

PLAIN SPEAKING

CENTRAL PLAINS LIBRARY SYSTEM NEWSLETTER

Educate | Connect | Inspire



Nominate an Outstanding Library Volunteer

Is there someone in your community that you count on to help at library programs or events? Has this person been volunteering at your library for multiple years...or even decades? Each year, volunteers from across the state of Nebraska are awarded the **NLA Outstanding Library Volunteer Award** for their priceless contributions to their local libraries. The nomination period for 2024 is now open!

It is not difficult to nominate someone. You will need to write a letter that includes some of the tasks that your volunteer has done. This is the time to brag about this person. Let everyone, including your state senator, know just how important this volunteer is to the success of your library's mission. The awards ceremony is on March 20th at the Lincoln Cornhusker Marriott Hotel during lunch at the NLA Advocacy event. Award recipients will receive a complimentary lunch. The recipients will be recognized, and award certificates will be presented. Parts, or all, of your nominating letter will be read at this time.

Nominations are due March 1, 2024.

Click [here](#) to submit your nomination.

NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Continuing Education
Pages 2-5

Golden Sower Voting
Page 5

Book Club Kits
Page 8

CPLS Board Minutes
Page 12

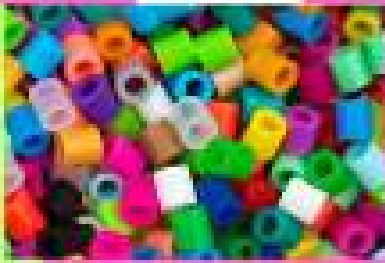
System Services
Pages 6-7, 9-11, 13-15

Mark Your Calendars
Page 16

BOARD MEMBERS:

Sharon Bohling
Stephanie Branham
Jody Crocker
Jamie Dennis
Sherrie Dux-Ideus
Terri Eberly
Janene Hill
Jane Hilton
Terri Johnson
Lisa Mount
Kina Stefka
James Tidei

Holdrege Area Public Library
604 East Street



FEBRUARY 29
2024
1 - 4pm

EXPERIENCE SOMETHING NEW

Are you looking for an easy program that engages all ages? Even if crafts aren't your strength, Experience Kits will work for you. These fully loaded boxes allow everyone to try a craft with no pressure to make it perfect. All ages can use the kits and decide if today's project is their next hobby or a one-time experience.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Central Plains Library System Presents



©2024 CSLP

2024

Summer Reading Workshops

Join us to prepare for an adventurous summer. Hear about summer reading book picks, participate in demonstrations of crafts and activities, and learn about event opportunities!

Wednesday, March 27th
Ravenna Public Library

9:30am - Registration
10am - 3:30pm Workshop

5 CEUs per participant

\$10 payable at the door or in advance to the System Office
(Lunch included.)

[Click Here to Register](#)

This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission

BASIC SKILLS CLASSES

Class Dates	Class	Instructor	Registration Dates
open	Communication*	Self-paced	available any time
2/5 - 2/16	Customer Service*	-	1/2 - 1/26
3/4 - 3/15	Library Governance	-	1/29 - 2/26
3/18 - 3/29	Library Technology	-	2/12 - 3/8

[Click here](#) for the Nebraska Library Commission's webpage for the 2024 Basic Skills Schedule.

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](#).

NCompass Live: WiFi In the Library	Feb 7	Register
NCompass Live: ConnectEd Nebraska: Bridging the Digital Divide through Innovative eduroam Expansion	Feb 14	Register
NCompass Live: Using Creativity to Grow & Develop	Feb 21	Register
NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech	Feb 28	Register



Beaver City Refurbished Book Drop

About 2 years ago, our book drop was damaged. Over time, the heat and cold caused the paint and previous repairs to come off the box in chunks. Mike Stalder at Stalder Repair here in Beaver City did a wonderful job restoring the box. Greg Yost at Yogi's Body shop redid the paint after the repairs were made. Amanda Willcock at Amanda's Graphic's made a new memorial sign for the box. Donations from these companies and Memorial Money from our community allowed us to refurbish the book drop for minimal cost.

Big Talk from Small Libraries

The conference will be broadcast online on **Friday, February 23, 2024** from 8:45 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Central Time, via the GoTo Webinar online meeting service.

The full schedule for the 2024 Big Talk From Small Libraries online conference is now available!

You will find all the details on the [Schedule](#) page.

Information about our presenters is available on the [Speakers](#) page.

If you haven't registered yet, now is the time to jump over to the [Registration](#) page and sign up!

NLA Advocacy Two-Day Event

- March 19th Creating Advocates Workshop
Bennett Martin Library Auditorium (4th Floor), Lincoln, 1:00 - 5:00 pm
There will be four sessions from different types of libraries (public, academic & school) discussing best practices for advocating for your library and gaining more local advocates. Additionally, hear from Vicki Wood, retired librarian, who will share insight on intellectual freedom issues facing Nebraska libraries. Leave with the tools you need to help your own library gain more advocates.
Four CE hours earned for this informative day!
- March 20th Updates from NLA Leadership, the Nebraska Library Commission and the NLA Lobbyist. Tips and tools will also be discussed on building relationships with your Senator and advocating for your library.
Lunch will be provided at the Cornhusker Marriott.
Head back to the Capitol Building at 1:00 PM for "I Love Nebraska Libraries Storytime" and another opportunity to visit with Senators more directly where you can let them know what their local libraries are doing for the Nebraska communities and the positive impact they have.
Eight CE hours can be earned for Advocacy Day!
-

2023-24 Golden Sower Voting is Now Open

Voting is open November 1st - April 15th



Yarn Wrapped Hot Air Balloon Craft

Materials Needed:

- Paper Plates
- Cardstock “Basket”
- Craft Sticks
- Yarn
- Marker
- Scissors
- Tape
- Glue



1. Make a few slits around the edge of the paper plate.
2. Insert one end of the yarn into one of the slits and tape it down.
3. Wrap the yarn around the plate, inserting the yarn into the slits as you go around.
4. Wrap until the plate is covered to your liking. Tape the end of the yarn to the back of the plate.
5. Use a marker to draw cross hatch marks on the “basket” if you choose.
6. Glue the craft sticks to the basket and the back of the wrapped paper plate.

The Central Plains Library System will provide paper plates in assorted colors, cardstock “baskets,” craft sticks, and a variety of yarn for this craft to our member libraries to use during their Summer Reading Programs in 2024. Please email Deb with the number of balloon kits you need at cplsasst@gmail.com.

CPLS Winners in the



**PRAIRIE
STEM**

RAFFLE!

Sponsored by



**Nebraska
Library Commission**

Alma, Hoesch Memorial Library	Cell Building Innovation
Arnold Public School Library	Blood Model Innovation
Axtell Community School Library	Cell Building Innovation
Blue Hill Public Library	Toothpaste Challenge
Cozad, Wilson Public Library	Pendulum Painting
Elm Creek Public Library	Quick Escape Challenge
Eustis-Farnam Schools Library	Environmental Challenge
Gothenburg Jr/Sr High School	Pendulum Painting
Litchfield Public School	Blood Model Innovation
Red Cloud, Auld Public Library	Design a Glider
Wood River Rural Schools	Quick Escape Challenge

PRAIRIE STEM is a non-profit organization that prepares Grab-n-Go STEM kits. They donated kits to libraries in Nebraska through a drawing. The company offers a variety of kits to libraries for a reasonable price. To order kits from them, [click on this link](#).

Order Your Die Cuts ASAP

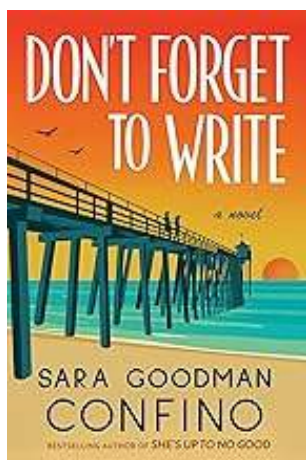
We want to help our CPLS librarians save time. You choose which die shapes you want us to cut out for you, how many you want, and what kind of material you want them cut from (cardstock or foam). We will get them ready for you ASAP so that you have them in time for your program. To ensure we have all the orders done for everyone, please turn in your order before **May 1, 2024**.

[Click here to see the Die Cut Order Form.](#)

Email this form to cplsasst@gmail.com.



NEW BOOK CLUB KITS AT CPLS



Don't Forget to Write by Sara Goodman Confino (10 copies)
When Marilyn Kleinman is caught making out with the rabbi's son in front of the whole congregation, her parents ship her off to her great-aunt Ada for the summer. If anyone can save their daughter's reputation, it's Philadelphia's strict premier matchmaker. Either that or Marilyn can kiss college goodbye.

To Marilyn's surprise, Ada's not the humorless septuagenarian her mother described. Not with that platinum-blonde hair, Hermès scarf, and Cadillac convertible. She's sharp, straight-talking, takes her job very seriously, and abides by her own rules...mostly.



Love at First Light by Stephanie Grace Whitson (10 copies)

In 1868 Nebraska, as part of the Ladies Cemetery Improvement Society, a well-to-do young woman who feels unlovable encounters a disfigured warrior who has given up hoping for anything beyond a life in the shadows.

When their unusual connection blossoms into love, Isobel and Gideon are faced with the challenge of their lives.

BOOK CLUB SPOTLIGHT AT NLC

CONTRIBUTED BY MACKENZIE MARROW

Transcendent Kingdom

by Yaa Gyasi

Reading all the books I feature in the spotlight puts me in a perpetual time crunch of my own making. However, that was not a problem as I read today's Book Club Spotlight in one day because it was so incredible. *Transcendent Kingdom* is Yaa Gyasi's sophomore novel following the success of her debut, *Homegoing*. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Gyasi has won the PEN/Hemingway Award for a first book of fiction, the American Book Award for *Homegoing*, and she was featured not only on the National Book Foundation's 5 under 35 list but also the Forbes 30 under 30 list. Born in Ghana and raised in Alabama, Gyasi proves in her novels that the immigrant story is not a monolith, and in *Transcendent Kingdom*, she tackles the great costs of depression and addiction.



If you're interested in requesting *Transcendent Kingdom* for your book club, you can find the Request Form [here](#). There are 5 copies available. (A librarian must request items)

Gyasi, Yaa. *Transcendent Kingdom*. Vintage Books. 2020.

[Click here to see the full review.](#)

Puppets!!



We will be doing a group purchase of Folkmanis puppets [<https://www.folkmanis.com/>] again this year. If you are interested in getting any of these amazing puppets to include in your story time or virtual programming related to this summer's theme, **Adventure Begins at Your Library**, now is the time to order them so you get the best discount.



Puppets will be ½ of the price listed on the website. The company does require 15% of the final cost as a handling fee on all orders. Central Plains Library System will cover the shipping to your library.

Orders are due **APRIL 15, 2024.**

Please email your orders to: **cpls.nicole@gmail.com**.

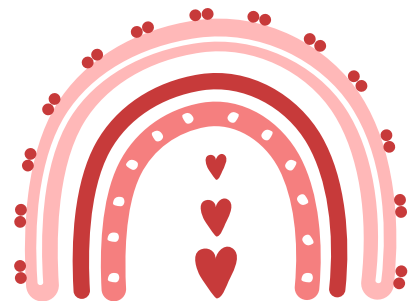
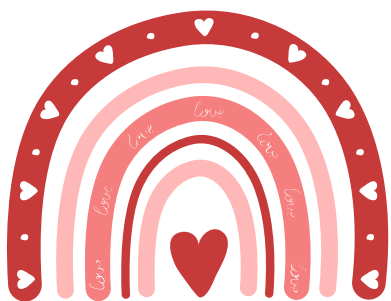


AUDIOBOOK COLLECTION

CPLS owns over 1,300 circulating audiobook titles. System member libraries may borrow audiobooks (CD and MP3 formats) for a loan period of 90 days.

Here are some new additions:

- The Only Purple House in Town* by Aguirre, Ann
- Thicker Than Water* by Collins, Megan
- The Land of Lost Things* by Connolly, John
- The Librarianist* by DeWitt, Patrick
- It's One of Us* by Ellison, J. T.
- The Spy Coast* by Gerritsen, Tess
- The Carnivale of Curiosities* by Gibbs, Aimee
- Happy Place* by Henry, Emily
- The Attic Child* by Jaye, Lola
- The Audrey Hepburn Estate* by Janowitz, Brenda
- The Girl in the Vault* by Ledwidge, Michael
- You Are Here* by Lin-Greenberg, Karin
- The Manor House* by Macmillan, Gilly
- Sisters Under the Rising Sun* by Heather Morris
- A Holly Jolly Ever After* by Murphy, Julie and Simone, Sierra
- The Social Climber* by Pellegrino, Amanda
- Inheritance* by Roberts, Nora
- Loyalty* by Scottoline, Lisa
- Tastes Like Shakkar* by Sharma, Nisha
- The Ball at Versailles* by Steel, Danielle
- I'll Stop the World* by Thoman, Lauren
- Fancy Meeting You Here* by Tieu, Julie
- Dinners With Ruth* by Totenberg, Nina
- A Right Worthy Woman* by Watson, Ruth P.
- One Woman's War* by Wells, Christine



CPLS Will Provide A Speaker for Your Library

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

Humanities Nebraska has many fine speakers with programs that coordinate beautifully with this year's Summer Reading Program theme. Browse the Speakers Bureau Catalog: <https://humanitiesnebraska.org/catalog/>. Here are a few suggestions:

- History of Trick Roping and Wild West Shows by Joan Wells
- Ho for America! Northern European Immigrants to the Midwest by Jeff Kappeler
- Meet Buffalo Bill by Terry Lane
- Music of the Plains by David Marsh
- Nebraska Territory Stories by David Seay
- Overland Trails: The Children on the Trail by Renae Hunt
- Train Songs and Tales by David Seay

The Central Plains Library System will provide the administrative fee for each library in our System that books a Humanities Nebraska program this year. That means you can have a terrific live performance, without cost for your library.

1. First, contact the performer.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Central Plains Library System

Virtual Meeting

January 12, 2024

President, Terri Johnson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Secretary, Terri Eberly called the roll.

Present: Stephanie Branham, Jody Crocker, Sherrie Dux-Ideus, Terri Eberly, Janene Hill, Terri Johnson, Lisa Mount, Denise Harders and Christa Porter.

Absent: Sharon Bohling, Jamie Dennis, Jane Hilton, Kina Stefka, James Tidei.

Approval of the minutes: Janene Hill moved to approve the minutes with the noted spelling corrections. Lisa Mount seconded the motion. Spelling corrections of names: Sherrie for Sherri and Coffman for Kaufman. The motion carried and the minutes were approved as corrected.

Financial Reports: Denise Harders reviewed the financial reports. Terri Eberly moved to approve the financial reports. Lisa Mount seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Correspondence: Denise shared thank you notes from the following:

Keri Anderson, Hoesch Memorial Library: Thank you for the scholarship to attend ARSL; Maggie Berndt, Nebraska Public Media: Thank you for partnering on Book Club Sets; Carrie Graham, Valentine Public Library: Thank you for the CPLS Conference; Dee Johnson, Central Community College: Thank you for your collaboration over the years as she gets set to retire on February 1, 2024; Kay Kloppenborg: Thank you for the funeral wreath. Kay recently lost her husband, Wayne; Anne Quigley, Valentine Public Library: Thank you for attending her retirement party; Laurie Yocom & Staff, Wilson Public Library: Thank you for the CPLS Conference.

Director's Report: Highlights: 3772 die cut shapes provided and Book Club Kits are popular. Workshops included Bibliostat with Sam Shaw, Read Aloud Nebraska Workshop, Novice Cricut Users, and Low-Tech Makerspace Tools in Teen Programming. The office is currently getting ready for the Summer Reading Program workshops to be held in Lexington and Ravenna. Denise hired Nicole Ruzicka to work 5-10 hours per week as our accounting assistant. Nicole is also updating the CPLS Webpage.

Old Business:

CPLS Biennial Conference Report: sixty-three registered participants. Feedback from the participants included constructive and positive comments. In the future allow more time between sessions and omit the lightening round sessions during the lunchtime.

Deb's preschool projects: Very well received. The projects will run from September through April. Included craft and book recommendations.

Booklist Reader: There is a link on the CPLS webpage to access this magazine. Offers look at new books and a synopsis of the title.

New Business:

Summer Reading Workshops are scheduled for January 23, at Lexington Public Library, and on March 27, at Ravenna Public Library. Presenters are Jody Crocker, Sally Snyder, and a representative from the Forestry Department, Game and Parks.

Thursday Morning Meeting Format: 1st Thursday: Directors Only, 2nd Thursday all library staff, 3rd Thursday Learning meeting (1CE). 4th Thursday open in case there are scheduling conflicts.

Newly accredited Library in the system: Sargent Township Library

Upcoming workshops: Schedule of events January -April was provided. Denise will not be attending the PLA National Conference in Columbus, Ohio this year.

Other Business:

Christa Porter, Library Development Director presented the Library Commission Report. Highlights:

LSTA Appropriations: A continuing resolution funding federal agencies and programs was extended in mid-November to February 2. Congress must reach an agreement by that date to avoid a federal government shutdown.

Legislative Bills: LB 1092: "bill relating to civil liability; to adopt the Online Age Verification Liability Act." Those providing internet access would have to verify the computer user's age.

Public Library Accreditation for 2023: 37 of 42 libraries were accredited, 5 were given deadline extensions and one new library (Sargent Township Library) received accreditation status.

NLC Grants for 2024: Grant applications for 2024 closed on November 17. Recipients of the various grants will be notified within the next month and a press release will follow. CE/Training grants are awarded in the Fall and Spring.

E-Rate Funding Year 2023: See webpage for a list of recipients. Next funding year is now open.

E-rate Special Fiber Construction Program-NUSF 117: the PSC approved the Progression Order on JUSF-117: the program will be extended indefinitely beyond FY 2024 and fulling will be available to match 100% of Fiber Special Construction costs.

Big Talk from Small Libraries 2024: The conference will be held February 23, 2024. The schedule of events will be posted on the NLC website.

Library Commission Personnel News: Holly Woldt and Kay Goehring retired December 1. Shoshana Patocka took a job with Oregon State University and Kay Henzel resigned and accepted a position with Lancaster County. Andrew Sherman will replace Holly Woldt as Library Technology Support Specialist and the position will move into the Library Development Department. Currently accepting applications for job vacancies.

NCompass was started 15 years ago. Recently they had a two-part session on getting to know NLC employees and what is offered by the commission.

Basic Skills 2024 Schedule: Class schedules are posted on the NLC website.

Lisa Mount recently attended NLA meeting. They are considering going back to hosting annual conference and possibly working in conjunction with MPLA.

Next meeting will be Friday, April 12th, with the place to be announced. Bring ideas for hosting the CPLS Annual meeting to be held in July 2024.

There being no further business. Terri Eberly motioned to adjourn at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Eberly, Secretary

New Service from the System!

Booklist Reader



You now have access to a publication called *Booklist Reader*. [Click on this link](#) and find your next book to purchase! Each month, issues are packed with author interviews, top 10 lists, essential reading lists, feature articles and recommendations for high-demand, newly released books published during the cover month in a section named Reserve These Reads. In addition, every issue of *Booklist Reader* includes rich and diverse recommendations based on monthly editorial themes.



Beautiful Bells



Children Enjoyed Making Deb's Preschool Project for December at the Atkinson Public Library.



System Services Spotlight

Deb's Preschool Projects

These craft projects feature shapes made by the System's die cutting equipment. Our intent is to save our CPLS librarians valuable time each month. Place your order for the craft materials before the posted deadline by emailing Deb at cplsasst@gmail.com. There is no charge for this service.

The craft for March is a "Cat in the Hat" hat that is 8"w x 10"h. The children will be able to use markers or crayons to add color to the white cardstock hat-shaped cut out.

Punch a hole in this versatile project to hang it from the ceiling or post it on your bulletin board. A band could be added and then be worn as a hat. You could even write the children's favorite Dr. Seuss titles on the white stripes.

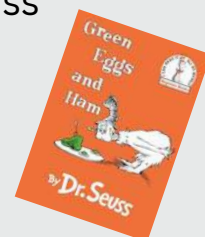
Please let us know how many white cardstock hats you need for your children by **February 19th**.



Book Suggestions:

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss





CPLS HAS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE!

Many of you may be looking forward to 2024 and new opportunities to attend events such as the Public Library Association Conference, the Summer Reading Program Workshop, the ALA Annual Conference, or other training opportunities that will come up during the next year. The System can help! We have money available for you!

CPLS can award up to \$200 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

Disc Cleaning and Repair

The CPLS Office has the ECO AUTO-SMART Fully Automatic Disc Repair System.

It is not just a buffer, but a full-service machine, to both clean and repair your valuable discs. Save those discs that won't play! As long as they are not cracked, we can fix them.

From July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024, each CPLS member library has unlimited free disc cleanings available to them.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- Feb 15 - Thursday Morning Learning, Amanda Sweet, Word Press Websites, part 2
- Feb 19 - President's Day - CPLS Office Closed
Deadline for March Preschool Project
- Feb 23 - Big Talk from Small Libraries 2024
- Feb 29 - Experience Something New, Holdrege Area Public Library, 1 - 4pm
- Mar 19-20 - NLA Advocacy Two-Day Event
- Mar 21 - Thursday Morning Learning, Kapco, Book Protection Workshop
- Mar 27 - Adventure Begins at Your Library, Ravenna Public Library, 9:30 am - 3:30pm
- Apr 12 - CPLS Board Meeting, 11:00 am, Location TBD
- Apr 15 - Deadline for Puppet Order
- Apr 26 - Arbor Day - CPLS Office Closed
- May 1 - Deadline to order Die Cut Shapes for your Summer Reading Program

If librarianship is the connecting of people to ideas--and I believe that is the truest definition of what we do--it is crucial to remember that we must keep and make available, not just good ideas and noble ideas, but bad ideas, silly ideas, and yes, even dangerous and wicked ideas.

~Graceanne A. Decandido

CPLS Office:

Office:

2727 W. 2nd St, Suite 233

Hastings, NE 68901

(800) 569-4961

Denise Harders

Cell: (402) 705-1409

Email:

denise.cpls@gmail.com

Deb Fairbanks

Phone: (402) 462-1975

Email:

cplsasst@gmail.com

Nicole Ruzicka

Email:

cpls.nicole@gmail.com

Passive Programming

Free Printable Coloring Pages

[Valentine Gnome Coloring Pages](#)

[Bunny Coloring Pages](#)

[Duck Coloring Pages](#)

[Fox Coloring Pages](#)

