

Librarian's Shelf by Jill Owens

### Library Plan progress, continued

Two weeks ago this column was bringing readers up to date on the first year progress on the strategic plan. This column finishes that report and looks ahead.

Time was taken up last year on several building maintenance issues, some of which have spilled over into this year, including finishing up the wiring on the new front doors, which can only be done after some other work is done.

Beginning in 2013 and continuing in the present, the Foundation board has been working on an overhaul of their by-laws, articles of incorporation, and structuring to position itself for the future.

The final tallying is underway for the annual statistical report due next month to the Nebraska Library Commission. When that is complete a report on our numbers for 2013 will be made available.

At the end of the year, Clark Enerson Partners was selected through a competitive process as the architects for promotional visual services, so watch for information about that in the next few months.

It is anticipated that in 2014 fundraising will begin for a new library/cultural arts center that will better help us serve the needs of the community for a gathering space, a library, and holding cultural offerings.

In 2014 the public will see a continuation of staff working through the strategic plan. This will involve some more physical improvements, another phase of the furniture project, and more technology for patron use making an appearance. We'd like to expand programming to be more inclusive. Staff is looking into more automation for things like overdue and hold notices via system-generated email.

Programming in the new year is already off to a great start. A tea was held in the library auditorium, with the help of Traditions this past Saturday, and the 58 attendees had a great time. Even with all the changes, we are keeping many popular features such as the Summer Reading Program and the book sales. We still enjoy our excitement over working through the strategic plan, though we have to remind ourselves, it is a five-year plan, and everything can't be done at once. There are some interesting changes on deck for 2014, make sure you stop in and have a look. You can also listen to Community Spotlight the third Tuesday morning each month on KLIR local morning radio to hear about even more current library happenings.

We'll see you at the book sale this week, January 30th through February 2nd. Thursday will be the usual preview night from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and a \$5 membership fee is charged. There are no obligations to membership, but the perks are free entrance into the August preview night for the book sale, plus being added to the new library e-newsletter. Friday through Sunday we will be open the same hours of the library, and Sunday we will sell all remaining items for \$1 per bag.

Donations were recently given to the bookmobile in memory of Lynsey Marie Kapels from Cliff and Phyllis Kapels and the Brian Greisen family. Marilyn Murray made a donation to the library for the purchase of new fiction. Donations to the Columbus Library Foundation were given by Pat Anderson, and Dwain and Jill Owens.