

"Building a Community of Readers" attracts thousands

Congratulations!

Roy Kenagy, Information Services Manager, State Library, will be published by the American Library Association. The book, "Creating Library Collections with Bookstore Appeal," will discuss collection development in all types of libraries.

The substance of the book is a system of models, procedures, and worksheets aimed at helping librarians attend to what really happens when people encounter a library collection.

"But the underlying message is more fundamental," said Kenagy. "Libraries are primarily about readers creating their own reality, not about searchers panning for nuggets of other people's reality."

The book is due out in 2004.

Sharron McElmeel dreams of building a nation of readers – one family at a time. Today, that dream lives in an initiative she developed called "Building a Community of Readers," a month-long program being held this month for people of all ages who live in the Grant Wood Area Education Agency (GWAEA) region of eastern Iowa.

Participants include area libraries, schools, museums, and other institutions who collaborate and plan events that highlight the joy of reading. For example, the Cedar Rapids Public Library, in conjunction with their participation in First Lady Christie Vilsack's "Iowa Stories 2000" and "Building a Community of Readers" organized a month-long program that pairs individuals or groups of adult readers with middle school readers, each reading the same novel. The paired readers or reader groups talk about the book and participate in e-mail activities with one another.

"Most people view reading as a children's activity. We hope to help people understand that it's a lifelong activity," said McElmeel, program director.

The initiative's goals are to:

- Focus the community on the importance of reading.
- Promote community, school, family partnerships to improve educational (specifically



One of many activities held at the Iowa City Public Library in March included a mask-making class.

reading) opportunities for an intergenerational group of learners.

- Provide renewable opportunities for adults to create a positive and literate atmosphere for reading and learning.



- Strengthen intergenerational links to support reading and educational activities in the community.

A former educator in the Cedar Rapids district, McElmeel is a full-time writer and editor who has a passion for seeing that children and adults read. "Building a Community of Readers" debuted last year. As McElmeel began to contact local organizations about sponsoring events, she realized her zeal alone was not enough. "I needed some grant money, someone to sponsor the initiative, so I contacted GWAEA. They graciously stepped up to the plate and said they would give it a try," said McElmeel.

McElmeel helps schools and libraries coordinate programs, is the catalyst for getting organizations to collaborate on projects, and promotes the programs locally. Over 75 special events programs are being held this month in the GWAEA service area, and planners hope to involve over 10,000 people.

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FOOTNOTES

Iowa Center for the Book approved

The Library of Congress has approved the establishment of an Iowa Center for the Book that will be affiliated with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. The home of the Iowa center will be the State Library of Iowa in Des Moines.

"Iowa has been a haven for libraries and literacy since its early history," said Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole. "The new Center for the Book will take advantage of this rich heritage of books and reading and a wonderful spirit of cooperation among organizations across the state. Drawing on projects already underway, the State Library is building a strong partnership base for the new Center; we're eager to move ahead."

"Our mission is to promote a love of literature and literacy in every corner of the state," said Roy Kenagy, Information Services Manager at the State Library, who will serve as the new center's coordinator. "We will enlist many different people and groups, but are especially pleased by the early commitment to our endeavor by the University of Iowa Center for the Book and our state humanities council, Humanities Iowa."

An advisory panel of 15-20 people will oversee the Iowa Center for the Book. It will include Iowa's First Lady Christie Vilsack; State Librarian Mary Wegner; Chris Rossi, Executive Director, Humanities Iowa; and Timothy Barrett, Director, University of Iowa Center for the Book. Additional members will represent all geographic areas of the state and a cross-section of Iowa's "community of the book," from author to reader, and include writers, publishers, book designers and printer, historians, educators, librarians, booksellers, reading

specialists, and performing artists.

Initially the Iowa Center for the Book will focus on coordinating and expanding existing book and reading programs. It will assume coordination of Stories 2000, a multi-faceted literacy program established by Christie Vilsack, Iowa's First Lady. In partnership with Humanities Iowa, it will develop a web-based events calendar, map, and directory of statewide book, reading, and cultural events and institutions. It will work with the University of Iowa Center for the Book, which has a special strength in the book arts, to reach out to Iowa communities with presentations by book specialists in schools, colleges, public libraries, and adult education venues.

Finally, it will initiate "All Iowa Reads," a statewide promotion effort that will highlight the state's 543 public libraries as centers for reading in their communities.

Certification Update

Congratulations to the following public library staff certified for the first time through the State Library's Iowa Certification Program for Public Librarians.

Everett, Janet - Winfield
Frerichs, Jeannie, Akron
Koehn, Mari Ellen - Farmersburg
Proehl, Jean - Sanborn
Reida, Linda - Carroll

A Reminder

A list of libraries that loan audio tapes is located on the State Library's web page: www.silo.lib.ia.us/silo/audios.htm.

SILO ILL Milestone!

According to Liz Forney, SILO Systems Support Specialist, March 12 marked a SILO Interlibrary loan milestone. The Guttenburg Public Library logged into the millionth session since the system came online in January 20, 1997.

"Guttenburg was one of my libraries that did not have an internet connection early on," said Forney. "All of their requests were initially handled through our Fax/VRS system, where they were sent a fax and had to call our 800-number to respond to lends. All of their borrowing requests were handled as proxies by the Northeast Iowa Library Service Area. When they got their internet connection, they obtained full borrowing/lending capabilities." The Fax/VRS system was phased out by the year 2000.

Important Dates

APRIL 2002

Registration for Summer Public Library Management 1 (deadline May 6)
April 14-20 - National Library Week
April 18 - Westgate Lecture,
The Ramada Inn, Johnston
April 19 - ILA/ACRL Spring Meeting,
Newton
April 23 - Iowa Commission of Libraries
Meeting, Des Moines

MAY 2002

May 6-7 - American Library
Association Legislative Day -
Washington, DC
May 27 - Memorial Day - State Library
closed

FOOTNOTES

Iowa youngsters vote for "Ghost of Fossil Glen"

Over 22,000 Iowa youth from 256 schools voted in this year's Iowa Children's Choice Awards, with top honors going to "The Ghost of Fossil Glen" by Cynthia DeFelice (2,645 votes).

Others top vote getters included "The Volcano" (1,616), "Ramona's World" (1,510), "Flying Solo" (1,353), "The Landry News" (1,342), "I, Amber Brown" (1,202), "Poppy and Rye" (1,133), "When the Soldiers Were Gone" (1,081), "Marvin Redpost: Class President" (1,025), and "Eye of the Great Bear" (986).

The purposes of the Iowa Children's Choice Award are:

- to encourage children to read more and better books;
- to discriminate in choosing worthwhile books;
- to provide an avenue for positive dialogue between teacher, parent, and children about books and authors;
- to give recognition to those who write books for children.

The award is unique in that it gives children an opportunity to choose the book to receive the award and to suggest books for the yearly reading list.

Books chosen for the master list are those written by American authors within the last five years. Titles are fiction or nonfiction, with a wide range of interests and reading levels appropriate for children in grades three through six. The Iowa Children's Choice Award is a project of the Iowa Educational Media Association.

Humanities Iowa Offers \$5000 in Library Reading Series Development Grants

Humanities Iowa, the statewide affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, announces the availability of two new grants of \$5,000 each specifically reserved for the creation of Library Reading and Discussion Series relating to cultural diversity, local interest topics and the resolution of social conflict in Iowa.

Librarians, scholars, nonprofit organizations and other interested parties are encouraged to apply. Proposals with a local focus, or connected to a particular community concern with strong community support are especially welcome.

"Our Board wants to encourage book reading, and has taken a particular interest in how the humanities can open up discussions on topics of real social significance to Iowans," said Humanities Iowa Director Christopher Rossi. "People have a lot on their minds about the changing face of Iowa, from English-only legislation to immigration to discussions about Iowa's sense of place and future.

"Consequently," said Rossi, "we've earmarked funds to spur locally-driven initiatives that can benefit big and small communities and their public institutions that promote reading on issues relating to ethnicity, identity and multiculturalism. We don't want to tell people what to read, we want them to tell us what they want to read, and we can provide some help."

The Humanities Iowa Library Reading and Discussion Series brings people of all ages and backgrounds together with a humanities scholar in public libraries across the state to discuss books on topics of their common interest. Currently available series include: "The Vital Community: Visions Across Time," "Iowa Time Slices," "American Voices, World Views," "Choices for the 21st Century," "The Spirit of Place: Contemporary Regional Fiction by Women," "Sacred and Secular: The Human Search for Meaning," "Trails: Toward a New Western History," "The Restless Spirit," "The Search for Identity in Chamber Music and Literature," and "In the Middle of the Nation: Reading and Discussing Midwestern Literature."

Grant application materials may be obtained by visiting the Humanities Iowa website at www.humanitiesiowa.org, or by calling Humanities Iowa at (319) 335-4153 or e-mailing info@humanitiesiowa.org or writing to 100 Oakdale Campus Northlawn, Iowa City IA 52242-5000. Deadline for application is May 1, 2002.

Humanities Iowa is a private, nonprofit state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, whose mission is to enhance the civic life, culture, and identity of Iowans. Drawing on history, literature, philosophy, law, and other humanities fields, it fosters life-long learning, critical thinking, and community connections.

FOOTNOTES

Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes

February 26, 2002 - State Library

(These minutes are considered draft until approved by the Iowa Commission of Libraries)

Present: Monica Gohlinghorst, Dale Ross, Dwight Carlson, John Bennett, and Berta Van Ekeren

Staff: Mary Wegner, Annette Wetteland, Steve Cox, Sandy Dixon, Judy Jones, Gerry Rowland, Carol Simmons

Guest: Katherine Von Wald, Central Iowa Library Service Area

Meeting was called to order by Ross at 10:00 a.m.

1.0 Set Agenda

Uniform Data Advisory Committee report (4.0 Communications, A. Special Reports, 1) was moved before the Financial Report.

2.0 Approve Minutes

Van Ekeren moved to accept the minutes; Carlson seconded. Motion carried.

3.0 Communications

A. Special Reports

Rowland explained that Nancy McIntire, AEA 9, and he devised the Uniform Data Advisory Committee power point program that he presented to the group. Rowland reported that the Code of Iowa requires the State Library to "obtain from libraries reports showing the condition, growth, and development of services provided and disseminate this information in a timely manner to the citizens of Iowa." The Uniform Data Advisory Committee was established by the Commission of Libraries to develop a uniform electronic data collection system for all types of libraries so outcome-based information can be compared locally, statewide and nationally. Rowland reported that the Committee has met three times. A survey, based on last year's AEA Media Director's survey, has been developed by the Uniform Data Advisory Committee to collect information about the school library / media center from each Iowa school building. A letter will be sent to Iowa school principals and school library / media center personnel requesting their cooperation in providing this information. The Commission directed Wegner to discuss the letter with Ted Stilwill and request his co-signature on the letter. Rowland reported that school librarians are excited about the project. Rowland and Nancy McIntire will make a presentation about this data collection project at the upcoming Iowa Educational Media Association conference.

4.0 Financial Report

Cox reported that we have a 9 to 10 month reserve of federal funds. Federal funding levels are consistent with past years. Ross reported on possible changes in the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) re-authorization which could help Iowa's future federal funding. Wegner reported that the State Library needs to purchase new servers to support SILO and other state library initiatives. The current SILO database server is seven years old. The Commission approved expenditure of federal funds to make these purchases. Discussion of the partnership with ISU and the State Library ensued. Cox reported the State Library is on target for state funding. A spending and hiring freeze is in place. Cox reported that if 2002 allocations remain unspent, there will be a 20% return to the general fund. Cox distributed a graph of state funding/appropriations and explained the impact of the governor's proposed budget for FY03. Currently, the State Library is using open positions to meet budget reductions. Wegner noted that budget concerns will be clearer by the April Commission meeting. Ross said that the State Library has received a communication from the Institute of Museum and Library Services expressing concern about the amount claimed for indirect cost on the library's LSTA Annual Report for FY2001. The indirect cost rate assessed by the Department of Education (DE) is 21.2%, but IMLS allows 4% for administrative, or indirect, costs. Ross asked Wegner to conduct an inquiry into the amount charged by DE before the next commission meeting.

5.0 Communications Continued

A. Special Reports

Kenagy reported that the State Library has submitted an application to the Library of Congress to be approved as the Iowa Center for the Book. Partners in the Center include the University of Iowa Center for Book, which focuses on book arts and the physical book, and Humanities Iowa. Initially the Center will focus on coordinating and expanding existing book and reading programs. It will assume coordination of Iowa Stories 2000 and will work with the UI Center for the Book on outreach to communities with presentations by book specialists. The Center will also, in partnership with

Humanities Iowa, develop a web-based events calendar, map and directory of statewide book, reading and cultural events. A fourth project for the Center will be an "All Iowa Reads" project, in which Iowans are encouraged to read and discuss the same book. Kenagy will serve as coordinator of the Center. Ross asked about funding and Wegner replied that staff time is the primary cost involved.

B. Commission Reports

Ross reported that the Library Service Area (LSA) Executive Council met last week with trustees from six of the seven LSAs attending. They discussed the role of the Council and elected temporary officers and bylaws. Their next meeting will be May 14. Ross expects this to be a very active, involved group. Ross attended the Midwinter conference and reported on two ALA concerns: 1) LSTA re-authorization and 2) the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). ALA has filed suit and is asking for donations to fight the latter in court.

C. State Librarian's Report

Wegner reported that appropriation hearings will likely be held in March. North Central Library Service Area has a new administrator, Barbara Shultz. Shultz was the director of the Eagle Grove Public Library and currently is a librarian in Minnesota. Katherine Von Wald, administrator, Central Iowa Library Service Area, and Wegner were consultants to North Central in their search for the new administrator. Wegner reported that Von Wald will be retiring in March and that she will be greatly missed. Central is taking applications for a new administrator.

The entire staff of Public Library of Des Moines visited the State Library on February 18, as part of their staff in-service education day. They divided into groups for tours of the building and for informal quiz sessions which helped them learn more about the State Library and its services. Wegner received positive feedback about the program and hopes to continue a staff exchange of some kind between the State Library and the Public Library of Des Moines.

Due to state budget cuts, the library at the Department of Human Services was

FOOTNOTES

IPTV's award-winning CD-ROM on the Mississippi River available free

"Travel the mighty Mississippi and report back:" that is the mission for students across Iowa who embark upon *Earth Trails: Mississippi River*. This multimedia CD-ROM, produced by Iowa Public Television, is now available at no cost to all Iowa schools and public libraries.

"We created *Earth Trails: Mississippi River* to fit the diverse needs teachers have, but also to be a fun, self-directed exploration for students," said IPTV Project Manager Bryan Bauer. "Students travel to exciting locations they might not otherwise be able to visit. They explore the regional differences—how the river in Iowa differs from the river that passes through Louisiana, for example—or they delve into past and present commercial industries, cultural artifacts, and geological and biological characteristics that make the Mississippi River important. The CD-ROM is an innovative way to discover one of our national treasures."

Through the *Earth Trails: Mississippi River* kit, students take on the role of a producer tackling river-related assignments. Each assignment requires travel—anywhere from the headwaters in Lake Itasca, Minnesota, down to the Gulf of Mexico can be visited to complete a story. Students can choose to investigate Mark Twain cave, jam with a New Orleans jazz band, lock a boat through Lock and Dam 15, or explore a number of other places. To document their findings, students take notes, shoot photographs and video, and record sounds. Students then compose the collected media into their own multimedia presentations that can be shown in class.

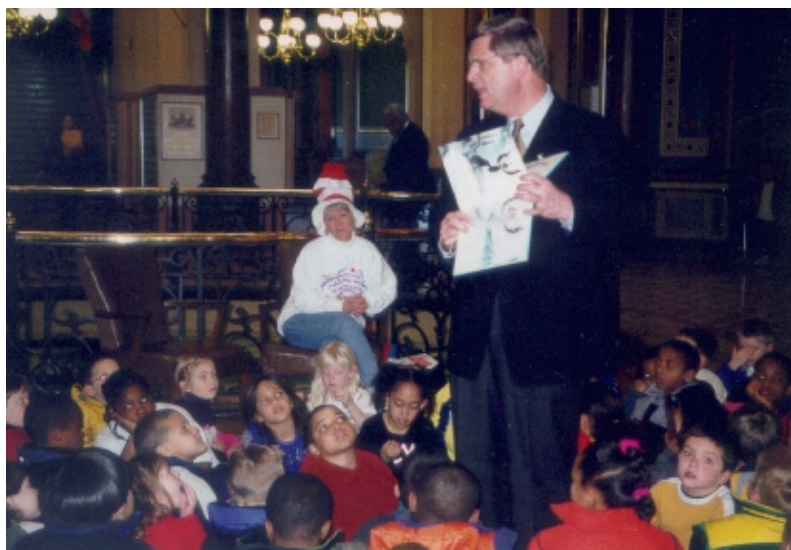
The program recently was awarded First Place in the Interactive category at the Iowa Motion Picture Association's 2001 Showcase Iowa event. The program was also recognized by the Macromedia eLearning Innovation Award program for its creative use of multimedia technology. Log on to www.iptv.org/mississippi for a virtual tour of the *Earth Trails: Mississippi River* CD-ROM.

Funded by a U.S. Department of Education Star Schools grant and the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust, the CD-ROM package is being made available at no charge to all Iowa public libraries. Each library requesting a copy will receive two CD-ROM kits and a full-size poster. To request this resource for your library, contact Vickie Steen by email at vickie@iptv.org.

Discounts offered

SIRS Publishing, Inc. and Newsbank are offering special pricing for Iowa libraries.

E-mail messages were sent to academic and public libraries the week of March 11. Additional information is available by calling Judy Jones, State Library, 1-800-248-4483; or e-mailing judy.jones@lib.state.ia.us. Information is also available on the State Library webpage at www.silo.lib.state.ia.us/contracts.htm.



Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack read to students from Moulton (Des Moines) and Westridge (West Des Moines) schools in late February at a "Read Across America" event in the Capital. Seated in the background is First Lady Christie Vilsack, dressed as the famous Cat in the Hat.

FOOTNOTES

"Building Community of Readers"

(Cont. from Pg. 1)

"Even though we are focusing on March, it doesn't start and stop then," said McElmeel. "We hope people will continue to emphasize how important reading is throughout the year."

McElmeel said she would be happy to discuss the project with libraries or other organizations across the state who are interested in developing similar programs. She can be reached at 3000 N. Center Point Rd., Cedar Rapids, IA 52411-9548; (319) 393-2562; e-mail mcelmeel@mcelmeel.com.

In addition to the numerous

schools, art centers, and historical museums, public libraries planned special events in their communities.

The following is a list of participating libraries and examples of some of the events they hosted: Belle Plaine (Literacy Activities for First Graders), Cedar Rapids ("Bee a Curious Reader" - a seven-week long reading program), Coggon ("Why I Love My Library Essay Contest"), Coralville (Chinese Stories and Activities with Peter Chen), Fairfax ("Crafts for Tweens"), Hiawatha ("Storytelling in the Library"), Iowa City ("Quack Alert: Internet Health Literacy

for Teens"), Central City (Storytelling and Author Reception), and Mt. Vernon (Jorge Espinosa - Cuban poet and playwright).



Iowa City mask-making class

Ola Babcock Miller Building dedicated



State Librarian Mary Wegner and Secretary of State Chet Culver



Presentation of Colors - Iowa State Patrol Honor Guard

The Ola Babcock Miller Building, home of the State Library of Iowa, was dedicated January 31, 2002. Guest speakers were Lisa Green, Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, Lt. Governor Sally Pederson and Senator Gene Maddox. Others in attendance were Senator Maggie Tinsman, Secretary of State Chet Culver, and local historian George Mills. Ola Babcock Miller was the first female Secretary of State. Initially elected in 1932, she was reelected twice. Miller was also the founder of the Iowa State Patrol, which was created in 1935. In 1975, Miller was one of the first four inductees into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame, which was established by the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women.



Lt. Governor Sally Pederson



From left, State Librarian Mary Wegner, George Mills and Lt. Governor Sally Pederson



FOOTNOTES

Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes (Cont.)

closed. Kay Elliott, DHS librarian, retired. Her assistant found a new job in the private sector. Approximately twenty percent of the DHS library collection was moved to the State Library; and DHS staff were informed of the State Library's desire to continue to provide services to them.

Willard Boyd, Professor of Law and President Emeritus of the University of Iowa, met with Wegner to discuss the Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center. The Center is a University of Iowa interdisciplinary collaboration focused on strengthening the operational capacity of Iowa nonprofit organizations. Boyd and Wegner discussed ways in which libraries can work with the Center to make resources available.

ALA Legislative Day will be in May in Washington, DC. Wegner and Ross plan to attend and to meet with members of Iowa's Congressional delegation. Ross will attend the Public Library Association Conference. Wegner will not attend since budget appropriation hearings may be held at that time.

D. Library Service Area Report

Von Wald said that the first meeting of the Central Iowa Library Alliance, made up of librarians from all types of libraries within the Central Iowa LSA, has been organized. 74 people have registered. The group will discuss increased cooperation and collaboration among different types of libraries, and outline next steps.

Von Wald gave an overview of her LSA budget. Her board has asked her to draft a budget prior to retirement. She reported that use of both interlibrary loan back-up and reference back-up has dropped in the Central LSA. Many libraries use SILO and the internet for these functions. She reported that LSAs are doing more training on internet use and that librarians are then able to answer many reference questions themselves. If funding is dropped, how will these services be accomplished? Von Wald recommended that the library community discuss where funds will go when funding comes back, so that

priorities are identified and funded. Von Wald reported that Beth Marie Quanbeck, will be acting administrator at Central until her vacancy is filled. Ross expressed his thanks to Von Wald and told her she will be missed.

6.0 Public Comment

None

7.0 Action Items

A. Bylaws review committee

Ross asked Van Ekeren and Bennett to serve on the bylaws subcommittee; both accepted and will report back to the Commission in April.

B. Appointment to Southwest LSA Board

Guy Brace, a trustee of the Corning Public Library, was suggested for appointment to the Board of Trustees of the Southwest Iowa Library Service Area. Bennett moved to appoint Mr. Brace to the Board, Gohlinghorst seconded. Motion Carried.

C. Certification of selection of AEA representative to Northeast LSA Board

Rhonda Sheeley, Media/Technology Coordinator of Keystone AEA 1, was selected by the AEA media divisions in the Northeast Iowa LSA for membership on the LSA Board. Beverly Trost, the previous AEA representative on the LSA board, has retired. Carlson moved to certify Sheeley's selection; Van Ekeren seconded. Motion carried.

8.0 Discussion Items

A. Commission Priorities

Wegner reported on each item, noting the status of each priority and commenting on how the budget has an impact on the library community's ability to achieve some of the priorities.

B. Plan of Service preview

Wegner distributed a draft of the Plan of Service for FY03 drafted by LSA and State Library staff. Wegner said the Plan has reasonable targets and goals. A discussion of the goals and priorities of the State Library and LSAs considering budget constraints followed. The need to set priorities for services in light of budget realities was highlighted, as well as the continuing need to plan for the future when economic times will be improved. Carlson reported that it will

take five to seven years for state agencies' and LSA's budgets/programs to get back to where they were in 2001. He said that some state agencies were asking that bills be drafted removing agency mandates from the Code, because funding levels did not allow the mandates to be accomplished.

C. Evaluation of LSTA 5-year Plan

Wegner reported that the LSTA 5-year Plan evaluation is due in April; the new 5-year plan is due in July 2002. Judy Jones shared a handout of the draft evaluation. Wegner said that it is important that the new LSTA plan be in alignment with the Commission priorities and the service priorities outlined in the Plan of Service. A draft will be available for discussion at the April meeting.

Ross reminded the Commission of Katherine Von Wald's retirement party, Sunday, March 24, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Altoona Public Library.

9.0 Adjournment

Bennett moved to adjourn the meeting, Gohlinghorst seconded. Motion carried. Adjournment was at 1:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 23, 2002