

Celebration of Nebraska Books Set for Nov. 8

The Celebration of Nebraska Books will be held November 8, 2014, from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m., at the Nebraska Library Commission at 1200 N Street, in downtown Lincoln. This event, free and open to the public, will feature the

2014 One Book One Nebraska book selection, honor winners of the 2014 Jane Geske and Nebraska Book Awards, and announce the reading selection for the 2015 One Book One Nebraska.

The 2014 Nebraska Book Awards honor authors and publishers of books with a Nebraska connection published in 2013.

Featured winning

authors will read from their work and sign copies of their books. The 2014 Jane Geske Award will be presented to a Nebraska organization for an exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, or literature in Nebraska. The Jane Geske Award commemorates Geske's passion for books, and was established in recognition of her contributions to the well-being of

the libraries of Nebraska. Jane Pope Geske was a founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book, former director of the Nebraska Library Commission, and a long-time leader in Nebraska library and literary activities.

This year the Celebration marks the tenth year of One Book One Nebraska—selecting and promoting a book for Nebraska citizens to read to celebrate the literary richness of our state. *Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen*, by Bob Greene is the 2014 One Book One Nebraska selection, and Nebraska libraries and other literary and cultural organizations across the state are hosting activities and events to encourage all Nebraskans to read and discuss the same book (see <http://onebook.nebraska.gov/2014/index.aspx>).

The **Nebraska Center for the Book Annual Meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m.**—just prior to the November 8 Celebration. An Awards Reception honoring the winning authors, book signings, and announcement of the 2015 One Book One Nebraska book choice will conclude the festivities. The 2014 Celebration of Nebraska Books is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, and University of Nebraska Press. 

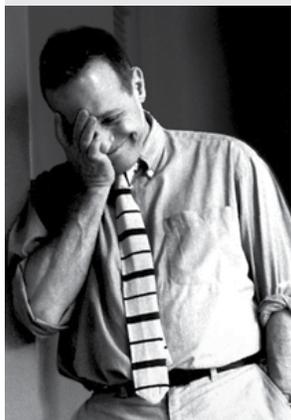
A Celebration of Nebraska Books

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Nov. 8, 2014
3:30 - 6:30



NEBRASKA
LIBRARY
COMMISSION
1200 N Street
Lincoln, NE



David Sedaris in Omaha on October 30

The celebrated NPR humorist David Sedaris comes to Omaha's Holland Performing Arts Center for an evening of cutting wit, social satire, and riveting conversation, including a question and answer session. In celebration of his paperback release of *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls*, Sedaris will share his experiences that helped create the national

bestsellers: *Naked*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*, and *Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk*. For ticket information about this evening of readings, recollections, and a book signing, see <http://www.omahaperformingarts.org/subscribenow/calendar/view.aspx?id=13154> 

National Idea Exchange: Turning Good Ideas into Reality

*Guest Editorial
by Chuck
Johanningsmeier,
University of
Nebraska Omaha*

As was the case last year, I was very impressed to hear about the myriad of activities that people across the country were engaging in, all to promote literacy and reading. For example, one new program from the Library of Congress, “Teaching with Primary Sources,” is intended to get teachers around the country using primary sources more frequently in their classrooms. Another new program, a partnership between the Library of Congress and the National Geographic Society, is encouraging more geographical education in schools.

Other sessions focused on the “River of Words” program, which combines art education and environmental awareness, as well as the envisioned “literary mapping” of the entire United States. A great deal of time and attention has been devoted over the last year to this latter project, which would involve creating an online, interactive map of a particular state’s literary history that would include information about authors, works in which a particular location is mentioned, and so forth. As I listened to the informational workshops about literary mapping, I thought to myself that, given Nebraska’s rich literary heritage, this is something the Nebraska Center for the Book should definitely get involved with.

Also sponsored and coordinated by the Library of Congress is the Letters About Literature contest, in which students from grades four through twelve write letters to authors (dead or alive) of books that the students feel have made a difference in their lives.

Last year over 50,000 entries were submitted, and a collection of the best of them will soon be published by Candlewyck Press under the title *Journeys*. I was proud to be able to report that the Letters About Literature program in Nebraska, under the very capable direction of Laureen Riedesel of the Beatrice Public Library, actually experienced an increase in submissions last year.

I also noted that, compared with other states, we in Nebraska are doing a very good job with our One Book One Nebraska program and with our Nebraska Book Awards. Every year the selection of one title as the state’s “One Book” is followed by numerous related events across the state that draw people to not only read the book but also actively discuss it with others. We have also experienced a dramatic, almost 40% rise in the number of books submitted for consideration in various categories of the Nebraska Book Awards, and each year the Celebration of Books at which the awards are announced is an exciting, well-attended event.

Overall, attendance at the Idea Exchange in Washington forcefully reminded me of how important the work of state Centers for the Book is. At a time when so much attention and energy is being focused on STEM-field education and solely monetary “returns on investment,” it is very important for us all to remember that the literary arts are essential to creating a vibrant, exciting state — not only to work in but more importantly, to live in. 

The **NCB**
News

Fall 2014 | Volume 24 | No. 2

Nebraska Center for the Book Board and Committees

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Awards Art Coordinator

Mary Jo Ryan

Letters About Literature Coordinator

Laureen Riedesel

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

2014 Nebraska Center for the Book Board Meetings

November 8 . . . 2:30 p.m.,
Annual Meeting
Nebraska Library
Commission
1200 N Street

Advertising

The *NCB News* can accept up to four 1/8-page ads for each issue. The advertising rate is \$125 for 1/8-page. *NCB News* is issued March 15, June 15 and October 15. The advertising and copy deadline is six weeks prior to issue date. For details, contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Center for the Book, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023; phone 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov, centerforthebook.nebraska.gov

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Young Nebraskans Win Writing Competition



Young Nebraska writers received Letters about Literature award certificates from Gov. Dave Heineman at a proclamation-signing ceremony celebrating National Library Week, April 13-19, 2014. Letters about Literature is a national reading and writing promotion program, is sponsored nationally by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Nearly 50,000 adolescent and young readers nationwide in grades 4 through 12 participated in the Letters about Literature program—more than 400 of them from Nebraska. The competition encourages young people to read, be inspired, and write back to the author (living or dead) who had an impact on their lives.

The Nebraska competition is coordinated and sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book,

Nebraska Library Commission, and Houchen Bindery Ltd.

The students wrote personal letters to authors explaining how his or her work changed their view of themselves or the world. They selected authors from any genre, fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. Winners were chosen from three competition levels: upper elementary, middle, and secondary school.

The Nebraska winners were also honored at a luncheon and received cash prizes and gift certificates. Their winning letters were placed in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln. For more information and **to compete in this year's contest**, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>. 

Letters about Literature award winners at Proclamation-signing ceremony: (l-r) Thomas D'Aquila, Elkhorn; Christopher Penas-Hull, Lincoln; Sydney Kohl, Lincoln; Gov. Dave Heineman; Brianna Wilson, Big Springs; Madeline Walker, Lincoln; and Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner. Not pictured: Wyatt Liewer, O'Neill.

What is the Nebraska Center for the Book?

The Nebraska Center for the Book brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book. We are the people who know and love books, and who value the richness they bring to our lives. Our Nebraska Center supports programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. We have been an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress since 1990.

Join the Nebraska Center for the Book

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

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

\$15 Individual Membership \$25 Organizational Membership Additional Contribution

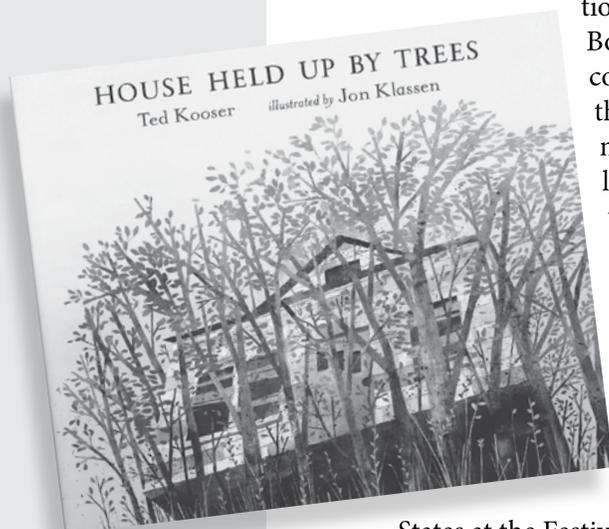
Contributions above \$15 are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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



Kooser Book Represents Nebraska

House Held Up by Trees, by Ted Kooser with Jon Klassen (Illustrator), represented Nebraska at the 2014 National Book Festival in Washington, DC. The book is the state's selection for the National Book Festival's "Discover Great Places through Reading" map. Each state selected one title of fiction or non-fiction—a book about the state or by an author from the state—that is a good read for children or young adults. The map was distributed at the Pavilion of the States at the Festival and lists "Great Reads about Great Places."



"Kooser's children's picture book offers a powerful view of the natural world. Though there's a family involved, the real star of this multilayered modern parable is a plot of land...the artwork initially functions as stoic backdrop for the story, with wide-angle perspectives filled with plenty of open space and muted colors. But in the second part, as the trees take over, Klassen's compositions command more and more attention, elbowing the text into the periphery and subtly reinforcing the themes in play... Unfolding with uncommon grace, the environmental

heart of this story is revealed obliquely but powerfully. Ages 5-8." *Publishers Weekly*

Ted Kooser was the United States Poet Laureate from 2004 to 2006 and won a Pulitzer Prize for his book of poems, *Delights and Shadows*. He is the author of twelve full-length volumes of poetry and several books of nonfiction, including Nebraska Book Award winner *Local Wonders*, *Seasons in the Bohemian Alps*. His work has appeared in many periodicals. He is also the author of *Bag in the Wind*, his first picture book. Kooser lives in Garland, NE. For more information see <http://tedkooser.net>. Jon Klassen is the author-illustrator of *I Want My Hat Back*. The first picture book he illustrated, *Cats' Night Out* by Caroline Stutson, won the Governor General's Award for illustration in his native Canada. Klassen now lives in Los Angeles.

The National Book Festival was held in Washington, DC at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center on August 30, 2014. This year's festival featured authors, poets, and illustrators in several pavilions. Festival-goers met and heard firsthand from their favorite poets and authors, got books signed, heard special entertainment, had photos taken with storybook characters, and participated in a variety of activities. The Pavilion of the States represented reading and library programs and literary events in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. trusts and territories. Representatives from the Nebraska Library Commission staffed Nebraska's table in the Pavilion. For more information see loc.gov/bookfest. 

Funding Changes Ahead for Nebraska Book Festival

At the spring meeting of the Nebraska Center for the Book board, Humanities Nebraska staff announced a change in funding for Nebraska Center for the Book activities. Based on decisions made during a recent Humanities Nebraska long-range planning process, Humanities Nebraska does not plan to fund the Nebraska Book Festival after 2015. In accordance with priorities identified in their planning process, Humanities Nebraska is likely to shift some funding to resources to support

the Nebraska Center for the Book's One Book One Nebraska program.

In an upcoming board meeting, the Nebraska Center for the Book board will address the future of the Festival, along with other priority programming and activities. In looking toward the future, the board expresses appreciation to Humanities Nebraska for their past support and the hope that we will continue as partners—nurturing Nebraska's community of the book.



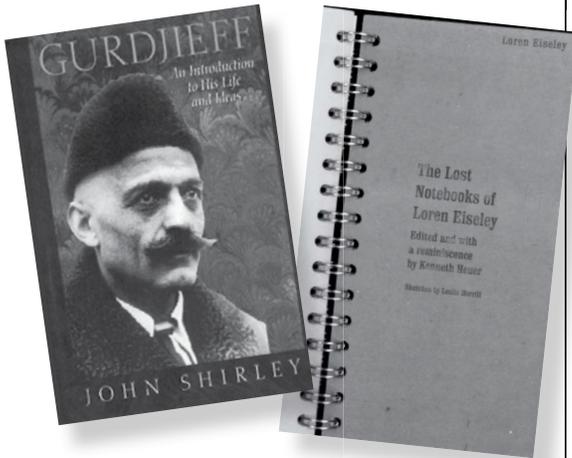
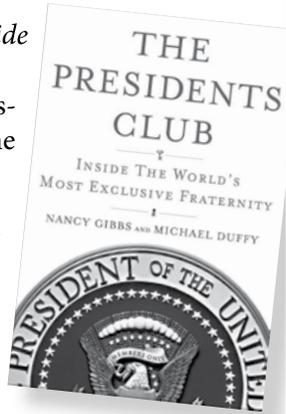
What Are You Reading?

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

The Presidents Club: Inside the World's Most Exclusive Fraternity (Simon & Schuster, 2013), a One Book One Lincoln finalist by Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy, is a fascinating account of the relationships between a current president and a past president. The bond the club has is based on three words: cooperation, consolation, and competition.

Based on historical research and many interesting letters, the authors recount examples like: how Truman relied heavily on Herbert Hoover, how Clinton respected Nixon and rereads a letter every year, how Reagan and Nixon both competed and supported one another. I came away from the book learning history—and history from the inside.

Molly Fisher



In reading *Gurdjieff: An Introduction to His Life and Ideas*, by John Shirley (Tarcher, 2004) while re-reading *The Last Notebooks of Loren Eiseley*, ed. Kenneth Heuer (University of Nebraska Press, 2002), it seems clear that

Gurdjieff and Eiseley shared a similar concern for the future of humanity due to an imbalance wherein the human intellect and associated technological advances were far outstripping the emotional, intuitional, and physical aspects of the individual and of humankind as a whole. A quick glance at what passes for contemporary news would seem to confirm their somewhat prophetic concerns.

Neil Harrison

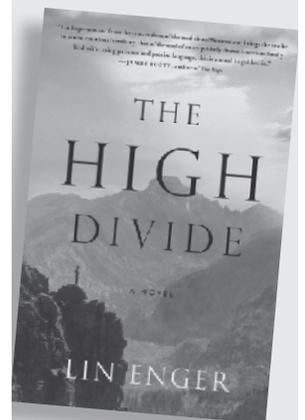
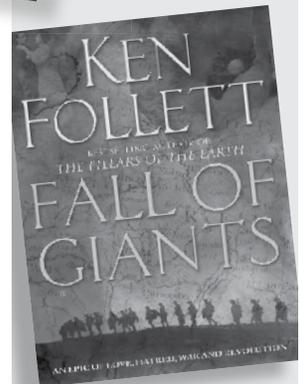
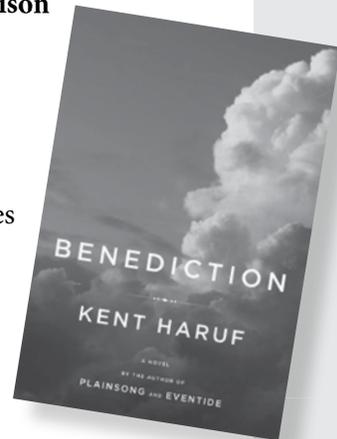
I recently read Kent Haruf's novel entitled *Benediction* (Knopf, 2013), and it was fabulous from beginning to end. The latest in Haruf's series about life in the fictional high plains town of Holt, CO, it is centered on the story of Dad Lewis's final summer as he slowly dies at home under the care of a loving wife, his daughter back from Denver, and a circle of devoted neighbors and friends. This might not sound like the most upbeat topic, but the way Haruf describes Dad Lewis's life and portrays the costs (and sometimes benefits) of going outside or staying inside the lines of a small town's expectations is far from depressing. The characters are incredibly engaging, and in the end this "benediction" of a book leaves you uplifted and feeling how sacred and valuable every day is.

Chuck Johanningsmeier

I'm reading Ken Follett's *Fall of Giants: Book One of the Century Trilogy* (Penguin, 2011). Historical fiction is one of my favorite genres, and this fits the bill.

Lois Todd-Meyer

I'm reading Lin Enger's *The High Divide* (Algonquin, 2014), a novel set in 1886 and centered on the Pope family, the father's disappearance, his quest for redemption, and his family's attempt to find him. **Rod Wagner** 📖



American Life in Poetry: Column 475



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

Those of us who live on the arid Great Plains love to hear rain on the roof. Not hail, but rain. William Jolliff, a poet from Oregon, where it rains all the time, has done a fine job here of capturing that sound.

Rain on a Barn South of Tawas

It may be as close as an old man in Michigan comes to the sound of the sea. Call it thunder if you want, but it's not thunder, not at all. It's more like the rush of semis on a freeway

somewhere between Bay City and Flint, the road a son will take when he learns, sometime around the last taste of a strap, that the life he was born to is nothing

at all like a life he'd ever bother to live. There's an anger in it, a tin-edged constancy that has no rhythm, quite, something more like white noise that still won't let you sleep.

Think of some man, needing to get a crop in, but the fields are sop, so he's trying to find

something to fix, something to keep his hands working, something to weld, something to pound,

something to wrap his calloused palms around that might do less damage than a lead-rope knotted and tossed over the limb of a tree. If you ever decide to lose your years

by working this land, you might think again, about the barn you build, or roofing it with tin.

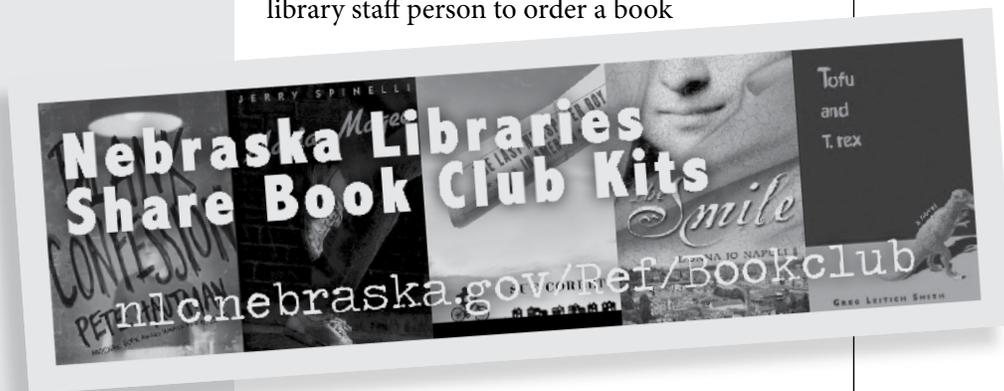
American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of *Poetry* magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright © 2012 by William Jolliff, whose most recent book of poems is *Searching for a White Crow*, Pudding House Publications, 2009. Poem reprinted from the *Blue Collar Review*, Winter 2012-13, by permission of William Jolliff and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2014 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. 

More than 800 Book Club Kits Available

Interested in borrowing a set of books for your book club discussion? Try your local library.

The Nebraska Library Commission provides a service that makes it possible for any Nebraska library staff person to order a book

club kit for library customers from this website: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Ref/Bookclub/>. Library staff can click on a simple request form for the requested title and the number of available copies appears automatically. Comprehensive title lists, with or without book covers, can be printed by librarians for book club leaders. Corresponding DVDs are now available to accompany book club reads for a book/movie combination discussion. Contact your local library and ask them to help you browse or search the more than eight-hundred titles now available for Nebraska book clubs.



Festival Features Award for Promotion of Literature

The 2014 Nebraska Book Festival, *Deliberate Shapes and Senses*, was held in April at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Thompson Alumni Center. The festival was sponsored by Nebraska Center for the Book, Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Library Commission, Omaha Public Library, and University of Nebraska-Omaha College of Arts and Sciences—with support from the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and University of Nebraska Press. It featured the presentation of the Nebraska Center for the Book's **Mildred Bennett Award to Jane Smith** of the Lyceum Restaurant Bookstore, Brownville, NE. The Lyceum takes its name from the town's long-gone Literary Library Lyceum, begun in 1857 to debate controversial topics such as women's rights and water laws.

The award recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to the fostering of the literary tradition in Nebraska. It reminds us all of the importance of individual leadership and service to the literary and intellectual traditions that enrich our lives. Jane Smith was honored for her work to support literary activities

and events, including the Brownville Wine, Writers, and Song event. Smith helped to get Brownville named as an official "Book Town" in 2004, designated as one of the top three places in America to go in search of used books. Her efforts were instrumental in nurturing this artistic and historic community, bringing literary and economic stability to one of Nebraska's oldest towns and supporting Nebraska readers and writers.

The award is a framed photograph by Michael Flecky, *Sheep Mt., Badlands South Dakota*, 2011, from the portfolio "Earth, Air, Water, Wood"—an inkjet print on Arches HP paper. Michael Flecky, SJ was born in Omaha and has taught fine art photography, criticism and photo history at Creighton University for the past thirty years. 📖



Jane Smith (l.) receives Mildred Bennett Award from NCB Board member Sharon Bishop.

Book Clubs and Government Improvement

When you think of a book club, does your mind go to a circle of friends, great food and beverages, and a rousing discussion of the best new fiction? Mine did. Until I read a recent article in *Governing* magazine entitled, "Can a Book Club Improve Government?" A group of Baltimore city employees started spending their lunch breaks at book club meetings and the lessons they are learning are being applied to the challenges the city faces. Government book clubs are open to all employees and are attended by staff at all levels, from agency heads to mid-level managers, to front-line employees. And talking about the ideas in books is giving strategies to those employees that can be implemented at every level.

Some successful titles for government-based book clubs include:

- *If We Can Put a Man on the Moon: Getting Big*

Things Done in Government, a collection of success stories by William D. Eggers and John O'Leary

- *Citizenville: How to Take the Town Square Digital and Reinvent Government*, by Gavin Newsom, with Lisa Dickey, provides ideas for community digital communication and engagement
- *The Ten Faces of Innovation: IDEO's Strategies for Defeating the Devil's Advocate and Driving Creativity Throughout Your Organization*, a guidebook for designing the workplace to encourage creativity and teamwork by Tom Kelley and Jonathan Littman

See <http://www.governing.com/topics/mgmt/gov-good-government-book-club.html> for a complete list of books and more about the Baltimore city government book club. 📖

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



Review:

Reviewed by
Oliver B. Pollak

Robbery and Skullduggery in Early 1930s Nebraska

The Great Heist, by Jeff McArthur, Bandwagon Books, 2013, ISBN: 978-1493532698

The 1931 Hastings Bank Job & The Bloody Bandit Trail, by Monty McCord, History Press, 2013, ISBN: 978-1609497965

These accounts of crimes in 1930 Lincoln and 1931 Hastings reflect Nebraska's passion for local history. The Lincoln National Bank robbery in September 1930 of 2.7 million dollars

was for a long time the largest heist in history. The successful prosecutions were a travesty; the defendants were criminals, but did not rob the Lincoln Bank. The Hastings story, written by a retired police officer, covers the robbery, shoot-out, and trial. Both books reveal 1930s investigative techniques and provide building blocks for understanding crime and law enforcement during Prohibition and the Depression on the Great Plains in the 1930s. 📖

The First Library Card

by Oliver B. Pollak

I was born in London. Like many infants during the war my mother and I were relocated to the country, Stoke on Trent, a coal mining town, to avoid the blitz. We do not remember our first or second birthdays. Few remember the first day of preschool, kindergarten, or first visit to the library. Memories of early visits to the child-friendly section of the bookstore are confused.

My mother tells me I visited the library in London after school with my friend Peter Fried. My mother was a refugee from Germany, Peter's from Vienna. I do not remember visiting the library. I emailed Peter, who I have not seen since 1952. A few years ago he initiated annual holiday email greetings. He recently retired from Canada's Carleton University where he

studied the relationship between marijuana and pregnancy. He responded, "I am afraid I have no recollection of going to a London library or even where it would have been located in relation to home."

My son Noah called in January 2014 and related our almost five-year old granddaughter, Yael, went to the library, got a card, and checked out a *Hello Kitty* book. He sent a picture. A few days later five-year old Jaikob got a card and I received another picture. The grandkids will not likely remember the event, but their nostalgic Papalatsi and Opa (grandfather) recorded the event.

My compulsive side, the one that can't throw away what may be useful, has retained several library and archive cards. We settled in Omaha in 1974. Our sedentary existence means we have not moved long distances so there was no packing, need to compress, consolidate, or throw away. Our retained cards reveal changing library access technology—paper, laminated, plastic, bar codes, pictures, and "swipeable." The hoard includes a research itinerary:

- UCLA raised plastic 1977
- National Archives 1977
- Library of Congress 1993
- National Library of Scotland 1995
- Bibliothèque nationale 2001
- Deutsches Literaturarchiv 2002
- Newberry Library 2002
- Columbia University Libraries 2003
- British Library 2013
- New York Public Library 2014 📖



Canteen Experience Still Vivid after Seventy Years

Nebraska Center for the Book board member Nancy Johnson recently interviewed Rosalie Lippincott about her experiences with the North Platte canteen, as featured in the 2014 One Book One Nebraska selection, *Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen* by Bob Greene.

Q. Where did you live at the time of your participation in the Canteen? How old were you?

A. I was fifteen years old when I made my first visit to the Canteen. I lived with my parents seven miles northeast of Shelton, NE on a farm and was a sophomore in Shelton High School. I had a sister who lived in North Platte and had heard about it from her.

Q. What foods and jobs were you helping with?

A. My first job at the Canteen was to lay out magazines on a long table in an orderly fashion. The magazines were “used” and had been given by subscribers to the Canteen to pass along. There was *Life*, *Look*, *Liberty*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Sports*, *Movie*, *True Story*, Bibles and others. Then I helped make egg salad sandwiches, filling twenty bushels of sandwiches. Shelton had sent a twenty-five dozen crate of eggs. This information came from a letter I happened to have saved, dated March 1945, that I had written to my soldier boyfriend in Germany.

Q. You said there were some romances started with couples who met during the time. Any particular ones you remember?

A. Back when I visited the Canteen I knew that girls like me enjoyed being where the excitement was, but I did not know about any romances until I read about the marriages of two sisters from Tryon, NE. They married men they met when their names were put in popcorn balls and they wrote letters back and forth. The wedding dress of one of those girls hangs in the Lincoln County Historical Museum in North Platte. Ed. Note: See www.lincolncountymuseum.org/the-north-platte-canteen1.

Q. Were you tempted by all the availability of all those fellows?

A. NO. I had already met the man I knew I wanted to marry when I was a high school senior, a hometown guy. Although it was exciting to be in the company of all those uniforms and a

young girl’s heart went thump, thump, thump.

Q. What is your most important memory of the Canteen and your involvement?

A. The rush of uniformed men who filled the Canteen when a train stopped and then how quickly the food disappeared and the room emptied when the whistle blew “All Aboard.” Then there was always more food to fill the emptied tables.

Q. Did you meet with Bob Greene when he was writing the book *Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen*?

A. I “met” Bob Greene on the telephone. His Chicago office called me after I had sent him a copy of my memories of the Canteen. I had written it several years before, after we had gotten a computer and I was learning to use it. I was thinking about things I could write on it and “Canteen” was one of those stories I wrote so my children would know about things I had done. We had a long conversation as he interviewed me. I said to someone after that phone call that it was the first time anyone had ever actually listened to me. Later I met him at the book-signing party in North Platte and he did remember my story, for it is the first one he used when he wrote *Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen*.

Q. How were you contacted about Greene’s plan to write about the Canteen?

A. My North Platte sister sent me an article that was printed in the North Platte paper that Bob Green was wanting to hear from people who had worked at the Canteen. I had the story written for my family so I thought why not send that to him, and I did.

Q. When did you give your first presentation about the canteen and your involvement?

A. My first presentation was about a year or so after the book came out, 2003. The presentation was for a Lutheran Ladies meeting in Grand Island. The person who asked me to give a program was the wife of a neighbor.

Q. How many presentations have you given the last few years? Do you plan to continue giving this presentation? How can people contact you if they would like to hear your story?

A. I have given the presentation about thirty-five times to junior high classes, Book Clubs,



Rosalie Lippincott



National Willa Cather Center Renovations Underway

by Charles
Johanningsmeier,
University of
Nebraska Omaha

For the past three years, The Willa Cather Foundation has been working diligently on a campaign to establish the National Willa Cather Center within the Moon Block buildings in Red Cloud's Main Street Historic District. Shortly after the building was purchased in 2000, plans were made to raise the necessary funds to restore the historic site, which sits directly north of The Willa Cather Foundation's headquarters in the Red Cloud Opera House, and turn it into a state-of-the-art educational center and archival facility dedicated to promoting the legacy of Willa Cather and her works.

Buoyed by widespread support from private foundations and many generous individuals, the Cather Foundation's campaign is now 86% complete. To date, building foundations have been stabilized and asbestos has been removed; this fall, window replacement, as well as masonry

and foundation repair, will be completed. Construction of the interior spaces, which will include classrooms for visiting groups, display areas, and an archive to house the many important materials related to Cather that are held by the Foundation, is slated to begin in 2015. When completed, the National Willa Cather Center will not only be a fantastic testimonial to the worldwide stature of our most famous Nebraska author but will also be an economic boon to the central Nebraska region for years to come.

Those interested in contributing financially to the project should contact Ashley Olson, Executive Director of The Willa Cather Foundation, at <aolson@willacather.org> or call 866-731-7304. For more information see <http://www.willacather.org/cather-blog/536-national-willa-cather-center-meets-challenges-enters-final-campaign-stage>.



Architectural
rendering of the
Moon Block building
renovation.



Canteen Experience Still Vivid after Seventy Years (continued from page 9)

the crew of the submarine "Nebraska," church groups, the National Guard, Legion groups, and others. I am 86 years old and need my son to transport and help me with the pictures that accompany my talk. I hope I can continue. My contact information is Rosalie Lippincott, 7208 Van Dorn St., Apt. 238, Lincoln, NE, 68506, 678-592-9375.

Q. When *Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen* was named the 2014 One Book One Nebraska, you met with Gov. Heineman. Tell me about your thoughts that day.

A. I was first very surprised that after more than ten years it had been selected and then so proud and happy to have been a tiny part of this

honor.

Q. What did you feel about the opportunity to be part of the story of the North Platte Canteen?

A. One of my Canteen friends said, "If I had known all this would take place after seventy years, I would have paid more attention to what was going on." It has given me such great pleasure to be a part of this awesome happening in Nebraska history. It is Nebraska's contribution to World War II that must not be forgotten, and I hope I have done what I could do to keep the story alive. I just love telling this first-hand story.

For more information about One Book One Nebraska and *Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen*, see <http://onebook.nebraska.gov/2014/index.aspx>. 



More New Teen Books

I have always enjoyed teens and working with teens. What makes my job at Omaha Public Library so great is that I get a chance to work with my favorite group—teenagers. It started as just an idea. When the youth from the local Southwest YMCA come to the Millard Branch Library in the summer months, why not offer them programming once a week? The rest of the story is that as youth came to the library, they were offered read-ins, scavenger hunts, minute-to-win-it competitions, and gaming every Wednesday in June and July. These youth signed up for the reading program and quite a number received prizes after having read for at least ten hours. Now the Southwest YMCA would like to have an ongoing relationship with the Millard Branch throughout the year.

Teen reading highlights from spring and summer include:

The Winner's Curse (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014) by Marie Rutkoski. Kestrel falls for Arin even though their love is forbidden. In the end, he has secrets that he is guarding that are

about to be revealed in a shocking conclusion.

The Naturals (Disney-Hyperion, 2013) by Jennifer Lynn Barnes. Cassie joins the naturals to see if she can find the person responsible for her mother's murder.

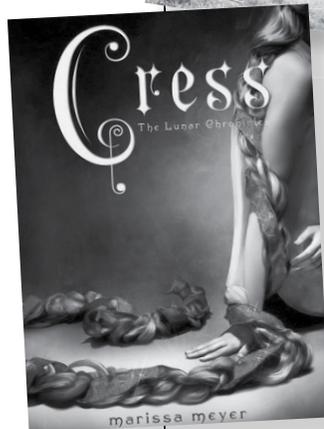
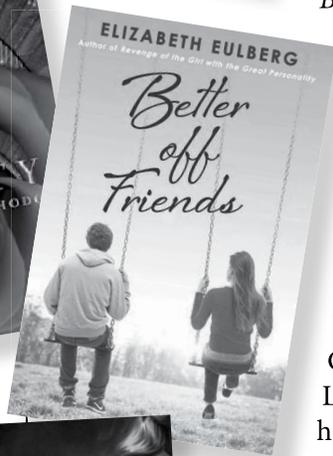
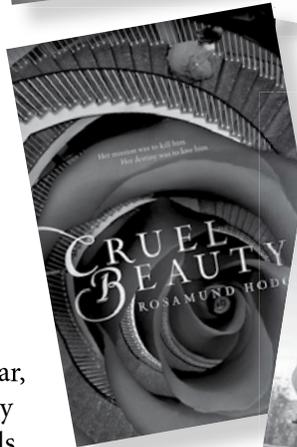
Goodbye Rebel Blue (Harry N. Abrams, 2013) by Shelley Coriell. Rebel takes on Kennedy's bucket list shortly after her death. Read the book to find out why.

Cruel Beauty (Balzer + Bray, 2014) by Rosamund Hodge. Nyx wants to take revenge against the Gentle Lord, but how can she do that when she has accidentally fallen in love with him?

Better Off Friends (Point, 2014) by Elizabeth Eulberg. Levi and Macallan become best friends, but should they become something more?

Cress (Feiwel & Friends, 2014) by Marissa Meyer. Shell girl Cress must stop Queen Levana from executing her evil plans. 📖

by Paul Christopherson, Omaha Public Library



Buffology

By Oliver B. Pollak

In February 2014 an appreciative email on one of my stories, stated, “I hadn’t realized that you were a history buff.” The comment raised my depleted hairs. History Buff smacked of amateurism. I graduated with a BA in 1964, spent two years in the Navy and returned to graduate school on the G.I. Bill. My 1973 UCLA doctorate is signed by Ronald Reagan. I was a “card carrying” professional historian (understood by listeners of a certain age).

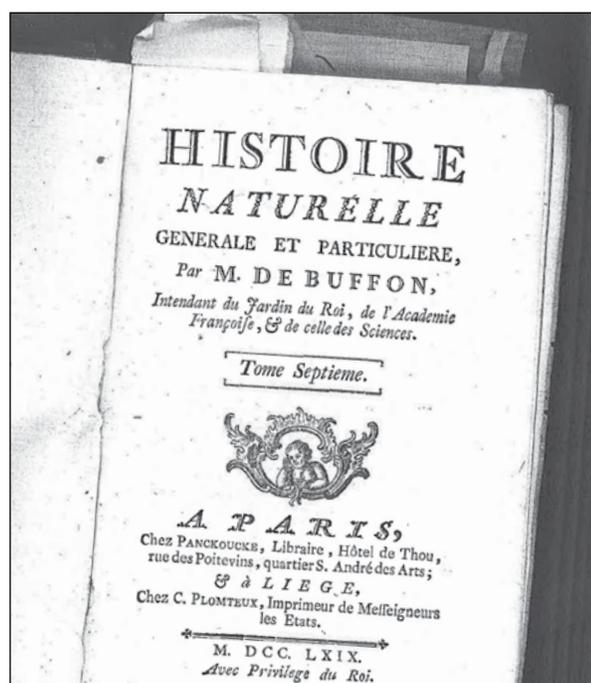
Insult or accolade, leisure activity or avocation, the English language has many words and synonyms with a wide ambit for nuance—buff, wonk, geek, whiz, freak, fan, aficionado, dilettante, antiquarian, curiosity, pedant, enthusiast, hobbyist, avocation, vocation, nut, collector, scholar, cognoscenti, connoisseur, knowledgeable, specialist, professional, and historian. The thesaurus revealed additional terms. The Greek suffix “phile,” love or affection, gathered in bibliophile. *The Oxford English Dictionary* and *American Heritage* was unfruitful—intrigue and challenge. The *New York Times* on ProQuest shed more heat and light.

Buff applied to well-off men who chased fire engines and watched fires. They kept warm wearing buffalo robes. 1950-70s obituaries note decedent’s fire buff membership. A sample of buffs includes:

1905 fire
 1944 Navy
 1953 Police
 1954 History, railroad
 1955 Civil War
 1958 movie
 1959 tennis
 1960 theatre, silent film, astronomy
 but not Gastronomy, sports car, basketball
 1961 baseball, Football, furniture, history
 1962 space, cinema
 1963 jazz
 1964 political, train, boxing, gun, river
 1965 harness racing, theater
 1967 automobile, hockey, Lincoln, auto racing
 1968 legal, airplane
 1969 bridge (cards), aviation, motorcycle,
 cooking
 1970 chess
 1971 wine, circus
 1972 antiques

1973 genealogy, nature, Shakespeare, trivia, sail
 1974 science
 1975 food, recipe
 1976 Cheese, President Carter
 1977 archeology, opera
 1980 camera
 1981 computer, Representative James K. Coyne
 (R-Pennsylvania)
 1983 steam locomotive, Bogey
 1986 museum
 1987 architecture
 1992 earthquake
 1993 travel
 1995 beer
 1997 Buffettology
 2002 comic book
 2003 Buffology (vampires)
 2006 Jefferson
 2014 Scarlett Johansen, New Yorker, and
 Nebraska license plate HSKR BUF

Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon (1707-1788), published his multi volume *Histoire Naturelle* between 1749 and 1788. Perhaps his compendious knowledge took the Buff suffix to another level. Rev. Edward Casaubon’s obscurantist labors fill George Eliot’s *Middlemarch*. These buff findings are destined for the *Oxford English Dictionary*. My obituary or eulogy should read auger, not buff. 📖



First Nebraska-Produced Talking Book Now Downloadable

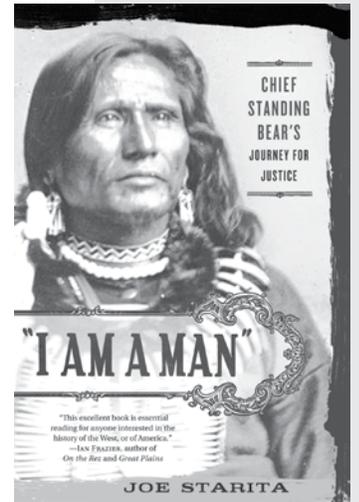
When the Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) recorded “I Am a Man:” Chief Standing Bear’s *Journey for Justice*, it enabled Nebraskans with a print-related disability to participate in the 2012 One Book One Nebraska statewide reading program. Now Nebraska’s recording is available for direct download to any qualifying U.S. resident through the Library of Congress’ Braille and Audio Reading Download service (BARD).

Written by Nebraska author Joe Starita and narrated by Alice Timm, this book chronicles what happened when Chief Standing Bear undertook a 600-mile trek to return the body of his only son to their ancestral burial ground. It is the first Nebraska Library Commission studio production to be offered through BARD online downloading.

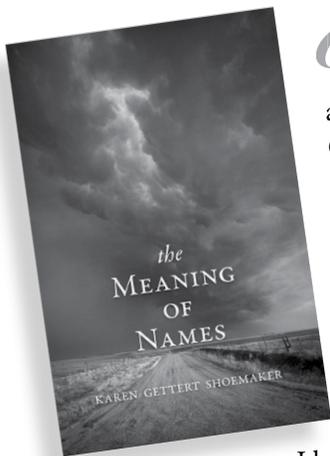
In recognition of Nebraska’s efforts, Library of Congress National Library Service Director Karen Keninger offered her congratulations, “Thank you for participating in the network-produced

audiobooks on BARD pilot. I am pleased to inform you that your book . . . is now available on BARD. The posting of your book to BARD marks an important milestone in our efforts to increase the quantity of materials available on BARD.”

Launched in 2009 by the Library of Congress, BARD allows qualifying U.S. residents to download encrypted files of audio books and magazines, Braille, and music instruction materials. Materials can be accessed through home computers or through a mobile app for use with an iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch device. Currently 354 Nebraskans participate in BARD, 9% of TBBS borrowers—many more could be eligible (see application instructions at nlsbard.loc.gov/NLS/ApplicationInstructions.html). For more information see nlsbard.loc.gov/login/NE1A or contact nlc.talkingbook@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4038, 800-742-7691.



The Meaning of Names is Omaha Public Library 2014 Omaha Reads



Omaha Public Library (OPL) announced its 2014 Omaha Reads selection and it is a book by a Nebraska author. Karen Gettert Shoemaker’s *The Meaning of Names* (Red Hen Press, 2014) is a Nebraska-set novel with a World War

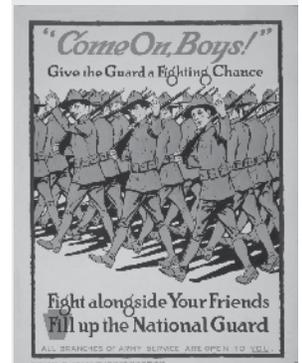
I backdrop. Since 2014 is the centennial of the beginning of WWI, this is a timely selection. The book follows a German-American woman raising a family in the heartland and trying to keep them safe from the effects of war and the influenza panic.

Shoemaker resides in Lincoln and mentors young writers through the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Master’s of Fine Arts in Writ-

ing program. Learn more about the author at karenshoemaker.com.

Each year, Omaha Public Library encourages the community to read one book through its Omaha Reads campaign, forming the city’s biggest book club. *The Meaning of Names* was selected through a public vote. To promote the reading and discussion of this year’s selection, the library hosts several Omaha Reads events. A list of events is available at <http://www.omahalibrary.org/news-room/news-releases/1002-omaha-reads-selection-recognizes-world-war-i-centennial>.

Ed Note: WWI posters will be on display at Millard Branch Library, 13214 Westwood Ln., Omaha, until September 30. OPL received the posters from the Government Printing Office as a member of the Federal Depository Library Program. See posters at www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/wwipos.



The NCB News

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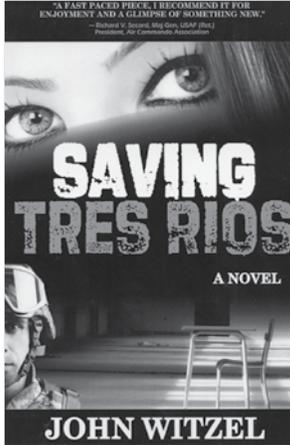


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**Attend Celebration
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November 8, 2014**



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Calendar of Events:



View the complete
Nebraska Literary
Calendar at
[centerforthebook.
nebraska.gov/
get_involved/calendar.
html](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/get_involved/calendar.html)

- Banned Books Week 2014**September 21-27..... Nationwide
Contact: www.ala.org/bbooks/
- Pilster Great Plains Lecture:** Featuring Margaret CoelSeptember 25 Chadron
Contact: Mari Sandoz Heritage Society,
www.marisandoz.org/events_activities/pilster_lecture.html
- Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival**September 25-27.....Seward
Contact: PlumCreek@cune.edu, 402-643-7483,
www.cune.edu/about/conferences-and-camps/plumcreek
- Mari Sandoz Conference: *The Mysterious Plains***.....September 26Chadron
Contact: Mari Sandoz Heritage Society,
www.marisandoz.org/events_activities/2014conference/conference_schedule.html
- One Book One Nebraska: *Nebraska Spirit: The North Platte Canteen***.....September 28 Hastings
Contact: Hastings Public Library, 402-461-2346, rstaff@hastings.lib.ne.us,
www.hastings.lib.ne.us/events.html
- Omaha Reads *The Meaning of Names*:** Featuring Dr. Charles JohanningsmeierSeptember 29 Omaha
Contact: [http://www.omahalibrary.org/news-room/news-releases/
1002-omaha-reads-selection-recognizes-world-war-i-centennial](http://www.omahalibrary.org/news-room/news-releases/1002-omaha-reads-selection-recognizes-world-war-i-centennial)
- Nebraska Library Association / Nebraska School Librarians Association Conference**.....October 8-10...South Sioux City
Contact: <http://nebraskalibraries.org/conference2014>, NLAexecutivedirector@gmail.com
- Nebraska Writers Guild Fall Conference**.....October 10-11Seward
Contact: www.nebraskawriters.org
- Teen Read Week: Turn Dreams into Reality**October 12-18..... Nationwide
Contact: <http://teenreadweek.ning.com>
- An Evening with David Sedaris**.....October 30..... Omaha
Contact: <http://www.omahaperformingarts.org/subscribe/calendar/view.aspx?id=13154>
- Anime NebrasKon**.....Oct. 31- Nov. 2 Omaha
Contact: register@animenebraskon.com, www.animenebraskon.com
- NE Center for the Book's Celebration of Nebraska Books**November 8..... Lincoln
Annual Meeting at 2:30 p.m.
Contact: Mary Jo Ryan, maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665,
<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov>, www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook

