



# Southeast Signal

News, Events, and Information from Around the System

## **From the Director**

**May 2015**

I know many librarians who use the various annual book award lists to help make collection decisions, especially for the genres that might fall outside their usual reading habits. Normally, that's a good decision as people who are interested in that genre have debated, voted and decided that a particular book was worth more recognition than many others like it.

As a science fiction reader, I'm usually very interested in that genre's top awards, namely the Nebula Award and Hugo Award to look for titles to add to my own to-read list. This year, my interest seems to be focused on the political process of an award rather than what book wins it.

This year's Hugo Award process is under a ton of scrutiny right now. The Hugo awards are nominated and voted on by people who have joined the World Science Fiction Convention. Anyone can pay their dues and join and it is often referred to as the premier award in science-fiction.

This year two groups, named Sad Puppies and Rabid Puppies, put together a concerted effort to fill all the nomination slots with books of their choosing. This wasn't the first time an organized push was made to get works on the ballots, but it was the first to try to fill all the slots and it mostly succeeded. The organizers of this effort have done so in attempts have winners that match their world view and for one group, a racist and sexist agenda.

This slate campaigning is not against the rules of the award, but it has many in sci-fi and fantasy fans up in arms. Some authors & editors withdrew from consideration, others are debating it.

The awards don't come out until August, so there could be more back and forth. There has been a lot of discussion about how to change the process, but none of it coming from the WSFC people that I have seen. I've read two of the five on the final nominations list for the novels, neither of them on the Puppies lists, and thought they were quite good and one would definitely be a strong choice for this year's Hugo. In fact, the list for best novel is not very different from the reading list for the next Nebula Award (presented by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers Association).

So what's the meaning for librarians? As far as collection development – I think the Hugo novel list has some good choices, but I would still favor the Nebulas this year if you had to use or the other for your collection development.

Scott Childers, Executive Director

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# Calendar



- May 10th**—Mother’s Day
- May 15th**—SELS Training Extravaganza at Seward Memorial Library
- May 17th**—World Baking Day
- May 22nd**—CASTL Meeting at Ashland Public Library
- May 23rd**—Turtle Day
- May 25th**—Memorial Day, SELS Office Closed
- May 27th**—Senior Health & Fitness Day
- May 29th**—Golden Sower Day at Seward Memorial Library
- June 2nd**—Leave the Office Earlier Day
- June 5th**—World Environment Day
- June 11th**—CASTL Meeting at Syracuse Public Library
- June 14th**—Flag Day
- June 21**—Father’s Day, Summer Solstice
- June 25th**—Global Beatles Day
- June 26th**—Take Your Dog to Work Day



## Photo of the Month

Princess Emma reads a story to a crowd of princesses at the Auburn Memorial Library. Photo by Heather Koeneke. More on [page 6](#).

# CASTL Wrap-Up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

May 22  
Ashland

June 11  
Syracuse

July 15  
Lincoln

August 21  
Pawnee City

The latest CASTL meeting was held on April 17th at Hebron Secrest Library, hosted by Terry Olson. We began with the round-robin discussion of what’s been happening around the system. Many libraries have obtained grants recently, both large and small, for things like rebuilding, remodeling, or getting different resources for their library. There were some parties held to celebrate the end of the school year, and to celebrate National Library Week (April 12th—18th). Several people are taking this time before summer reading begins to finalize plans for summer programming, to do some rearranging, and to work on their strategic plans. Programs around the area have been well attended, and book clubs are doing well too, but attendance has dropped off a bit since people are getting busier with summer coming up.

To celebrate the SELS Read-In, everyone brought a favorite book to share with the group.

[Click here](#) to see all the books everyone’s been reading. There was also a discussion of various ways to hold a book sale. Having a book sale area or cart & asking for a free-will donation has always worked well. One suggestion was to have a small book bag of titles with the same theme, like a “mystery bag” or “science fiction bag”. Another suggestion was to “adopt a book” from the book sale table, which has had great results.



## What is CASTL?

CASTL is a monthly meeting where public library directors can get together and learn from one another. Each meeting has a round-robin discussion where everyone can share what’s going on at their library, followed by a training discussion or presentation. There is CE credit available for all attendees! See the schedule on the left for where we’ll be meeting next!

## Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

Registration will be open soon for the next set of basic skills courses, offered through the Nebraska Library Commission. To see the full calendar & register for classes, [click here](#). Here’s what’s coming up next:

| <u>Dates of Class</u> | <u>Topic</u>          | <u>Registration Open</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| June 1—June 12        | Library Finance       | April 23—May 22          |
| June 15—June 26       | Library Technology    | May 8—June 5             |
| July 20—July 31       | Collection Management | June 12—July 10          |

# News Around the System

## National Library Week Party was Simply “Amazing”

By Charlotte  
Baldinger

When we closed the Seward Memorial Library doors at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 18 all the staff could say was “amazing” followed by “who would have thought.”

The library hosted special events and surprises for the patrons throughout the annual National Library Week, but on Saturday the biggest surprise of the entire week was pulled on the staff. Our first National Library Week Finale Party was scheduled for Saturday with family activities planned outside in the street and the new parking lot. That morning it was thundering and pouring rain. Should the party be abbreviated? Will patrons still come? After studying Google weather the large inflatable bounce house and slide were set up on the wet street and areas inside the library became designated stations. It never rained once the party started and the gray weather did not put a wet blanket on the fun. Over 400 people had a great time at the library. Guests enjoyed live music, treats from the cookie walk, photos with a larger-than-life Super Hero, face painting, bike helmet fitting, free popcorn, balloon creations, indoor games, outdoor activities as well as checking out new Fit4Seward summer equipment. When the vendors ran out of food, Four Corners Health Department gave away their last free bike helmet, the balloon artists had no balloons left, and the cookies were gone, the staff gave a thumbs-up and cheered. National Library Week in 2016 will end with another Finale Party ... back by popular demand.



## Exeter Public Library Hosts ‘Fancy’ Tea

By Jessica Votipka

Boas and tiaras and glitter – oh my!

The Exeter Public Library hosted a “Fancy Nancy Tea Party” in conjunction with National Library Week. Several lovely ladies in their fanciest frocks came to the library for a story, a snack and a craft.

The guests were welcomed with their choice of vintage tea cup. The girls then had to find the matching saucer, before having a seat for pink punch (served in their fancy tea cups, of course) and a snack. Librarian Jessica Votipka read the book “Fancy Nancy and the Delectable Cupcakes” by Jane O’Connor.



To complete their fancy ensembles, the girls decorated their own tiaras with sparkling glitter paint and rhinestones. When the craft was complete (and they had depleted the supply of glitter paint), the guests got to have their picture taken in a “photo booth”. Many of the girls had photos taken with their mothers to commemorate the fancy day.

The “Fancy Nancy Tea” was a hit, and will be held again next year. Have your rhinestones ready!



## Storefront to Become a Library in Milligan

By Shirley  
Brunkow

The Milligan Public Library at Milligan, NE is working with the Village Board to renovate a former drug store on the Main Street of Milligan. This will be the new home of the village office and the library. The picture shown is the way it looked when the village bought the building. We are hoping it will be ready the end of this year. The library will be at least four times bigger than where we are now. Plans are to have an area for story time that is held year round, a space for genealogy research as we have much material that can be used by library patrons, and tables for patron use. Presently we have no room for these activities.



Photo by Shirley Brunkow, who is the library board treasurer.

## Faculty Achievement Award Given at York College

By Ruth Carlock

Ruth Carlock, director of Levitt Library at York College, has been awarded the 2015 Dale R. Larsen Teacher of Achievement Award. This annual award is presented at the college's commencement ceremony to a full-time tenured faculty member who has made outstanding contributions to York College.

They are nominated by other faculty members and are considered on the basis of the following criteria: excellence of teaching; membership and participation in learned or professional societies; service to the institution, length of service, committees, etc.; spiritual commitment; attitude toward work at York College; dedication to York College as demonstrated in activities outside the classroom.

In presenting the award, Dr. Shane Mountjoy, provost of York College, commented on Carlock's willingness to serve in many capacities on campus outside of the library, including substitute teaching for colleagues and sewing costumes for the theatre department.

Carlock is the Information Literacy instructor and test site administrator at York College in addition to her duties as library director. She holds degrees from University of Missouri-Columbia and Northwest Missouri State University. She has worked at Levitt Library in a variety of capacities for more than 25 years and has served as director for three years. Before this position, she was the assistant director of Levitt Library for 11 years.



## A Fundraiser Fit for Royalty in Auburn

By Heather Koeneke

On April 25th, we held a Mother/Daughter Princess Tea Fundraiser. We had 32 Queens and Princesses come! The Princesses were encouraged to dress in Royal Attire. We had Fairy Godmother Beatrice who announced the Queens and Princesses, did "Princess Training", and also taught the proper way Royalty should wave. We followed that with Royal Activities including face painting, a Kiss the Frog game, and scavenger hunt. We then went on a Stately Parade to the Majestic Banquet where we dined on lovely treats! We concluded with Princess Emma reading a royal story and all Princesses were sent home with goody bags. Fun was had by all!!



## Story Time and Sidewalk Chalk in Friend

By Jackie Larsen

At the Gilbert Public Library, the last story time in April ended with drawing our own butterflies on the sidewalk.



## Pirates Like Stories Too!

By Sara Lee



Ahoy, matey! Preschool Pirate Day was a fun way to celebrate our last session of the spring. We listened to the stories "Pirate Girl" and "Pirate Pete," and we practiced talking like a pirate! Then we made our very own pirate mini-books. Photo by Judy Marco.

## Guest Speaker at Hebron

By Terry Olson



Sister Margaret Nacke gave a very informative talk about human trafficking to around 76 people on Monday night. Thank you to Sister Margaret Nacke and all who attended!



# From the SELS Office

## A Good Time Had by All at Aged to Perfection

This year's SELS Friends Aged to Perfection event was held at Junto Winery. Folks from around the system attended; there was good food & wine, a silent auction, and antique appraisal. Some of the antiques that were appraised were surprisingly valuable! Everyone had a great evening. Photo courtesy of Becky Baker.



## SELS Board—Now Accepting Nominations

The time is near for the next election to choose SELS board members. If you would be interested in serving on the board, or know someone who you feel would be a good board member, we would love to hear from you! The board governs the Southeast Library System. Board member responsibilities include approval of policies, plans, and budgets, as well as evaluation of the System Director.



Board members serve a three-year term. The board meets six times a year at locations around the SELS area. The term would begin on July 1, 2015. We serve all types of libraries and we strive to get that diversity in our board as well.

The deadline for all nominations is May 18. To self-nominate, please send your name, library and role at said library, and a short (under 100 words) biography to [scott.childrens.sels@gmail.com](mailto:scott.childrens.sels@gmail.com). To nominate someone else, please send their name, contact information, and if you have already approached that person or not.

## The 2015 Front Porch Award goes to...Pound Middle School!

Congratulations to Darla Reinwald and the Pound Middle School Library on winning this year's Front Porch Award! The library staff's hard work has really paid off, as they turned an industrial, concrete-block space into the most welcoming room in the school. The updated space has three separate classroom areas, as well as areas to study and relax. They celebrated with cake to share with the school staff.



# SELS Training Extravaganza

May 15, 2015 at Seward Memorial Library

|               | Room 1   | Room 2  | Lab   |
|---------------|--|---|---|
| 9:00 – 9:30   |  | Welcome & Refreshments  |   |
| 9:30 – 10:30  | 3-D Printer Demonstration with Megan Boggs                                 | Fresh Programming Ideas with Scott Childers                           | Hands-On Bibliostat with Sam Shaw                           |
| 10:30 – 10:45 |  | Break   |   |
| 10:45 – 11:45 | 3-D Printer Demonstration with Megan Boggs (repeat)                        | Succession Planning with Robin Clark                                  | Facebook for Libraries with Gayle Roberts                   |
| 12:00 – 1:00  |  | Lunch   |   |
| 1:00 – 2:00   | Networking With Your Community with Deb Robertson                          | Opening Your Doors to Writers with Lucy Adkins & Becky Breed          | Hands-On Bibliostat with Sam Shaw (repeat)                  |
| 2:00 – 2:15   |  | Break   |   |
| 2:15 – 3:15   | Open Meeting Laws with Richard Miller                                      | Opening Your Doors to Writers with Lucy Adkins & Becky Breed (repeat) | Using the Compare Public Libraries Tool with Scott Childers |
| 3:30 – 4:30   | Book Discussion of <i>The Homesman</i> at La Carreta Restaurant (optional) |   |   |

Registration is \$25 (includes lunch) for each person attending. Attendees will earn 4 hours of CE. Registration deadline is May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Payment Included

Pay at the Door

Will Send Payment Later

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Reserve your spot via mail, email, or fax:

5730 R St. Suite C-1, Lincoln, NE 68505

Email: selsne@gmail.com

Fax: 844-270-7004

Lunch Preference:

Chicken salad sandwich

Ham & cheese croissant sandwich

Chicken salad lettuce wrap

\*\*Contact SELS if alternate lunch arrangements need to be made.



## Overview of Sessions and Labs

### **3-D Printer Demonstration with Megan Boggs:**

Watch a 3D printer in action and hear some thoughts regarding usage.

### **Fresh Programming Ideas with Scott Childers:**

Need some new ideas for your events and classes? Scott will review some of the most interesting new ideas he's come across at his visits around the system and in the library literature.

### **Hands-On Bibliostat with Sam Shaw:**

Do you have questions about the annual statistical survey? Join Sam Shaw, the Data Dude, in this hands-on training session.

### **Succession Planning with Robin Clark:**

What do you do when you leave your position? What is in place to help continuation of services and keeping the library running? Robin will share some ideas on what items to have in place for planned & unplanned staff changes.

### **Facebook for Libraries with Gayle Roberts:**

Facebook is still a great avenue to get news out about your libraries activities and classes. This hands on class will go over how to set up a Facebook page for your library and tips on using it well. Note: You will need your Facebook login to participate in the hands-on parts of this class.

### **Networking With Your Community with Deb Robertson:**

Making ties with the community your library is part is an important task. Deb Robertson has made it a priority to connect with the people and groups outside of the library's doors and will share her experiences and provide suggestions what you can do in your community.

### **Opening Your Doors to Writers with Lucy Adkins and Becky Breed:**

Facilitators & authors Lucy Adkins and Becky Breed will discuss generative writing groups and the generative process, as well as some ideas on fostering generative writing groups in your library.

### **Open Meeting Laws with Richard Miller:**

Public library boards and other public boards need to follow open meeting laws. Richard Miller will go over the basics of this law and answer questions about when you do and don't need to be concerned about it.

### **Using the Compare Public Libraries Tool with Scott Childers:**

Have you ever been asked by your board or city on how your library stacks up against others? This hands on class will teach you how to use this free tool to find out where your library stands on things like hours, circulation numbers, and more.

### **(Optional) Book Discussion of *The Homesman*:**

We will have a book discussion of *The Homesman* by Glendon Swarthout after the training extravaganza, at La Carreta Mexican Restaurant. Wind down the day with some good conversation and refreshments. Any food or beverages will be on your own.

## Golden Sower Day—May 29th at Seward

Join the Golden Sower reading day on May 29th at Seward Memorial Library and vote for your favorite Golden Sower nominees! This is a perfect time for public and school librarians to see the many titles on the Golden Sower Big List for Kindergarten through Third Grades during the morning reading session. There will also be book talks of the books on the Intermediate and Young Adult lists during the afternoon.

If you would like to volunteer to be one of the book talks in the afternoon, please let me know which title (or titles) you wish to book talk so we can try to cover as much of the list as possible with no repeats.

The day starts at 9am and is free! Please RSVP by May 27th so we can get the room setup appropriately.



## Need Help Weeding? Give Us a Call!



Did you know that you can get help in weeding your collection?

You can schedule an on-site evaluation, or even have Scott come down and help you pull books off the shelf with you for a day (or two)!

*Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.*

*—Arthur Ashe*

## Southeast Library System

Butler • Clay • Fillmore • Gage • Hamilton • Jefferson • Johnson • Lancaster • Merrick • Nemaha • Nuckolls •  
Otoe • Pawnee • Polk • Richardson • Saline • Saunders • Seward • Thayer • York

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