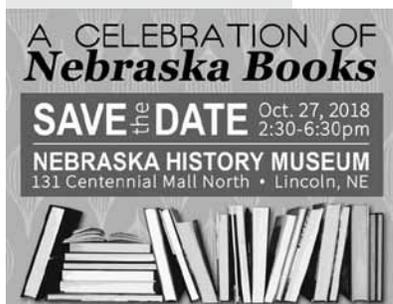


## Save the Date for Fall Book Celebrations

Nebraska books and writers will be featured and celebrated at two events in Lincoln, so save the dates for the **Nebraska Book Festival** on **August 25, 2018** and **Celebration of Nebraska Books** on **October 27, 2018**. These two events will highlight work by Nebraska writers and publishers, featuring stories and poetry set in Nebraska.



The **August 25 Nebraska Book Festival** will be held at the University of Nebraska (UNL) City Campus Union

from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. It will feature author appearances, book signings, exhibitors, booksellers, poetry readings, and hands-on family activities. Authors include Janice Harrington, Stew Magnuson, Brandon Vogel, Melissa Fraterrigo, Jeff Kurrus and Michael Forsberg, along with Nebraska poets from the 2018 One Book One Nebraska

selection *Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry*. An opening reception on Friday evening and a closing reception on Sunday afternoon will be held at the Center for Great Plains Studies to highlight new Nebraska books. The Festival is sponsored by University of Nebraska Press, Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska Center for the Book, Lincoln City Libraries, Humanities Nebraska, Union Bank and Trust, University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Journalism & Mass Communications, Friends of University of Nebraska Press, Nebraska Writers Guild, and Concierge Marketing and Book Publishing Services. More information about the Festival is available at <http://bookfestival.nebraska.gov/2018/index.aspx>.

The **October 27 Celebration of Nebraska Books** will be held at the Nebraska History Museum, 131 Centennial Mall North. The winners of the 2018 Nebraska Book Awards—Nebraska's prestigious awards for literacy, writing, and publishing—will read from their winning books and sign copies of the books. The Celebration will also feature poetry readings in honor of the 2018 One Book One Nebraska book selection, *Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry* (The Backwaters Press, 2007) edited by Greg Kosmicki and Mary K. Stillwell.

Awards will be presented to supporters of Nebraska writing. The **Mildred Bennett Award** will recognize an individual who has made a significant contribution to fostering the literary tradition in Nebraska, reminding us of the literary and intellectual traditions that enrich our lives and mold our world. The **Jane Geske Award** will be presented to a Nebraska organization for exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, or literature in Nebraska, commemorating Geske's passion for books. The deadline for nominations is August 15 and forms are available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/nominationforms.html>.

The **Nebraska Center for the Book Annual Meeting** will be held at 1:30 p.m.—just prior to the Celebration of Nebraska Books. An Awards Reception honoring the winners, book signings, and announcement of the 2019 One Book One Nebraska book choice will conclude the festivities. The 2018 Celebration of Nebraska Books is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, Nebraska History Museum, and History Nebraska—with Humanities Nebraska supporting the One Book One Nebraska presentation. For more information see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/celebration.html> and <https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook>. 

# Thanks for the Memories

by Mary Jo Ryan,  
Nebraska Library  
Commission

In a book review later in these pages, Sherry Houston says, “Thanks for the memories,” and that really describes how I’m feeling right now. Since I’m planning to retire in early September, this will be the last edition of the *NCB News* that I will edit. I’ve enjoyed editing this newsletter for the past twenty years and I can’t begin to tell you how much I’ve learned. Thank you all for introducing me to poetry and stories I never would have heard, writers I never would have found, and activities and events I never would have experienced.

I’ve also really enjoyed getting to know all the friends I’ve made along the way. My favorite people are those that love stories, and some of the best people of all are those that love Nebraska stories. Nebraska

stories may be an acquired taste for some. But, I was born to it. Growing up in western Nebraska and hearing the meadowlark in my back yard, I had already memorized the soundtrack before I ever read Cather. I had heard the slightly inappropriate tales of frontier justice (and injustice) before I read Agee. I had seen the false pageantry that was Buffalo Bill Cody in my hometown parade before I read Neihardt. I was ready for every story, and poem, and play, and film. And I thank you all for introducing me to them.

Thank you for the opportunity to do work that makes a difference. Some of it has been hard. Thank goodness for comfortable shoes. Some of it has been ridiculous. Thank you for sharing a laugh when that’s just the only thing left to do. But it has been my pleasure to contribute to all of it.

The richness of the landscape of Nebraska literature is beyond anything I ever imagined. I’m forever grateful for the opportunity to be a small conduit for sharing this bounty with others. Thanks for the memories...mjr 



## The NCB News

Summer 2018 | Volume 28 | No. 2

This publication is supported in part by state aid funding appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature, granted and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

### Nebraska Center for the Book Board and Committees

#### Executive Committee

Christine Walsh, President;  
Sherry Houston, Past President;  
Donna Kennedy Marvin, Treasurer;  
Lois Todd Meyer, Secretary;  
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Sherry Houston, Donna Kennedy Marvin

#### Celebration of Nebraska Books

Katie Bean, Molly Fisher,  
Sherry Houston, Lois Todd Meyer

#### Nebraska Book Festival

Molly Fisher, Pat Leach,  
Donna Kennedy Marvin

#### Nominating

Becky Faber, Kate Borchman  
Hassebrook, Sherry Houston

#### One Book One Nebraska

Becky Faber (Chair), Francine Canfield,  
Erika Hamilton, Nancy Johnson,  
Lois Todd Meyer, Christine Walsh,  
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Wiseman, Mary Jo Ryan (Nebraska  
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#### Letters About Literature Coordinator

Lauren Riedesel

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

#### Nebraska Center for the Book Board Meeting

August 24 . . . 1:00 p.m.  
Lincoln City Libraries

#### Nebraska Center for the Book Annual Meeting

October 27 . . . 1:30 p.m.  
Nebraska History  
Museum, Lincoln

#### Advertising

The *NCB News* can accept up to four 1/8- page ads for each issue. The advertising rate is \$125 for 1/8-page. *NCB News* is issued 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; 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov, [centerforthebook.nebraska.gov](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov)

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## Young Nebraska Writers Honored



Young Nebraska writers received **Letters about Literature** award certificates from Gov. Pete Ricketts at a proclamation-signing ceremony celebrating National Library Week, April 8-14, 2018. Letters about Literature is a national reading and writing promotion program. Nearly 50,000 adolescent and young readers nationwide in grades four through twelve participated in this year's program; 420 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 winners were 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.

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.

### WINNERS

**Avery Yosten**, Norfolk, for a letter to Rob Buyea

**Caleb Hans**, Omaha, for a letter to Trenton Lee Stewart

**Harper Leigh Wells**, Axtell, for a letter to Harper Lee

### ALTERNATE WINNERS

**Ryan Ostrander**, Lincoln, for a letter to Katherine Applegate

**Conleigh Hemmer**, Lincoln, for a letter to Herman Melville

**Daniel Con**, Lexington, for a letter to Suzanne Collins

See <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html> for more information about the Letters About Literature competition. 

*Letters about Literature award winners at the April 2, 2018, proclamation-signing ceremony: (l-r) Ryan Ostrander, Lincoln; Conleigh Hemmer, Lincoln; Donna Kennedy Marvin, Nebraska Center for the Book board member; Harper Leigh Wells, Axtell; Daniel Con, Lexington; Caleb Hans, Omaha; Gov. Pete Ricketts; Richard Miller, Nebraska Center for the Book member; Pat Leach, Lincoln City Libraries Director and Nebraska Center for the Book board member; and Francine Canfield, Baright Public Library (Ralston) Director and Nebraska Center for the Book board member.*

### 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**



# Choose Your Days to Represent Nebraska at Festival

A children’s picture book that encourages us all to remember that we hold the key to our days will represent Nebraska at the 2018 National Book Festival. The Nebraska Center

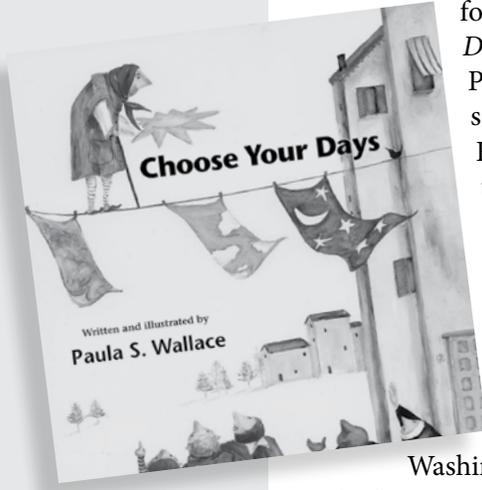
for the Book selected *Choose Your Days* by Paula Wallace (Cinco Puntos Press, 2016) as the state’s selection for the National Book Festival’s “Discover Great Places through Reading” brochure and map. Each state selects one book about the state, or by an author from the state, that is a good read for children or young adults. The brochure and map will be distributed at the September 1 Festival in

Washington, DC and will be featured in the “Great Reads about Great Places” links on the websites of both the national and Nebraska centers for the book, <http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/educators/greatreads.html>.

This book, written and illustrated by Omaha artist Paula Wallace, tells an engaging story of

a child learning to live her dreams to the fullest. The bright and whimsical illustrations sweep the reader along through the story and help deliver a powerful message about love and loss. Nebraska’s “Great Reads about Great Places” book is chosen from the previous year’s Nebraska Book Award winners, and this book was awarded the 2017 Nebraska Book Award in the Children’s Picture Book category. Entries for the 2018 Nebraska Book Awards will be accepted until June 30—see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards/nebookawards.html>.

The National Book Festival will feature presentations by award-winning authors, poets, and illustrators at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. Festival attendees can meet their favorite authors, get books signed, have photos taken with mascots and storybook characters, and participate in a variety of learning activities. States will staff exhibit booths to promote reading, library programs, and literary events. Find out more about the 2018 National Book Festival (including a list of featured authors) at <http://www.loc.gov/bookfest>. 



## Review:

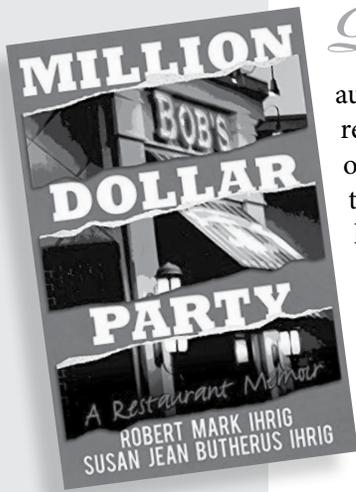
Review by  
Sherry Houston,  
Papillion

# Million Dollar Party: A Restaurant Memoir

by Robert Mark Ihrig and Susan Jean Butherus Ihrig  
Dog Ear Publishing, 2018  
ISBN: 1457557053

Perhaps this book should have merely been called, *A Life*. Although the author wanted to tell the story of his failed restaurant adventure, he really told the story of his life, growing up in mostly Nebraska in the 1950s and 1960s. Ihrig’s dad developed heart disease and died in his thirties. One forgets that until recently, heart disease was a death sentence. Ihrig tells of his mom’s alcoholism, his love of rock bands of the 60s, and of course, the Nebraska Cornhuskers. His collection of Nebraska Husker memorabilia had to have been one of a kind.

Ihrig’s life was one of adventure, of doing things his own way with success as well as failure. *A Life*. Written in vignettes from a few paragraphs to a few pages, *Million Dollar Party* starts with the closing party for Bob’s Gridiron Grille and flashes back to Bob’s early years in Clatonia and school days in McCook, interspersed with Cornhusker game highlights and memorabilia collecting. Bob’s Gridiron Grille was the culmination of the Ihrig’s dreams; but it failed. Perhaps it was the economy, perhaps it was timing, or just an unlucky break. By the end, Bob and Susan have only \$500 and a run-down vehicle in which they escape to Colorado—a pair of modern day refugees. Easily readable, *Million Dollar Party* travels through the years reminding one of what was. Easy and hard, good and bad—*A Life!* Thanks for the memories! 



## What Are You Reading?

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

My favorite book of 2018 is Kristin Hannah's *The Great Alone* (Holtzbrinck Publishers, 2018), set in the 1970s in Alaska. My husband and I volunteered in Alaska in 2001, and we were both struck by the unforgiving yet beautiful landscape. Every day there is a challenge. To survive, the people, especially the women, need a toughness and Hannah really captures that mental and physical struggle. **Molly Fisher**

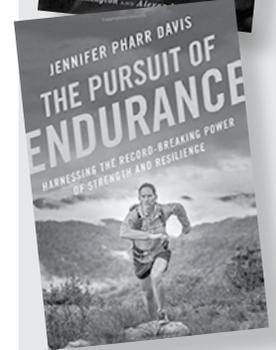
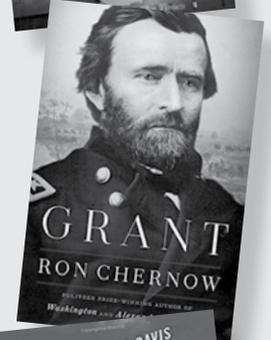
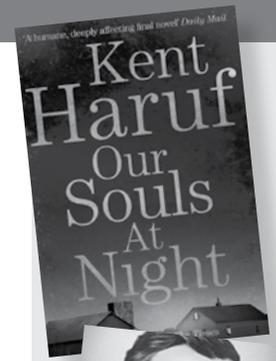
*Our Souls at Night* (Vintage, 2016) by Kent Haruf feels like a last love letter to his wife. Haruf makes me feel a part of his story with his sparse prose and his evocative description of small town America. I love the story and I miss his writing. **Sherry Houston**

I'm reading *Grant* (Penguin, 2017) by Ron Chernow, a dense, long, supremely well-written

biography of Ulysses S. Grant, Civil War hero and president. This is the kind of book I usually read in the winter, but it's so good I'm making an exception and reading it in the height of gardening season. **Pat Leach**

I am reading *The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend* (Sourcebooks Landmark, 2016) by Katarina Bivald. A friend loaned this book to me and I am enjoying it! A great summer read. **Lois Todd Meyer**

I am reading *Pursuit of Endurance* (Viking, 2018) by Jennifer Pharr Davis. She is an author, speaker, and Appalachian Trail record setter. She shares what she's discovered about endurance from her own experience and those of her mentors who have tested their limits, on the trail and off. Her wonderful storytelling draws you in and helps you see how we can each harness endurance to achieve our dreams while hiking or in everyday life. **Christine Walsh** 📖



## Of Book Festivals, Writers, and the West

What are you doing on the first day of September? If you haven't made plans yet, I'd like to suggest my new annual destination: the Library of Congress National Book Festival in Washington, DC. I attended for the first time in 2017 because the folks at the Nebraska Center for the Book, in conjunction with the Nebraska Library Commission, had kindly chosen my young-adult biography, *This Strange Wilderness: The Life and Art of John James Audubon* (University of Nebraska Press, 2015) to represent Nebraska at the festival's Pavilion of the States. The Pavilion's purpose was to promote children's literature, and this was brilliantly realized through its theme, "Discover Great Places Through Reading." All fifty state affiliates of the Library of Congress Center for the Book, as well as those of the U.S. territories, were represented at booths displaying their books. Young and not-so-young readers, armed with brochures and maps, made it a point to visit every one. I was honored to be included and delighted to spend the day with my Nebraska friends.

The National Book Festival is an inspiration to all who love books; since its 2001 founding, about 100,000 people every year have attended to buy, to learn, and to hear acclaimed authors speak. One of my favorite YA writers, M.T. Anderson, regaled his audience with tales from the creation of his latest work, *Landscape with Invisible Hand* (Candlewick, 2017) and the inimitable David McCullough talked about his new book, *The American Spirit: Who We Are and What We Stand For* (Simon & Schuster, 2017), a collection of his most notable speeches. Anderson urged us to look for the "strange stories all around us," to recognize the bizarre not only in exotic places but sometimes as nearby as our neighbors' front porches. McCullough spoke movingly about his love for this country and observed that "This wonderful gathering here is all about the American story."

This September, I'll be at the convention center not as an author but in my capacity as president of Western Writers of America (WWA). WWA, founded in 1953, is the nation's preeminent...

(continued on page 11)

by Nancy Plain,  
Western Writers  
of America



## American Life in Poetry: Column 673



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

“How do I know what I think until I see what I say?” has been attributed to a half dozen different writers. It can be helpful in encouraging people to write, but also in describing poetry that arises out of meditation. Greg Kosmicki is a Nebraska poet whose work is deeply thoughtful but also cordial and conversational. Here’s an example from his new book *It’s as Good Here as it Gets Anywhere*, from Logan House Press.

### You Never Get One Thing

This notebook is so old the paper is yellow.  
I wonder where the tree grew.

Seems like you never get one thing without  
losing another.  
There’s some sort of law about that  
to do with finite resources.

Somewhere some guys have figured out to the  
exact ounce  
how much my life has cost the earth,  
how many people have died that I might live.

**ED. NOTE:** ...AND for a special poetry treat Ted Kooser agreed to share this as yet unpublished poem with our readers.

### AMONG BOOKS

by Ted Kooser, U.S. Poet Laureate

Between the tall shelves, as if in an alley,  
I bent down out of the light and tried to  
make out the titles, like a dog sniffing around  
a long row of dumpsters. I wasn’t searching  
for one book in particular but, rather, was  
enjoying the look of the spines, a few of them  
gold-stamped, some on leather, but most  
with library re-binding alphabets, black  
letters on tacky cloth, brown, green and black.

Start with my parents, and theirs, and all who  
died  
because of them. It’s like we drip in blood.  
Who can wake up then tomorrow morning,  
do the tasks set out before them  
as if it was their work and their work only?  
Who has the courage to look out to the east  
again  
at someone else’s sun?

**We do not accept unsolicited submissions.**  
American Life in Poetry is made possible by The  
Poetry Foundation ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)), publisher of *Poetry* magazine. It is also  
supported by the Department of English at the  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Poem copyright  
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as it Gets Anywhere*, Logan House Press, 2016.  
Poem reprinted by permission of Greg Kosmicki  
and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2018  
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.

I was browsing the shelves as if I were  
passing along a reception line, nodding hello  
to those I hadn’t seen or even thought of  
for decades and whose names I could barely  
remember, though now and then I drew out  
a volume I’d known, as if to shake its hand,  
and then slipped it back. And when at last  
I stood again on shaky legs, I was so faint  
I had to hang onto a shelf till the blood  
climbed back up, shelf over shelf, to my head  
and the books, both stranger and friend,  
stopped swirling about me, expressing concern.



## Letter Writing Clinics Underway

What could motivate Nebraska young people to write letters? A great story and the opportunity to tell an author about how a book made a difference in their own life can provide just the right encouragement. Teachers and librarians across Nebraska were recently awarded grants to host Letter Writing Clinics for students in their area. The clinics introduce students to the Letters About Literature (LAL) contest and letter writing techniques. The clinics help students get ideas for selecting books and learn how to craft letters that can be submitted to the Letters About Literature contest, a national reading and writing promotion program that engages nearly 50,000 adolescent and young readers nationwide in grades four through twelve. 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 Letter Writing Clinic grants are sponsored by Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and Nebraska Library Commission. The winning applicants are:

- **Sarah Alfred**, Morrill Public Library Director, Friends of Morrill Public Library

- **Keri Anderson**, Hoesch Memorial Library Director, Alma
- **Becky Henkel**, Bayard Public Library Director
- **Alicia Lassen**, Overton Public School Librarian and Teacher

This annual writing competition is sponsored nationally by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, with funding from Dollar General Literacy Foundation. The Center for the Book was established in 1977 as a public-private partnership to use the resources of the Library of Congress to stimulate public interest in books and reading. The Nebraska competition is coordinated and sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, Houchen Bindery Ltd., and Chapters Bookstore in Seward.

For more information about Letters About Literature, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>. Nebraska librarians are invited to host Letter Writing Clinics across Nebraska this summer and fall. To learn more about Letter Writing Clinics, see [http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL\\_Grant/2018/index.aspx](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL_Grant/2018/index.aspx), click on the Resources tab for materials to help with implementing a clinic. 

*“I thought this was a great experience for the students and myself. From the feedback I received, it seems like this was the first time our community had participated in this contest. I thought the letters written were well thought out, and it is always gratifying as a librarian to see young people enjoy books.”*

– Oshkosh Public Library Director  
Denise Ketchens, 2017 Letter Writing Clinic Grantee



*Students at last year’s Letters About Literature Letter Writing Clinic at Norfolk Catholic School craft letters to authors that made a difference in their lives.*

## Nominations Accepted Until August 15 for Literary/Literacy Awards

The Nebraska Center for the Book is accepting nominations to honor Nebraska’s champions of literature and literacy. Awards will be presented at the Celebration of Nebraska Books on October 27. The **Mildred Bennett Award** honors an **individual** who has made a significant contribution to fostering the literary tradition in Nebraska. This award reminds us of the literary and intellectual traditions that enrich our lives and mold our world. The award recognizes inspired leadership and service on behalf of Nebraska literature, highlighting how the recipient follows the example of Mildred Bennett, the charismatic founder and long-time president of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation.

The **Jane Geske Award** is presented annually

to a Nebraska **organization** for exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, or literature in Nebraska. It commemorates Geske’s passion for books, and was established in recognition of her contributions to the well-being of Nebraska libraries. 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.

For more information see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards.html>. Nomination forms are available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/nominationforms.html> or contact Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, [rod.wagner@nebraska.gov](mailto:rod.wagner@nebraska.gov), 402-471-4001, 800-307-2665. 



**Review:**

Review by  
Holli Duggan,  
Nebraska Library  
Commission

## **“You Gotta BE the Book”: Teaching Engaged and Reflective Reading with Adolescents**

by Jeffrey Wilhelm  
Teachers College Press, 2016  
ISBN: 978-0807757987

Why do some students struggle with reading? Why can't they “see” the story in their mind or connect with text? What are highly engaged readers doing or thinking when they read? How is this different from struggling readers and how can they be helped?

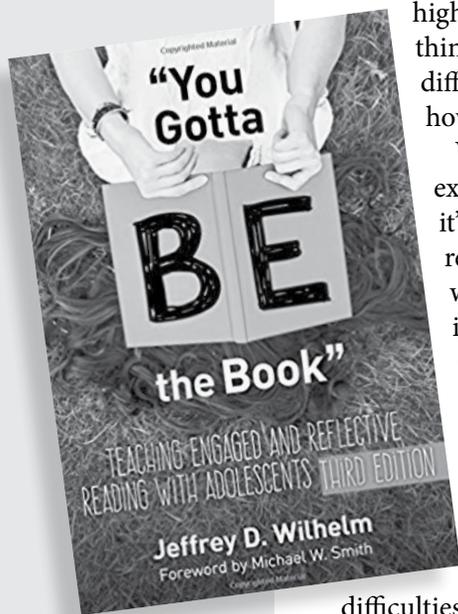
While this book isn't exactly an exciting summer beach read, I think it's always interesting to read about reading. First published in 1996, with a third edition published in 2016, *You Gotta BE the Book* examines Jeffrey Wilhelm's research in his middle school classrooms through his own teaching experiences and student stories from both engaged and struggling readers.

Wilhelm describes his difficulties trying to teach students who

continually insist that they hate reading. They don't enjoy reading and it's difficult for them. Working with individual readers at all levels allowed Wilhelm to develop different interventions/strategies which helped his students practice visualizing the text, creating the opportunities necessary for struggling readers to finally connect with literature in meaningful ways. The book is an interesting mix between Wilhelm's early reflections as a teacher, the feedback of his students, and reading theory. The visualization strategies and activity ideas, including drama and art, that Wilhelm describes could also be adapted outside of the classroom.

Also, if you want to read more about literacy theories, see: *Lenses on Reading: An Introduction to Theories and Models* by Diane Tracey and Lesley Morrow (Guilford Press, 2012) and *Reading Don't Fix No Chevys: Literacy in the Lives of Young Men* by Michael Smith and Jeffrey Wilhelm (Heinemann, 2012).

**ED. NOTE:** This review originally appeared in the Nebraska Library Commission *NCompass* Blog, <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog/>. 



## **Plum Creek Conference in October**

The 23rd annual Plum Creek Adult Conference will be held on October 6, on the Concordia University campus in Seward. Teachers, administrators, media specialists, librarians, and book lovers are invited to hear visiting authors and illustrators, as well as other literacy experts.

Featured authors and illustrators this year are: Brian Biggs, Harry Bliss, Mark and Caralyn Buehner, Bruce Degen, Kelly DiPucchio, Chris Grabenstein, Laurie Halse Anderson, Ryan Higgins, Megan McDonald, Scott Magoon, Zachariah OHora, James Ransome & Lesa Cline-Ransome, Adam Rex, Jon Scieszka, Steve Sheinkin, and Judith Viorst. Scieszka will offer the author luncheon speech, “Funny

is Good.” Featured literacy expert Donalyn Miller, “The Book Whisperer,” will speak again, along with Janet Allen, Ellin Keene, and Kelly Westmoreland.

Registration, book sales, and author autographing begin at 7:30 a.m. The first session begins at 9:00 a.m. The last session begins at 3:00 p.m. Authors will autograph after the last session and book sales will remain open. A special exhibit featuring the original artwork of Jan Brett will be displayed in the Marxhausen Gallery on Concordia University's campus.

Payment and registration forms for the conference are available at [www.cune.edu/plumcreek](http://www.cune.edu/plumcreek) or contact Dylan Teut, 402-643-7483, [dylan.teut@cune.edu](mailto:dylan.teut@cune.edu). 



## 2017: The Big Cookbook Year

You are what you eat; you are what you read. Celia Sacks opened Omnivore bookstore in San Francisco in 2008. Besides a wondrous new and gently used inventory, book signings may be accompanied by tasty bites and sips. Typically, thirty people fill the bookstore. Celia's monthly online *Books on Food Newsletter* announces as many as eleven events a month. We are drawn to Jewish and Southeast Asian food, and alcohol. Our purchases mirror our passions.

Tattoos prevalent in the food service industry are not my favorite thing. What was I missing? *Knives & Ink, Chefs and the Stories Behind their Tattoos (with Recipes)* (Bloomsbury, 2016) by Isaac Fitzgerald and Wendy MacNaughton, improved my understanding of culinary passages and rituals.

We are nuts for Burmese food. The Bay Area has about twenty-five Burmese restaurants, the largest number in any city outside Burma. Omnivore hosted *The Modern Salad*, (Ulysses Press, 2016) by Elizabeth Howes, which included Burmese Tea Leaf Salad. Probably the most popular restaurant, Burma Superstar, produced *Burma Superstar, Addictive Recipes from the Crossroads of Southeast Asia* (Ten Speed Press, 2017) by Desmond Tan and Kate Leahy. Tea Leaf Salad followed both talks. Israeli-British chef Yotam Ottolenghi and co-author Malaysia-Singapore-Melbourne-London pastry chef Helen Goh visited San Francisco promoting *Sweet: Desserts from London's Ottolenghi* (Ten Speed Press, 2017). We ate our share of sweets at the pre and post talk receptions and had our copies inscribed.

Omnivore purchased much of Paula Wolfert's library. At the *Unforgettable, The Bold Flavors of Paula Wolfert's Renegade Life* (Grand Central Life & Style, 2017), by Emily Kaiser Thelin signing I indulged in an association copy, *Pinch*

*of Salt, Classic Afghan Cookery* (Qartet Books, 1991), by Rahima Amini, rubber stamped, "From the Library of Paula Wolfert."

Some readings are followed by a dinner, coordinated by Erica J. Peters the author of *San Francisco, A Food Biography* (AltaMira Press, 2013) and *Appetites and Aspirations in Vietnam: Food and Drink in the Long Nineteenth Century* (AltaMira Press, 2011). Erica is the director of the Culinary Historians of Northern California. The Wolfert celebration continued at a Spanish tapas restaurant. Justin Spring's *The Gourmands' Way: Six Americans in Paris and the Birth of a New Gastronomy* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017) presentation was followed by a Cambodian repast.

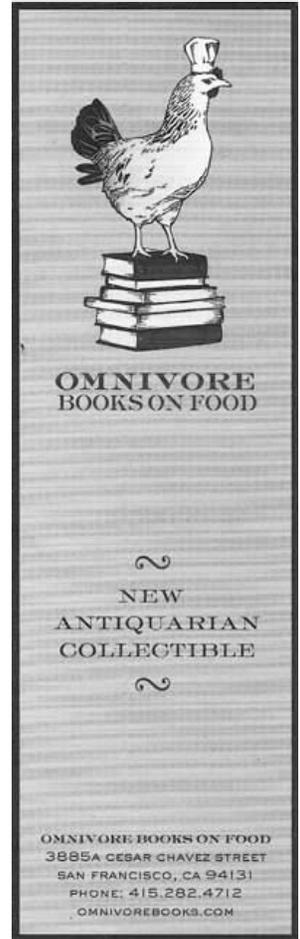
The *Gefilte Fish Manifesto: New Recipes for Old World Jewish Food* (Flatiron Books, 2016) by Jeffrey Yoskowitz and Liz Alpern, caught us while we were in no more art, no more books, and no more wine moratorium mentality. Of the six books we purchased, four were published in China, one in Korea, and one in America.

Karen bakes chocolate chip, peanut butter, potato chip and other cookies with our grandchildren. The first Omahan to stay in our guest room gave Karen *The Cookies & Cups Cookbook 125+ Sweet & Savory Recipes Reminding You to Always Eat Dessert First* (Gallery Books, 2016) by Shelly Jaronsky. I purchased used copies of *Junior Jewish Cook Book* (NY: KTAV Publishing House, 1956) by Aunt Fanny for grandkids.

2018 is looking good. Portuguese cuisine and an oyster bar followed *Hippie Food: How Back-to-the Landers, Longhairs, and Revolutionaries Changed the Way We Eat* (William Morrow, 2018) by Jonathan Kauffman and *Oysters: A Global History* (Reaktion Books, 2017) by Carolyn Tillie. 📖

by Oliver B. Pollak

From the Library of  
Paula Wolfert



**Review:****New Prairie Kitchen**

Review by  
Mary Jo Ryan,  
Nebraska Library  
Commission

by Summer Miller.  
Photographs by Dana Damewood.  
Agate Midway, 2015  
ISBN: 978-1572841673

It seems like the best cookbooks are the ones that tell a story—in addition to sharing great recipes and scrumptious photos. Recently I've been reading the stories, trying the recipes, and gazing at the photos in *New Prairie Kitchen* by Summer Miller. The author, a young mom and freelance writer from the Omaha area, explored restaurants and farms within a 200-mile radius of Omaha to bring us stories of real people who grow, prepare, and serve real food for their families and friends. The author says that the book "... pays homage to the outstanding and innovative chefs, farmers, and artisans of Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota. They have shared some of their favorite recipes here, organized by season and focused on regionally sourced meat, poultry, game, and produce. Profiles of these exceptional people are nestled throughout the book." I love the stories and photos, and I'm loving the food, as well.

After perusing the *New Prairie Kitchen* recipes, I went to the Farmer's Market and bought a 4 pound pork shoulder roast from a local producer that was perfect for trying the Spice-Rubbed Slow-Cooker Pork (Kevin Shinn of Bread and Cup in Lincoln, NE). What could

be simpler than a spice rub and a slow cooker? I did have to add some liquid to mine since my slow-cooker must be a little on the hot side, but after six hours the roast was juicy and fragrant—and I shredded it apart with two forks just like the experts on the cooking channel on TV. I should have made a YouTube video. Next, my backyard bumper crop of heirloom tomatoes inspired me to make Tomato Chutney (Sean Wilson of Proof in Des Moines, IA) and Tomato Marmalade (Clayton Chapman of The Grey Plume in Omaha, NE). Both are delicious on bread and cheese—and as a bonus, I got to use some of the garlic and jalapeño chilies from my garden too. And I'm not done yet. I'll be making the Black Walnut and Clove Muffins (Maggie Pleskac of Maggie's Vegetarian Café in Lincoln, NE) for the next Nebraska Library Commission potluck—and more.

The book might also provide a little tourism boost. The food sounds so good, it makes me want to hop in the car and go out in search of the places where other people will make this yummy food for me. Maybe a trip to the Back Alley Bakery in Hastings is in my future?

To find out more about this Nebraska Book Award-winning cookbook and the "foodways" of the Great Plains, see Summer Miller's blog at <http://www.scaldedmilk.com/>.

**ED. NOTE:** This review originally appeared in the Nebraska Library Commission *NCompass* Blog, <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog/>. Some of the restaurants referenced above are now closed, sadly. 📖

**Norfolk Literature Festival Set for July**

The Norfolk Public Library invites all Nebraskans to celebrate your love of books and writing at the newly remodeled Norfolk Public Library on Saturday, July 28, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Four authors nominated for the 2019 Golden Sower Award will be featured, including Michael Hall, Leslie Connor, Sharon Cameron, and Paul Griffin. Complete event



details are available at <https://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/library/pdfdocs/LiteratureFestival2018.pdf>. For more information and details about group rates, contact Karen Drevo at 402-844-2108 or [kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us](mailto:kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us). 📖



## Of Book Festivals, Writers, and the West *(continued)*

western writers' organization. We are poets, historians, novelists, songwriters, screenwriters, and more. We are diverse geographically, with members nationwide and overseas. WWA sponsors educational symposia, publishes a superb magazine called *Roundup*, and annually grants the prestigious Spur Award for the best in Western writing. What unites our members is our love for the American West and its infinite fund of stories. Our motto is "Literature of the West for the World," and our wide-ranging works focus on all things Western, past or present.

But how does one define "Western" writing, and how has the decades-old concept of "the Western" evolved? According to Past-President Kirk Ellis, "We as writers of Westerns must strive to

liberate ourselves from traditionalist models and understand that the genre continues to evolve. Many of the best Western stories today, be they novels, histories or dramas, have a contemporary frame of reference, such as *Hell or High Water* and *Wind River* (screenplays) by Taylor Sheridan, to name two of WWA's recent prize winners. The 'West' has never been about a specific era as much as it has been and will remain about a spirit of place—a geographical region that has always occupied an outsized place in the American psyche."

So after I catch up at the Nebraska booth, I'll be exploring the Pavilion to introduce other states' Centers for the Book to WWA. I think that we are all traveling the same road, as we celebrate American literature and the joy of reading. 📖

## Treasures of the Heritage Room

An early patron of Lincoln City Libraries, Mari Sandoz holds a special place in the Heritage Room collection. In the 1920s and early 30s, before she was a published author, Lincoln's Old Main Library was where Sandoz did most of her research and writing.

The Heritage Room collection reflects the years that Sandoz spent in Lincoln. She showed her appreciation for Lincoln City Library by donating a copy of the first printing of each of her books, most include a signed dedication to Lincoln City Libraries. Often, her dedications were illustrated with a pen-sketch of a boat or a bend on the Niobrara. The first book she donated to the library was her debut title, *Old Jules*. Her dedication reads: "Greetings to the most useful library – the Lincoln City Library": Mari Sandoz

Sandoz had been living in Lincoln for nearly a decade when she received word, in 1928, that her father was dying. She returned home to the Sand Hills where Jules Sandoz made the deathbed request that Mari tell his story. Despite her many efforts to publish the biography of her pioneer father, Mari would not find a publisher for *Old Jules* until 1935.

Sandoz won the *Atlantic Monthly* \$5,000 prize for non-fiction for her biography of Jules after years of rejection and discouragement, but her incorrigible passion and persistence were worth

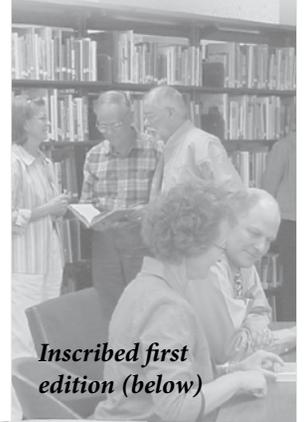
the effort. *Old Jules* found immediate critical praise and commercial success, and eventually became one of the books that would define Sandoz's reputation as one of Nebraska's great authors.

Early reviews of *Old Jules* show that Mari was a groundbreaking author of her time. From the *Nebraska State Sunday Journal* on November 10, 1935, "Mari Sandoz crashed the headlines and the critics labored over her *Old Jules*. It is so strange, so strong and virile, that some keen critics have wondered if the nonfiction label lied. Nebraskans know it did not."

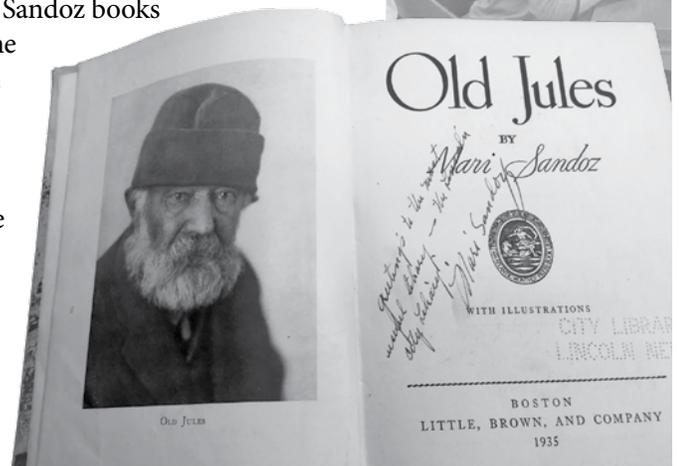
Mari Sandoz is being celebrated this summer with the dedication of an historical marker on Lincoln Mall. The Heritage Room is participating in this commemoration by featuring our collection of Mari Sandoz books

and artifacts. Come visit the collection and the Sandoz display to see why Mari Sandoz remains one of the most distinctive and respected voices in the Nebraska literary canon. 📖

by Erin Willis,  
Jane Pope Geske  
Heritage Room of  
Nebraska Authors



Inscribed first edition (below)



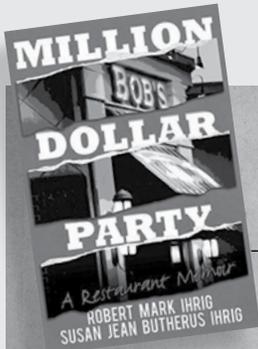
# The NCB News

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**Celebrate Nebraska Books October 27, 2018**  
<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/celebration.html>



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*(See review on page 4)*

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## Calendar of Events:



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html](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/get_involved/calendar.html). Send items for the  
calendar to [tessa.terry@  
nebraska.gov](mailto:tessa.terry@nebraska.gov).

- Nebraska Presence Workshop: "Nebraska, Our Song"** ..... July 22 ..... Bancroft  
One Book One Nebraska Workshop  
Contact: Nancy Gillis, 402-648-3388, 888-777-4667, [neihardt@gpcom.net](mailto:neihardt@gpcom.net),  
<http://humanitiesnebraska.org/events/event-calendar.html/event/2018/07/22/nebraska-our-song/201902>
- Norfolk Public Library Literature Festival** ..... July 28 ..... Norfolk  
Contact: Karen Drevo 402-844-2108, [kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us](mailto:kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us),  
<https://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/library/pdffdocs/LiteratureFestival2018.pdf>
- Nebraska Book Festival** ..... August 25 ..... Lincoln  
Contact: Rosemary Sekora, [rsekora@unl.edu](mailto:rsekora@unl.edu), 402-472-7710, <http://bookfestival.nebraska.gov>
- Library Card Sign-up Month** ..... September ..... nationwide  
Contact: <http://www.ala.org/conferenceevents/celebrationweeks/card>
- 2018 National Book Festival** ..... September 1.. Washington, D.C.  
Contact: <http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/>
- Mari Sandoz Symposium: "Indian Activism"** ..... September 20-22 ..... Chadron  
Contact: 402-499-3703, [echase@windstream.net](mailto:echase@windstream.net),  
[http://www.marisandoz.org/events\\_activities/annual\\_symposium/2018-mari-sandoz-society-symposium.html](http://www.marisandoz.org/events_activities/annual_symposium/2018-mari-sandoz-society-symposium.html)
- Write on the River, with Karen Gettert Shoemaker and Teri Youmans Grimm** ..... September 20-23 ..... Brownville  
Contact: 402-489-0859, [larksongwritersplace@gmail.com](mailto:larksongwritersplace@gmail.com),  
<http://karenshoemaker.com/workshops/writeontheriver.html>
- Banned Books Week** ..... September 23-29 ..... nationwide  
Contact: <http://www.ala.org/bbooks>
- Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska School Librarians Association Conference** ..... October 4-6 ..... Lincoln  
Contact: <https://www.nebraskalibraries.org/general/custom.asp?page=Neplib2018>,  
[NLAexecutivedirector@gmail.com](mailto:NLAexecutivedirector@gmail.com)
- Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival Adult Conference** ..... October 6 ..... Seward  
Contact: 402-643-7483, [Dylan.Teut@cune.edu](mailto:Dylan.Teut@cune.edu), <http://www.cune.edu/plumcreek>
- Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities: Jon Meacham**  
"Tumult, Tragedy and Hope: America in 1968 From a Half Century's Perspective" ..... October 9 ..... Lincoln  
Contact: 402-474-2131, [Erika@humanitiesnebraska.org](mailto:Erika@humanitiesnebraska.org),  
<https://humanitiesnebraska.org.presencehost.net/programs/governors-lecture.html>
- NE Center for the Book's Celebration of Nebraska Books** ..... October 27 ..... Lincoln  
Annual Meeting at 1:30 p.m.  
Contact: [maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov](mailto:maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov), 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665,  
<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov>, [www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook](http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook)

