

## ***“Librarian’s Shelf” by Marilyn Zehring, Friends of the Library President***

Nook to be Friends annual meeting door prize

In November 2005 a group of people met to form a new organization to serve the library and community. The group included Sally Hansen Kreis, Lori Neid, Melodee Pedersen, Mary Peterson, Robert Trautwein and Jean Wilson. Graduate student, Jill Owens served as secretary for the committee. The result of the group’s work was the formation of the Friends of the Columbus Public Library. In June 2006 the first Annual Meeting was held with election of officers and approval of the Bylaws.

It was five years ago when the first officers met and struggled with how they could best serve the library and the community with an almost empty treasury. Today there is a healthy balance in the treasury with most of the money coming from memberships and proceeds from book sales. Each year the largest amount budgeted is to fulfill the "Wish Lists" and needs of the staff and community. The Friends have funded Children’s Programs, financially assisted people attending conferences, purchased one DVD Cleaner, a professional sound system, and the electronic sign above the elevator. Currently the Friends are refurnishing and painting the employee break room which has not been changed in many years.

The second largest amount budgeted is for programming. The Friends have presented many types of programming including One Book One Columbus and Summer Sundays at the Library. To do programs the Friends have partnered with Platte County Museum, Columbus Area Art Gallery, Central Community College, Chautauqua, Nebraska Humanities and Nebraska Educational Television. Some of the programs have been very well attended while others have not. The Friends would like the public to tell them what kind of programming they would like. Please go to [cplfriends@neb.rr.com](mailto:cplfriends@neb.rr.com) or contact a board member to submit your ideas for programming.

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 30th at 2:00 p.m. in the Art Gallery at the library. A short business meeting will be held to elect officers and approve the 2011 budget. Officers for 2011 will be: President Melodee Pedersen, vice-president Carol Goering, secretary Gaylene Hingst, treasurer Rita Samuelson, members at-large Diane Klug, Rae Fulton, Judy Marshall and Lori Neid. Also serving on the board as ex-officio members will be Marilyn Zehring, former president and Jill Owens, Library Director.

NET legend Ron Hull will present the program. He will explore 50 colorful years of Nebraska history, told through his experiences with Mari Sandoz, John Neihardt, Sandy Dennis, Frank Morrison, Terry Carpenter, Bob Kerrey, Johnny Rogers, and more. Through this program and Ron’s funny, poignant and inspiring anecdotes attendees will leave with a fresh admiration for Nebraska’s fascinating history.

A NOOK will be given away at the Annual Meeting. The NOOK is an electronic book reader which is compatible with on-line e-books from the library. To be eligible to win the NOOK a person must be a current member of the Friends of the Columbus Public Library and be present at the meeting. Memberships and renewals are now available at the library and will be available at the meeting.

The past five years have been a fascinating journey for the Friends' board members. It has been a journey of trial and error with many outstanding programs and improvements for the library. The Friends' board would like to thank the library and the community for their past support and their continued support in the future.