

## 2017 Nebraska Book Awards Presented

The seventeenth annual Nebraska Book Awards program celebrated the books selected for recognition in each of the categories, along with all the fine books entered for consideration. Books written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or relating to Nebraska were recognized with author readings and an awards presentation ceremony at the Nebraska Center for the Book's Celebration of Nebraska Books this fall at the Nebraska State Historical Society's Nebraska History Museum.

The annual book awards competition, sponsored by the

Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Library Commission, opens in March each year. Award nominations for books published in 2017 will be accepted in March 2018. Books published in 2017, as indicated by the copyright date, will be eligible for nomination. They must be professionally published, have an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), and be bound. Books may be entered in one or more of the following categories: Anthology, Nonfiction, Fiction, Children/Young Adult, Cover/Design/Illustration, and Poetry. For more information about the Nebraska Book Awards, see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards/nebookawards.html>. 



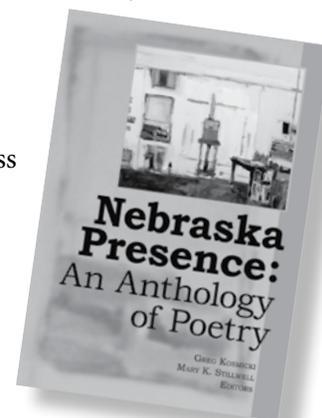
## 2018 One Book One Nebraska is *Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry*

People across Nebraska will be reading the work of Nebraska poets in 2018—and then talking about the poems with their friends and neighbors. *Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry* (The Backwaters Press, 2007) edited by Greg Kosmicki and Mary K. Stillwell is the 2018 One Book One Nebraska selection.

Poems by more than eighty contemporary Nebraska poets are featured in the collection. This includes Pulitzer Prize winner and former Poet Laureate of the United States Ted Kooser, Nebraska State Poet Twyla Hansen, former State Poet William Kloefkorn, and many others. Libraries across Nebraska will join other literary and cultural organizations in planning book discussions, activities, and events that will encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this book. Support materials to assist with

local reading/discussion activities are available at <http://onebook.nebraska.gov>. Updates and activity listings will be posted on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/onebookonenebraska>.

2018 will mark the fourteenth year of the One Book One Nebraska reading program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, and supported by the Nebraska Library Commission, Humanities Nebraska, and The Backwaters Press. It encourages Nebraskans across the state to read and discuss one book, chosen from books written by Nebraska authors or that have a Nebraska theme or setting. 



# The One Book One Nebraska Experience

Guest Editorial by  
by Timothy G.  
Anderson

This year, as I drove around Nebraska, visiting libraries and book clubs, I often felt like someone was riding along with me. I was touring our state on behalf of the One Book One Nebraska program, but I was usually talking about someone else's book, this year's selection, John G. Neihardt's *Black Elk Speaks*. I certainly talked occasionally about my own book, *Lonesome Dreamer: The Life of John G. Neihardt*, but most of my events centered around *Black Elk Speaks*, and I found that as often as not, the questions were more for Neihardt than for me. Which was great. My years of research into the life and work of John Neihardt had prepared me for most of them.

*Black Elk Speaks* can be a tough book to read and understand as it deals with a culture and a way of life different from the ones most Nebraskans have experienced. But readers across the state were game. Some found that the spiritual message in the book not only opened their eyes to a different religion but also enhanced their own faith. Others, often second- or third-generation Nebraskans, were ashamed of the treatment this continent's indigenous people had suffered, and being open to Black

Elk's astounding prophetic visions seemed to be a step in making amends.

At almost every stop, from Omaha to Tilden, from Neligh to Oakland, from Wood River to Ravenna, someone wanted to pull *Black Elk Speaks* into contemporary affairs. What would Black Elk and Neihardt have to say about White Clay? Would they have opposed the pipeline? What would they have thought about the casinos? Questions like these, of course, cannot be answered, not with any certainty. But they suggest to me that the influence of a good book lasts long after we've finished reading it. Questions like these show the power of books to open our hearts and minds to the viewpoints of others. They are an expression of our curiosity about our world and about how we construct our place in it.

To travel the backroads of this state just to spend an hour talking about John Neihardt, about books in general, was a blessing, and I thoroughly enjoyed every stop. Thanks to everyone—the Nebraska Center for the Book, the Nebraska Library Commission, Humanities Nebraska, the Neihardt Center, and a host of librarians and book club members—who made my tour of Nebraska possible. 📖

The **NCB**  
*News*

Winter 2018 | Volume 28 | No. 1

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# Nebraska's Champions of Literature and Literacy Honored

The Nebraska Center for the Book presented the 2017 Jane Geske Award to *American Life in Poetry* and Ted Kooser. This weekly newspaper column, created and compiled by Ted Kooser, 2004-2006 U.S. Poet Laureate, exemplifies dedication to contemporary poetry in Nebraska and beyond. The project is a partnership of the Library of Congress, The Poetry Foundation, and the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The Nebraska Center for the Book annually presents the Jane Geske Award to organizations, businesses, libraries, schools, associations, or other groups that have made an exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, bookselling, libraries, or Nebraska literature. 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 the director of the Nebraska Library Commission, a founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book, a Lincoln bookseller, and a long-time leader in Nebraska library and literary activities.

The Nebraska Center for the Book also presented the 2017 Mildred Bennett Award to **Nancy Johnson** of Central City. This dedicated volunteer was honored for her contributions to Nebraska's literary tradition, including her long-term efforts on behalf of the Lone Tree Literary Society promoting the life and work of Wright Morris and many years of service to the One Book One Nebraska program. The Mildred Bennett Award recognizes an individual who has made a

significant contribution to fostering the literary tradition in Nebraska, reminding us of the literary and intellectual heritage that enriches our lives and molds our world. The award recognizes inspired leadership and service on behalf of Nebraska literature, highlighting how the recipients follow the example of Mildred Bennett, the charismatic founder and long-time President of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation. The award seeks to heighten awareness and interest in Nebraska's literary heritage and to enrich the lives of Nebraskans and readers everywhere.

The Presidential Award for Literacy was presented to the **Hastings Literacy Program**. This program was recognized with a special Nebraska Center for the Book Presidential Award for service to the Hastings community and surrounding area, providing educational support for hundreds of adults including assisting them with reading, language, and other basic skills needed to meet the challenges encountered in daily life and to take full advantage of opportunities in society. The Presidential Award for Literacy is a special award given this year. This discretionary award allows the Nebraska Center for the Book to honor exemplary programs, bringing recognition to the Hastings Literacy Program's efforts and highlighting their success. This is the first time the Nebraska Center for the Book has made this award. 



*NE Center for the Book Board Member Nancy Johnson (l.) receives the Mildred Bennett Award from Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner.*

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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**



# Social Media Promotes Books and Reading

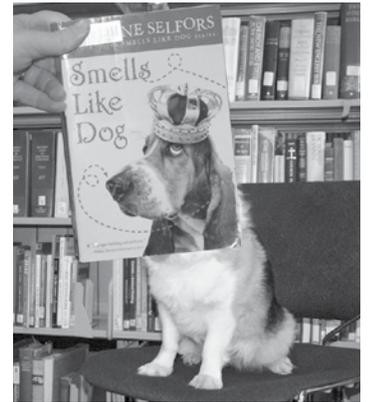
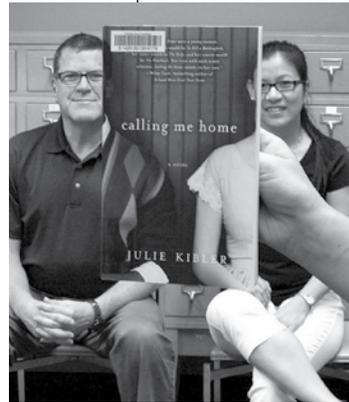
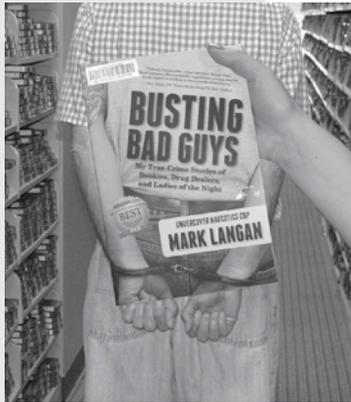
by Aimee Owen,  
Nebraska Library  
Commission

If you are on social media and interested in libraries, you may have come across the hashtags #bookface or #bookfacefriday. According to the *New York Times*, “Bookface involves strategically lining up your face or another body part alongside a book cover that features a matching body part so that there appears a melding of life and art.” Since March the Nebraska Library Commission has posted a weekly “Bookface Friday” photo on our Facebook page, using Library Commission staff (and sometimes their kids and neighbors’ dogs!).

This project started as a way to draw attention to books in the Commission collection that

are on the Sesquicentennial Nebraska 150 list. It has gone on to highlight titles in our Book Club Kit collection. Lining up the perfect shot is trickier than you’d think. Fortunately we have a photographer with a great eye, and some good-natured models. Each week we notice that our “bookface” photos capture a wider audience as they are “liked” and shared online beyond our own Facebook page. We’ve even caught the attention of some of the authors of the books we used. See past “bookface” photos on the Nebraska Library Commission’s Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/NebraskaLibraryCommission](http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaLibraryCommission), or check in every Friday to see the latest shot. 📖

Some examples of #bookfacefriday (below).

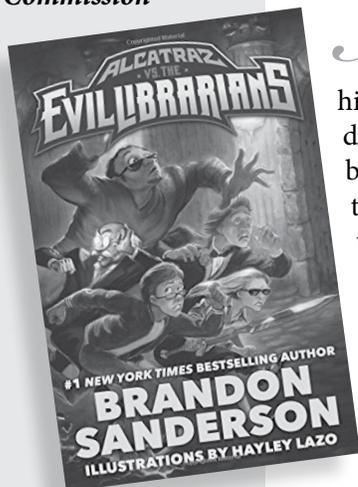


## Review:

## Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians

Review by  
Aimee Owen,  
Nebraska Library  
Commission

by Brandon Sanderson  
Starscape, 2016  
ISBN: 978-0765378941



Alcatraz Smedry kicks off his thirteenth birthday by burning down his foster mother’s kitchen... and it’s all downhill from there. The arrival of a small bag of sand and a strange old man claiming to be his grandfather pulls Alcatraz into the adventure of a lifetime—full of magic, mayhem, and...a cult of evil librarians? While he’s not a “nice person” by nature, Alcatraz also doesn’t like to be shot at, so he goes along to help Grandpa Smedry and his band of Freelanders save the world from the librarians. Along the

way, he discovers that the world as he knows it is a lie perpetrated by the librarians and that his tendency to be clumsy and break things (or set them on fire) is actually a superpower. What else will Alcatraz discover about the world and himself?

*Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians*, the first in the fantasy series by Nebraska-born author Brandon Sanderson, was the 2017 selection for One Books for Nebraska Kids, aimed at grades 4-6. The Nebraska Library Commission has copies of this book in print and audio versions in our Book Club Kit collection, available for loan to school and public librarians, as well as puzzles and activities for readers to continue the fun, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Youth/OBOK/>. 📖



## What Are You Reading?

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

My enjoyment of historical mysteries by Anne Perry, Jacqueline Winspear, and Rhys Bowen has led me to read more history. In *Churchill and Orwell: The Fight for Freedom* (Penguin, 2017), Thomas E. Ricks discusses the lives of these two men, whose beliefs in democracy and the freedom of speech shaped the world.

**Francine Canfield**

I just read *A Star for Mrs. Blake* (Vintage, 2014) by April Smith, a novel about Gold Star mothers who make a trip to France in 1931 to visit World War I battlefields where their soldier sons were killed. The women come from very different backgrounds, but they bond over this shared experience.

**Rebecca Faber**

John Grisham's latest book *Camino Island* (Doubleday, 2017) is a fun read for book lovers. Taken from Princeton University's Firestone Library, five F. Scott Fitzgerald original priceless manuscripts are stolen. Central to the plot is a popular independent bookseller and his thriving bookstore, which includes authors and an engaging literary circle.

**Molly Fisher**

I'm just starting *A Warrior of the People: How Susan La Flesche Overcame Racial and Gender Inequality to Become America's First Indian Doctor* (St. Martin's Press, 2016) by Joe Starita. I'm anxious to read this story of one of Nebraska's most famous women...first heard of her in grade school.

**Katie Bean**

I am reading *Nebraska Presence: An Anthology of Poetry* (The Backwaters Press, 2007), edited by Greg Kosmicki and Mary K. Stillwell. This book captures the essence of Nebraska perfectly!

**Kate Borchman Hassebrook**

I'm reading *Stripped Bare* (Forge Books, 2017) by Shannon Baker, which is the first mystery in the Kate Fox series. The story takes place in the Nebraska Sandhills, along with several siblings, and everyone knowing everyone else's business. A fun read from an author who used to live there.

**Diane Downer**

I am reading *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* (Spiegel & Grau, 2016) by Trevor Noah. Noah's life in South Africa in the 1980s is extremely interesting. He is a great storyteller. I can't wait to read how he came to the U.S. to lead the Daily Show. What a life he has already lived.

**Sherry Houston**

I'm reading *The Undoing Project: A Friendship That Changed Our Minds* (W. W. Norton, 2017) by Michael Lewis, a compelling nonfiction book about the remarkable collaboration between Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky. Their work together resulted in the field of behavioral economics, building on their revolutionary (and Nobel-Prize-winning) understanding of the ways in which people's thinking is often biased by factors of which they're probably unaware.

**Pat Leach**

I am reading *Golden Hill: A Novel of Old New York* (Scribner, 2017) by Francis Spufford. It was on a National Public Radio list of recommended reads. The book was named Novel of the Year (2014) by the British *Sunday Times*. It follows the adventures of a young man in mid-18th Century Manhattan, thirty years before the revolution.

**Lois Todd Meyer**

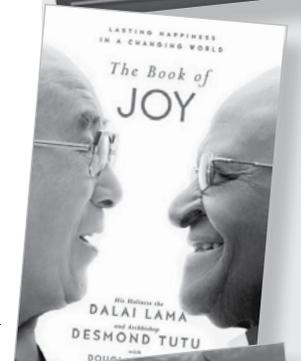
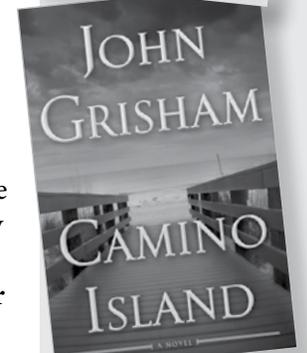
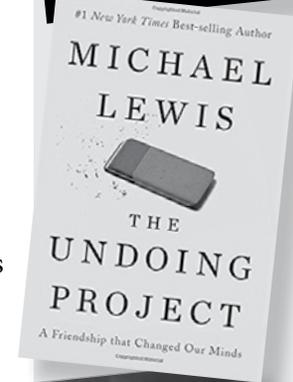
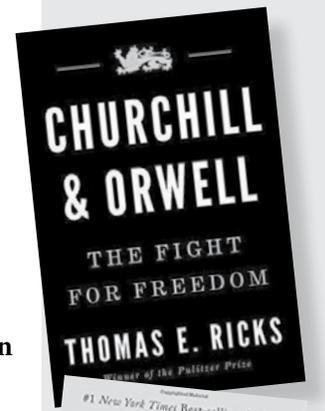
My latest favorite read is *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* (Avery, 2016) by the 14th Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, and Douglas Carlton Abrams. Join His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Archbishop Desmond Tutu, for a lively conversation about finding enduring joy even in challenging times. This book is a breath of fresh air that will stay with you long after the last page is turned. Enjoy!

**Christine Walsh**

Over winter break I read a book by the woman who set the Guinness World Record as the fastest woman to ride her bicycle around the world in 152 days, *This Road I Ride: Sometimes It Takes Losing Everything to Find Yourself* (W. W. Norton, 2016) by Juliana Buhring. This book about bicycling 125 miles on average a day made even the coldest Nebraska day vanish.

**Laura Madeline Wiseman**

(continued on page 8)



## American Life in Poetry: Column 638



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

Kelly Madigan lives in Nebraska and this poem is from her book, *The Edge of Known Things*, from Stephen F. Austin University Press. Did you think that you were all that different from a porcupine? Well, poetry reaches for and seizes upon connections, and here's an example of that.

### Porcupine

You think we are the pointed argument,  
the man drunk at the party showing off  
his gun collection, the bed of nettles.

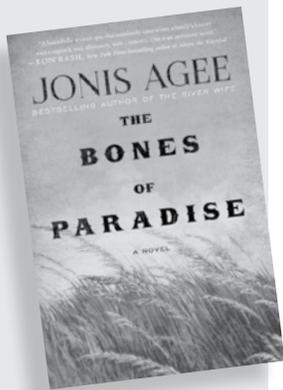
What we really are is hidden from you:  
girl weeping in the closet among her stepfather's  
boots;  
tuft of rabbit fur caught in barbed wire; body of  
the baby  
in the landfill; boy with the shy mouth playing  
his guitar  
at the picnic table, out in the dirt yard.

We slide into this world benign and pliable,  
quills pressed down smooth over back and tail.  
Only one hour here stiffens the barbs into  
thousands  
of quick retorts. Everything this well-guarded  
remembers being soft once.

**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 ©2013 by Kelly Madigan, "Porcupine," from *The Edge of Known Things*, (Stephen F. Austin University Press, 2013). Poem reprinted by permission of Kelly Madigan and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2017 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. 

## Omaha Reads Pick Explores Relationship with the Land

by  
Emily Getzschman,  
Omaha Public  
Library



I'm a Nebraskan. It's part of my identity. When I have lived elsewhere, I missed things like Arbor Day, Rotella's bread, Runza, cows, the finger wave and people wearing red on Saturdays during the fall. So, for me, the 2017 Omaha Reads selection was certainly something to celebrate, especially in our state's sesquicentennial year! In an effort to promote literacy and provide a common theme of discussion among Omaha-area residents, Omaha Public Library encourages everyone to read the same book once a year. The book is suggested and voted upon by the community, and this year there was overwhelming support for Nebraska native Jonis Agee's *The Bones of Paradise* (William Morrow, 2016).

The novel is set in the Nebraska Sand Hills in the years following the Massacre at Wounded Knee, and the story that unfolds is one of mystery, romance, heartache, and grit. Though there are many challenging topics addressed in the book, one overarching theme explores the relationship between people and the land. The book's characters are driven to great lengths to maintain possession

of what they consider "their land" and all it has to offer, often with tragic consequences. Certainly, this love of the land is not unique to Nebraska alone, but for anyone who has spent time in the Sand Hills or some of the other less developed areas of the state, it isn't difficult to understand the passion that people feel for it. In my view, the largely untouched expanse of land is absolutely breathtaking.

It's possible I've romanticized the state and its western boundaries due to my exposure to the writings of Willa Cather and Bess Streeter Aldrich, but even these beloved Nebraska authors acknowledge the cruelty of the land and its stubborn refusal to be controlled or relegated to the role of supporting character.

I encourage you to read *The Bones of Paradise*, and to discuss it with your friends and neighbors. Get to know Nebraska—it may be playing a starring role in your story without you even knowing it! I know it is part of mine.

**Ed. Note:** This article is excerpted with permission from an article that originally appeared in the *Omaha World Herald*, Sept. 3, 2017 



# The Hanoi Bookworm: A Vietnamese Confluence of Book Culture

The term “bookworm,” according to the *Oxford English Dictionary* appears as early as 1580. It is associated with a reader and scholar who appears buried in the book with little regard to his surroundings.

Carl Spitzweg (1808-85) turned “Bücherwurm” into an iconic image of a somewhat disheveled man on a library ladder looking at books.

He appears in *The Grove Dictionary of Art* and a German art encyclopedia. It is probably the most popular bookplate, framed private library picture, and dust jacket adornment.

There are at least nineteen booksellers and bookstores named Bookworm (including, Omaha, Hanoi, Rangoon and a three-store chain in Beijing, Chengdu, and Suzhou). English language bookstores in non-English speaking countries demonstrates the power of English, the world of opportunities associated with the language, the lure for tourists and expat communities. The Yangon Bookworm is on busy Pansodan Street with several adjacent bookstores. We trudged to Hanoi’s Bookworm at 44 Chau Long, which houses ten to sixteen thousand English language volumes in a two-story three-room building behind the Hanoi Cooking Centre in a quieter part of the 6.5 million inhabitant city.

I had hoped to meet the Hanoi store owner, Hoang Van Troung, but he was visiting family in the north. He did not respond to my emails, so I rely on Website info. Australian writer Pam Scott opened the bookstore in 2001. She published *Life in Hanoi* in 2005 and *Vietnam Revisited* in 2012. Troung purchased the shop in 2006. Bookworm, a bricks and mortar new and used bookstore is remarkable for its Hanoi location, architecture, and special sections—Nobel, Booker, and Pulitzer winners, along with a Southeast Asia, Vietnam, and Ho Chi Minh corner, with posters, magazines, and hagiography.

Karen and I found bookplates, Association copies, and former library copies revealing print migration. Two bookshelves included books on

imperialism from the 1930s to 1960s, including Barbara Tuchman’s Pulitzer Prize winning, *August 1914* (1962 edition—now available

Papermac, 1994) also published in America as the *Guns of August*

*Bookmark from Hanoi’s Bookworm (above).*

(Presidio, 2004). Many contained the bookplate of Sir J[ohn] G[renfell] Crawford (1910-1984), Australian agricultural economist and university administrator. Anthony Wood at the University of New England (UNE) in Armidale, New South Wales, informed me, “The John Crawford Collection was donated by UNE many years ago to overseas libraries, and it seems this particular book was disposed of by the receiving library, or not returned.” Carl Spitzweg’s “The Bookworm” image appears on the spine and cover of the bulky 4th edition of Benet’s *Reader’s Encyclopedia*. The copy was labeled Hanoi United Nations International School, founded in 1988; probably deaccessioned when the 5th edition appeared in 2008.

Memories of American tourists colored by old wars are joined by contemporary amazement at Hanoi’s industrious and indomitable spirit. English books in Singapore, Malacca, Kuala Lumpur, and Penang, were common, because English is a widely taught language. Hanoi bookstore represented embracing the culture of the loser. During our one-hour browse we were the sole visitors; then we had a lovely lunch at the Hanoi Cooking Centre. 📖

by Oliver B. Pollak,  
UNO Professor  
Emeritus



*Colonial bureaucrat or administrator’s collection (above) wedged in between Marx and Lenin and child rearing.*



## Writer Wanted

by Mary Jo Ryan,  
Nebraska Library  
Commission



Lawrence Bruner  
(above) has a story in  
search of a storyteller.

Photo courtesy of  
Archives & Special  
Collections, University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries

Prof. Stephen Danielson writes to the Nebraska Center for the Book: “I am a retired associate professor of entomology at the University of Nebraska here in Lincoln. Our first department chair was a fascinating man named Lawrence Bruner. I sincerely believe that he would be a great person for someone to write a biography about, but I need assistance locating that someone who might be the biography’s author.” This message intrigued me and led me to wonder if we might be able to provide a “matchmaking” service to bring together a writer and an enthusiastic promoter with an idea for a book. With that in mind, I asked Danielson to tell us more and he shared the following information.

Lawrence Bruner arrived in Omaha in 1856 when he was only six weeks old after traveling from Pennsylvania by train and stagecoach with his parents and two-year old sister. His father, Uriah, soon became actively involved in the establishment of a new town just a few miles west of Omaha that was named West Point. Within a few years, Uriah had established a law firm, a flour mill, and a bank in West Point. Uriah and his wife Amelia were the parents of nine children. During his childhood, Lawrence was fascinated by all sorts of living organisms, minerals, and petrified wood with collections of them housed in a special building on his parents’ property. After spending a day with the 23-year-old Bruner at his family’s West Point home, a newspaper reporter from Omaha wrote, “That we shall hear more of him in the future I do not doubt.”

Lawrence Bruner was recognized world-wide as both an entomologist and ornithologist. He was the first University of Nebraska faculty member to conduct research and outreach service internationally, traveling to all continents except Antarctica. In 1915, Nebraska Governor J. H. Morehead honored Bruner by appointing him **The Most Distinguished Citizen of the State of Nebraska**. During his career, Lawrence Bruner described 693 species of insects, primarily grasshoppers, and he authored or coauthored 130 publications about insects and birds, including two textbooks. Bruner’s entomological legacy has been kept alive by descendants following his example. Harry S. Smith, his son-in-law and former student who was a native of Aurora NE, became a Professor of Entomology at the University of California at Riverside and is known as the Father of Biological Control in California. Two of Bruner’s grandsons were entomologists who were employed by the agricultural industry in California and a 13-year-old great, great, great granddaughter currently living in central Oregon aspires to be an entomologist in Lawrence Bruner’s footsteps.

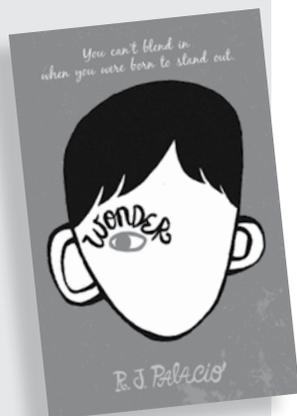
Danielson states that there are numerous research resources about this pioneering American scientist (including a fascinating article by Myron H. Swenk, “In Memoriam, Lawrence Bruner” from a 1937 edition of *Nebraska Bird Review*, <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/nebbirdrev/696>) to assist the willing writer/researcher. So if this idea appeals to you, contact Danielson at [sdanielson1@unl.edu](mailto:sdanielson1@unl.edu). 

## What Are You Reading? *(continued)*

December was a whirlpool of reading! I finished two fantastic books: *Wonder* (Knopf, 2012) by R.J. Palacio and *Same Kind of Different as Me* (Thomas Nelson Inc, 2008) by Ron Hall and Denver Moore. I devoured both, and hope that the movies do the books justice (fingers crossed). Given **Random Acts of Kindness Week** is on the horizon, it makes both of these books even more special. **Laurie Yocom**

I recently finished reading Lee Child’s *The Midnight Line* (Delacorte, 2017), Child’s most recent Jack Reacher novel. Reacher, a former West Point graduate, during his endless wanderings comes across the class ring of another West Point graduate. Reacher’s quest to find its owner begins a journey involving encounters with bikers, cops, and crooks.

**Rod Wagner** 



## Trimming Karen's Cookbooks

*K*aren, my spouse of a half-century, is practical, pragmatic, and ruthless. If she has not used a cookbook, out with it. And using the cookbook as evidenced by marginalia offers no protection, out with it. She says, "I'm not ruthless. I haven't used it in thirty years, do you think I am going to use it now?" I, on the other hand, see a book that has not been used for thirty years, as an opportunity for future use and reached out to protect M.F.K. Fisher, Julia Child, Elizabeth David, Madhur Jaffrey, and Mark Kurlansky.

*Laurel's Kitchen, A Handbook for Vegetarian Cookery & Nutrition* by Laurel Robertson (Nilgiri Press, 1976), with attractive woodcuts and marginalia, did not get a reprieve. Here are some of Karen's comments and modifications:

Diana's Apple Crisp: Delicious, 10-4-79

Tomato soup: Noah liked this soup, 4-6-80

Potato Carrot Kugel: Had no comment, 10-4-81

Potato Latkes: Use *LA Times* recipe, easier and tastier.

Zucchini Oat-Flake Loaf: delicious, used Parmesan instead of Swiss or Cheddar.

Notes in Pierre Franey's *Low-Calorie Gourmet* (Three Rivers Press, 1984) offered:

Chicken sauté au vinaigre: delicious, 1-24-86

Broiled swordfish: tasty, 1-27-86

Veal scaloppine au Vermouth: tried with turkey, eh?, 3-10-86

Broiled Salmon with fresh dill: kids thought too much dill, 2-3-87

Roast fillet of beef au naturel: delicious, 3-24-?

Other victims of Karen's rapacity are *Gourmet*

Magazine's two-volume *Gourmet Cookbook* by (Random House, 1965) and *The Connoisseur's Cookbook* by Robert Carrier (Random House, 1965)—probably wedding presents or purchased for our young household. We've obviously reached an age where *The Healing Foods Cookbook* (Rodale, 1991) by Jean Rogers, *Eat Right for Your Type* (Penguin, 1996) by Dr. Peter D'Adamo, *Chef MD's Big Book of Culinary Medicine* (Harmony, 2009) by John La Puma, *Dr. Atkin's Carbohydrate Gram Counter* (M. Evans & Co., 1996), and *Deliciously Low* (Plume, 1984) by Harriet Roth have little meaning or attraction for us as we already (boastfully, but with lapses) watch our diets.

The books given up and the hundreds kept tell a foodways story involving over 50,000 meals that proceeded from eating everything, to vegetarian, to Kosher, and to avoiding four legged and then two legged animals. Even salmon, sea bass, flounder, halibut, tuna, and sole no longer submit to our fish knives, but we gladly eat them at restaurants. At the annual Omaha Public Library **Read it and Eat** Culinary Conference, there is a cookbook exchange. We always donate a few and walk away with a few. The last year we were in Omaha, we gave thirty-five books (a couple acquired at earlier conferences) and took none. The Culinary Conference was held, but we did not attend. We were looking forward to it for three months and had delivered our cookbook donations, but in the stress of selling our house and moving, we spaced it off. Oh well, such is life. I conclude that the kitchen gods conspired to protect us. 📖

by **Oliver B. Pollak**,  
**UNO Professor Emeritus**

## Thousands Attend National Book Festival

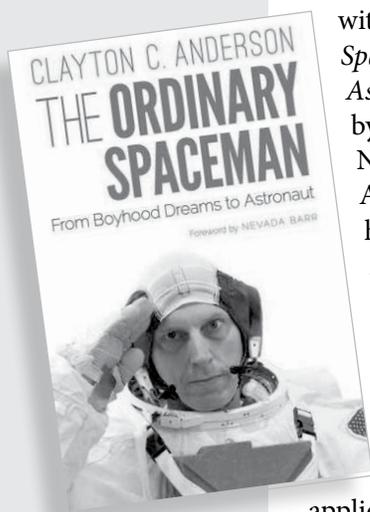
*T*his fall Library Commission staff members Mary Jo Ryan and Devra Dragos joined Nebraska Center for the Book President Sherry Houston and volunteers from the Junior League of Washington, DC. Staffing the Nebraska exhibit at the **National Book Festival's** Pavilion of the States in Washington, DC, they shared information about Nebraska literature with more than 5,000 visitors to the Nebraska booth. They were joined by Nancy Plain, author

of *This Strange Wilderness: The Life and Art of John James Audubon* (University of Nebraska Press, 2015), the book for young readers chosen to represent Nebraska at the 2017 Festival. She signed and handed out 1,000 bookmarks (we ran out!) and signed lots of books. One young fan was overheard saying, "Is that Nancy Plain? I love her. I love her book!" For more information about the National Book Festival, see <https://www.loc.gov/bookfest/>. 📖



**Nancy Plain (r.) autographs for a young fan.**

## Nebraska Writer's Book Selected for Community-Wide Read



The Wilson Public Library launched their fourth One Book, One Cozad program with the selection of *The Ordinary Spaceman: From Boyhood Dreams to Astronaut* (University of NE Press, 2015) by Clayton Anderson. This is the story of Nebraska's only astronaut. Born in Omaha, Anderson grew up in Ashland, where he graduated from high school in 1977. Anderson graduated cum laude from Hastings College in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics. He received a Master of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering in 1983, the same year he began working for NASA at the Johnson Space Center, and the same year he applied to be an astronaut for the first time. Anderson was rejected fourteen times before his

acceptance in 1998.

Library Director and NCB Board Member Laurie Yocom stated, "...I learned so much about NASA (and Clayton). Wilson Public Library agrees with the Nebraska Center for the Book's philosophy that 'reading great literature provokes us to think about ourselves, our environment and our relationships.'" Regularly scheduled book discussions and events will be held monthly at the library. As Wilson Public Library continues to work with NASA throughout 2018 as part of a NASA @ My Library grant to engage public audiences nationwide in informal and lifelong learning about earth and space sciences, the One Book, One Cozad 2018 selection is particularly meaningful. For more information see <http://www.wilsonpubliclibrary.org/one-book--one-cozad.html>. 

## NebraskaAuthors.org Debuts April 22

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

The literature of Nebraska is as distinctive as it is diverse, and the authors of Nebraska are as remarkable as the work they have produced and continue to produce. NebraskaAuthors.org is a new online database that allows widespread access to unique information about the authors whose work brings the spirit and essence of Nebraska to the world. NebraskaAuthors.org is a broadly inclusive database

that holds the biographical information and bibliographies of more than 4,300 Nebraska authors, past and present. The website is the creation of a collaborative effort between Lincoln City Libraries, the UNL Center for Digital Research in the Humanities, and the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association.

NebraskaAuthors.org includes, in searchable format, information on Nebraska Authors from our earliest record in 1821 to contemporary Nebraska authors who are writing today. The thousands of Nebraska authors represented in the database are part of a continuum that will grow and change as our literary landscape evolves. NebraskaAuthors.org will celebrate the entire scope of Nebraska's past, present and future writers. When the website goes live on

April 22, 2018, the site will allow access to the body of information that has been collected by the Heritage Room over the past six decades. Users will be able to search for individual author profiles and book titles, and they can use the various search features to find affiliations between authors based on their shared interests, distinctions, genres, geography, publication dates, etc.

The launch of NebraskaAuthors.org will be celebrated with a special event at Lincoln City Libraries' Bennett Martin Public Library on April 22 at 2:00 p.m. The event will include a demonstration of the features of NebraskaAuthors.org as well as live readings by a panel of contemporary Nebraska Authors moderated by Charlene Neely and Gerry Cox, editors of *Guide to More Nebraska Authors* (Infusionmedia, 2018). The website launch is an opportunity for readers to connect with authors, and to learn how NebraskaAuthors.org can be used to enhance and contextualize our understanding of Nebraska literature. It will celebrate the enduring influence of Nebraska authors and their contributions to the Nebraska literary tradition. For more information see <https://www.facebook.com/events/2066665046936806/>. 



## Treasures of the Heritage Room

First published in 1918, Willa Cather's *My Ántonia* celebrates its centenary this year. Long remembered for her renditions of the lives of pioneers and immigrants in the early days of Nebraska, Cather's *My Ántonia* offers the nostalgic recollection of life on the open prairie through the keen eye of Jim Burden and his joyful memories of his dear friend Ántonia Shimerda. The seas of saggy red grass and the white frame house with a windmill in the front yard may no longer be exactly as Jim recounts, but his story of exploration and discovery of a new land is still familiar today. Jim and Ántonia, eternally bound by their shared experience as strangers in the new, vast landscape of the Nebraska prairie, are relatable to anyone who has ever encountered a new environment. A story about embracing change and yet still honoring the past, the lives laid out in *My Ántonia* are still relevant one hundred years after they were first printed on a page.

The Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors is fortunate to have thirty-four copies of *My Ántonia* in its collection, from its first published edition by Houghton Mifflin in 1918—donated in honor of the first curator of the Heritage Room, Ethel Jane Maurer—to scholarly editions with commentary and notes, and the most recent trade paperbacks. Over the years *My Ántonia* has gone through many different changes in style and representations. Some editions feature artist's interpretations of the title character Ántonia, while many have adopted the

simple orange sunset that has come to represent the tough yet peaceful environment of the prairie. Willa Cather herself was very particular with the design and manufacture of many of her novels, wanting to invite readers to interact with them through every aspect from the book's jacket, to the margins, and font. Large margins are common design concept in many of Cather's books, perhaps inviting readers to make notes and write their own thoughts on the page next to her words.

Everything about *My Ántonia*, as well as many of Willa Cather's other famous works, invites readers of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences into its pages. The Heritage Room's versions of the novel published in Danish, Finnish, Italian, Korean, Norwegian, and Czech offer the unique opportunity to see *My Ántonia* in a broader sense of the work. 📖



First edition, 1918 (r.)

by Hailey Fischer,  
Lincoln City  
Libraries

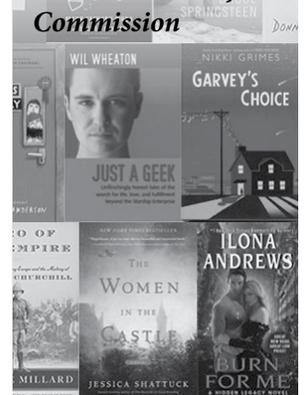
## #FridayReads Reviews Posted by Commission Staff

You might be familiar with our weekly blog series **Friday Reads**. Every Friday a staff member at the Nebraska Library Commission posts a review of a book. From memoirs to science fiction, murder mysteries to home organization, we've shared what we've read and why we've read it.

Former Commission staffer Laura Johnson suggested this series to model the idea of talking about books and to help readers get to know our staff a little better. Readers' Advisory and Book-talking are valuable skills for librarians to

develop, but they are skills that take practice. We hope that our book reviews will start conversations about books among readers and encourage others to share their own reviews and recommendations. The series has been going strong for more than three years and has produced more than 150 reviews, which are archived on the *NCompass* blog (<http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/nlcblog/tag/friday-reads>) or can be browsed from a list of reviews at <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/ref/BookReviews.aspx>. 📖

by Aimee Owen  
and Tessa Terry,  
Nebraska Library  
Commission



# The NCB News

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**THE NEBRASKA  
CENTER FOR  
THE BOOK**

*an affiliate of  
the Library of Congress*

c/o Nebraska Library Commission  
The Atrium  
1200 N Street, Suite 120  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2023  
34-00-12

**SAVE THE DATE**

**2018  
NEBRASKA  
BOOK  
FESTIVAL**



**SATURDAY • AUGUST 25, 2018**  
**UNL CITY CAMPUS UNION • 1400 R STREET**

CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

## Calendar of Events:



View the complete  
Nebraska Literary  
Calendar at  
centerforthebook.  
nebraska.gov/  
get\_involved/calendar.  
html. Send items for the  
calendar to [tessa.terry@nebraska.gov](mailto:tessa.terry@nebraska.gov).

- World Read Aloud Day** ..... February 1 ..... Global  
Contact: <http://www.litworld.org/wrad>
- Lunch at the Library: Lonnie Pierson Dumbier** ..... February 7 ..... Lincoln  
Contact: 402-441-8516, [heritage@lincolnlibraries.org](mailto:heritage@lincolnlibraries.org),  
<http://lincolnlibraries.org/heritage-room-of-nebraska-authors/nlhas-lunch-at-the-library/>
- Sunday at the Museum: Jeff Barnes** ..... Feb. 11 ..... Bancroft  
Contact: [neihardt@gpcom.net](mailto:neihardt@gpcom.net), 402-648-3388 or 888-777-4667,  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/173016329962649/>
- NE State Reading Association Conference** ..... Feb. 23-25 ..... Kearney  
Contact: [conferencecoordinator@nereads.org](mailto:conferencecoordinator@nereads.org), <http://www.nereads.org/conference-2018/>
- One Book, One Cozad Discussion: The Ordinary Spaceman** ..... March 15 ..... Cozad  
Contact: [wpublib@cozadtel.net](mailto:wpublib@cozadtel.net), <http://www.wilsonpubliclibrary.org/one-book--one-cozad.html>
- Heartland Storytelling Festival** ..... March 22-23 ..... Beatrice  
Contact: 402-223-3514, <https://www.nps.gov/home/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>
- Prairie Songs: Remembering Antonia** ..... March 23 ..... Red Cloud  
Contact: <https://www.willacather.org/events/prairie-songs-remembering-%C3%A1ntonia>
- WillyCon XX Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention** ..... March 23-25 ..... Wayne  
Contact: <https://www.wsc.edu/willycon>, [ScFanta1@wsc.edu](mailto:ScFanta1@wsc.edu), or Dr. Hayford, 402-375-7338
- National Poetry Month** ..... April ..... Nationwide  
Contact: [www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/home](http://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/home)
- Nebraska Writers Guild Spring Writers' Conference** ..... April 6-7 ..... Ashland  
Contact: <http://nebraskawriters.org/content/spring-conference>
- National Library Week** ..... April 8-14 ..... Nationwide  
Contact: [www.ala.org/nlw](http://www.ala.org/nlw)
- John H. Ames Reading Series: Nebraska Authors.org Launch** ..... April 22 ..... Lincoln  
Contact: Lincoln City Libraries, <https://www.facebook.com/events/2066665046936806/>,  
402-441-8516, [heritage@lincolnlibraries.org](mailto:heritage@lincolnlibraries.org)
- Louder Than a Bomb: Great Plains Poetry Slam Team Finals** ..... April 24 ..... Omaha  
Contact: <http://newwriters.org/louder-than-a-bomb-great-plains-team-finals-and-indy-finals/>

