

# Open Books, Open Doors

## Second annual event nets \$10,000 for Lincoln Literacy Council

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PHOTOS BY DONNA STADIG

The second annual "Open Books, Open Doors" benefit event was successful for book lovers and Lincoln Literacy Council alike. More than 100 autograph seekers, book hunters and literacy supporters gathered April 9 at Chez Hey to bid on autographed books, enjoy the music of Double Standard and hear Pulitzer-nominated local author and journalism professor Joe Starita.

Starita captivated the crowd with the story of Ponca Chief Standing Bear, the focus of his most recent book, "I am a Man!" Afterward, he graciously signed copies of his book.

Attendees also bid on a wide variety of autographed books – from international bestsellers like "The Darkest Evening of the Year," contributed by author Dean Koontz,

and "Paths of Glory" by Jeffrey Archer to poetry books by Nebraska Poet Laureate William Kloefkorn and nonfiction by Lincoln-based psychologist Mary Pipher.

The real reason for the event was not lost amid the festivities. All proceeds went to support Lincoln Literacy Council. The event netted more than \$10,000 for the nonprofit organization.

"Lincoln Literacy Council makes our community stronger by helping more than a thousand people a year," said Board President Lance Odom. "This organization addresses a critical need in our community: the need for English language literacy. It's work we're proud of, and we appreciate you being here tonight to support it"



1) From left, Georgia Stevens, Robert Hillestad and Trudy Lieberman enjoy refreshments at Open Books. Hillestad, a noted textile artist, contributed a book about his works to the event. 2) Don Nelson (left), publisher of the Prairie Fire newspaper, presents the winning ticket at the Open Books drawing to Rembolt Ludtke attorney David Barga, first vice president of Lincoln Literacy Council. 3) Author and Verner Professor of Biological Sciences John Janovy Jr. peruses a book. 4) From left, volunteer tutors Marcia Pearson and Sharon Ritter share a laugh with Party America owner Cynthia Martinez, who also tutors and serves on the LLC board. 5) Leona Mitcheltree, a retired businesswoman and current LLC volunteer, sips while consultant Denise Mainquist, newly elected to the LLC board, smiles.