

Northern Lights Library Network Newsletter

May 2003



Snapshot Survey

Help us get the picture!

NLLN would like to get a quick picture of how you view/use our services and programs at this point in time. It will be an informal snapshot that will help us evaluate and plan for the coming year.

Here's how you can help:

- Take a moment to fill out the survey — either the one enclosed or our online version at: <http://nlln.org>.
- Submit the form electronically or return it by mail or fax by May 30. (In other words, do it now!)
- Call if you have any questions: 1-800-450-1032
- You can do this anonymously or, you can give us a name and email address. If you would like a response from us, be sure to add this information.
- Who should fill it out? Everyone. If you are reading this we invite you to complete the survey. Tell colleagues and friends. We are looking to scan a wide horizon!

We will use this information in planning services for 2004. We will also use it as we begin preparing for a new strategic planning process.

Thank you for your help!

Northern Lights Library Network

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Ruth Solie, Director

Debra Keena,
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People and Places:

- Pat Max, current director of the Livingston Lord Library at Minnesota State University, Moorhead, will be leaving his position this summer to return to Vermont. We're sorry to see him go, but send our best wishes!
- Congratulations to the Fosston Community Library and Arts Association which just opened its new addition/renovated Library. This branch of the Lake Agassiz Regional Library was a recipient of an MLA Certificate of Merit from the Minnesota Library Association last fall. The community of Fosston can be very proud of this beautiful and lively Center of activity.
- Plan to attend the MEMO Leadership Conference, Wednesday through Friday, July 16-18, 2003. Register now for this exciting professional development opportunity! In addition to helping plan the MEMO goals for the 2003-04 school year, you will be able to attend Dr. Gary Hartzell's day-long workshop *Building Your Personal Influence*, July 17th. More information available at: <http://www.isd77.k12.mn.us/memo/SLR03.htm>
- Watch for the gala opening of the newly expanded Pelican Rapids Public Library at 7 PM on June 17. The Pelican Rapids Public Library: A Multicultural Learning Center was the 2002 recipient of the Barbara Kingsolver Award. Congratulations to Pelican Rapids!
- Plan to attend the 15th Annual Minnesota Book Awards at 7:00 PM on Friday, May 16, at the Fitzgerald Theater in St Paul. Free! For more information visit www.minnesotahumanities.org. This is one of the literary highlights of the year in Minnesota.
- Submit your nominations for the Minnesota Library Association awards. Certificates of Merit as well as two categories of Distinguished Achievement Awards will be given at the Fall conference in Rochester, September 24-26. More information available at www.mnlibraryassociation.org
- Watch the Breckenridge Junior Friends of the Library! This dynamic group of kids has been helping out in the Breckenridge Public Library, a branch of Lake Agassiz Regional Library, for 10 years! With a current membership of 46, they're ready for summer and a terrific summer program. To learn more about this organization and how it works, contact Breckenridge Librarian, Nancy Tobias at tobiasn@larl.org.
- The 2003 Minnesota Legislative session will end at some point. And, keeping that in mind, the MLA/MEMO Legislative Forum will be held at St John's University, June 5-6, to prepare for the next session! Come help shape the platform for the bonding session in 2004. For more information, contact mnlibraryassociation.org.
- Go Viking Library System! — In mid-May the Viking Library System anticipates being up and running on the new Dynix *Horizon* software. Best wishes for a successful migration! Users will undoubtedly enjoy exploring and using the new system.



NLLN Supports MINITEX/ netLibrary eBook Collection II

At its April meeting, the Northern Lights Library Network Governing Board approved making a donation of \$1,750.00 to the new Shared eBook Collection II.

In keeping with its mission to encourage collection development and resource sharing, the Governing Board voted to make an outright contribution to this collection. Doing this will increase the materials available to all NLLN member library users (and to all Minnesotans).

MINITEX, in partnership with netLibrary, has invited Minnesota libraries to join in developing a second shared e-book collection that will build upon the success of the first MINITEX eBook collection.

The goal of MINITEX Shared eBook Collection II is to acquire a dynamic collection of 800-1,200 or more titles, depending on member participation. Subscribing libraries will be able to offer access directly through their catalogs, while non-subscribers will have access to both the e-book collection I & II through MnLINK.org.

It is not too late for libraries to join this project. An informational MINITEX Webinar is available at: <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/ebook/netlib/collections.asp>. At the same site is information about fees, access, and enrollment forms. Subscriptions can be made until June 12, and payment can be adjusted to meet your requirements concerning the fiscal year.

Whether or not your library subscribes, I recommend viewing the archived Webinar and exploring the MINITEX e-book website. E-books are an exciting resource.

~ ~ Ruth



NLLN SCHOLARSHIPS

The first year of NLLN Continuing Education Scholarships has been a big success. Twelve scholarships were awarded in 2002-03, for a wide variety of CE opportunities.

Beginning July 1, a new round of scholarships will be available and applications may be submitted immediately thereafter.

For guidelines and application, please go to: <http://nlln.org/scholarship.pdf>

CALENDAR

- May 8-9 16th Annual Minnesota - South Dakota Government Publications Information Forum, St Cloud State University, <http://govpubs.lib.umn.edu/forum/forum2003.html>
 - May 12 Mn Assoc of Law Libraries Workshop: Legal Research @ your library. NWTC, Wadena, MN. Online registration at: <http://www.mallworkshop.org/>
 - May 12-13 National Library Legislative Day, Washington, DC (www.ala.org/org/legislateday.html)
 - May 16 Minnesota Book Award Celebrations. Fitzgerald Theater, St Paul. <http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Book/awards.htm>
 - June 5-6 MLA/MEMO Legislative Forum, St John's University, Collegeville <http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/Legislative/Forum/Forum.htm>
 - June 10-11 1st Annual Symposium on Small Towns, University of MN-Morris. <http://www.mrs.umn.edu/services/cst/>
 - June 16-17 24th Annual Children's Literature Workshop, Holiday Inn, St Cloud. <http://lrts.stcloudstate.edu/cim/clw>
 - June 17 Pelican Rapids Public Library Dedication
 - June 21 NLLN Governing Board, Location TBA, Detroit Lakes <http://nlln.org>
 - June 19-25 ALA National Conference, Toronto, ON <http://www.ala.org/>
 - July 16-18 MEMO Leadership Conference, Minnesota Humanities Commission, St Paul <http://www.isd77.k12.mn.us/memo/SLR03.htm>
 - July 24 Library Day at the Twins, <http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org>
 - Aug 1 Deadline to submit Minnesota Library Association Foundation Enhancement grant applications. <http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/Foundation.htm>
 - Aug 13 "Branch Out: Grounded and Growing", Gustavus Adolphus College, St Peter, MN <http://www.branchoutmn.org>
 - Aug 19-21 2003 Communities Collaborative Conference, Brain Development: "Responding to Difference". Mahnomon, MN. <http://www.whiteearthchildcare.com>
- Watch for the announcement of **Maureen Sullivan's** Workshop coming to NLLN this Fall
- Sep 24-26 Mn Library Association Fall Conference, "Leadership, Learning, Literacy@Your Minnesota Library, Rochester, MN <http://mnlibraryassociation.org>
 - Oct 2-4 MEMO Fall Conference "Celebrate the Challenge", Fargo, ND <http://memoweb.org>

Scenes from the Annual Meeting

April 26, 2003
Detroit Lakes



Julia Browne and Lina Belar



Conversation (Above) Linda Unruh, Marj Lavalier, Judy Whaley, Brook Berg

Buffet Luncheon (Left) Mary Otto, Marian Ridge, Randy Burg, Dan Olson, Joyce Killmer



Northern Lights Library Network
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Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

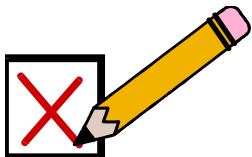
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NLLN 23rd Annual Meeting

The 23rd Annual Meeting was held in Detroit Lakes on April 26 and it was delightful. After a tasty luncheon and time for networking and socializing, Lina Belar gave a fascinating tour — a fascinating virtual tour — of the History Museum of East Otter Tail. It is amazing to see how the rich resources of this small community come alive and are available to researchers, history buffs, students, genealogists, and native sons, world-wide. The moving oral history video of Perham's WW II veterans was extremely well done — and made everyone in attendance anxious to see the newest project, a video production focused on women and war. A quick look at the Finnish Newspaper digitization project and a peek at the Olive software made available from OCLC for local newspaper collections, rounded out the Annual Meeting. It was a dynamite program. To explore the Museum yourself, go to: <http://www.historymuseum.eot.org>. To see the Olive software in use, go to: <http://www.uk.olivesoftware.com/> to explore the British Library Online Newspaper Archive.



Election of NLLN Governing Board Members

The NLLN Governing Board is composed of eleven members. Terms are for two years and any Governing Board member may serve 2 2-year terms.

Seven members are appointed by the regional public library systems board of trustees. The remaining 4 members represent workers in the different types of member libraries. Currently, Governing Board members representing library workers in academic, public and special libraries have expiring terms.

A nominating committee from each of these three library caucuses (public, academic, and special) have nominated a candidate to represent them and we will conduct an online election the week of May 19-24. Workers in these types of NLLN member libraries may vote for their representative at that time. Notification of this voting will be sent to the membership via the NLLN listserv and voting will take place on the NLLN website. For anyone wishing to submit a paper ballot, please contact the NLLN Office (1-800-450-1032) and one will be sent out. Any questions, contact Ruth Solie at the number above or by email at rsolie@nlln.org. The new terms begin July 1, 2003.

Spotlight on Books 2003

It was great to be able to attend Spotlight on Books April 4th and 5th. I had been especially looking forward to Patrick Jones' presentation, and was not disappointed. Mr. Jones speaks with such enthusiasm towards young adults that one couldn't help but be caught up in the fervor. An underlying theme threaded throughout his presentation was that our purpose as young adults' and children's services librarians is not to check out books, or even to answer reference and reader's advisory questions; but rather, it is to make kids' lives better. Mr. Jones talked about developmental assets as defined by the Search Institute, and how librarians working with youth can provide some of these assets, which are building blocks for healthy development. This is accomplished in part by nurturing reading for pleasure, but even more so by building relationships of mutual respect in the library setting that will cultivate these developmental assets.

Mr. Jones shared many nuggets of programming ideas that we could take home with us. One that I plan to use in Detroit Lakes this summer is a take-off from the "Survivor" television show. I will select and display some popular YA book titles, and then each week the teens will have a chance to vote one book off the table. At the end of the summer program, we should have the "favorite book" left. This will not involve any cost or prizes, and I think it will be fun.

I also attended the workshop on "accelerated reader: a discussion" because I have been asked by kids and parents to help find the "right" books in this program. I really had no idea what it was, except that I could find some lists on the Internet and match titles to the levels for which they asked. I now have a much better understanding of the concept. Books are selected and assigned a reading level. Computer based exams, which are purchased by the school districts, are written for the selected titles. Students read, take exams, and accumulate points. Many teachers were enthusiastic about the motivation for reading that they had observed and attributed to the accelerated reader format. Others felt it limited children's choices because they wanted to choose only books that would reward them with points and pass over many titles simply because they were not on the list. I see my place in this as a reader's advisory resource person, able to find books from the lists for those requesting them, but to also encourage browsing and some straying from the rigidity of the assigned reading levels and the titles for which tests have been written.

Dorothy L. Johnson
Detroit Lakes Public Library

Spotlight on Books 2003

“What have you read? Tell me the story.” This is Patrick Jones’ approach to teen readers. His workshop ‘Spotlight on Youth Services’ kicked off the 2003 Spotlight on Books in Bemidji April 24 & 25. From making a space for teens in you library, to ‘Best Book,’ ‘More Good Books’ and ‘Not So Good Book’ box on their table, his ideas and book selection suggestions were great. Patrick, “We value kid’s literacy. Time spent reading is related to reading success. Time spent reading is related to knowledge of the world. Reading is a worthwhile life experience.”

Lori Thompson’s mini-workshop entitled ‘Enhancing Storytime through Get Ready to Read!’ She explained the dialogic reading technique, involving having a conversation with a child about a book, included the PEER (prompt, evaluate, expand and repeat) method of story telling. She suggested a Google.com search of ‘A Book a Week’ to find “hundreds of activities based on books.”

The second mini-workshop, entitled ‘Dreams and Schemes – Reviews of some new children’s/YA Literature,’ was presented by Heidi Hoks. “Have kids act stories to teach them how to create a theatre in their mind,” she intoned as she introduced a wide range of new titles with brief descriptions of the stories therein.

The final presentation of the first day was by Dr, Mary Helen Pelton entitled ‘It’s Not Just Storytelling.’ “Be who you are and tell the story,” she stated. “Take a story into you heart and give back as a gift to your audience. Visualize it like a movie and tell it in your own words.”

Saturday featured three authors and their newest, or first, works for kids. Kelly Dupre introduced her first children’s book The Raven’s Gift – A True Story From Greenland. Richard Mosher spoke next about his book Zazoo which received the Minnesota Book Award for Youth Literature in 2002. And lastly, famed children’s poet Jack Prelutsky spoke to the crowd of nearly 100 of his work over 30 years, keeping kids laughing with his poetry. “Even though poems are divinely inspired, they are created by human beings – you and me.”

If you would like the longer version of this report, email me at Mahnomen@larl.org

It was through the largess of the scholarship awarded me by the NLLN that I was able to attend this convention and I’d like to extend my heartfelt thanks for this wonderful learning opportunity. I hope to make attending Spotlight on Books an annual event in my journey as a public librarian.

*Lois Schaedler
Lake Agassiz Regional Library
Mahnomen Branch
www.larl.org*