



The **NCB** News

Volume 13

Summer 2003

No. 2

A Publication of the Nebraska Center for the Book

Creighton Hosts 2003 Nebraska Book Festival

Creighton University, in Omaha, is the site for the **2003 Nebraska Book Festival**. Scheduled for **October 24-25**, this year's festival will celebrate Nebraska's literary heritage and the life of books.

Sponsored by the **Nebraska Center for the Book** (NCB) in cooperation with the **Nebraska Library Commission**, and with funding from the **Nebraska Humanities Council** and support from **Borders Books**, the festival will feature presentations, events, and displays for adults, children, and young people.

The theme for this year's festival is **Books Alive!**, drawing attention to the living history of books from yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Presentations will include panels on Nebraska's classic authors, discussions on how to get published, and sessions on everything from how to make your own books to displays of author manuscripts, to the future of the book in a digital age. Throughout the festival, contemporary writers from Nebraska and beyond will give readings from their work and conduct writing workshops and discussions.

The focus of Friday's program is on middle and high school students, with readings by published writers, workshops on writing and bookmaking, and opportunities for student writers to read their own work before a live audience. Lunch will be provided at a reasonable cost. Pre-registration is required. On Friday evening, *New York Times* best-selling author and Creighton alum Ron Hansen will read from his work. Hansen is the author of such award-winning novels as *Mariette in Ecstasy*, *Atticus*, and *Isn't It Romantic?*

Saturday's program will include readings, panels, presentations, and hands-on displays. During the awards luncheon, recipients of the Mildred Bennett Award and the Nebraska Book Awards will be honored. This year's keynote event will be a Saturday night showing of the award-winning documentary film *Stone Reader*, followed by a buffet dinner and a moderated onstage discussion with the film's director,

Mark Moskowitz. The film chronicles a book lover's search for the author of a critically acclaimed novel who disappeared. The director solves this fascinating literary mystery and shares his passion for books and insights into the book publishing industry. Featured prominently in the film are literary critic Leslie Fiedler, director of the Iowa Writers' Workshop Frank Conroy, and literary agent Carl Brandt.

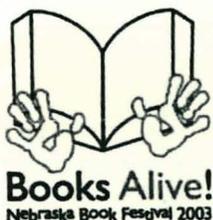
On both days, Mexican poet Ambar Past will read from her work and conduct a workshop in book-making. Past, who was born in North Carolina and has lived in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico since 1974, writes in Spanish and Tzotzil. She coordinates a paper-making and publishing cooperative of Mayan women, Taller Leñateros, and edits *La Jícara*, regarded by many as the best poetry magazine in Mexico. Her latest publishing project is *Conjurios y Ebriedades*, the songs of Mayan women.

Displays will include a high-tech computer kiosk on the future of the book and an interactive DVD station exhibiting the work of Creighton authors. Throughout Saturday, Nebraska publishers, author groups, and literary organizations will display and sell merchandise at a book fair. Vendor registration deadline is October 10. To register, complete and send the Web form at

mockingbird.creighton.edu/ncw/nbfbkreg.htm.

An added feature of this year's festival will be a number of book events taking place throughout Omaha, including readings by Richard Duggin, Art Homer, Anna Monardo, James Reed, and others; displays in area libraries; and related events. In addition, the festival organizers will expand on last year's very successful "A Gathering of Groups," providing meeting space for the state's book and writing groups, along with discussions on how to start and sustain such groups.

For more information see the schedule on page 4, visit the Web site at nebraskabookfestival.org, or contact this year's co-directors, Dean Timothy Austin, 402-280-2431, e-mail: traustin@creighton.edu or Brent Spencer 402-280-2192, e-mail: spencr@creighton.edu.



Nebraska's Literary Life Has No Limit

by Gerry Cox,
NCB News Editor

The entire state of Nebraska has been shocked by the drastic monetary cuts in the Nebraska University system.

Prestige, it is feared, is lost as programs are eliminated and professors are fired. However, there is a counter to the sad trend. Nebraskans can find prestige continually generated throughout Nebraska by the large numbers of literary and artistic endeavors available to all Nebraskans and visitors.

Jonis Agee recently brought a week-long opportunity to the public interested in poetry, novel, short story, and screen writing (as well as to those interested in finding literary agents) to hear and learn from top Americans in their fields. One-third of the faculty were Nebraskans. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UN-L) Nebraska Summer Writers' Conference (see page 7 for related story) enhanced the University's literary stature, which was already in the national spotlight due to the *Prairie Schooner's* 75th Anniversary Celebration. The *Prairie Schooner* occupies a unique place in the literary world. Each issue bringing honor to UN-L and to all of Nebraska.

The Paul Olson Symposium's on-going, university-related series, offers an eclectic mix of speakers and topics to Lincoln. The John H. Ames Reading Series is a monthly program at the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Library (Lincoln City Libraries).

There are opportunities throughout the year to listen to and interact with creative people at numerous sites in Nebraska, including Bancroft,

speakers and activities at the Neihardt State Historic Site; Elmwood, Bess Streeter Aldrich Remembrance "Rim of the Prairie" Day; McCook, the Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival; Norfolk, the Literature Festival and Story Telling/Poetry OLIO; Omaha, **Nebraska Writers Live @ your library**TM; Pilger, the Pen Pointers Writers Workshop; Seward, the Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival; Valentine, the Nebraska Cowboy Poetry Gathering; and many others.

Check with your community library for programs (often sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council) featuring writers, poets, and other interesting people. *The NCB News* Calendar of Events (on page 8) lists events planned for the next few months. For more information, see the following Web sites:

- ▲ Nebraska Center for the Book,
<www.unl.edu/NCB>
- ▲ The Nebraska Library Commission,
<www.nlc.state.ne.us>
- ▲ Nebraska Center for Writers,
<mockingbird.creighton.edu/NCW>
- ▲ Nebraska Literary Directory,
<www.nde.state.ne.us/READ>
- ▲ The Poetry Menu, <poetrymenu.com>
- ▲ Nebraska Literary Heritage Association,
<www.literaryheritage.org>

The possibilities for meeting writers and hearing and reading quality writing are vast. The more you support such programs, the more will be available. Each literary event adds to the prestige Nebraskans can enjoy. ▲

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Nebraska Center for the Book Board and Committees

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2003 Nebraska Book Festival

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

2003 Nebraska Center for the Book Board Meetings

February 8 Fremont
May 23 Omaha
August 9 Kearney
November 2 Lincoln, Annual Meeting, Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska—Lincoln, 1155 Q Street, Hewitt Place

Advertising

The NCB News can accept up to four 1/8 page ads for each issue. The advertising rate is \$125 for 1/8 page. *NCB News* is issued May 1, August 15, and November 1. The advertising and copy deadline is six weeks prior to issue date. For details, contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Center for the Book, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023; phone 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us>, <www.unl.edu/NCB>.

The NCB News is published three times a year by the Nebraska Center for the Book, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023. Subscription is free with membership. Editor: Gerry Cox. Design and Production: Valerie Dayton. Staff: Mary Jo Ryan, Jacqueline Crocker, Janet Greser, Maria Medrano-Nehls.

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This publication was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the state of Nebraska through the Nebraska Library Commission.



Students Urged to Enter Letters About Literature Contest



The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership with Target Stores, invites readers in grades four through twelve to enter **Letters about Literature**, a national reading-writing contest. To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author, explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Young readers can select authors from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. The contest is also sponsored by the **Weekly Reader Corporation** and hosted in Nebraska by the **Nebraska Center for the Book**.

Contest winners are announced in April during National Library Week. Judges representing the Nebraska Center for the Book select state finalists. Nebraska finalists will be honored by the governor at

a ceremony at the State Capitol and receive cash awards and other prizes. State winners advance to national competition and receive cash prizes and Target gift cards. Six national winners will each receive a Target gift card and a trip to the nation's capitol to read their letters during the National Book Festival in the fall of 2004.

For a copy of the official contest guidelines, plus the required entry coupon, see the Nebraska Library Commission home page, <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Letters about Literature 2004 or contact Maria Medrano-Nehls, Library Commission Administrative Secretary, 402-471-4008, 800-307-2665, fax: 402-471-2083, e-mail: <mnehls@nlc.state.ne.us>, for a print copy. Deadline for entries is **December 6, 2003**. ▲

William Safire to Speak in Omaha

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. ▲

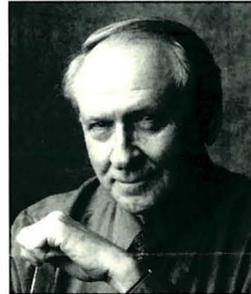
No Uncertain Terms: More Writing from the Popular "On Language" Column in *The New York Times Magazine* is the latest compilation by William Safire, the most widely read commentator on the English language. Safire has more than a dozen books drawn from his Sunday column, which has run weekly since 1979.

Safire will deliver the **8th Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities** entitled, "What's Going to Happen in Washington?" **on Sept. 18** in Witherspoon Auditorium at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha. The 8:00 P.M. CDT lecture is sponsored by the **Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC)** and **Creighton University** with an introduction by Gov. Mike Johanns.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for distinguished commentary, Safire joined the staff of *The New York Times* as a political columnist in 1973. It is his weekly

columns on grammar, usage, and etymology that have assured Safire's reputation as a witty and astute word maven. A conservative political commentator, Safire is the beloved, slightly crotchety, guru of contemporary vocabulary, speech, language, usage, and writing—as close as we are likely to get to a modern Samuel Johnson.

A pre-lecture dinner at Joslyn (\$125 per person) includes a reserved seat at the lecture. Safire will attend the dinner, a benefit for the Nebraska Humanities Council. Admission to the lecture only is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. For reservations or for more information, contact Cynthia Epp, 402-474-2131, Ext. 102; e-mail <cynthia@nebraskahumanities.org>.



Join the Nebraska Center for the Book

Name _____
 Address _____

 Phone _____
 E-Mail: _____

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

 ___ \$15 Individual Membership
 ___ \$25 Organizational Membership
 ___ \$50 Octavo Membership
 ___ \$100 Quarto Membership
 ___ \$250 Folio Membership

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



2003 Nebraska Book Festival Schedule

Books Alive! in Omaha

Friday, October 24

8:00 A.M.-2:30 P.M.
Student Day

- Interactive Computer Kiosk on the Future of the Book
- Books That Humanize: Interactive DVD Computer Station on Creighton Authors
- Manuscripts of Novelist Ron Hansen, Reinert Library
- Bess Streeter Aldrich: A Video Scrapbook, Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation
- John Neihardt's Life and Work, John G. Neihardt State Historic Site
- The Letters of Henry James, Center for Henry James Studies
- Intellectual Freedom Posters, AFCON
- High School and College Literary Magazines from around the State, David Martin

8:00-8:30 A.M. Registration for Student Day Activities

8:30-9:15 A.M. Nancy Duncan

9:30 A.M.-2:35 P.M. Four Separate Sessions (see below), with lunch from 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

Group A: Middle School

- Author—Lewis & Clark's Omaha Journal, Mouth of the Platte Group
- Active—Storytelling, Nancy Duncan
- Enrichment/History—The *Torab* & Hands-on Demonstration, Jeffrey Aizenberg
- Writing Workshop—Feathers and Verses, Bill Clemente

Group B: High School

- Author—Jean Lukesh
- Active—One Writer/One Minute, Student Reading
- Enrichment/History—Hands-on History of Book Making Ambar Past
- Writing Workshop—David Martin

Group C: High School

- Author—Wright Morris, Joseph Wydeven
- Active—How to Make a Literary Magazine, *Shadows* staff (Creighton literary magazine)
- Enrichment/History—The E-zine as Proving Ground for Writers
- Writing Workshop—William Kloefkorn

6:00-7:30 P.M. Hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar Reception
Reading by Ron Hansen

9:00-11:00 P.M. Readings by Richard Duggin, Art Homer, Anna Monardo, and James Reed at Hot Shops Art Gallery, Omaha

- John Neihardt's Life and Work, John G. Neihardt State Historic Site
- The Letters of Henry James, Center for Henry James Studies
- Intellectual Freedom, AFCON
- High School and College Literary Magazines from across the State, David Martin

9:30-10:20 A.M. Presenters:

- How to Get Published, Nebraska Writers Guild
- Walking with Wright Morris, Lone Tree Literary Society
- A Gathering of Groups, Nebraska Book & Writing Groups

Readings: Kelly Madigan Erlandson, Elizabeth Dodd, Denise Brady

10:30-11:20 A.M. Presenters:

- The E-zine as Proving Ground for Writers
- Lewis & Clark's Omaha Journal, Mouth of the Platte Group
- A Gathering of Groups, Nebraska Book and Writing Groups

Readings: *Shadows* (staff of Creighton literary magazine), Mary Helen Stefaniak, Susan Aizenberg

11:30 A.M.-12:20 P.M. Presenters:

- How to Write and Publish Romance Fiction, Nebraska Romance Writers
- Storytelling, Nancy Duncan
- From Cover to Cover: All about Book Groups, Mel Krutz

Readings: *Road Trip*, reading by Marge Saiser, Shelly Clark, Bill Kloefkorn, Don Welch, Jonis Agee, Brent Spencer, J.V. Brummels, Ron Block, Charles Fort, Twyla Hansen, Hilda Raz, Eamonn Wall, Ted Kooser, Barbara Schmitz

12:30-2:00 P.M. Awards Luncheon

2:00-2:50 P.M. Presenters:

- The History of Book Groups in Nebraska
- Writing and Publishing Non-Fiction, Jim Fogarty

Readings: Jim Reese, Lisa Sandlin, Matt Mason
• Nebraska Book Award Winners

3:00-3:50 P.M. Presenters:

- Book Discussion, *Winter Roads, Summer Fields*: stories by Marjorie Dorner, Lauren Riedesel
- Hope, Frustration, and Exodus: Willa Cather's Great Plains, Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation/Willa Cather State Historic Site

Readings: • Romance Writers, Prairieland Romance Writers

- Mel Krutz, Lee Martin, Ted Kooser

4:30-6:45 P.M. Screening of *Stone Reader*, a film by Mark Moskowitz

7:00-9:00 P.M. Dinner and Discussion with Mark Moskowitz and a panel of Nebraska writers

9:00-12:00 P.M. Books Alive! Around Town: Invited Readers, Poetry Slam, and Open Mic at Hot Shops Art Gallery, Omaha

Saturday, October 25

9:00 a.m.-4:00 P.M.

Book Fair

Displays:

- Interactive Computer Kiosk on the Future of the Book
- Books That Humanize: Interactive DVD Computer Station on Creighton Authors
- Manuscripts of Novelist Ron Hansen, Reinert Library
- Bess Streeter Aldrich: A Video Scrapbook, Bess Streeter Aldrich Foundation

Mystery Convention Grows Each Year

by **Jennifer Kirchmann**,
Omaha Public
Library

The **4th Annual Mayhem in the Midlands Mystery Convention** took place this summer at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Omaha. The convention, a joint effort of the **Omaha Public Library** and **Lincoln City Libraries**, was initially funded by the Urban Library Council. Each year has seen an increase in the number of mystery readers and mystery authors who attend. This year was the best yet, with more than one hundred and fifty people attending (more than forty authors). People from every state in the U.S., except Hawaii and Alaska, have attended and authors have come from as far away as Canada and England.

We started Mayhem in the Midlands with a great idea for a local mystery convention, but very little idea of how to do it. I was able to convince Sally Fellows, long time library user and mystery convention aficionado, to help me with the convention. We found a hotel that would gamble on an unknown convention

and recruited friends and fellow mystery lovers to serve as the convention committee. The first convention was scheduled for May 2000, so we really started gearing up in September 1999. We developed a logo; ordered bags, t-shirts, and name tags; designed registration forms; set fees; distributed press releases; invited mystery booksellers; and set up a spreadsheet to track registrations. The list of things to do seemed endless. Fortunately, the Omaha Visitor's Bureau made nametags and helped with registration.

Although each year is as nerve-racking as the first, putting together Mayhem in the Midlands is one of the most rewarding experiences I've had in my professional library career. Besides achieving a heady feeling of accomplishment, I've had the chance to meet some wonderful mystery authors and readers, and to work with the most dedicated volunteers and friends. ▲

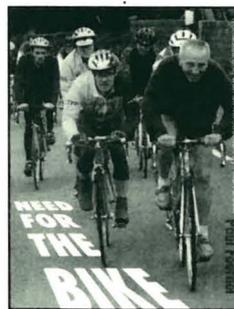
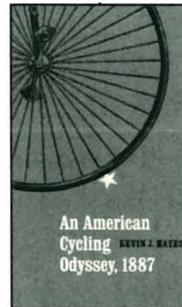
Reading About Riding

by **Oliver B. Pollak**, University
of Nebraska at
Omaha

I read long distance bicycling books any time of the year, but July is for **Le Tour de France**. The University of Nebraska Press, emphasizing sports history, has published two recent cycling books.

An American Cycling Odyssey, 1887 (2002) is Kevin J. Hayes' reconstruction of the 54-day, 3,369-mile ride made by 21-year-old George W. Nellis, Jr. from Herkimer, NY to San Francisco, CA. Nellis arrived in Omaha as the city was hosting a week of bicycle races. He financed his odyssey by sending reports of his trip to newspapers. The 1887 riding conditions of sidewalks, roads, and railroad beds are graphically described.

Paul Fournel has been riding for about half a century. His *Need for the Bike* (2003) provides a physiological and philosophical description of cycling. What do cyclists think about as their bodies are hunched over the handlebars, as their legs in piston motion consume the miles? They may ruminate; read their speed, heart rate, revolutions per minute, and cadence; and strategize to "attack" their fellow riders by picking up the pace. Fournel develops the intellectual side of the athlete's brain, their reason for doing what they are doing.



I watched much of this year's Tour de France. Possibly the world's most grueling competitive sport, it ranks in popularity with the Olympics and the World Soccer Cup. During the first half dozen stages I read *It's Not About the Bike, My Journey Back to Life* (2000), by Lance Armstrong with Sally

Jenkins. Armstrong describes his relationship with his supportive mother and her three husbands. Lance, the angry young man of cycling, became the consummate team leader by 2003. This change resulted from maturity and the impact of cancer on his body, mind, and relationships.

Armstrong survived a dire diagnosis of testicular cancer that metastasized to the lungs and brain. Lance Armstrong, outside of the book, is remarkable. The story of his extraordinary physiology and obsessive pursuit to win Le Tour de France five times is inspirational. A sport with challenge,

response, frustration, and human victory will continue to attract riders, writers, and readers.

Ed. Note: On July 27, 2003, Lance Armstrong won his fifth Tour de France. ▲



Review:

Fort Robinson and the American West, 1874-1899

by **Thomas R. Buecker**,

University of Oklahoma Press
Red River Books,
2003, ISBN: 0-8061-3534-4

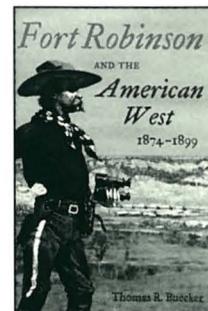
Review by James Potter, Nebraska State Historical Society

With the reissue of *Fort Robinson and the American West* as a University of Oklahoma Press paperback, both volumes of Thomas R. Buecker's history of Fort Robinson, NE are in print again. *Fort Robinson and the American Century, 1900-1948*, was published by the Nebraska State Historical Society in 2002 and is available in hardcover only. The Society published the hardcover edition of *Fort Robinson and the American West* in 1999.

In this first volume, Buecker surveys the history of Camp (later Fort) Robinson from its establishment in 1874 as guardian of the Red Cloud Indian Agency through the last years of the nineteenth century, when the fort was regimental headquarters for the buffalo soldiers of the Ninth U.S. Cavalry. In the interim Fort

Robinson was the site of significant events of the Great Sioux War, including the 1877 death of Crazy Horse, and was the scene of the tragic Cheyenne Outbreak in 1879. Buecker also covers the daily lives of the fort's soldiers and their interaction with the nearby community of Crawford. He explains why Fort Robinson became a survivor post of the Indian Wars, while many of its contemporaries were being closed. Appendixes list commanding officers and units that garrisoned the fort from 1874-99.

Ed. Note: Order from the Museum Store, Nebraska State Historical Society, 800-833-6747. ▲



Review:

Holding Up the Earth

by **Dianne E. Gray**, Houghton Mifflin Co., 2000
ISBN: 0618007032

Review by Evonne Edgington, Omaha Public Library

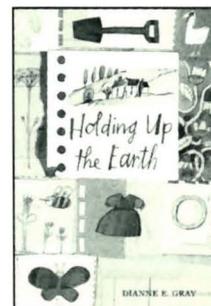
Hope is a fourteen-year-old girl in the foster care system. Her mother died when she was six. She carries around a box of memories of her mom. She is scared that if she becomes close to someone, she will forget her mom and be disloyal to her memory. She moves in with Sarah in Minneapolis and they travel to visit Sarah's mom on a Nebraska farm. Hope does not want to go and does not think there is anything to do when she gets there.

Hope explores the farm and finds links to the past. She finds diaries from girls who lived there before, including Abigail, a pioneer girl; Rebecca, a hired girl; Sarah's mother Anna, who lived during the

dust bowl of the 1930s; and Sarah's own diaries from the 1960s. These stories help her accept her new life and learn about keeping memories and loving people.

This heartwarming book about accepting loss and accepting new people uses stories of the past to help the story develop and to show how Hope grows. The diaries help combine current events with historical fiction.

Ed. Note: Publisher's Weekly suggests this book for ages 10-14. ▲



Review:

Road Trip: Conversations with Writers

by **Marjorie Saiser and Shelly Clark**, The Backwaters Press, 2003
ISBN: 0972618708

Review by Sharon Haystead-Cecere, Lee Booksellers, Lincoln

If you like to write or are just plain interested in the mind of a writer, this is the book for you. This book is simply what the title says, "Conversations with Writers." The editors invite us to take a road trip into the lives of some of the best poets of our time, as they share recollections of their childhood and the secret rituals they use when putting the pen to paper. The editors interviewed a number of Nebraska poets and fiction writers, asking the questions that other writers want to know, like "Why is

writing so important?" and "How do you know when a story is good?"

At the end of each chapter we are treated to selections of their wonderful writing. Authors like William Kloefkorn, Ted Kooser, Jonis Agee, and others talk about some of their fondest memories of growing up and what brought them to where they are today. They share with the reader their personal journeys into the life of writing. The book concludes with Ted Kooser, who wraps us up in a warm blanket and settles us in for the end of this trip with his warm hearted stories of his parents and his love for painting as well as his love for the simple life and the "pleasure of the process," as he describes writing.



First Writers' Conference Exceeds Expectations

by **Jonis Agee**,
University of
Nebraska—Lincoln

The first annual **Nebraska Summer Writers' Conference**, sponsored by The Creative Writing Program and English Department of The University of Nebraska—Lincoln was a great success! Writers from twenty-five states participated in weekend and week-long workshops on poetry, novel, short story, screen-writing, travel, and memoir writing. The Conference was so full, we actually had to sneak an extra person into several of the workshops. The local and regional response was wonderful also—with writers signing up for workshops, as well as audiences filling the rooms for panel discussions on publishing and for readings by the writing faculty.



Our teaching writers this year included Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Olen Butler, who launched the week-long workshops with a stunning reading sponsored by the **University of Nebraska Press** and

the **Friends of the UN—L Libraries**. Bob was so pleased by Lincoln and the conference that he asked to come back next year. Emmy and Peabody award winning screenwriter and filmmaker Jane Barnes gave a weekend class that was so successful, her students all want her back next year for a whole week. Rita Mae Brown, mystery writer, feminist, Emmy award winner, and wild horsewoman drove her truck and trailer in from Virginia to teach her fiction workshop and shop for horses and dogs. She's the master of two hunts back home. And she has agreed to come back next year also—she just loves Nebraska!

Best-selling local author Mary Pipher's workshop changed lives, according to her participants. National Book Critics Circle Award winner Mark Doty gave a fine poetry reading and was one of the reasons people from around the country were so eager to sign up for the conference. One of the best surprises

was the wonderful work his partner Paul Lisicky read and Paul's students felt lucky to be in his novel workshop. Jesse Lee Kercheval, a writer who works in poetry, memoir, and fiction, taught a short story class that gave many students a long needed boost in understanding structure. Our own Ted Kooser taught two non-fiction workshops and, as always, was a delight to his students who came from far and wide because of his poetry and the best-selling *Local Wonders* book. When Debra Magpie Earling read from her new novel, there were tears running down the faces of many in the audience. A Native American writer who works from the University of Montana, Debra's novel, *Perma Red*, is a beautiful and unforgettable tale. Hilda Raz, editor of *Prairie Schooner*, not only gave two smashing workshops with writers wanting to come back for more, but also gave an excellent reading. Mystery writer Marcos Villatoro's novel workshop was a big hit, and now you can hear him as a weekly commentator on National Public Radio.

Emma Sweeney, a New York literary agent who taught a weekend workshop and did manuscript consulting during the week, summed up the experience best when she said that she wanted to come back every year. She found so many talented writers that she thinks that we are the new Iowa City (home of the famous Iowa Writers Workshop). While she was here, she called her best friend, the hottest literary agent in New York, and got her to agree to come next year. Then she returned home and convinced the publisher of Penguin books to come to the conference next year also. It may well be that we are the last good place—and the word is getting out.

We especially want to thank **The Center for Great Plains Studies** for loaning us their beautiful gallery space for the evening events. It was the perfect setting to introduce folks to everything good we have to offer here. Look on our Web site for news of next year's conference, <www.nswc.org>. ▲

National Book Festival Set for October 4

The **2003 National Book Festival**, sponsored by the **Library of Congress** and hosted by **Laura Bush**, will be held on October 4, on the National Mall in Washington DC to celebrate books and the joy of reading. The 2003 National Book Festival will feature more than eighty award-winning and nationally known authors, illustrators, poets, and storytellers. If

you can't attend the festival, booklovers across Nebraska are invited to attend (in spirit) by visiting your local library and by accessing the more than eight million items from the Library of Congress's unsurpassed American history collections at <www.loc.gov>. For more information about the Festival see <www.loc.gov/bookfest>. ▲

The NCB News



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
34-00-00

NONPROFIT
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 988
Lincoln, NE

Nebraska Book Festival Set for October 24-25



Calendar of Events:

Library Card Sign-Up Month	September	Nationwide
Neihardt State Historic Site: Nebraska's Dynamic Landscape , Dr. James Stubbendieck, UN-L professor of Grassland Ecology, Contact: 888-777-4667, <neihardt@gpcom.net>, <www.neihardt.com/center/index.html>	Sept. 14	Bancroft
Paul A. Olson Seminar: Out-migration on the Northern Great Plains: "The Case for the New Homestead Act," Contact: Great Plains Studies, 402-472-3082, <cgps@unl.edu>, <www.unl.edu/plains/events/olson/seminars.html>	Sept. 17	Lincoln
John H. Ames Reading Series: Poet Marge Saiser , Jane Pope Geske Nebraska Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors Contact: 402-441-8516, <heritage@mail.lcl.lib.ne.us>, <www.lcl.lib.ne.us/depts/hr/front.htm>	Sept. 18	Lincoln
8th Annual Governor's Lecture: William Safire , Nebraska Humanities Council Contact: Cynthia Epp, 402-474-2131, Ext. 102, e-mail: <cynthia@nebraskahumanities.org> <www.lincolne.com/nonprofit/nhc/lecture.html>,	Sept. 18	Omaha
Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival Contact: Janell Uffelman, 402-643-7318, <plumcreek@cune.edu>	Sept. 18-20	Seward
Nebraska Writers Live @ your library™ : Omaha Public Library, Novelist Brenda Hall (K.C. Greenleaf) Contact: 402-444-4800, <www.omaha.lib.ne.us/events/programs/writers.htm#hall>	Sept. 20	Omaha
Banned Books Week: Open Books for Open Minds	Sept. 20-27	Nationwide
National Arts and Humanities Month	October	Nationwide
Lincoln City Libraries Book Sale , State Fair Park Contact: Barbara Hansen, 402-441-8512, <b.hansen@mail.lcl.lib.ne.us>, <www.lcl.lib.ne.us>	Oct. 2-5	Lincoln
National Book Festival , The Library of Congress Contact: <bookfest@loc.gov>, <www.loc.gov/book.fest>	Oct. 4	Washington, D.C.
Bess Streeter Aldrich Weekend , Aldrich Remembrance Day: Rim of the Prairie Day festival Contact: 402-994-3855, <bsafmus@yahoo.com>, <www.lincolne.com/nonprofit/bsaf>	Oct. 4-5	Elmwood
NELAC Annual Conference , Nebraska English Language Arts Council, Contact: Traci Wernsman, 402-557-2437, <teresa.wernsman@ops.org>	Oct. 6	Omaha
"Old West Days," Nebraska Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Contact: Mary Mulligan, 402-376-3834, 800-658-4024, <www.nebraskacowboypetrygathering.com>	Oct. 9-12	Valentine
Nebraska Writers Live @ your library™ : Omaha Public Library, Author Pam Crooks Contact: 402-444-4800, <www.omaha.lib.ne.us/events/programs/writers.htm#hall>	Oct. 12	Omaha
Neihardt State Historic Site: Servant Leadership , Michael Nolan, Serving with a Purpose: Black Elk—one of many models. Contact: 888-777-4667, <neihardt@gpcom.net>	Oct. 12	Bancroft
Paul A. Olson Seminar: The Amish and Their Quilts , Sara Miller, Kalona IA Contact: Great Plains Studies, 402-472-3082, <cgps@unl.edu>, <www.unl.edu/plains/events/olson/seminars.html>	Oct. 15	Lincoln
John H. Ames Reading Series: Poet Marilyn Dorf , Jane Pope Geske Nebraska Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors, Contact: 402-441-8516, <heritage@mail.lcl.lib.ne.us>, <www.lcl.lib.ne.us/depts/hr/front.htm>	Oct. 16	Lincoln
Nebraska Writers Guild Fall Conference , Contact: Hugh Reilly, 402-498-1994, or Jean Lukesh, <Skidi@aol.com>	Oct. 19	Grand Island
Willia Cather Pioneer Memorial & Educational Foundation , Gregg Howard, "Cherokee Storytelling" Contact: Betty Kort, 402-746-2653, <bkort@gpcom.net>, <www.willacather.org>	Oct. 19	Red Cloud
Nebraska Book Festival , Creighton University, Contact: Brent Spencer, <spencr@creighton.edu>, <mockingbird.creighton.edu/ncw/nbf.htm>	Oct. 24-25	Omaha
NLA/NEMA Conference , Nebraska Library Association/ Nebraska Educational Media Association: Many Faces, One Voice Enriching Our Profession. Contact: Sarah Watson, <sarahw@omaha.lib.ne.us>, <www.papillion.ne.us/~NLA2003>	Oct. 29-31	Omaha