicated study and reflection on the writings of Loren Eiseley. Through their understanding and animated discussion, the audience is led to a deeper appreciation of one of America's greatest modern writers.

The last of these extraordinary book talks will be offered at the Omaha Public Library, Swanson Branch (9101 West Dodge Street) at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11th. The discussion that evening will focus upon *The Unexpected Universe*. It will be

*In the end, science as we know it has two basic types of practitioners. One is the educated man who still has a controlled sense of wonder before the universal mystery, whether it hides in the snail's eye or within the light that impinges on that delicate organ. The second kind of observer is the extreme reductionist who is so busy stripping things apart that the tremendous mystery has been reduced to a trifle, to intangibles not worth troubling one's head about.*

— Loren Eiseley, from "Science and the Sense of the Holy," *The Star Thrower*, 1978.

followed by a gala dessert reception in the new Performing Art Education Building on the UNO campus beginning at 8:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book and hosted by the UNO Library Friends, it will be an opportunity for all interested persons to meet together and share their enthusiasm for Nebraska's distinctive literary heritage. 

(Friends of Loren Eiseley individual memberships are available at \$10.00. Send checks or inquiry to: Friends of Loren Eiseley, P.O. Box 80934, Lincoln, NE 68501-0934)



# 1993 Books Change Lives

To remind Americans of the joys of reading and the importance of books in today's world, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington has chosen "Books Change Lives" as the Library of Congress reading promotion theme for 1993-94. "Books are the individual's portable, affordable link with the memory, mind, and imagination of the rest of humanity," said Dr. Billington. "They link the record of yesterday with the possibilities of tomorrow."

Initiated by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, "Books Change Lives" is a unifying theme for organizing and supporting reading and literacy projects that benefit all age groups.

"Books Change Lives" is supported by educational and civic organizations, corporations, professional associations, labor unions, schools, libraries, and others who believe, as did Thomas Jefferson, that books and reading are essential to wise government and individual well-being. By working together, we will establish new partnerships on behalf of future generations of readers and citizens.

## Ideas for Changing Lives

### For Individuals

-  Join a book discussion group
-  Develop a home library
-  Sponsor a child in a summer reading program
-  Give a book as a gift
-  Volunteer to read to patients in a hospital or nursing home
-  Get a library card and use it
-  Teach someone to read

### For Organizations

-  Use your newsletter to spread the word about the importance of reading
-  Sponsor a book fair
-  Establish a book discussion group
-  Form a reading promotion partnership with a nearby public library or school
-  Sponsor book awards
-  Organize an essay contest about "a book that changed my life"
-  Take a field trip to a local literary landmark

### Some Books That Shaped Readers' Lives

-  *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*  
by Mark Twain
-  *Atlas Shrugged*  
by Ayn Rand
-  *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*
-  *The Cather in the Rye*  
by J.D. Salinger
-  *The Diary of a Young Girl*  
by Anne Frank
-  *Invisible Man*  
by Ralph Ellison
-  *Charlotte's Web*  
by E. B. White
-  *Silent Spring*  
by Rachel Carson
-  *To Kill a Mockingbird*  
by Harper Lee
-  *Walden*  
by Henry David Thoreau
-  *Leaves of Grass*  
by Walt Whitman

# ATTENTION NCB ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS



## ***Don't Be Left Out!***



We will be publishing a directory of our organizational members in the March 1993 issue of the *NCB Quarterly*. This will be a unique opportunity for your organization to reach folks who might be interested in what you are doing! To assure that your organization will be listed please take a few minutes to **complete both sides of this form** and mail to us by **February 1, 1993**. Only current 1993 NCB organizational members will be listed.

**Please Note:** If you are not a current NCB organizational member but would like to become one, or if you are a current organizational member and would like to renew your membership, now is the time!

Renewal       New       Current Member

Name of organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle all the Center for the Book interests that apply to your organization:

Book Arts	BA	Popular Culture	PC
Children's Books	CH	Printing	PG
Censorship, Right to Read	CN	Promotion of Reading	PR
Book Collecting	CO	Preservation	PV
Book Discussions	DI	Reading	RD
Foreign Language	FL	Reviewing	RV
Book Illustration	IL	Book Selling	SE
Libraries	LB	Print-Handicapped,	
Literacy	LC	Special Needs	SP
Nebraska Authors and		Storytelling	ST
Nebraska Literary Tradition	NE	Teaching of Reading	TG
Nebraska History	NH	Writing	WR
Publishing	PB	Other: _____	

PLEASE COMPLETE OTHER SIDE

PLEASE COMPLETE FORM AND MAIL BY FEBRUARY 1, 1993

Unless you've become a member after September 1, 1992 it's . . .

**TIME TO RENEW!**  
**NCB Organizational Membership**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone with area code (for directory use): \_\_\_\_\_

Name and title of contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write a brief description of your organization for our membership directory: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Sample Organizational Listing**

*Note that the directory of organizational members will include a telephone number, a contact person with title, and a brief description of the organization.*

**Nebraska Literary Foundation,**

Nebraska State College, 1234 Writers Way, Bookville, NE 68000. Tel 308-123-4567. Contact: Jane Bookworm, President. NE, PB, WR. Publishes "The Nebraska Muse," holds an annual meeting in July. Supported in part by Nebraska State College. Promotes programs and research on published Nebraska women writers.

If you would like to renew your membership or become a new member please enclose a check in the amount of \$25.00 made out to "Nebraska Center for the Book." Mail your check and this form to:

**Nebraska Center for the Book**  
**c/o Lincoln City Libraries**  
**136 South 14th Street**  
**Lincoln, NE 68508**

Unless you've become a member after September 1, 1992 it's . . .



# **TIME TO RENEW!**

## **NCB Individual Membership**



Renewal

New

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone with area code (not for directory use): Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Will you serve on a committee? \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Each year we will publish a membership directory.  
Help us learn your Center for the Book interests by circling all that apply:**

Book Arts	BA	Popular Culture	PC
Children's Books	CH	Printing	PG
Censorship, Right to Read	CN	Promotion of Reading	PR
Book Collecting	CO	Preservation	PV
Book Discussions	DI	Reading	RD
Foreign Language	FL	Reviewing	RV
Book Illustration	IL	Book Selling	SE
Libraries	LB	Print-Handicapped,	
Literacy	LC	Special Needs	SP
Nebraska Authors and		Storytelling	ST
Nebraska Literary Tradition	NE	Teaching of Reading	TG
Nebraska History	NH	Writing	WR
Publishing	PB	Other: _____	

### **Sample Individual Listing:**

*Note that directory of individual members will not include telephone numbers.*

John Smith, 1234 Reading Ave., Literacy, NE 68000 CO, DI, LC, PC, RD

**Please enclose a check in the amount of \$15.00 made out to "Nebraska Center for the Book."  
Mail your check and this form to:**

**Nebraska Center for the Book, c/o Lincoln City Libraries,  
136 South 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508**



**Welcome**  
**New Members!**  
 New members as of August 15, 1992

**Organizational**

MM & I Ink Bayard

**Organizational memberships allow the organization to exhibit at the Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival and the Nebraska Literature Festival without charge.**

**Individual**

Roger Bassett	Fullerton	Laurie Erickson	Hastings
Richard Austin	Lincoln	Laureen Riedesel	Beatrice
Larry Arnold	Lincoln	Helen Nichols	Brock
William D. Stibor	Lincoln	Robert Narveson	Lincoln
Morton Stelling	Lincoln		

***TIME TO RENEW!***

It's time for your 1993 membership renewal. We hope that you will continue your affiliation with our growing coalition (now over 300 members strong) for the advocacy and support of literacy, reading, books, libraries, and writing in Nebraska.

year for individual members, \$25.00 per year for organizations. If you or your organization became a member after September 1, 1992 your membership has been paid through 1993. If you or your organization became a member before that time, please renew your membership as soon as possible.

Membership fees have not changed, \$15.00 per

# NCB Quarterly now accepting ads!

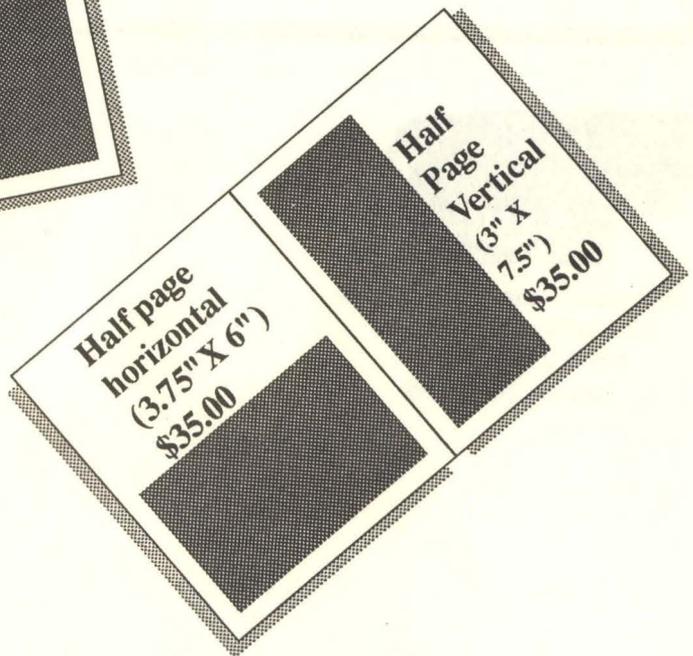
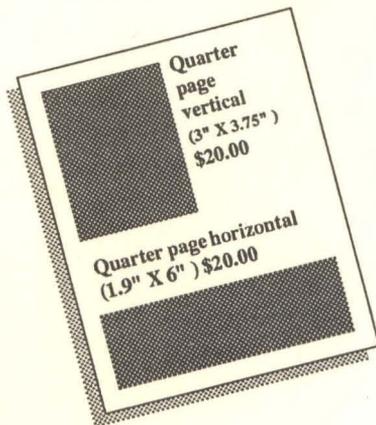
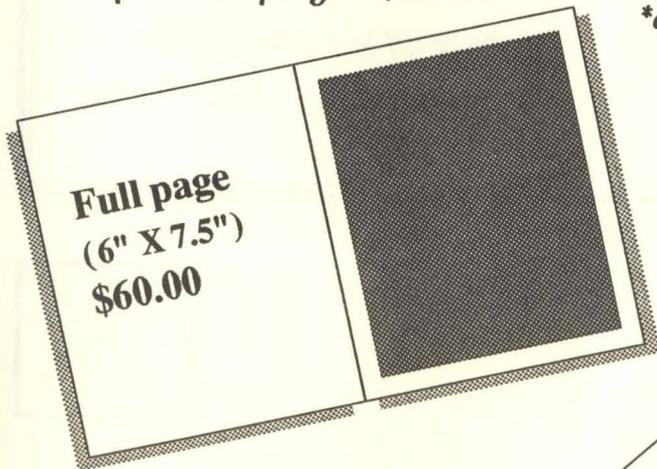
When you advertise in the *NCB Quarterly* you are reaching over 300 members, all of whom are interested in the written word. The combination of low rates and select readership make advertising in the *NCB Quarterly* an excellent buy.

## Initial costs are:

*full page	\$60.00
*half page	\$35.00
*quarter page	\$20.00

*NCB Quarterly* prefers photo-ready ads. Typesetting and layout services are available to advertisers for a fee:

*full page	\$15.00
*half page	\$8.75
*quarter page	\$5.00





***Happy  
Holidays!***

*from  
The Nebraska Center for the Book*



*"Books Are  
Wonderful Things:  
to sit  
alone in  
a room and  
laugh and cry,  
because you are reading,  
and still be safe when you close  
the book: and having finished it,  
discover you are changed, yet  
unchanged! — Faye Weldon*



**Nebraska Center for the Book**  
c/o Lincoln City Libraries  
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