

# The READER

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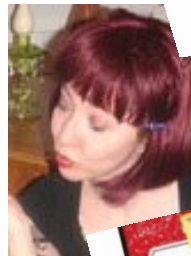
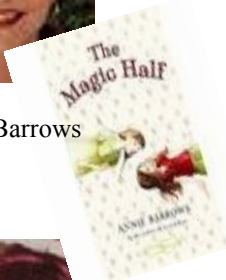
## Conference Headliners



Jon Scieska



Annie Barrows



Esme Raji Codell



## You belong at the 2011 Annual Conference!

Be sure to plan early - see why it's more important than ever to attend!

**CONNECT** — Do you want to connect with the education community in ways that can offer positive change? As a member of the Nebraska State Reading Association, there are many ways you can get connected. Your state association, in cooperation with the International Reading Association and the local councils, offers you a wealth of opportunities to join fellow classroom teachers, administrators, specialists, and technology leaders in partnerships that can help put you on the path to becoming better at what you do.

**LEARN** — Want to be better at what you do and raise the achievement scores for your students? NSRA offers a variety of learning opportunities to develop your knowledge and skills.

**ATTEND** — Are you ready to learn from experts, colleagues, and vendors? In addition to the learning opportunities offered, participating in NSRA's conference is the perfect way to stay ahead of the challenges and prepare yourself to deal with the critical issues you face in your district.

## President's Posting *by Linda Placzek*

Back in the stone age, when I was in college, both for my bachelor's and master's degrees, we were repeatedly schooled that a crucial part of the success of education was built on the triangle.

The triangle's sides each represented a key component for a child's educational success:

**Schoolhouse** = principal, teachers, strong curriculum

**Community** = businesses, church, social groups, agencies

**Family** = Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.

The **CHILD**, of course, was the center of the triangle.

If all sides worked together, then the child's possibilities of school success were substantially increased. The research backed this up and continues to do so even in 2010.. However, as society has evolved over the past 30 years, we have seen the triangle philosophy diminish for a variety of reasons. Now, the **School-house** seems to bear a great deal of weight with state tests given for comparability and accountability, not to inform instruction.

In some **communities**, businesses have backed away due to concerns for the bottom line or employee time commitments or churches have stood silent when confronted by changing societal norms. The third side, the **Family**, is still there. It may not look like family we grew up in or express support for schools in the ways we would like it to, but the family, in what ever form it takes, is still **the most critical component** of a child's success. Educators have students for 20 % of the day; the family, neighborhood and community for 80 %. Whose impact will be greater?

As committed Nebraska educators, we must strive to rebuild the triangle. That third side, the **Family**, is the great hope for our children and for us also. The Schoolhouse cannot do the job alone so connecting with families is absolutely critical. In my own experience, in the highest poverty urban area in the state of Nebraska, my goal was always to engage parents and bring them into the school circle. My staff members and I came up with some pretty "out there" ideas, but we were always willing to try because it was all about making a difference for kids. When opening a reconstituted school, I had every teacher keep track of every parent contact and turn in a report to me each month. I also completed one. Why? Well, the community did not know us and our job was to build trust with them as we created a positive relationship for learning in that community. Making sure we were communicating and reaching out was critical to our efforts and I do believe in data collection.

I hope you are planning on attending our annual reading conference, February 24-26, 2011. At that event, we are so fortunate to have **Dr. Patricia Edwards**, an acclaimed expert on **parent involvement** presenting several sessions. Bring your principal along, too. Dr. Edwards is the current President of the International Reading Association! I know I will learn new ways to connect with parents from her presentations as I have from reading one of her books, [Tapping the Potential of Parents](#). ( I highly recommend it.)

Looking forward  
to seeing  
you at  
conference!  
Linda Placzek,  
NSRA President



## The SKIP Program: Supporting Kids in Peru, South America

by Shirley Snyder

Our Nebraska State Reading Association has supported the SKIP Program for several years as a part of its International Project. We donate money to this program to help Peruvian children in the town of El Porvenir realize their right to an education. When a general donation is made, the funds may be used to build mud brick schools, a library or purchase books and school supplies.

SKIP also has sponsorship programs. A sponsor gives a monthly donation via PAYPAL for 12 or 24 months. Two different sponsorship programs are available. The BRONZE Sponsorship Program is \$15 a month and is for children 6-15 years of age. Unlike other countries, schools in Peru are not free and the costs of registration and school materials can be prohibitive for some of the families the SKIP Program is working with. By sponsoring a child, you are a part of the solution to ensure that these children have an opportunity for a different future.

The GOLD Sponsorship Program is for youths aged 15-20 years who are finishing secondary school. This scholarship program has been developed to help to support them in furthering their education in post-secondary institutions and in the pursuit of employment. Many of the older children of households carry the responsibility to economically contribute or be the sole economic provider for their families and look after their siblings. This Program is \$45 a month.



If you or your Reading Council is interested in sponsoring a child in Peru, South America, or giving a general donation, you can find out more information at [www.skiperoo.org](http://www.skiperoo.org). Here the SKIP volunteers tell how they select the youth they support and you can find out what you receive as a sponsor or donor and more about how the funding is used.

There is also a SKIP Shop where you can order bags, purses, jewelry and other Peruvian made objects that are hand made by students' mothers. What great gifts these would make! Your shopping also would benefit poor Peruvian families.

## Supporting Kids in Peru



### **NSRA to Participate in Nebraska State Literacy Team**

The Nebraska State Reading Association will be one of 15 members at the table in Lincoln when the Nebraska State Literacy Team begins meeting on December 15.

State President Linda Placzek will represent our organization. The Literacy Team is charged with creating a comprehensive literacy plan for the state of Nebraska. The Nebraska Department of Education is heading up this effort. Look for more information at our annual conference in February, 2011.



# Programs, Puppets, Authors

East Central Council *by Deanna Pokorny*

On Tuesday, November 16, 2010, a joint meeting of the Upsilon Chapter of Rho State of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and the East Central Reading Association met in the David City Elementary Building in David City. After a shared supper, each organization held their business meeting and then met together to enjoy the program. The program, co-sponsored by the Nebraska Humanities Council, featured Cherrie Beam-Clarke: "Promise in a New Land: Settling in Nebraska". This program was both informative and entertaining. The public was invited.

Below: Cherrie Beam-Clarke, presenter, (left) and Linda Zimblemann, Communication chairman from Upsilon Chapter in the bonnet.



East Central Reading Council and the Nebraska State Reading Association sponsored the "Children's Reading Festival" held at Lakeview High School on Saturday, October 16, 2010. East Central Reading Council is comprised of teachers from Colfax, Butler, Polk, Merrick, and Nance counties. Teacher members sponsored students for the morning activities. Teachers and students from Schuyler, Fullerton, East Butler, Howells, and David City attended. Chris Short and his Marionettes were featured. Students loved the antics of the puppets. Also featured was published author, N. L. Sharp who reviewed her books and her writing process. Students were given snacks, a free book, and a notebook to record their writings.

## Literacy Events throughout NE

- January 6: Way West: Julia Cook, author  
13: Sandhills: Soup Supper  
17: Nekota: Julia Cook, author  
17: Apple Valley: Charlotte Endorf:  
History & Reading  
22: Storytelling Festival, Kearney, NE  
27: Northeast: Dr. Jan Harriot & Emily Roemmich  
Singing Our Way to Literacy
- February: 24-26 NSRA Conference Ramada Inn, Kearney
- March 5: Metro: Meet the Author  
7: Nekota: Elections, Chadron,  
10: East Central: Books & Bars, Columbus  
14: Way West: Business Meeting  
19: Sandhills: Relax, Spa and Trade  
26: Mid NE: Banquet in Broken Bow
- April 10-16: National Library Week  
11-17: Week of the Young Child  
14: Eastern: Book Fair at Barnes & Noble  
16: Northeast: Julia Cook, Young Authors  
18: Apple Valley: Kelsea Jones:  
Ethnicity & Reading  
23 Metro: Spring Round Table  
26: Nekota: Business Meeting: Hemingford, NE
- May 2-8: Children's Book Week  
8-11: IRA Conference in Orlando, FL  
25: Nekota: Officer Work Day

For details on these programs go to [www.nereads.org](http://www.nereads.org)  
Click on the Local Council for more information

**T**ogether  
**E**veryone  
**A**ccomplishes  
**M**ore  
*NSRA: TEAM-work for literacy.*



Connecting Boys with Books  
Breaking All the Rules!

Presented by  
**Michael Sullivan**

Sponsored by  
**Read Aloud Nebraska**  
Four Sites in April:  
Alliance, Lexington, Norfolk, Seward

Watch for details at  
[www.readaloudnebraska.org](http://www.readaloudnebraska.org)

Join us on Facebook!



Become  
a fan of  
**NSRA!**

## Southwest Council *by Pat Baker*

### **Open A Book** by Jane Baskwill

Open a book  
And you will find  
People and places of every kind...

The Southwest Nebraska Reading council presented the McCook Habitat for Humanity family baskets of books for each member of the family. Co-president Becki Keenportz is shown presenting the books at the November meeting. The community literacy grant was used to purchase the books and baskets.



BE CAUTIOUS WHEN  
READING A HEALTH  
BOOK. YOU MIGHT DIE  
OF A  
MISPRINT.

MARK  
TWAIN



N.L. Sharp speaks at Litchfield about *Effie's Image* to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades .

## Mid-Nebraska Council

*by Kathy Spotanski*

Mid-Nebraska's first meeting was at the Tumbleweed Café. Along with a delicious breakfast plans were made for N.L. Sharp's visit to area schools. Participants were asked to bring websites that are great additions to the classroom study.

N.L. Sharp is an author from Fremont, Nebraska. The Mid Nebraska Reading Council gave a grant to have her travel for three days to visit area schools. She visited Broken Bow, Sandhills Elementary at Halsey and Litchfield. N.L. Sharp talked about her book, *Effie's Image* to the class. She told them the process it takes to publish a book and how different it turns out from the original writing. She also wrote, *Ring Bearer*, *Flower Girl*, and *Today I'm Fishing With My Dad*.

Nancy wanted students to remember all writers do three things: write, share their work with other writers and read. All three schools received a day visit from N.L. Sharp . Having a Nebraska author was really enjoyed by the students.

## Coordinators' Comments

by Shirley Snyder

In August Laurie Schmidt wrote about our Nebraska State Reading Association Leadership Workshop held in Aurora, Nebraska. The next week August 6-8, six NSRA leaders headed to Dallas, Texas for the International Reading Association's North American Leadership Workshop.

Many of you have met Rayann Mitchell, our Region's IRA Leadership Development Associate, either at Leadership or at our State Conference. She was just as dynamic and enthusiastic in Dallas as she is in Nebraska. She was joined by the Leadership Development Associates from the two other Regions of North America in planning and coordinating the workshop.

Many of our activities and discussion points were adapted from the book Creating We by Judith E. Glaser. We were encouraged to become WE-Centric Leaders who work in the context of community, work to reach agreement, reframe any conflicts in our Councils, focus on teamwork, and hone our conversational skills. We should work to have literacy culture that enables colleagues to be connected, engaged, and involved in order to create an environment where all team members can contribute, be successful and feel valued.

A highlight of the Leadership Workshop for me was International Reading Association author Valerie Ellery. She spoke at a breakout session I attended on her book Creating Strategic Readers and later on the topic "Creating Strategic Leaders. She told us "what you believe you can achieve." This is important for us when we are teaching—we must help our students believe in themselves and that they CAN read. We must teach them well and they will lead the way. Within our Councils we must share with others that we believe in our organization and what it can do for all of us.

All of us attending appreciated the opportunity to attend the Leadership Training session. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience. I encourage you to become involved in our organization at the state level to promote literacy statewide and take part

## Beyond the Basic Needs: From Food, Clothing, Shelter to Home Literacy Practices

Patricia Edwards, president of the International Reading Association will present on this topic at the General Session on Thursday, February 24, 2011, at 8 p.m. at the Kearney Ramada Inn. Edwards will discuss the necessity of preparing culturally relevant teachers. She will define the terms "mainstream literacy," "schooled literacy," and "official literacy," and explore an approach to learning about the cultural contexts of students' home literacy practices.



Edwards' past work includes development of two family literacy programs—*Parents as Partners in Reading: A Family Literacy Training Program* and *Talking Your Way to Literacy: A Program to Help Non-reading Parents Prepare Their Children for Reading*. Edwards also has written two books, *A Path to Follow: Learning to Listen to Parents* (Heinemann, 1999), and *Children's Literacy Development: Making it Happen Through School, Family and Community Involvement* (Allyn & Bacon, 2003).

## Central Council

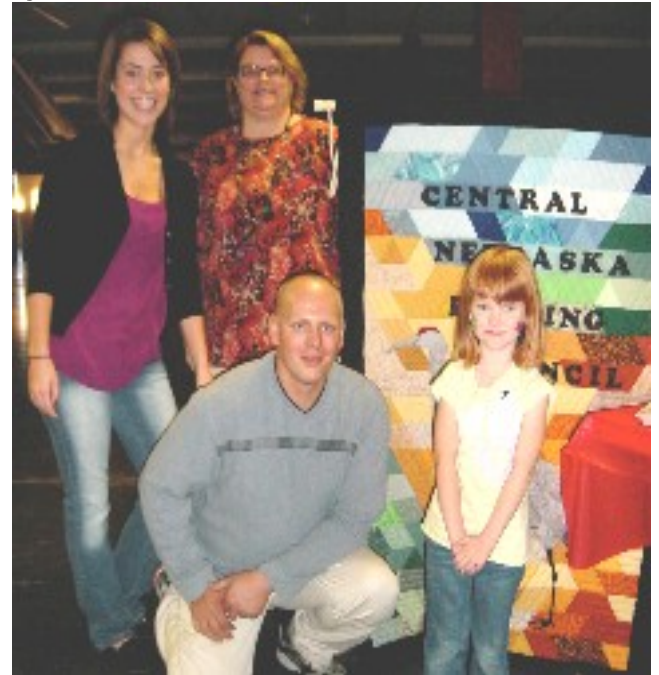
by Linda Dahlstrom

Friday, October 8, 2010, brought children's author Julia Cook to Newell Elementary in Grand Island for the whole day. Newell School PTA and Central Council co-sponsored her. Julia provided writing workshops for each grade level throughout the school day. And the students could not wait for her to return in the evening for her presentation in the gymnasium. Over 80 children and parents attended and were extremely moved to purchase one or more of Julia's books. Her background as an elementary guidance counselor led her to write books teaching children appropriate social skills, such as not tattling or picking your nose. And her love of children inspired her to write more books about protecting children's safety, such as avoiding kidnapping ("scooping") and bullying. Her children's presentation was lively and interactive. Julia had student volunteers practice what to say and do when faced with bullies or "weird adults." To think that she presents this important message to thousands of children and their parents each year is amazing. You can see why her books fly off the bookstore shelves.



Julia Cook tells the girls to look right up there when facing up to a bully.

# Central Council Celebrates



## Children's Day at Fonner Park

Allie Sass, Rebecca Bartlett, Lance Ellison, and little Jama gathered around our CNRC banner to show off our booth at Children's Day in Grand Island. On Sunday, November 14, 2010, more than 800 children and thousands of adults took in an afternoon of FREE family activities in the Fonner Park concourse. Our reading council provided volunteer adult readers for those children who gathered on the floor in front of Big Books set up on an easel. They listened to stories read aloud, followed by an invitation to choose a free book from our table. Thankfully, the NSRA gives us grant monies to help us buy hundreds of books, so we may give them away. What joy is registered on those small faces throughout the time they visit our booth! It's such fun to reach out to the community every year like this.

## Apple Valley Council

by *Trudy Fankhauser*

Once again, the Apple Valley Reading Council is proud to sponsor two student ambassadors from Peru State College. Our student ambassadors for 2010-11 are: Rebecca Colling, a traditional student, and Jill Gilson, a non-traditional student. Both of our ambassadors were highly recommended by P.S.C. education instructor, Gina Bittner.

**Rebecca** is a junior majoring in Elementary/Early Childhood Education. She attended Millard West high school and has lived in North Platte, Lincoln, and Omaha. Rebecca's mom is a graduate of PSC and her dad is a current student there. She has quite a list of activities that she is involved in. They include PSC cheerleading, vice-president of Student Senate, vice-president of Student Athletic Advisory Council, a Top Cat at PSC, president of the American Red Cross Club of PSC, a member of the American Red Cross/NAIA Champions of Character collegiate leadership program 2010-11, and a board member of the American Red Cross Midwest region.

**Jill** is a Senior majoring in Elementary/Early Childhood Education. She resides in Hamburg, IA with her husband, Pat, and their two boys, Emmett and Jake. She and her husband keep busy with their sons' school and sporting events. Jill teaches 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>. And 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school. She was a preschool teacher for four years before going back to school at the age of 34 to earn her teaching degree. She will be doing her student teaching during the spring of 2012.

Apple Valley Council is thrilled to have these two ladies as our student ambassadors as they juggle their very busy lives. Look for them at the NSRA Conference in February 2011.

# Student Ambassadors Chosen

## Eastern Council

by *Karen Heafer*

The Eastern Nebraska Reading Council hosted two, well-attended programs. The first was held on September 16 and was on Poetry and Technology. Cami Prochnow presented her program entitled, "Ham it Up with Poetry". She demonstrated various types of technology, such as the 'Clicker System', to enrich literature-based activities. Her presentation was filled with ideas that the members could take back to their classrooms that would engage students in their learning. Hosting the meeting, held at the Seward Public Library, were members Fran Ehlers and Sue Imig.

Our second meeting was held at Doane College. Karla Wendelin, a master of books talks, shared over two dozen new titles ranging from early elementary picture books to young adult novels. She left the attendees wanting to go to the nearest bookstore to get copies of their own or purchase for friends and relatives. Karla also shared the website that she and her husband have developed. It is a site that is very teacher friendly and links literature with themes or special calendar events. Her website is <http://www.prairiesunshine.net/logcablib>. (The Log Cabin Librarian) The evening ended with door prizes to a book store, coffee shop along with two books donated by Karla.

## LOG CABIN LIBRARIAN

Welcome to an internet resource for professionals interested in children's literature. Here, you can access **ACTIVITIES CALENDARS** that identify significant events for every day of the year with suggestions for books, web links and activities to accompany them. You can also look **ON THE SHELVES** for theme-related book lists. Enjoy some poetry, suggestions for writing poetry with students, and poetry resources in the **POETRY NOOK**. The **"WILD ABOUT BOOKS"** feature provides additional themed titles that correspond with the book review column in *School Library Monthly*. The **PROFESSIONAL LINKS** page directs you to other internet sites that have a children's literature focus.

## Common Core Standards- to Be or Not to Be ?

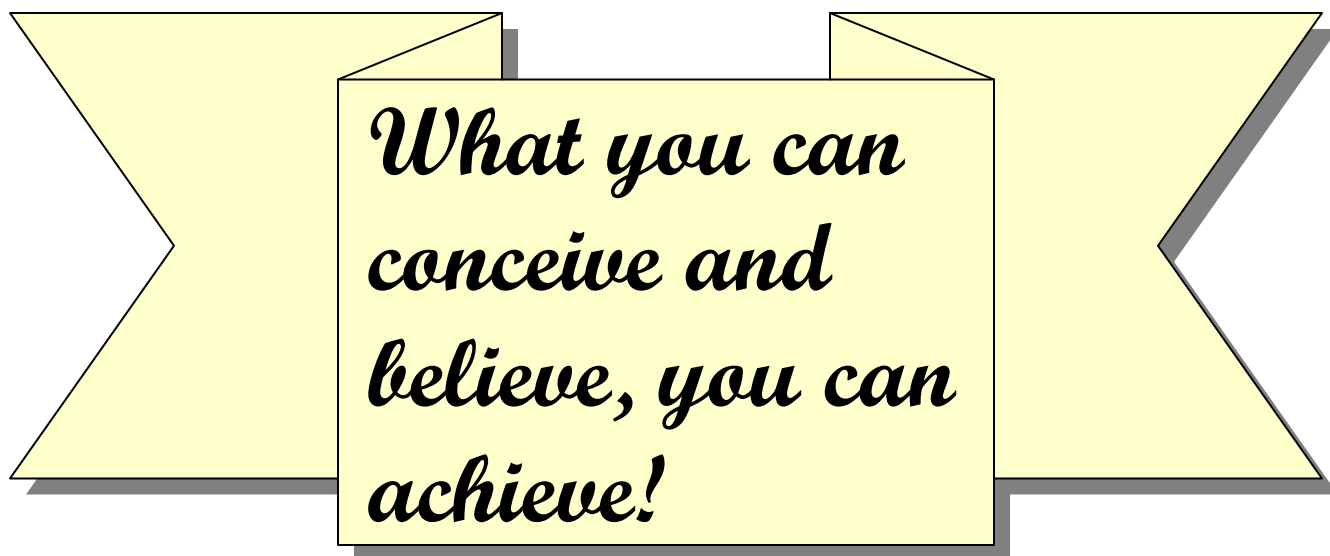
*by Christina Simants*

Among buzzwords sprouting recently in the educational world, you may have read or heard about the Common Core Standards. The Common Core Standards are math and reading standards put together by The National Governors Association for Best Practices (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

After an initial draft was constructed, ten thousand feedback responses were collected from teachers, professional associations, civil rights groups, ELL teachers, students with disabilities and the International Reading Association. The International Reading Association worked closely with the two groups throughout the drafting process. The IRA's viewpoint is that the standards are a step in the right direction but the organization has some concerns with the implementation process. Specifically, the IRA is worried that there will not be the level of professional development needed for teachers and that teachers may not have enough voice in the process of implementation. Another concern is in how the standards will be assessed.

Thirty-eight states have adopted the standards. Adoption is voluntary, but states chosen to compete in the Race To The Top program must adopt them. Nebraska was not a finalist in the first round of Race To the Top. Trish Parker of the Nebraska State Department of Education reports that the State Board did discuss the Common Core Standards at their October meeting. Some on the board see adopting these standards as a release of local control. Others feel it is an opportunity for Nebraska students to demonstrate their competency at a higher level. There may be a chance that in the reauthorization of NCLB, states will be required to adopt the Common Core Standards. Two groups have also been funded to create a national assessment by 2012 or 2013. and these assessments may be based on the Common Core Standards. (Just rumblings- no one knows for sure!)

Nebraska has not yet adopted the Common Core Standards but it is definitely a topic that teachers should be aware of and monitor. You can view the standards at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org). Trish Parker also announced that the State Dept. of Ed. is introducing an interactive web tool that links to all standards including the Common Core Standards. The tool will be available sometime in January.



**Thursday, February 24 – Pre-Conference Workshops**  
**Member: 1 workshop - \$45, 2 workshops plus lunch - \$85**  
**Non-member: 1 workshop - \$70, 2 workshops plus lunch - \$130**  
**Student: 1 workshop - \$10, 2 workshops plus lunch - \$25**

**Exhibits Hall open: 9:00 – 5:30 pm**

<p><b>Workshop 1 – All day</b>  <b>Julie Kozisek</b>          Using Strategy Groups to Help Your Students Become Better Readers          8:30-11:30          12:30-3:30</p>	<p><b>Workshop 2 - AM</b>  <b>Janette Klingner</b>          Response to Intervention for English Language Learners          9:00-12:00</p>	<p><b>Workshop 3 - AM</b>  <b>Jan Kristo</b>          What's New in Non Fiction          9:15-11:15</p>	<p><b>Workshop 4 - AM</b>  <b>Almitra L. Berry</b>          Reading and Writing through Relevant Lenses: Strategies for Reaching and Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners          9:45-11:45</p>
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<p><b>Workshop 5 - PM</b>  <b>Jan Kristo</b>          Nonfiction in Focus: Effective Ways to Teach it          1:15-4:15</p>	<p><b>Workshop 6 - PM</b>  <b>Matt Zbaracki</b>          Books and Boys: Now We're in Business!!          1:00-4:00</p>	<p><b>Workshop 7 - PM</b>  <b>Janette Klingner</b>          Enhancing Reading Comprehension and Language Acquisition with Collaborative Strategic Reading          1:00-4:00</p>
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**Exhibitor's Welcome Reception – 4:00 - 5:30 pm – Snacks and Social – NE Wine Tasting**

**NE Author's Showcase – 6:00 – 7:30 pm**

**General Session – 8:00 pm**

<b>Friday Breakout Sessions - No preregistration required - 60 or 90 minute sessions</b>	
Loops, Whorls and Arches	Make Skills Stick with Literacy Centers (K-2)
Intervention Games and Small Group Activities for Beginning and Struggling Readers	The Role of Phonemic Awareness and Phonics Skills for Reading Achievement
Using Reading & Writing as a Tool to Teach Science	Using Reading & Writing as a Tool to Teach SS
Using Powerful Literature to Create Powerful Writing	Using Visual Supports in Emergent Reader Classrooms
Using Teams of Readers as Motivation for Middle Grades Readers	Using Technology Found in the Classroom to Enhance Writing Assignments
Awaken the Imagination – Methods to Spark Stories and Rally Interest in Reading	The Literacy Coach: Developing a Toolkit to Improve Teaching and Learning
Empowering Students Through Writing	Scheming with Schema
Spaces and Places	Teaching TO Children . . . Not at Them
NOW SHOWING: No Country For Old Pens	Igniting a Passion for Reading in a Title I Building
Getting Kids Reading	Transform “I’m done!” into “I’m Working!”
When Reading Teachers Teach Math: Best Practice is Best Practice	Armchair Treasure Hunts, Free Blue Whales, and Other Fictions in the Real World
RTI – What Works for Us	Confessions of a Video Game Junkie
<b>Hot Topics Workshop</b> – Real Men Read, Fab Vocab, Nonfiction Reading Frenzy	Managing Small Group Instruction Through the Implementation of Literacy Stations

**Patricia Edwards – IRA President - Greetings from IRA**

Full Conference (Thursday evening, Friday, Saturday) Member - \$95, Non-member - \$145, Student - \$25

<b>Friday, February 25</b>		
<b>Friday only: Member - \$80, Non-member - \$125, Student - \$20</b>		
<b>Exhibits Hall open: 8:00 – 5:00 pm</b>		
<b>Workshops – Ticketed Sessions – May ticket for session online after registering Number Limited - Workshops will last 1 to 3 hours</b>		
<b><u>Workshop 1 - AM</u></b> <b>Talking about Boys and Reading, Boys and Writing</b> Jon Scieszka, Mac Barnett, Chris Rylender, Matthew Zbaracki	<b><u>Workshop 2 - AM</u></b> <b>PlanetEsme Presents: So Many Books, So Little Time</b> Esme Raji Codell	<b><u>Workshop 3 - AM</u></b> <b>No More Deadly Dull Reports: Teaching Students How to Research and Write Memorable Reports</b> - Jan Kristo
<b>Morning Breakout Sessions</b> No preregistration required – 60 or 90 minute sessions (See other page for titles)		
<b>Author Luncheon – Esme Raji Codell</b> Must preregister and pay additional fee to attend		
<b>Author Luncheon – Annie Barrows</b> Must preregister and pay additional fee to attend		
<b>Lunch Forum with Tricia Parker and Mary Pistillo - Nebraska Department of Education</b> A la carte lunch available for purchase – no registration required – limited seating available		
<b>Afternoon Workshops – Ticketed Sessions – May ticket for session online after registering Number Limited - Workshops will last 1 to 3 hours</b>		
<b><u>Workshop 4 - PM</u></b> <b>Managing Small Group Instruction through the Implementation of Literacy Stations</b> Carrie L. Kracl and Kearney Public Schools Teachers	<b><u>Workshop 5 - PM</u></b> <b>Thinking Like a Seven Year Old</b> Annie Barrows	<b><u>Workshop 6 - PM</u></b> <b>The Comprehension Revolution: Helping Teachers Take a Closer Look at the Reader, Text, Activity, and Context</b> Patricia Edwards – IRA President
<b>Afternoon Breakout Sessions</b> No preregistration required – 60 or 90 minute sessions (See other page for titles)		
<b>Evening Banquet – Jon Scieszka - Guys Read: Funny Business</b> 7:00 – 9:00 pm - Must preregister and pay additional fee to attend		

## Newspaper in Education



Using newspapers in the classrooms is one of the best text to world connection that you can make for your students. Check out these super web sites for ideas and activities:

<http://www.kidscoop.com/kids>  
<http://www.neonline.com>

## Why use newspapers in your classroom?

- Regular newspaper reading prepares students to be informed, involved citizens.
- The “always-fresh” nature of newspapers captures students’ interest and imagination.
- Students who are eager to read the paper are developing lifelong reading habits.
- Because students are encouraged to take their papers home, it promotes family literacy.

[http://www.kearneyhub.com/newspapers\\_in\\_education/](http://www.kearneyhub.com/newspapers_in_education/)

<b>Saturday, February 26</b> <b>Saturday only: Member - \$40, Non-member - \$60, Student - \$10</b>
<b>Literacy Walk</b> – additional fee required - 7:00 - 8:00 am
<b>Morning Breakout Sessions</b> No preregistration required – 60 or 90 minute sessions (See below for titles)
<b>Morning Workshop - From Routine to Rigor in Reading and Writing - Pam Pierce</b>
<b>Awards and Author Luncheon - TBA</b> 12:00 - 1:30 pm - must register and pay additional fee to attend

<b>Saturday Breakout Sessions - No preregistration required - 60 or 90 minute sessions</b>	
Humphrey School’s Success Story Using Fluency Tutor	Reading Luau and Other Irresistible Themes to Support Family Reading
Poetry...Anytime...All the Time	The ABC's of Parent Involvement
Creating Good Books	Test Text: A 21st Century Genre
Reading for Meaning – Fluently	Teaching Comprehension of Fiction – Not Just Testing It!
Writers and Writing	How to Teach Spanish Reading
Read to Achieve: Teaching Content Area and Advanced Narrative Skills & Strategies to Adolescent Learners	Using Universal Design for Learning to Differentiate Learning
	<b>Mark Your Calendar to Attend!!!!</b>

One More Acorn, by Don and Roy Freeman

by Sally Hutt

Have you ever chosen a book by its author only? I have done it a number of times, not always being pleased with my choice. I was perusing the “Horn Book”, my favorite browsing guide, when I stumbled onto a book review about a book called One More Acorn, by author Don Freeman and his son Roy Freeman. I have the fondest of memories of reading Corduroy, Corduroy Gets a Pocket and Norman the Doorman, all by Don Freeman to my children, now ages 34 and 30 years! As I read the review, I learned many things about Don and Roy Freeman and their latest book, copyright, 2010.

“One More Acorn is a unique collaboration between Don Freeman, author of the children’s classic Corduroy, and his only son, Roy”. Don began this project but didn’t finish it before he passed away in 1978. Roy recently picked up where his father left off. This father-son creation has turned into a heart-warming story that was fun to read to my first graders this fall. According to *The Horn Book*, June/July 2010, Don was in Washington D.C. on business and was writing this very book, sketching along the way, but put the book down, never to work on it again. His son Roy, now living in Switzerland, found his dad’s notes and sketches and revived this touching book about a friendship between a squirrel in D.C. and a boy on a field trip. It’s fun and the sketches are Don Freeman’s along with additional illustrations from Roy Freeman and Jody Wheeler, who Roy commissioned to create as close to what his father would have sketched as possible. This is one book I chose by author only that I’m not sorry about. It’s amazing how much more fond I am of a book, once I know some background on the author or illustrator.

## What is RTI? : Just an Introduction

*by Sally A. Hutt*

Recently, at a Nebraska State Reading Association Board Meeting, one of the committees I serve on, Professional Studies, was discussing what is important to the teachers in Nebraska and what is it that we most want to investigate to help us be good teachers and to help our students to reach their potential. Among the topics was, RTI, (Response To Intervention) which we shared interest in and had a huge variation of knowledge about. I am only going to give an introduction to RTI, so those of you who have already implemented it into your school will have to bear with me. It was obvious from our committee discussion that schools across the state of Nebraska are definitely in different stages of the RTI process. It seems to me that if I understand the history of an idea, I'm more likely to invest myself in it. My research comes from the RTI Action Network and can be accessed by going to [www.rtinetwork.org/learn](http://www.rtinetwork.org/learn). An introduction states: "RTI holds the promise of ensuring that all children have access to high quality instruction, and that struggling learners – including those with learning disabilities – are identified, supported, and served early and effectively."

When President Gerald Ford signed Public Law 94-142, the Education for All Handicapped Children's Act (EHA), in 1975, he was trying to rectify practices of the denial of education for all handicapped children. Under this first ever Special Education law, two main themes were focused upon; (1) finding and identifying students who might have a handicap and who were not enrolled in a public school and (2) securing permission from parents that these children be assessed and placed under an individualized program, which we refer to as the Individualized Educational Program, the (IEP). For the past 25-30 years, the Special Education program was more interested in placing the students and not necessarily assessing them on a continuous basis and actually looking at the outcomes, either academic or behavioral. Special Education students

were pretty much excluded from any or most any academic testing.

Now, over 25 years after the EHA bill passing, some professionals have asked if we could do things better. It was recognized that all students in general and special education must be included. All students needed to be frequently monitored and student outcomes could only be successfully accomplished if reform efforts were included in both general and special education. "So while RTI began as a response to addressing student outcomes for special education students, it quickly emerged as a general education initiative, as obtaining successful outcomes for students requires an integrated education system that does not operate as two distinct entities. In other words, could we focus at least as much, if not more on student outcomes? In that question RTI was born."

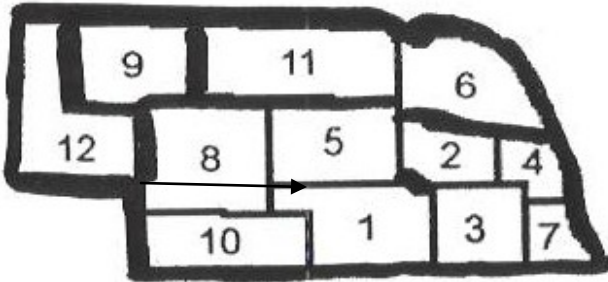
It has been found that by noticing how a student responded to research-based interventions or asking what effective interventions the student needs? Only then could improvement be realized. These kinds of thoughts and questions were the basis of the President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education (2002), as were the proposed solutions.

"RTI has emerged, in part, as an answer. It is a knowledge base, skills, and a service delivery system that is intended to provide an educational experience to all students that is focused on delivering effective education and intervention programs and on frequent progress monitoring of student outcomes using those measured student outcomes (RTI) to adjust and change programs and interventions as necessary."

Special Education students seem to respond well to adaptations and interventions yet require still major resources to have continued progress. They will, in many cases, never be able to reach their peers academically, no matter the program or the intervention. According to the research I read, if we adopt the RTI model, we will be allowing what is best and necessary for all students in our schools.

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Websites for Reading Information:

### **Nebraska State Reading Association**

[www.nereads.org](http://www.nereads.org)

### **International Reading Association**

[www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)

### **Read Aloud Nebraska**

[nde.state.ne.us/READ/ReadAloudNebraska/RANMain.htm](http://nde.state.ne.us/READ/ReadAloudNebraska/RANMain.htm)

### **Reading Classic**

[teacherweb.com/ne/centennial/readingclassic](http://teacherweb.com/ne/centennial/readingclassic)

### **Newspapers in the Classroom**

[www.nieonline.com](http://www.nieonline.com)

### **Golden Sower**

[www.nol.org/home/NLA/nugget](http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/nugget)

### **Plum Creek Literacy Festival**

[www.cune.edu/plumcreek](http://www.cune.edu/plumcreek)

### **Read Across America**

[www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross)



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## Looking at Literacy: An Editorial Moment

*by Glenda Frasier, Editor*  
gfrasier@ charter.net

## Parent Involvement: Mind Your P's and Q's

We would all agree that parents who are involved with their child's education reap huge benefits and so do their children. Getting parents involved is certainly worth our time to nurture and encourage. Here are some ways to make it happen for the children in our classrooms:

**Quest:** The goal of any parent involvement program is to facilitate the interaction and success that comes from having parents actively participating in their child's learning.

**Power for Parents:** Empower the parents of your students by sharing with them, communicating your goals, and by reassuring them that they play a vital role in the educational success of their child.

**Prepare the Parents:** We can't just expect that involvement will occur automatically. We can provide training and resources to emphasize the positive results of their engagement.

**Practice for Parents:** Provide opportunities where parents can get involved at a level that is comfortable for them. Help them take that initial step to be involved by offering choices that will give them a variety of ways to be a part of this effort.

**Progress for Parents:** Be sure to have concrete ways that parents can reflect on their commitment, network with other parents, and share in the joy of their child's accomplishments. This will motivate them to continue the involvement.

**Quality:** Periodically evaluate your efforts formally or informally to assure that you are extending a welcoming, risk-free environment to parents as well as your students.