## **A GREAT CITY REQUIRES A GREAT LIBRARY**



Artistic Rendering of a new central library on the p.s.

A city that values education as Lincoln does deserves a strong library system with a new 21st Century Central Library at its core. The Lincoln City Library Board and the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries want to build a new 21st Century Central Library to meet the needs of our growing community for the next 50 years.

A new Central library will serve as the administrative headquarters for the Lincoln City Libraries Public Library system and will meet the needs of the 8 branch libraries and the Lied Bookmobile. This new facility will also serve its neighborhood, which has the largest and most economically challenged population base in our city. It will play a leadership role in our new information-based world and feature:

• Appealing areas for children and youth that focus on preparing for school, succeeding academically, using technology effectively, and becoming lifelong learners. They may look like fun play areas, but they support effective education.

• Welcoming spaces for people to study, tutor, and gather together. Libraries have been shifting from emphasizing space for books and other items to providing space for people to use the library in various ways, a trend that will continue in the future.

• Up-to-date technology that addresses a remarkable variety of needs, from low income families needing broadband access, to creative entrepreneurs using wireless, to people applying for jobs, to students with their school-issued tablets and other devices.

Studies released in 2003 and 2012 determined that Bennett Martin Public Library, Lincoln's Main Library, is no longer able to meet the future service needs of our community in this changing world.

• Bennett Martin Public Library is not representative of the quality of our city.

• Bennett Martin Public Library opened in 1962, and was expanded twice; is expensive to maintain due to aging equipment, roofs, and other systems; and its inefficient floorplan creates limitations in use of space, staff, and effective security.

• Approximately 650 people visit Bennett Martin Public Library each day, very similar to the numbers who visit the downtown YMCA or the Lincoln Children's Museum, so we know that our citizens value and use Libraries.

The 2012 Vision and Concept study estimated that a new central library would cost approximately \$43 million. The \$55 million project amount reflects the addition of a system-wide upgrade of the branch libraries throughout the city, as well as the inflation factor from 2012 to 2018, the potential beginning of construction and demolition. A bond issue will be determined by the success of a capitol campaign which will provide private support and decrease the bond amount.

The last few years have seen unparalleled growth and redevelopment in Lincoln's downtown. Continued planned investment will spread that progress and strengthen the city. This is the perfect time to invest in Lincoln's libraries. A great city requires a great library!



Multi-use site-Library and partner

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# **FRIENDS** of Lincoln City Libraries

# **60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**



# SAVE THE DATE!

The 2016 Wine & E will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at the Country Club of Lincoln. More information to come!

The Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries celebrated its 60th Anniversary Saturday, March 28 at the PlaMor Ballroom. Our guests - some wearing poodle skirts, blue jeans, leather jackets, and saddle shoes - danced the night away to music of the 50s and 60s, thanks to legendary DJ Craig Estudillo. Kim Morock and her staff at the catering company Tastefully Yours provided delicious treats of the era, including Tastees and malts. Thanks to donations from generous people throughout the community, the Silent Auction was a huge success! The event and silent auction proceeds provide support the electronic services of Lincoln City Libraries. Thanks to our event sponsors and guests for ensuring the event's success! A good time was had by all!!

Pat Wiseman, Kay Green, Kim Wiseman



Brenda Ealey, Julie Beno



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NLHA provides support for the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors

### HERITAGE ROOM ANNUAL MEETING

The 2015 Nebraska Literary Heritage Association Annual Meeting was held at Bennet Martin Public Library on April 19. Out-going president Wendy Johnson spoke on the organizational accomplishments over the course of the year and honored curator Meredith McGowan on the occasion of her



retirement after ten years of service. The board also thanked Kathryn Kelley for her service as interim curator and welcomed new curator Erin Willis, who reported on Heritage Room activities. Gloria Strope was introduced as the 2015-16 president, serving for a second term.

Nick Hernandez will serve as vice president. New board members were elected to the board, including Ernesto Castillo, Deborah Coyle, Janet Hyde, Meredith McGowan, Jodi Rethmeier, Pearl Strope, and Autumn Sweley. The meeting concluded with Author Member Mark McKusick's lively and thought-provoking presentation about his book Boxes: The Secret Life of Howard Hughes, which makes the case that the eccentric billionaire lived in anonymity years after his reported death. Charlene Neely was announced as Author Member for the upcoming year.

### LINCOLN STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE KLOEFKORN PARADE

Eloise Kloefkorn rode in a Thunderbird as Grand Marshal of the Grand Parade as students of Kloefkorn Elementary School walked in honor of her husband, the late William Kloefkorn, Nebraska State Poet and their school's namesake.

The Parade is an annual celebration at the end of each school year. Students wore Kloefkorn-inspired plaid shirts and carried items symbolic in the life of Mr. Kloefkorn, such as musical instruments, kites, pigs, and moustaches. Onlookers, also wearing plaid shirts, lined the streets to cheer.





Bill Kloefkorn served on the NLHA board and was a supporter of NLHA and leader of the Writer's Write Workshops for 8th graders in the Heritage Room for many years. He was the author of twelve collections of poetry, two short story collections, several children's Christmas stories, and four memoirs. The professor emeritus of English at Nebraska Wesleyan University died in May 2011 at the age of 79.

# **GREETINGS FROM NEW NLHA PRESIDENT GLORIA STROPE**

I am a retired elementary teacher. I taught in Omaha, Mobile, AL, and Louisville, KY. I lived away from Nebraska for 25 years and moved back to Lincoln in 2004. Growing up in Falls City, NE, I had three career aspirations: I wanted to work in a green house, be a teacher, or be a librarian. I'm an avid reader and have always had a love of Nebraska history and literature. I have kept a list of all the books I have read since 1982.

I have been a member of NLHA for almost a decade, participating in many activities and on many

committees, and will be serving a second term as president. During this time, I have developed a real passion for the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors.



In my 2015-2016 year as president of NLHA, the board and I will continue to encourage the promotion of the Heritage Room and through outreach by our new curator, Erin Willis.

With Nebraska's 150th birthday coming in 2017, there is the opportunity for NLHA to enrich Nebraskans' appreciation and understanding of our beloved state. To accomplish this, board members will develop annotated reading lists for adults, young adults, and children, drawn from the Heritage Room collection. We can share these lists with libraries and related groups throughout the state.

Hopefully the board will approve a proposal to develop an ongoing relationship with the Nebraska State Historical Society.

In the years I have been involved in NLHA, I have observed positive growth in this organization and I look forward to maintaining that momentum.

### 2015 NLHA SPELLING BEE A HUGE SUCCESS

By Jenni Jex and Jessika Gilmore

A large audience enjoyed delicious food and drink, the antics of John Baylor, costumed little bees buzzing about, and 18 spellers who made their way through a challenging array of words at Lincoln's Single Barrel Chop House & Whiskey Bar on April 23. In the end, Aimee Allard, a PhD candidate in 20th Century American Literature at UNL, was pitted against four-time champion Larry Day. After a back and forth battle that saw many extraordinarily difficult words, the judges called a draw; both spellers were declared winners, and presented with yummy prizes courtesy of Nothing Bundt Cakes.



Money raised through contestant fees, ticket sales, letter sponsorships, and silent auction goods go to the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library and benefit a variety of programs, including Lunch at the Library, Read to Me, and Writer's Write, which are designed to

encourage an interest in reading and writing and to further knowledge and understanding of Nebraska authors in all age groups.

At the bee, NLHA's Literary Heritage Award was presented to Meredith McGowan, recently retired curator of the Heritage Room.

This year's sponsors were: A (Simply) A-MAIZE-N Popcorn & Snacks; B Bryan College of Health Sciences; C Covington, Louisianians for NLHA - Jim & Emily Wagner; D dancewares, inc.; E Eclipse Screen Printing, Embroidery, & More; F Ross & Emily Faubel; G Georgia's Grandpa & Grandma - Ron & Nancy Smith; H Huskerville; I It Works! Independent Consultant Jessikah Gilmore; J Kent & Terri Jex; K Klaus & Gisela Hartmann; L Pat Leach; M Max Muscle; N NLHA; O omt! divine resale; P Sheppard & Marlene Perkins;

Q Queen Bees - Marty Eischeid & Bonnie Williams; R Russ & Jenni Jex; S Single Barrel Chop House & Whiskey Bar; T Tico's; U Unparalleled Undergraduates at UNL - Bailey Jex & Friends; V Veterinarian Judy Mulder, DVM; W Rod & Diane; X X-tra Fun & X-citing - Gerry & Molly Fisher; Y Yia Yia's Pizza; Z ZSA Realty Group

Thanks to all the sponsors, participants, attendees, board members, and the staff at Single Barrel for making the 2015 Spelling Bee outstanding!

## **CURATOR'S CORNER**

#### By Erin WIllis

I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to serve the NLHA and the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors as its new curator. It is fortuitous that I should assume this role during the centenary year of the publication of Willa Cather *The Song of the Lark.* My first experience reading Willa Cather as a young adult was a revelation, and inspired my passion for Plains Literature, a passion that I pursued throughout my education and in my professional life.



In the first section of *The Song of the Lark* the protagonist, Thea, acquires her own room after years of constant turmoil in her family life and school obligations. The independence and responsibility of her new space gave her the opportunity for reimagining her abilities and aspirations. "She thought things out more clearly. Pleasant plans and ideas occurred to her which had never come before".

Like Thea, I feel like I have been given my own room. I can imagine innumerable possibilities and opportunities for the future of the Heritage Room! Like Thea, I feel I have the chance to be part of something extraordinary: to participate in the preservation, celebration and promotion of some of the great writers of the world, both past and present. I am honored to have the trust of the NLHA and heartened by the support of the many authors, board members, patrons and community members who have so warmly welcomed me to this new position.

My first responsibilities have been to build upon the established affiliations that share in the mission of the NLHA and the Heritage Room. The past few months have been dedicated to celebrating the works of Willa Cather through a number of programming events and partnerships in conjunction with the centenary of *The Song of the Lark*. These endeavors have provided occasions to showcase our significant collection of Cather materials.

While much attention is given to Willa Cather at present, the Heritage Room continues to serve as a daily resource for researches and general interest patrons. The visitors to the Heritage Room include school tours, book clubs, independent researchers, scholars, tourists visiting through the Be A Tourist Passport program, and occasionally visitors who wander in out of curiosity. The delight that patrons express in visiting the Heritage Room is a testament to the value of this collection. I am immensely proud when I share the treasures that have been collected and preserved during the past 65 years. It is a privilege to share in the Nebraska literary tradition.

### **DONORS** 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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Special Events Coffee on the Dock at the Mill -Dan & Tamara Sloan & Staff

Heritage Room Endowment Larry Bradley Morrie & Amy Tuttle Meredith & Tom McGowan Lana Nova Andrew & Erin Willis

# **DANIEL BENNETT GROUP AT BENNETT MARTIN LIBRARY**



The Daniel Bennett Group performed at Bennett Martin Public Library on June 6. This was one of Lincoln City Libraries First Friday events, popular events throughout Lincoln held on first Fridays of each month. 100 enjoyed a unique mix of modern jazz and American Folk music, performed by this New York group.

The Daniel Bennett Group curates and performs in New York City's Triad Theatre's ongoing concert series, which is gaining critical acclaim throughout the New York area, according to Jim Macnie of the *Village Voice*. The group also An audience of approximately travels throughout the country sharing their music, and stopped in Lincoln to promote their new cd and share their talents with a very appreciative audience.

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# **ANNUAL BOOK SALE**

October 1 – 4, 2015 Lancaster Event Center

#### Public Sale (open and free to all):

Thursday, October 1, 2015 Friday, October 2, 2015 Saturday, October 3, 2015 Sunday, October 4, 2015

10 a.m. – 7 p.m. 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

#### Pre-Sale:

Wednesday, September 30, 2015 | 4:30-8:30 p.m. \$40 for pre-registration or \$50 day of event \$35 for friends of LCL Members

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED MONDAY - SUNDAY** 



### Come Early – Shop Late! Cash & Carry!

For information or to sign up to volunteer call: Gail (402.441.0164) or visit www.foundationforlcl.org Hosted by Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries.