



Northern Lights Library Network Newsletter

April 2003

Congratulations to Pelican Rapids Winner of the 2002 Kingsolver Award

The Friends of the Library in Pelican Rapids recently received the 2002 Kingsolver Award, which includes a \$10,000 prize. Below is their entry essay, written by Joan Ellison. What a wonderful account of how a community, a library, and a group of friends transformed their community under extraordinary conditions! Read on. . . .

Pelican Rapids is a small town in West Central Minnesota -- founded by Norwegian immigrants in the late 1800s. It remained blonde and blue-eyed until its complexion changed with the arrival of immigrants who in the past decade came to work in a new meat-packing facility. The immigrants challenged the community in more ways than could have been imagined. Suddenly, Pelican Rapids spoke 11 languages --English plus Spanish, Somali, Cambodian, Bosnian, Albanian, Kurdish and others. Twenty-five percent of public school students here do not speak English as a first language.

The Pelican Rapids Friends played a major role in easing the pains of change in their community. They sponsored diversity workshops, provided foreign language and learning materials to English as a Second Language courses and helped the library offer free Internet access for the first time. Then last year, the Pelican Rapids Friends of the Library and Library Director Pamela Westby realized libraries could be much more than buildings with books.

They created a "Tapestry of Friends" by collecting fiber art from representatives of all the ethnic backgrounds now in their community. But contacting immigrants turned out to be a challenge for industrious volunteers. Advertising and direct mail solicitations of potential quilt artists yielded few responses.

That's when Friends members started talking to people from other countries living among them. New immigrants with halting English skills were asked to find fellow countrymen in Pelican Rapids who knitted, crocheted, embroidered and wove.

The volunteers went to English as a Second Language classes with samples of fiber art -- to show what they wanted to create. Letters, translated by Mexicans, Bosnians and others were given to students to take home to their families -- in their native languages. Twenty-one artists are represented in the final "Tapestry of Friendship" -- Hispanics, Bosnians

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Northern Lights Library Network

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Northern Lights Library Network Annual Meeting

1:00–2:00 PM

Immediately following the NLLN Governing Board meeting

Saturday, April 26, 2003

Detroit Lakes Public Library, Detroit Lakes

1000 Washington Avenue, Detroit Lakes

Join us for lunch and the NLLN Annual Meeting immediately following the April Governing Board Meeting. Lina Belar, Director of the History Museum of East Otter Tail County, will take us on a multimedia tour of the History Museum. We'll learn more about this NLLN member library and how it has made its collections and resources available to the world through innovative digitization projects. We'll learn how anyone on the planet can access the Museum's cemetery records, newspapers, photograph collections, and reference books, through web-based, full-text, searchable digital collections! Lina will also show us her work with video oral history, including a video history related to WW II, and update us on the searchable index to Finnish Newspapers held in the community of New York Mills.

The History Museum of East Otter Tail County is one of NLLN's special library members. Our Annual Meeting, though smaller in scope this year, will be an opportunity to learn more about this outstanding museum and its innovative programs. The Museum, under the guidance of Lina Belar, is a leader in emerging technologies, a keeper of local history, and a player in the global village.

This program will take place over lunch. **There is no cost but registration is required.**

All trustees, friends, library staff, and interested public are invited to join us.

Register online at <http://nlln.org/> For more information or questions, call the Northern Lights Library Network Office, 1-800-450-1032, or send email to: nloffice@nlln.org

Legal Research @ Your Library *A Workshop for Librarians Serving the Public* featuring **Paul D. Healy**

How do I draft a will? How do I get custody of my children? Do I need a lawyer? What are the laws on discrimination and disability?

With both the increase in Internet access and the availability of legal resources on the web, library staff are seeing an increase in legal reference .

How do small public and county libraries cope with such demands?

How does one provide legal research to such patrons without giving legal advice?

It is the objective of the workshop to provide library staff an opportunity to become comfortable working with patrons on legal research questions, and to also educate staff in discerning legal research from legal advice.

In the NLLN region, this workshop will be held at the **NW Technical College, Wadena Campus**, on **May 12, 9 AM—4 PM**. Online registration available through the NLLN website (<http://nlln.org/>) or through : <http://www.mallworkshop.org/>

Register today! This is a great opportunity!

“Check It Out!: The Results of the School Library Media Program Census”

The results of the School library media program census have been published and widely distributed around the state to superintendents, principals, librarians, legislators, school media centers, and public libraries.

The Executive Summary condenses the major findings into 12 concise pages full of information. A fuller account may be found in the 182 page, Final Report. Whichever document you choose to examine, you're sure to find some interesting results.

In a nutshell, good school media programs make a difference in student achievement. Those media programs with up-to-date resources and qualified staff, help students in measurable and positive ways. The value of this report lies in the data and the results that can be used to improve and strengthen every library media program in Minnesota.

Minnesota has many fine media programs, and in the NLLN area, Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls, under the able direction of Alice Hofstad, was selected as a “best practices” media program. Along with examples of programs employing best practices, there are a set of clear recommendations about ways to improve and strengthen the school library media programs in our state.

Please contact the NLLN Office if you did not receive a copy of this report and would like one. Additional information, and the raw data, may be found at: <http://www.metronet.lib.mn.us/survey/>

Things Legislative . . .

After some weeks of seemingly little activity at the legislature, things are picking up and the pace is considerably quickened.

Needless to say, any printed update in the Newsletter will be old news by the time it is read. The best way to stay current with the status of library issues in the legislature is to be subscribed to the MLA legislative listserv. Through this electronic means you will be updated, called to action, and kept informed.

Developments with the planks of the MLA/MEMO Platform are changing daily. Issues such as the efforts to repeal maintenance of effort have cropped up suddenly and demanded an immediate response. These and other issues of interest to libraries are reported in the Monday Memo distributed over the legislative listserv.

To find information about the platform and talking points go to: <http://mnllibraryassociation.org> To subscribe to the Legislative Committee listserv, send an email to: alison@mnllibraryassociation.org

The Monday Memo is widely distributed on many mailing lists. However you get the information and updates, be sure to read and respond to the requests made for calls to legislators, your presence at the capitol, or writing letters. It's clear that many voices raised in support of an issue are heard!

**Minnesota Library Association
2003 Fall Conference**

**September 24-26, 2003,
Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN**

Quick notes . . .

- Spotlight on Books was a great success despite Mother Nature's attempt to derail things with the weather! 92 attendees enjoyed Patrick Jones, Jack Prelutsky, Richard Mosher, Kelly Dupre, award winning regional authors, displays, book sales, and good food! Those who could stay enjoyed a live broadcast of *A Prairie Home Companion* with Garrison Keillor.
- Dates for Spotlight on Books 2004: April 16-17, 2004.
- NLLN Scholarships have recently been awarded to: Dotz Johnson, Claudia Seymour, and Lois Schaedler to attend Spotlight on Books.
- MLA/CYP granted scholarships to Tami Miller and Lisbeth Boutang to attend Spotlight on Books.
- Laure Winter, Minnesota regional author attending Spotlight on Books, has been announced as the winner of the 2003 McKnight Artist's Fellowship for Children's Literature. This \$10,000 award will allow her to complete her new book, *Do Not Attempt This at School*.
- Mary Garlie and Laurie Conzemius were awarded NLLN Scholarships to attend the Technology in Education Conference, Seattle Washington, in July.
- ELM kits have recently been widely distributed and, in addition, 11 school and public libraries in the NLLN region won a "Marketing 101" opportunity to learn ways to promote their library.
- The Waubun school district is in the midst of a large construction project and have metal Princeton files to give away. Call the NLLN Office if you are interested.
- Concordia College has the following catalogs to give away:
Senior High Catalog, 15th ed., 1997 Children's Catalog, 17th ed., 1996 Junior High School Catalog, 6th ed, 1990 Middle and Junior High School Library Catalog, 7th ed, 1995 Subject Guide to Children's Books in Print, 2000. Please call or email the NLLN Office if you are interested.
- MINITEX is launching the 2nd netLibrary eBook Collection. Consider joining this project—for more information go to: <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/ebook/netlib/> June 12 in the deadline for submitting orders.
- Webinars continue to be offered by MINITEX on a range of topics. Also of great interest, select webinars are now archived! This means you can enjoy them any time, any where you have an Internet connection. A great way to share with colleagues, too. Go to: <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/webinars/>

Summer Leadership Retreat for MEMO

Dr Gary Hatzell will return to Minnesota this summer to give a one-day workshop on July 17th at the Mn Humanities Commission. The workshop will be held in conjunction with the summer leadership retreat and is available to all MEMO members.

The cost of the workshop is \$60, but if you are willing to serve as an officer, committee member, or regional officer and to attend the board meetings on both the 16th and 18th—the workshop fees will be forgiven!

MEMO is looking for new leadership. Contact Doug Johnson for more info: dougj@doug-johnson.com

Who...me??

The Minnesota Collaborative Digital Reference Project is gathering information on current or projected use of virtual reference services. Please take a few minutes of your time to complete the survey found at <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/reference/survey>. Please complete and submit no later than 4/17.

Mary Parker, MINITEX, says the intended audience is every library and media center in the 3 states. **So, yes —the answer is you!** It only takes a few minutes. Mary says it is helpful to know who is/is not moving in this direction and why. Take a minute and complete the survey — thanks!

MEMO 2003 Fall Conference

October 2-4, 2003
Fargo, ND

For more information:
<http://www.memoweb.org>



CALENDAR

This month's calendar is longer because there is so much activity this time of year. Please let the NLLN Office know of upcoming events so we can get them on the list. By sharing this information we hope to cut down on conflicts and to make planning easier for everyone.

- Apr 4-5 **15th Annual Spotlight on Books Conference, "From Tots to Teens"**, Bemidji, MN.
(<http://nlln.org/spotlight.html>)
- Apr 11 Teleconference: "*Reference Series Part II: Virtual, Electronic and Traditional: what the future holds*". MSU-Moorhead Library, Room 208, 11am-1pm Registration form available <http://nlln.org>
- Apr 6-12 National Library Week
- Apr 15 MnLINK Users Group, College of St Benedict, St. Joseph, MN
- Apr 15 MLA Legislative Committee meeting <http://mnllibraryassociation.org>
- Apr 16 "Developing and Demonstrating your Professional Value", Mn Special Library Association, Thomson University, West Group Campus, Eagen.
<http://www.sla.org/chapter/cmn/events/e041603.htm>
- Apr 22 "Enhancing Quality Staff in Changing Times", 7:45-4:15, Radison Hotel-Metrodome, U of Mn –Twin Cities. 612-624-4520
- Apr 25 "Academic Libraries, Visions and Nightmares", ARLD Day, U of M, Duluth.
<http://mnllibraryassociation.org>
- Apr 26 **NLLN Governing Board/Annual Meeting**, 10:15 –Governing Board Meeting, 1:00 PM Lunch and Program. Detroit Lakes Public Library. **[note change of location]** Free, but registration required. Register for lunch and multi-media presentation at: <http://nlln.org>
- May 2 MINITEX Interlibrary Loan Conference, "Making Sense of it All: Resource Sharing To day and Tomorrow" , Keynote speaker: Julie Blume Nye. Bandana Square Conference Center, St Paul. <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/announce/>
- May 3 "Taking the Mystery Out of Readers' Advisory" The 2003 Readers' Advisory Spring Retreat, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen, MN
9:00a.m. -2:30p.m. <http://www.mnllibraryassociation.org/>
- 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 14-21 Minnesota Book Award Celebrations. <http://www.minnesotahumanities.org/Book/awards.htm>
- June 5-6 MLA/MEMO Legislative Forum, St John's University, Collegeville
<http://www.mnllibraryassociation.org/Legislative/Forum/Forum.htm>
- June 16-17 24th Annual Children's Literature Workshop, Holiday Inn, St Cloud. <http://lrts.stcloudstate.edu/cim/clw>
- June 21 NLLN Governing Board, Graystone Hotel, 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
- July 24 Library Day at the Twins
- Aug 13 "Branch Out: Grounded and Growing", Gustavus Adolphus College, St Peter, MN
<http://www.branchoutmn.org>
- Sep 24-26 Mn Library Association Fall Conference, "Leadership, Learning, Literacy@Your Minnesota Library, Rochester, MN <http://mnllibraryassociation.org>
- Oct 2-4 MEMO Fall Conference "Celebrate the Challenge", Fargo, ND <http://memoweb.org>



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and Somali, Czech, Norwegians, Native Americans, French and others.

A local photographer was hired and a local writer brought aboard to photograph and interview each of the artists. Volunteers laid out the quilt. Local students created block prints to the theme of Friendship to be used as quilt borders. Another volunteer pieced the fabric art into a quilt. When the project was unveiled, people who had never before been inside the Pelican Rapids Library came to see their friends' work on display. Bosnians met Norwegians. Mexicans shared stories with the Dutch. The Somali women of Pelican Rapids, who don't speak English and seldom smile, laughed and shared stories by having their children and grandchildren translate to English.

A \$3,000 grant came from the regional arts council, so that each artist was paid for her contribution. Friends of the Library donated \$75 for supplies, and the library covered the \$25 in copying and postage charges for publicity and brochures.

The cost was low, and the results were high Perhaps the greatest result of the "Tapestry of Friendship" has been the unexpected unification of a community and its library. The feature stories about each artist, with photos, will appear weekly for 21 weeks in the Pelican Rapids newspaper. Foreigners are now locals, known by fellow community members.

A project that started as a way to influence the thinking of library users affected all of Pelican Rapids -- and now Friends groups and libraries across the nation. With the Kingsolver/HarperCollins award, these Friends of the Library are in the spotlight of the nation itself, and all the nations it embraces.

Congratulations to the Friends of the Pelican Rapids Public Library for inspiring us all.