

PLAIN SPEAKING

CENTRAL PLAINS LIBRARY SYSTEM NEWSLETTER

Educate | Connect | Inspire

April is Our “Month of Weeding”

Yes, you read that right...CPLS is having a full **month** of weeding this year. Weeding is crucial for maintaining a healthy collection in all libraries. In fact, weeding books and other materials is at least as important as purchasing new ones. Generally, after weeding, circulation increases. That is because the books that are left are easier to see. With more space on the shelf, more face-out displays are done. Surprisingly, people really do choose which books to read based on their covers so having them face-out makes it easier for patrons to choose something they want to read.

Figuring out what to weed is a bit trickier. You have to decide how long to hang onto books that don't move. If it has been a while since a book has been checked out, you must ask, “Is it ugly?” and “Does it have a bad location—such as a bottom shelf?” It is easy to weed a book that is falling apart. It has done its job and is ready to go.

Don't weed too many things at the same time. This is stressful and time-consuming. It also creates a huge backlog of weeded books that need to be taken care of. Try continuous weeding or a weeding project every three or four months. This is easier to handle and helps to ensure that your shelves always look good.

Weeded items can be used for a book sale, given away, used in craft projects or donated to charity. Be sure to check with your funding agency to determine if there are specific rules for weeded materials.

Without a doubt, weeding will make your library more attractive and the addition of new materials will keep the collection reliable, accurate, unbiased and up-to-date.

See page 4 for information about the **CPLS Month of Weeding**.



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NLA's Public Library and Trustee Section 2023 Spring Meetings

Meet the Nebraska Library Commission and The Four Nebraska Regional Library Systems

Tuesday, April 11, 10:00am -12:00pm CT

IN PERSON at the Nebraska Library Commission
in the Atrium Conference Room on the 2nd Floor
The Atrium 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE

Following an introduction and overview of the Nebraska Library Commission from Rod Wagner, staff will introduce us to services they offer to public libraries. A few of the topics covered will include accreditation, NebraskAccess, tech kits, Public Library Survey and Bibliostat, basic skills courses, Talking Books, book club kits, and more!



REGISTER HERE FOR NLC DAY

Thursday, April 13, 1:00-2:30pm CT

A free, virtual panel discussion, where representatives of the four Nebraska Regional Library Systems will introduce us to the services they provide to public library staff and patrons. For those who were not able to attend the in-person meeting at the Nebraska Library Commission, there will also be a review of their services.



REGISTER HERE FOR ZOOM MEETING

Central Plains Library System
Denise Harders, Director
402-705-1409
denise.cpls@gmail.com

Southeast Library System
Scott Childers, Director
402-467-6188
scott.childers.sels@gmail.com



Three Rivers Library System
Tammi Thiem, Director
402-330-7884
tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com

Western Library System
Cindy Osborne, Director
308-632-1350
cindy.osborne@nebraska.gov



For more information, please contact: nlaplts@nebraskalibraries.org.
Membership in NLA or PLTS is not required to join the live session.
Participants can submit 2 CE credits for the in person meeting, and 1.5 CE credits for the Zoom meeting.

CPLS Annual Meeting to be held in Cozad

In July we will be exploring the town of Cozad, NE, for our Annual Meeting location this year. Cozad is known for their rich history especially in the arts! Their outdoor art has expanded to include the 50 States Barn Quilts, Cozad Creates Icons, Rhakenna's Wings, and the Sculpture Garden at Wilson Public Library. You'll enjoy art throughout town as you celebrate Cozad's art spirit. Join us for a fun-filled day, go home with a unique barn quilt you have created, or stay overnight and make a weekend of exploring all the area has to offer!

July 14th, 2023

10am - 3:30pm

Wilson Public Library
910 Meridian Ave.
Cozad, NE 69130

\$10 registration fee payable to the System office or at the door

1 CE per participant

REGISTER HERE: <https://forms.gle/ouYeBXntahApTcjTA>



50 State Barn Quilts plus another 100+ in the surrounding community!



Rhakenna's Wings
(33 different ones)



Sculpture Garden
at Wilson Public
Library



Cozad Creates
Palette Icons
(19 different ones)

April is CPLS Month of Weeding!

April 1-30, 2023



It is time for Spring Cleaning!

I want to encourage everyone to participate by agreeing to weed a section of your library that you have been avoiding. You know what it is—that corner, that shelf, that genre of books that you have put off weeding for a while. Now's the time! ALL libraries in CPLS are eligible to participate!

How to Participate:

1. Send me an email at denise.cpls@gmail.com to let me know that you want to participate.
2. If you need extra encouragement or help deciding what to weed, I will be glad to give advice and to lend a helping hand. Call or email to set up an appointment.
3. After you finish your weeding project, let me know how it went by filling in the form below.

Those who submit their forms to the CPLS Office by **May 5th** will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon Gift Card. The winning library will be selected in a random drawing on Friday, May 12, 2023.

Week of Weeding Participation Form

Library Name: _____

Section Weeded: _____

How many books were weeded? (approximately): _____

Best (or worst) thing that was weeded out? _____

I would love to see some "before and after" photos of your project! You can email digital pictures or submit printed photos with this participation form. (Pictures are not required and will not affect your library's chances of winning the gift card.)

Return the form via email or mail to:
Central Plains Library System
2727 West 2nd Street, Suite #233
Hastings, NE 68901

CPLS Biennial Conference: Call For Speakers

Join the Central Plains Library System as we host our first ever biennial fall conference! The theme for this inaugural event will be "Tools of the Trade." We will host a variety of speakers at the Kearney Public Library on Thursday, October 19th. The all-day conference will include a keynote speaker, lightning rounds, and sessions packed with tricks, tips & tools to make your job easier & more rewarding! Mark this date in your calendars now so you don't miss this opportunity! Each attendee will earn up to seven (7) continuing education (CE) credits for the day. Presenters will earn an additional CE for their presentation at the conference!

Speaking of presenters....the Call for Speakers for CPLS Biennial Conference 2023 is now open!

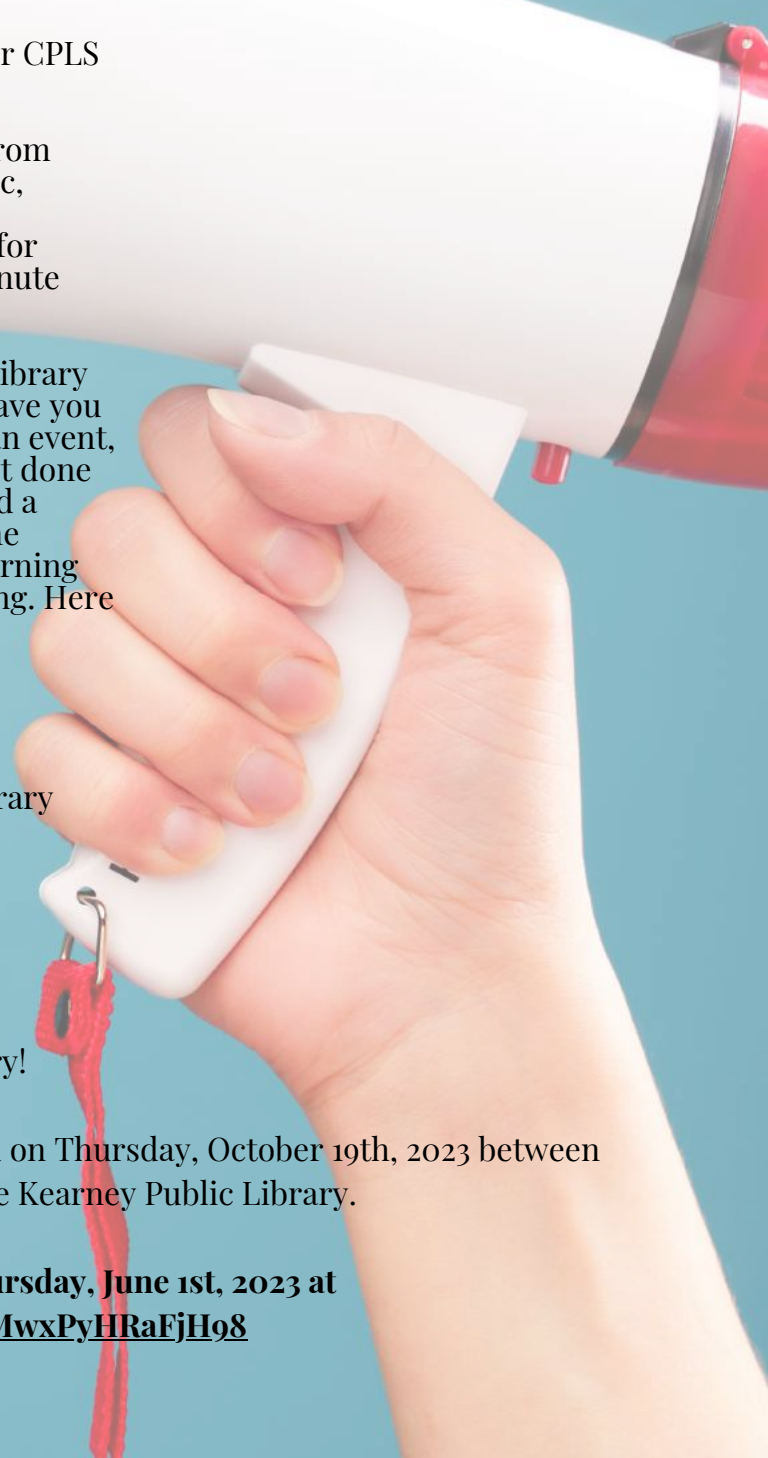
This one-day conference is aimed at librarians from around our System. Libraries of all types - public, academic, school, museum, special, etc. - are encouraged to submit a proposal. We're looking for fifteen 50-minute presentations and three 15-minute "lightning round" presentations.

Do you offer a service or program at your small library that other librarians might like to hear about? Have you implemented a new (or old) technology, hosted an event, partnered with others in your community, or just done something really cool? Have you creatively solved a management issue? This conference gives you the opportunity to share what you've done, while learning what your colleagues around the System are doing. Here are some possible topics to get you thinking:

- Unique Programming
- Logos, Branding & Marketing for Your Library
- Fundraising
- Improved Workflows
- Staff Development
- Advocacy Efforts
- Community Partnerships
- That great thing you're doing at your library!

The CPLS Biennial 2023 Conference will be held on Thursday, October 19th, 2023 between 10 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (CT) at the Kearney Public Library.

Submit your proposal by Thursday, June 1st, 2023 at
<https://forms.gle/XisUMwxPyHRaFjH98>



National Library Week Celebrates 65th Anniversary!

National Library Week 2023, **April 23–29**, will be celebrated with the theme "There's More to the Story."

Libraries are full of stories in a variety of formats from picture books to large print, audiobooks to ebooks, and more. But there's so much more to the story. Libraries of Things lend items like museum passes, games, musical instruments, and tools. Library programming brings communities together for entertainment, education, and connection through book clubs, storytimes, movie nights, crafting classes, and lectures. Library infrastructure advances communities, providing internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for businesses, job seekers, and entrepreneurs. National Library Week 2023 will be a great time to tell your library's multi-faceted story.

Celebration Days During National Library Week

Monday, April 24: State of America's Libraries Report released, including Top Ten Frequently Challenged Books of 2022.

Tuesday, April 25: National Library Workers Day, a day for library staff, users, administrators, and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.

Wednesday, April 26: National Library Outreach Day (formerly National Bookmobile Day), a day to celebrate library outreach and the dedicated library professionals who are meeting their patrons where they are.

Thursday, April 27: Take Action for Libraries Day, a day to rally advocates to support libraries.



About National Library Week

National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.

In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions and musical instruments. Concerned that Americans were reading less, the ALA and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizens organization called the National Book Committee in 1954. The committee's goals were ambitious. They ranged from "encouraging people to read in their increasing leisure time" to "improving incomes and health" and "developing strong and happy family life."

In 1957, the committee developed a plan for National Library Week based on the idea that once people were motivated to read, they would support and use libraries. With the cooperation of ALA and with help from the Advertising Council, the first National Library Week was observed in 1958 with the theme "Wake Up and Read!" **The 2023 celebration marks the 65th anniversary of the first event.**

Read more about the [history of National Library Week](#) at American Libraries magazine, and check out the list of [past National Library Week themes](#).

Nominate Books Now for the 2023 Nebraska Book Awards

The 2023 Nebraska Book Awards program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB) and Nebraska Library Commission, will recognize and honor books that are written by Nebraska authors, published by Nebraska publishers, set in Nebraska, or relate to Nebraska.

Books published in 2022, as indicated by the copyright date, are eligible for nomination. They must be professionally published, have an International Standard Book Number (ISBN), and be bound. Books may be entered in one or more of the following categories: Nonfiction, Fiction, Children/Young Adult, Cover/Design/Illustration, and Poetry. Winners in each category will be honored at the Fall 2023 Celebration of Nebraska Books and Annual Meeting in Lincoln.

The entry fee is \$40 per book and per category entered. Deadline for entries is **June 30, 2023.**

For more information, including entry forms, see <http://www.centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards/nebookawards.html>. Books may be entered in one of two ways: either complete the Online Entry Form and submit payment through PayPal, then mail three copies of the book to the below address. Or, mail the Entry Form [pdf], three copies of the book, and the entry fee via a check made out to the Nebraska Center for the Book to the below address.

NCB Book Awards Competition
c/o Nebraska Library Commission
The Atrium
1200 N Street, Suite 120
Lincoln, NE 68508-2023



Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award

School librarians are invited to apply for a \$5,000 award recognizing outstanding humanities programming in kindergarten through eighth grade:

<https://www.ala.org/tools/programming/jaffarianaward>

Nominations for the 2023 Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award will be accepted until **May 5, 2023**.

Eligibility

U.S. school libraries, public or private, that serve children in any combination of grades K-8 are eligible, provided the library is staffed by a state-certified librarian. Libraries are encouraged to self-nominate. Nominated programs must have taken place during the current school year (2022-23).

The intent of the award is to recognize humanities programs that expand student horizons beyond “basic education.” A humanities program can be focused in many subject areas, including but not limited to social studies, poetry, drama, art, music, language arts, foreign language and culture. Programs should focus on broadening perspectives and helping students understand the wider world and their place in it. The humanities program should be initiated and coordinated by the school librarian and exemplify the role of library programming in advancing the overall education goals for the school.



Named after the late Sara Jaffarian, a school librarian and longtime ALA member, ALA's Jaffarian Award was established in 2006 to recognize and promote excellence in humanities programming in elementary and middle-school libraries.

Recent Jaffarian Award-winners have included:

Empathizing with Teens in Trauma: An Exploration of the Terezin Ghetto/Camp, a program where students researched the artwork, poetry and music created by teenagers in the Theresienstadt/Terezin Nazi concentration camp during World War II.

Teaching the Tulsa Race Massacre with Guided Inquiry Design, a program that taught students about how assumptions create conflict in society using the Tulsa Race Massacre as an example. Students then completed research projects on assumptions causing conflict in the world today or in their own experience. Students chose a topic to research further.

Junior Ambassadors, a program that brings a global perspective to students through a book club focused on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Poverty and Philanthropy, a program where students researched famous philanthropists including how much money they donate, which nonprofit they support, and why.



Creative Aging through the Arts Program

Creative Aging Arts Program (CAAP) grants pay for programs with teaching artists trained in best practices of creative programming with older adult participants. Select teaching artists from NAC's CAAP Artist Cohort, which is listed with [CAAP grant information on the NAC website](#). During CAAP residencies, artists share their expertise through skill-based, sequential arts lessons in a variety of disciplines. Sessions also foster social engagement among participants, ending with a culminating event to showcase participants' work. Sponsor organizations, including non-profits, senior centers, local agencies on aging, and libraries may apply. Grant applications have a rolling deadline - apply at least six weeks ahead.



Many Grant Opportunities Available

There is a tremendous amount of grants available right now! Go to the [Nebraska Library Commission's website](#) to find out more details on each one. These grants are for specific items such as arts, seniors, or accessibility in your library. However, many are available for summer reading programs, teens, graphic novels, equity, financial education, etc. Some grants may require matching funds but not all do so it pays to check out the details. Grant amounts range from \$500 to \$50,000. Discover new opportunities for your library today!

If you have any questions on how to fill out a grant or need help doing so, please don't hesitate to call us at the System office. We would be more than happy to help your library get more funding for programs and improvements!

One Book For Nebraska Kids and Teens 2023

Kids: *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich



Omakayas, or Little Frog, lives with her Ojibwe family near Lake Superior, where their traditional way of life is being evermore disrupted by the encroachment of settlers. Over the course of a year, she helps with seasonal activities such as building the summer birchbark house, defending the crops from crows, and scraping hides to make new garments. Omakayas also gets into plenty of mischief, including stumbling upon a couple of bear cubs while picking berries! The rhythm of life in her village is dramatically altered when a stranger visits, bringing illness.

Links

[Author Information](#)
[Discussion Prompts](#) from Scholastics
[Book Club Kit](#)
[Sounds of The Birchbark House](#)

Activities

[Alphabet Soup](#)
[Snowball Fight](#)
[Indigenous Tribes of Nebraska](#)
[Mini Book Review Sheet](#)

Teens: *Not If I Save You First* by Ally Carter

Maddie lives a quiet life in the middle of the Alaskan wilderness with her father. But the arrival of her childhood friend shatters her solitude and she finds herself on the run from foreign mercenaries... and her feelings about her friend. Can she save both their lives and her heart?



Links

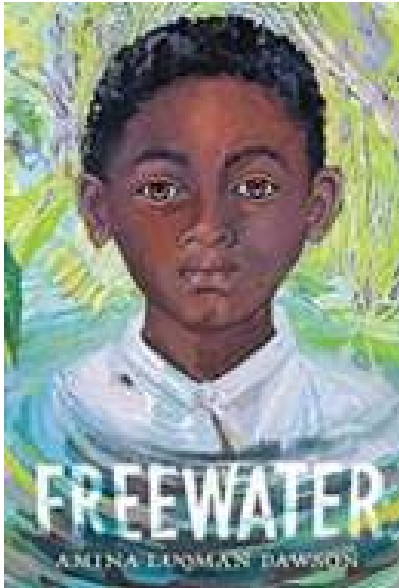
[Book Website](#)
[Author Info](#)
[Discussion Guide](#) from The Little By Little Home
[Book Club Kit](#)

Activities

[Mad Libs](#)
[Headbands Game](#)
[Snowball Fight](#)
[Mini Book Review Sheet](#)
[How to Make an Axe Throwing Game](#) from I Like To Make Stuff

Youth Media Awards 2023

For the complete list of winners and honor books go to:
[American Library Associations Youth Media Award Winners](#)



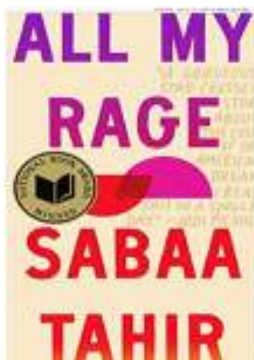
Winner of the **John Newbery Medal** for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature and the **Coretta Scott King (Author) Book Award** recognizing an African American Author and illustrator of outstanding books for children and young adults.

Freewater, written by Amina Luqman-Dawson, is the 2023 Newbery Medal winner. The book is published by JIMMY Patterson/Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. This inspiring book, which won two awards is described by the publisher as:

"A lyrical, accessible historical middle-grade novel about two enslaved children's escape from a plantation and the many ways they find freedom. Deeply inspiring and loosely based on the history of maroon communities in the South, this is a striking tale of survival, adventure, friendship and courage."

Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children:

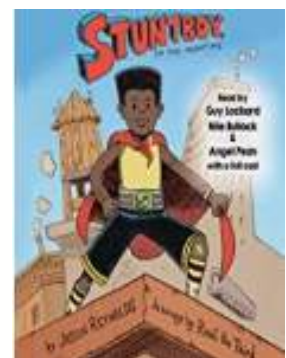
Hot Dog, Doug Salati, author and illustrator, Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House.



Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in literature written for young adults:
All My Rage, Sabaa Tahir, Razorbill, imprint of Penguin Young Readers, a division of Random House

Odyssey Award for the best audiobook produced for children and young adults.

Winner for children: **Stuntboy**, in the Meantime, Taryn Beato, narrated by Guy Lockarad with a full cast, Simon and Schuster



Young adult winner: **The Honey's**, Melissa Ellard, narrated by Pete Cross, Scholastic Audio

Earth Day ~ Invest in Our Planet

Nebraska Public Media is supporting Earth Day with the new NOVA documentary *Weathering the Future*.

Screening Opportunity: New NOVA documentary *Weathering the Future*

Looking for programming ideas around Earth Day this April? Or wanting to screen a science documentary this summer? NOVA will premiere a new documentary, *Weathering the Future*, on Wednesday, April 12. This film will be available for libraries and community groups **to use for free public events!**

Weathering the Future examines the dramatic ways in which our weather is changing. From longer, hotter heat waves, to more intense rainstorms, to megafires and multi-year droughts, the U.S. is experiencing the full range of impacts from a changing global climate. At the same time, many on the front lines are fighting back—innovating solutions, marshaling ancient wisdom, and developing visionary ideas. The lessons they are learning today can help all of us adapt in the years ahead, as the planet gets warmer and our weather gets more extreme.

NOVA will be creating a discussion guide and outreach toolkit to help facilitate community events. Excerpts from the film will be available for free community screenings before April 12. The full film will be available for free screenings after the April 12 broadcast premiere.

If you are interested potentially holding an event, please contact Maggie Berndt, community engagement manager at Nebraska Public Media:
mberndt@nebraskapublicmedia.org.

She will share your information with the NOVA team so that you can receive the film for screening and the other supplemental materials when they are available. Learn more about the film and NOVA's "Climate Across America" campaign.



Meet the Staff:

Each newsletter we will feature one or two of the CPLS Board Members or CPLS Staff so you get to know those who are working behind the scenes in support of our System. This month we are spotlighting our newest staff member, Deb Fairbanks!

Hello everyone! I am Deb Fairbanks, the new part time Administrative Assistant at CPLS. My husband, Ken, and I live in rural Wood River along with our horses, dogs and cats. We have 3 grown children and 4 grandchildren. My hobbies are collecting antique toys and gnomes. I love to read mysteries, so I belong to two book Clubs and, at one time, even a cookbook club. Prior to CPLS I was a teacher for 25 years and Library Director at Maltman Memorial Library in Wood River for 9 1/2 years. After retiring for a little over a year, I missed all my librarian friends and children's programs. Last summer I helped Stephanie Branham with 6 weeks of the summer reading program at C.B. Preston Library in Orleans, Nebraska. My plans are to help Stephanie again this year with the summer reading on Thursdays. This job with CPLS gives me the opportunity to enjoy seeing and serving my librarian friends.



CPLS Will Provide This Speaker for Your Libraries Summer Reading Program!

Would you like to have a live performance at your library this summer?

Humanities Nebraska has many fine speakers, and David Marsh has a wonderful program that coordinates beautifully with this year's Summer Reading theme. That program is titled "*Music From Around the World*." David Marsh is an experienced musician and presenter who has delighted Nebraska audiences for many years. This is a program for all ages. The Central Plains Library System will provide the \$50 administrative fee for every library in our System that books David Marsh for a program between May 1 and August 15. That means you can have a terrific live performance, without cost for your library.

First, contact the performer: Email: marshnmusic@aol.com

Phone: (402) 499-3262



After your program details are finalized, fill out the form on the Humanities Nebraska website: <https://humanitiesnebraska.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Catagory-I-new.pdf>, print it out, and mail it to the address on the bottom of page 2.

When completing the form, include the following on the bottom of the first page:

“Please bill to CPLS.”

Book early to confirm your preferred date!

CPLS Will Provide Summer Reading Crafts For Librarians Again This Year!

Do you want to share a "latte" kindness with your Summer Reading Program participants this summer? You may request these materials to do this craft.

- You will get: random colored cardstock shapes of the cup, the lid, the sleeve, and 3 ice cubes, in addition to a straw for each kit.
- You will need: Markers (so the children can write an act of kindness they have done on each ice cube), glue sticks, and a piece of tape for the straw.

Contact Deb at cplsasst@gmail.com as soon as possible to let her know how many Latte Kindness Kits you need for your Summer Reading participants.

Deadline: May 1, 2023



Do you have another theme in mind? We have a bunch of die cuts that go with this summer's theme "All Together Now!" Examples would be handprints, community helpers with outfits, and globes. We can cut them for you in various colors and materials. [Check out the dies here](#) and send your order to Deb by May 1st!

CPLS SYSTEM NEWS WE CAN ALL USE:

New Seed Library in Holdrege



Seeds are free and there is no limit.
Packets of Seeds Donated by Sunmart.



Jensen Memorial Library recently received a grant from Southern Public Power District through the Operation Round Up grant program to go toward the purchase of a Heartline AED machine, wall cabinet, signage, and other essentials. Plans are to have the unit in place by the end of April. Placement of the AED machine at the library adds to an effort to provide library staff with emergency response training and skills which also includes all staff completing Heartsaver First Aid/CPR/AED training through Kearney County Health Services and the American Red Cross.

*Photo and story provided by Janene Hill,
Director of Jensen Memorial Library.*

CPLS SYSTEM NEWS WE CAN ALL USE:

Jensen Memorial Library's "Tuesdays with MJ" after school group spent several sessions creating artwork that was mounted and put on display in the gallery at Minden Opera House for the month of February. The group took walking field trip to MOH on February 7 to see their work on display. Their reactions their reactions and faces conveyed that they were pretty excited to see their artwork up in a "professional" environment. The field trip was followed up by an "artists' reception" of cupcakes and juice back at the library.

Tuesdays with MJ is a weekly hour-long program for kids in first through sixth grades that focuses mostly on STEAM-related projects (with some fun game days thrown in). The class averages 11-12 kids per week and is ongoing throughout the school year, and has been a part of JML's schedule since Fall 2021.

Jensen Memorial Library is extremely thankful for an ongoing relationship of collaborations for events and activities with Minden Opera House.



CPLS SYSTEM NEWS WE CAN ALL USE:

JOIN US IN APPLAUDING OUR 2023 NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OUTSTANDING LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS!



Ruth and Don Bergmeier
Ravenna Public Library
pictured with Joy Kyhn



**Kathleen Nonneman
and Linda Whiteley**
Grand Island Public Library
pictured with Kim Mettenbrink



CPLS SYSTEM NEWS WE CAN ALL USE:

Happy Anniversary



Photo provided by Laurie Yocum, Director of Wilson Public Library in Cozad.

Kim Hartman at Wilson Public Library in Cozad recently celebrated her 15th work anniversary. Congratulations to Kim!

Sue Vaughnwilliams has been at the Holdrege Area Public Library for 26 years on March 17th!

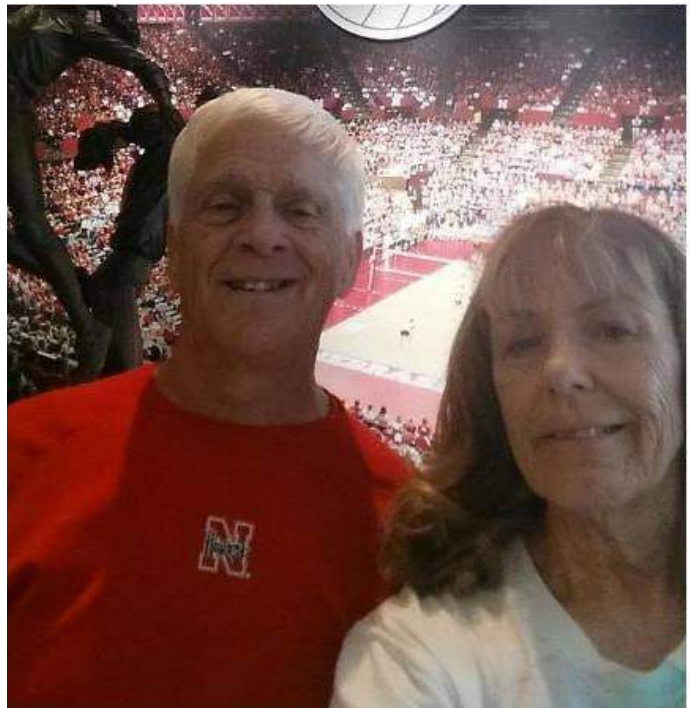


Photo provided by Diana Urbom, Administrative Assistant at Holdrege Area Public Library.

CPLS SYSTEM NEWS WE CAN ALL USE:



North Platte Public Library

3d · 🌐

Teens Explore made Newtons cradles today!



North Platte Public Library

March 21 at 10:10 AM · 🌐

We had a ton of fun making bristlebots at Tween Time yesterday!

Photos taken from North Platte Public Library Facebook page. Story provided by Shelly Deardorf.



“Beyond the Beaten Path”

This is our theme this year! Let your Bookmark celebrate this idea!

Are you Creative?

Got some talent to share with your Library?
This is your **BIG** chance...

You can be the Creator of a special Bookmark, at the Public Library, for this SUMMER !

We're having a contest! Forms are available **March 20th** at the Library . Return the forms to the front desk by **April 12th** and watch for the winner's Bookmark to be picked and published!

We have our 6th Annual Bookmark Contest coming up! It has been a great way to start ramping up interest in the upcoming summer events.

CPLS SYSTEM NEWS WE CAN ALL USE:

The Beaver City Public Library has begun partnering with Kiddee City Day Care here in Beaver City. Each Wednesday, their helper Cheyenne, selects up to 4 children to accompany her on a 1 block or so walk to the Beaver City Public Library. They are learning important skills like listening to directions, crossing the street safely, and helping each other. Once they arrive at the library, Miss Cheyenne has them hang up their coats and enter the library quietly and politely (this is coming along!) Miss Dawn Greets them and tries to have a simple project and book ready for them! Then, if they have listened well and completed all their tasks, they get free play or coloring time! They have all been doing well, and we enjoy our visitors.



*Pictures and story provided by Dawn Brown,
Directory of Beaver City Public Library*



Dylan loves to come to the library on weekends and after school. We do not have a formal after school program, but Dylan is always looking for something to do, after he has his chores or homework done. So he and Mrs Dawn have been doing Madlibs, crossword puzzles, making crafts, board games, Lego's, reading and this past weekend, we tried origami. He is pretty good at this! Maybe we will try some macrame or diamond painting soon. I'd love to have someone else to keep us company, or maybe even a mentor that could take him on nature hikes, shoot hoops or toss a ball around!

NEW BOOK CLUB KIT AT CPLS



The Measure by Nikki Erlick – 8 copies
A “Read with Jenna” Pick
Instant New York Times Bestseller

Eight ordinary people. One extraordinary choice.

It seems like any other day. You wake up, pour a cup of coffee, and head out.

But today, when you open your front door, waiting for you is a small wooden box. This box holds your fate inside: the answer to the exact number of years you will live.

From suburban doorsteps to desert tents, every person on every continent receives the same box. In an instant, the world is thrust into a collective frenzy. Where did these boxes come from? What do they mean? Is there truth to what they promise?

As society comes together and pulls apart, everyone faces the same shocking choice: Do they wish to know how long they'll live? And, if so, what will they do with that knowledge?

The Measure charts the dawn of this new world through an unforgettable cast of characters whose decisions and fates interweave with one another: best friends whose dreams are forever entwined, pen pals finding refuge in the unknown, a couple who thought they didn't have to rush, a doctor who cannot save himself, and a politician whose box becomes the powder keg that ultimately changes everything.

Enchanting and deeply uplifting, The Measure is a sweeping, ambitious, and invigorating story about family, friendship, hope, and destiny that encourages us to live life to the fullest.

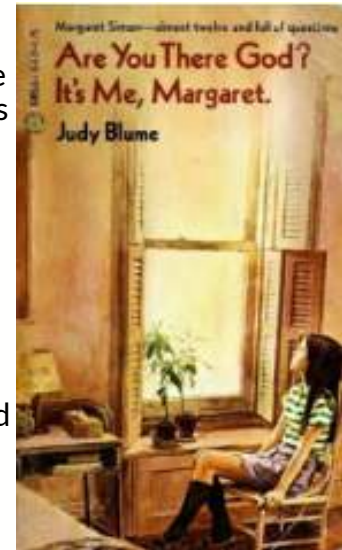


BOOK CLUB KITS AT NLC

CONTRIBUTED BY MACKENZIE MARROW

March, being Women's History Month (shoutout to women), gives me an excuse to visit a book in our collection that has influenced and consoled countless young girls and women since 1970. Selected as the 1970 New York Times "Outstanding Book of the Year," listed in Time's 2010 list of "All-Time 100 Novels", and in Scholastics' "100 Greatest Books for Kids/100 Must-Read Books", *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* by Judy Blume has carved a legacy and guided our approach to educating young people about puberty. And pioneered middle-grade fiction at a time when books for kids "on the cusp" of puberty were nowhere to be found.

Eleven-year-old Margaret Simon's relationship with God has nothing to do with religion. Her parents, one Christian and one Jewish, decided to raise her outside of any faith because of the pressure they received from their own religious upbringings. Even still, Margaret frequently talks to God, whoever he is, about her problems and insecurities, confiding in things she couldn't tell anyone else.



After moving to the New Jersey suburbs, Margaret is tasked with a year-long school project of her choosing. Deciding her project will be to finally find a religion that fits her (much to her parents' discomfort), Margaret attends Jewish and Christian services, hoping to feel God there the same way as when she talks to him alone. At the same time, she and her group of friends, smartly named "The Pre-Teen Sensations," wrestle with more down-to-earth issues, like boy problems and bras. All the while eagerly awaiting their first period, deathly afraid that something might be wrong with their bodies when it doesn't come as soon as other girls in their class. Together, Margaret and her friends face down the scariest enemy of all: the epic highs and lows of being a pre-teen girl.

Margaret's message is still relevant to young girls today. Despite being written over 50 years ago, young readers, alone or in a reading group, can see themselves in Margaret, even the parts they try to hide. Blume's works encourage open and honest communication, creating a space for community and empathy, which is the foundation of any good book club. To be sincere, to experience new perspectives, and to grow together. All these years later, Judy Blume is still a household name, and for good reason. She created a space where it is easy and necessary to talk about ourselves and our feelings without shame. In school, we giggled and commiserated over her plain and frank depictions of real problems and things happening with our bodies that other adults might have shied away from talking about. But she never did. We'd pull from the advice of Blume to let us know there was nothing wrong with us, we were growing up, and that's ok.

Amy Weiss-Meyer, a senior editor at the Atlantic, best sums up Blume's influence and genuine care for nurturing young girls in the article [We Still Need Judy Blume](#): "The letters started right after Margaret. The kids wrote in their best handwriting, in blue ink or pencil, on stationery adorned with cartoon characters or paper torn out of a notebook. They sent their letters care of Blume's publisher. "Dear Judy," most began. Girls of a certain age would share whether they'd gotten their period yet. Some kids praised her work while others dove right in, sharing their problems and asking for advice: divorce, drugs, sexuality, bullying, incest, abuse, cancer. They wanted to scream. They wanted to die. They knew Judy would understand."

The first film adaptation of *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* will be released in April 2023, starring Rachel McAdams and Kathy Bates, with Judy Blume as a producer.

If you're interested in requesting *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* for your book club, you can find the Book Club Kit Request Form [here](#). **There are 13 copies available** (A librarian must request items)

PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION

CPLS has added new professional items in the Professional Collection. If you would like to checkout either of these books, or the numerous ones we have available, please email autumnc.cpls@gmail.com.

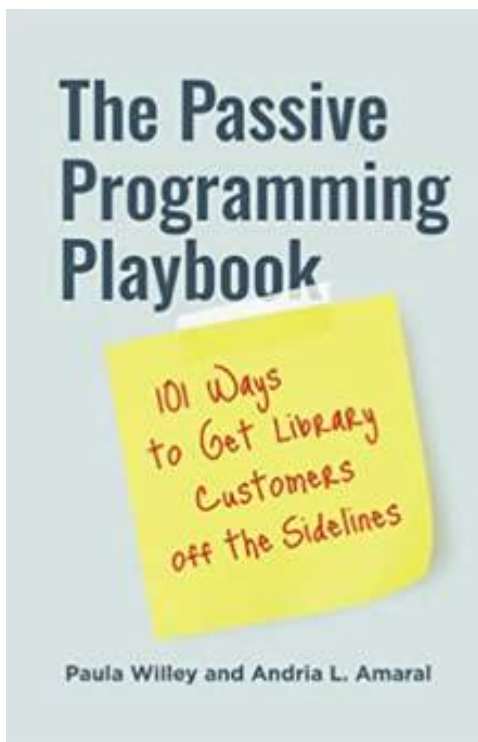
Standards-Based Lesson Plans for the Busy Elementary School Librarian by Joyce Keeling

A new book by Joyce Keeling, an elementary librarian and teacher with more than two decades' experience, *Standards-Based Lesson Plans for the Busy Elementary School Librarian* presents many integrated lesson plans for students in each of the elementary grades, kindergarten through 5th grade. All lessons have been tested and refined in a school setting, and they are specifically written to match the AASL Information Literacy Standards and the Common Core State Standards. In addition to the reproducible lesson plan worksheets, the book offers in-depth discussion of how best to collaborate to teach information literacy within the scope of common elementary school curricula.



The Passive Programming Playbook by Paula Willey and Andria L. Amaral

Passive programming is a cheap, quick, fun way to make all library customers feel like part of the community. It can support reading initiatives, foster family engagement, encourage visit frequency, and coax interaction out of library lurkers—while barely making a dent in your programming budget. Passive programming can be targeted at children, teens, adults, or seniors; used to augment existing programs; and executed in places where staff-led programming can't reach. It can be light-footed, spontaneous, and easily deployed to reflect and respond to current news, media, library events, and even the weather. But even passive programming pros run out of ideas sometimes, and when that happens, they want a fresh, funny source of inspiration.



AUDIOBOOK COLLECTION

CPLS owns over 1,200 circulating audiobook titles. System member libraries may borrow audiobooks (CD, MP3, and Playaway formats) for a loan period of 90 days.

Here are some new additions:

A Man Called Ove: A Novel by Backman, Fredrik
Secretly Yours by Bailey, Tessa
Scarlet Carnation by Brahim, Laila
The Last Tale of the Flower Bride by Chokshi, Roshani
Desert Star by Connelly, Michael
Someone Else's Life: A Thriller by Liao Butler, Lyn
Between You and Me by Mason, Carol
Someone Else's Shoes by Moyes, Jojo
The Passing Storm by Nolfi, Christine
Mad Honey: A Novel by Picoult, Jodi
The Choice: The Dragon Heart Legacy, Book 3 by Roberts, Nora
All the Dangerous Things by Willingham, Stacy



MAY is Mental Health Awareness Month

CPLS is again hosting Mental Health Mondays in May! Watch your email every Monday in May for a special email from Denise that will highlight a special feature to spread awareness or put the spotlight various mental health issues.



ARSL Conference 2023 ~ Wichita, Kansas

On the ARSL website the conference is described as: “the conference for rural and small libraries *. Our conference planners and presenters understand the constraints of shoestring budgets, small spaces, and limited staffing within small and rural libraries, as well as the unique opportunities for innovation and collaboration. Our conference is packed full of information you can take right back to your library—no scaling down required. “

Funding Opportunities!!!!

The Nebraska Library Commission and the Central Plains Library System offer grants and scholarships for you!

Nebraska Library Commission

- Continuing Education Grant—applications will be accepted from March for activities after July 2023 The NLC grants for ARSL are unique as the amount is a flat \$500.00 to attend

Central Plains Library System

Complete the form (page). Up to \$300.00 may be awarded.

The money can be used for:

- ARSL membership dues
- Conference Registration
- Travel or food allocation

This scholarship requires a short article (pictures are a nice addition) for the Central Plains Library System's newsletter "*Plain Speaking*." The ARSL Conference is a wonderful opportunity to meet with like-minded library staff who understand what it is like to operate in a small and/or rural library* Learn new advancements, collaborate with people across the nation and enjoy a time for personal and professional growth and fun.

Contact the CPLS office if you are interested in connecting with other System libraries to ride together. There may be several options.

*The definition of small and rural is a service area of less than 25,000 people



Conference Scholarship Applications

Open April 4!

Each year the [ARSL Grants, Awards & Scholarships \(GAS\) Committee](#) accepts applications for four competitive scholarships to facilitate attendance to the ARSL Conference. These scholarships are funded through generous donations to the ARSL Scholarship Fund by our members and supporters!

Interested applicants may apply for any/all scholarships for which they are eligible in a given year. All successful applicants will be awarded one (1) scholarship from among those applied for, as outlined on our [Conference Scholarships](#) page. Click the button below to learn more!

[About ARSL Conference Scholarships](#)

New This Year: The Empowering Library Workers of Color Conference Scholarship

Library workers of color have been, and in many places continue to be, given access to fewer opportunities for professional growth and advancement. Establishing this scholarship is part of ARSL's ongoing commitment to cultivating an intentionally inclusive professional community that amplifies the voices and lived experiences of library workers of color while also acknowledging the persistent structural inequalities within our profession.

Applicants for this scholarship must be members of one or more marginalized and/or underrepresented ethnic, racial, or cultural identity groups within our profession (including but not limited to Black or African American; American Indian, First Nations, or Alaskan Native; Spanish, Hispanic, or Latine/a/o/x; Asian; Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, or other Pacific Islander; Middle Eastern or North African).





CPLS HAS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE!

Many of you may be looking forward to a new year and new opportunities to attend events such as the ALA Annual Conference, the Joint Youth Services Retreat, the ARSL Conference, or other training opportunities that come up during the next year. The System can help! We have money available for you!

CPLS can award up to \$200.00 per event in Nebraska and \$300 for out-of-state events. These funds are available to help cover expenses such as registration, mileage, meals, etc. Only one scholarship per person per fiscal year (July - June). Each Library Agency shall be limited to two scholarships per year.

Name _____

Library _____

Event _____

Date of event _____

Scholarship requested for _____ (meal, room, etc.)

Amount requested _____

Who should the check be made out to _____

Other information: _____

Send your request to: Central Plains Library System
2727 W. 2nd Street #233
Hastings, NE 68901

Breakout EDU Kits Available



The System Office has two Breakout EDU kits available for loaning. These kits allow libraries and school media centers to set up escape room experiences in meeting rooms or small spaces such as table tops. They come with a variety of locks and some basic tools. You can get ideas for your escape room from a wide variety of websites, blogs, and videos. You can also buy books and create props to help you in the process of developing fun and challenging puzzles.

If you are interested in borrowing a kit, please call the System office today to reserve one for your event!

Fun Things to Celebrate:

Use these dates to spark creative programming ideas for your patrons, get crafty with your monthly book displays, or host fun community events at the library!



April

National Financial Literacy Month

National Inventors Month

National Stress Awareness Month

National Afternoon Tea Month

National Poetry Month

Apr 10-15- World Music Therapy Week

Apr 24-30- Every Kid Healthy Week

Apr 4 - National School Librarian Day

Apr 5 - National Nebraska Day

Apr 7 - National Girl Me Too Day

Apr 9 - National Unicorn Day

Apr 10 - National Encourage a Young Writer Day

Apr 11 - National Pet Day

Apr 13 - National Scrabble Day

Apr 14 - National Gardening Day

National Love Your Pet Day

Apr 15 - National Titanic Remembrance Day

Apr 17 - National Ellis Island Family History Day

Apr 20 - Get to Know Your Customers Day

Apr 21 - National Kindergarten Day

Apr 22 - National Earth Day

Apr 25 - National Library Workers Day

Apr 26 - National Library Outreach Day

Apr 27 - National Poem in Your Pocket Day

Apr 28 - National Superhero Day

Apr 29 - Independent Bookstore Day

Apr 30 - National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day



May

National Miniature Garden Month

National Skin Cancer Awareness Month

National Photography Month

National Get Caught Reading Month

Better Speech and Language Month

May 7-13 - National Pet Week

May 7-13 - Screen Free Week

May 7-13 - National Wildflower Week

May 1 - National Mother Goose Day

May 2 - National Bike to School Day

May 4 - National Star Wars Day

May 4 - National Renewal Day

May 5 - National Cartoonist Day

May 6 - Free Comic Book Day

May 7 - National lemonade Day

May 9 - National Alphabet Magnet Day

May 12 - National Provider Appreciation Day

May 16 - National Barbeque Day

May 19 - National Pizza Party Day

May 20 - National Rescue Dog Day

May 22 - National Solitaire Day

May 24 - National Scavenger Day

May 26 - National Paper Airplane Day

May 27 - National Grape Popsicle Day

May 29 - National Paperclip Day

May 30 - National Creativity Day

May 31 - National Flip Flop Day

Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians

One of the requirements for Public Librarian Certification is training in the basic skills of librarianship. This requirement may be fulfilled by completion of formal education in an institution of higher learning or completion of approved continuing education or certification courses, including the Nebraska Library Basic Skills Training Courses.

Why participate in the Public Librarian Certification program?

- Improves library service throughout the state
- Motivates librarians to acquire, maintain, and develop skills through basic and continuing education
- Provides guidelines for public library boards to use in selecting and retaining personnel
- Recognizes public librarians who update their knowledge and skills on a continuing basis to provide better library service for the community

Basic Skills training is presented as a series of online asynchronous courses through NCampus. Basic Skills participants are required to complete at least thirteen modules - six requisite modules and seven electives. These must be completed during the provisional (first) three-year certification period. For each course successfully completed, participants will earn 2 CE credits. These count toward the 45 CE credits that all participants must earn during each five-year recertification period. The courses for 2023 are listed below.

BASIC SKILLS CLASSES

CLASS DATES	CLASS	INSTRUCTOR	REGISTRATION DATES
4/1 - 4/30	<u>Introduction to Cataloging</u> (Organization of Materials)*	Self-paced	2/21 - 3/18
4/17 - 4/28	<u>Library Finance</u>	Holli Duggan	3/14 - 4/8
5/8 - 5/19	<u>Intellectual Freedom/Core Values*</u>	Cindy Osborne	4/4 - 5/2
6/5 - 6/16	<u>Readers' Advisory</u>	Tammi Thiem	5/2 - 5/30
7/3 - 7/14	<u>Reference</u>	Christa Porter	5/30 - 6/24
7/24 - 8/4	<u>Library Policy</u>	Holli Duggan	6/20 - 7/15
8/14 - 8/25	<u>Collection Management*</u>	Denise Harders	7/11 - 8/5
8/28 - 9/8	<u>Programming & Outreach</u>	Christa Porter	7/25 - 8/19
9/18 - 9/29	<u>Community & Library*</u>	Sam Shaw	8/15 - 9/9
10/16 - 10/27	<u>Management/Supervision</u>	Cindy Osborne	9/12 - 10/7
11/6 - 11/17	<u>Leadership</u>	Tammi Thiem	9/26 - 10/21
11/27 - 12/8	<u>Library Services to Children & Teens</u>	Sally Snyder	10/24 - 11/18

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- Apr 5 - April Showers Bring May Flowers Cricut Workshop - 1pm - 5pm (Kearney)
Apr 14 - CPLS Board Meeting - 10am (CCC - Grand Island)
Apr 26 - April Showers Bring May Flowers Cricut Workshop - 10am - 2pm (Atkinson)
Apr 28 - Arbor Day Holiday - CPLS Office Closed
- May 29 - Memorial Day Holiday - CPLS Office Closed
- Jun 19 - Juneteenth Holiday - CPLS Office Closed
Jun 22-27 - ALA Conference (Chicago)
- Jul 4 - 4th of July Holiday - CPLS Office Closed
Jul 14 - CPLS Annual Meeting - 10am - 3pm (Wilson Public Library in Cozad)
- Aug 31/Sep 1 - Jt. Youth Services Retreat - Camp Carol Joy Holling (Ashland)
- Sept 4 - Labor Day Holiday - CPLS Office Closed
Sep 20-23 - ARSL Conference in Wichita, KS
- Oct 9 - US Indigenous People's Day Holiday - CPLS Office Closed
Oct 19 - CPLS Biennial Conference "Tools of the Trade" - 10am - 5pm (Kearney)

NCompass LIVE PRESENTATIONS

NCompass Live is the Nebraska Library Commission's weekly webinar series, covering a variety of library activities and topics. The show is free and open to anyone to watch. These one-hour sessions are hosted by Christa Porter, the NLC's Library Development Director, and include a mixture of presentations, interviews, book reviews, Web tours, mini training sessions, and Q & A sessions presented by NLC staff and guest speakers. Attendees ask questions and participate in the show via VoIP, using their own microphone, or in the live text chat.

Every Wednesday 10am - 11am (CST)

To view past presentations, [CLICK HERE](#).

- | | |
|--|----------|
| Apr 5 - T(w)eens: Programming, Partnership, and Burnout | Register |
| Apr 12 - Art Show! Where Art and Science Meet to Bring the Community Together | Register |
| Apr 19 - Creative Aging Arts Program for Nebraska Libraries | Register |
| Apr 26 - Pretty Sweet Tech | Register |
| May 17 - Read the Rainbow: Serving the LGBTQ+ Community in Your Library | Register |
| May 24 - La Biblioteca Es Para Ti - Building Community Relationships in a Different Language | Register |
| May 31 - Pretty Sweet Tech: Bots for the Community! | Register |

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