

PLAIN SPEAKING

CENTRAL PLAINS LIBRARY SYSTEM NEWSLETTER

Educate | Connect | Inspire



Take a Break After Summer Reading

I know that it is a little early to be thinking about “after” Summer Reading, but sometimes it is nice to think ahead. The Annual Joint Youth Services Retreat is the perfect way to reward yourself for a job well done at the end of a busy summer.

This event is always held the Thursday and Friday before Labor Day and is truly a retreat for library staff members who work with our youngest patrons. Participants stay in hotel-style accommodations and are served 3 meals a day in the dining hall at Camp Carol Joy Holling near Ashland. During the day, learn about new books, programming, and problem-solving techniques from your colleagues and then spend an enjoyable evening doing whatever activity appeals to you most (even if that is reading someplace quiet).

This year, the Central Plains Library System is offering a limited number of full-ride scholarships to attend the Retreat. It will include Wednesday night, Thursday night, all activities, and mileage to get there. The scholarships are valued at \$350+ each. More information will be coming to your email soon.

I hope to see you August 29-30 at Camp Carol Joy Holling near Ashland.

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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

SM KEY BEAR READING CHALLENGE

Are you participating in the Smokey Bear Reading Challenge this year? Would you like a **FREE** craft and a couple of game ideas? We have just the thing for you! Request the ***Smokey Bear Paws*** craft by emailing Deb cplsasst@gmail.com by **September 30, 2024**. She will send paper bags and die cut paws. The claws must be drawn on.



Game Suggestions

*Play While Wearing
Bear Paws*

Hot Potato

S'Mores Relay

Place ingredients (marshmallows, chocolate bars, and graham crackers) on one side of the room. Have participants pick up their favorite ingredient and run to the other side of the room. After the winning team finishes, make "Microwave" S'mores for everyone.

Central Plains Library System Annual Meeting

Friday, July 12, 2024

Nebraska Prairie Museum
2701 Burlington Street
Holdrege, NE



Registration Fee: \$20

*Includes Lunch from Braxton's Smokehouse, Museum Admission,
a special gift made with System Makerspace Equipment.*

1 CEU per participant

9:30 am	CPLS Board Meeting
11:00 am	CPLS Annual Meeting
11:45 am	Report from the Nebraska Library Commission
Noon	Lunch
1:00 pm	Explore the Museum

[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	Registration Dates
open	Communication*	available any time
7/1 - 7/12	Reference	5/27 - 6/21
7/22 - 8/2	Library Policy	6/17 - 7/12
8/12 - 8/23	Collection Management*	7/8 - 8/2

[Click here](#) for the Nebraska Library Commission's webpage for the 2024 Basic Skills Schedule and to register for any of the classes.

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.

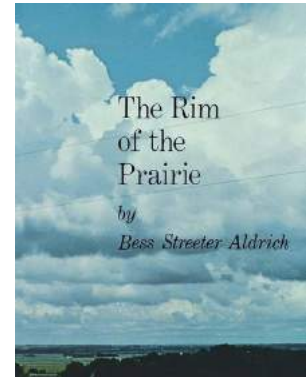
Every Wednesday 10am - 11am (CST)
To view past presentations, [CLICK HERE](#).

NCompass Live: NO NCOMPASS LIVE THIS WEEK	Jun 19	
NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech	Jun 26	Register
NCompass Live: Helping Students Be Google Aware	Jul 3	Register
NCompass Live: Think Outside the Box: Transformative Training with Breakout Challenges	Jul 17	Register

BOOK CLUB SPOTLIGHT AT NLC

CONTRIBUTED BY MACKENZIE MARROW

This unassuming Nebraskan mystery romance contains a portrait of rural life during the turn of the century. Maple City and its inhabitants coexist in their own peculiar but charming and folksy ways with their own secrets kept close to their chests. In *The Rim of the Prairie*, Aldrich weaves her thoughts on life, her love for her husband, and the day-to-day foils and perseverance of prairie life. Appropriate for Book Groups of all ages, readers can enjoy the lush descriptions of the prairie in contrast with the bustling small town trying to stretch its wings into the modern day, and the mystery of the brown shawl.

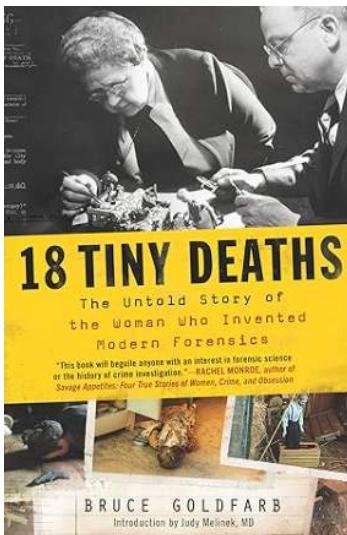


If you're interested in requesting *The Rim of the Prairie* for your book club, you can [find the Request Form here](#). There are 10 copies available.

Aldrich, Bess Streeter. *The Rim of the Prairie*. University of Nebraska Press. 1966

In order to see the full review of this title, [click on this link](#).

NEW BOOK CLUB KIT AT CPLS



18 Tiny Deaths: The Untold Story of the Woman Who Invented Modern Forensics by Bruce Goldfarb (7 copies)

Donated by Hastings Public Library

Readers are transported to a time when forensic science was in its infancy, and a woman named Frances Glessner Lee emerged as a force to be reckoned with. Through meticulous recreations of crime scenes, Lee revolutionized the way investigators approached criminal investigations, forever changing the face of modern forensics. Discover how Lee's determination and unwavering passion defied the norms of her era, paving the way for future generations of forensic scientists. With a masterful blend of suspense and historical narrative, this book captivates readers from the first page. Uncover Lee's groundbreaking contributions to forensic science including her influential role in establishing the Department of Legal Medicine at Harvard University.



A Most Agreeable Murder by Julia Seales (8 copies)

Donated by Auld Public Library, Red Cloud

Feisty, passionate Beatrice Steele has never fit the definition of a true lady, according to the strict code of conduct that reigns in Swampshire, her small English township: She is terrible at needlework, has absolutely no musical ability, and her artwork is so bad it frightens people. Nevertheless, she lives a perfectly agreeable life. But she harbors a dark secret: She is obsessed with true crime. If anyone in her etiquette-obsessed community found out, she'd be deemed a morbid creep and banished from respectable society forever.

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 yard 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 the 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.

The deadline to request this craft is June 12, 2024.

Don't Forget About...



Reader Zone

The Nebraska Regional Library Systems and the Nebraska Library Commission have teamed up to provide access to Reader Zone. This web-based software lets you create paperless reading logs for your summer program. Your patrons can report their progress through the Reader Zone app or via the Reader Zone website. You will be able to see statistics and reports without having to compile them yourself. **This program is free for your library.** If you are not familiar with Reader Zone, [click on this link](#).

You will be able to create multiple "groups" to best serve your community's needs. For example - you might create a group for young readers that has the goal based on the number of books read per week, one for teens based on number of minutes spent reading per month, and then one for adults that has per-page milestones.

This system is available to you year-round for reading programs for all ages. [Click here to sign up now!](#)
Contact denise.cpls@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Public Library Accreditation 2024 Workshops

Public Library Accreditation 2024 workshops are open for registration! All workshops will be held online only, via GoTo Webinar.

NOTE: This online workshop is being offered on several days and at varied times, to give attendees multiple opportunities to find a convenient time to attend. The same information will be provided at each workshop, so **you only need to register for one session**. A recorded version will also be made available after all of the live sessions have been held.

The purpose of Nebraska Public Library Accreditation is to encourage excellent library service in Nebraska communities. The guidelines used to evaluate libraries and their services are community-based, so libraries need to know their communities' needs in order to provide appropriate library services that meet those unique needs. That's where Community Needs Response Planning comes in!

In this workshop, Christa Porter, NLC's Library Development Director, will answer all of your accreditation questions, such as:

- What is Nebraska Public Library Accreditation?
- What are the benefits of accreditation?
- How does my library become accredited?
- What's a Community Needs Response Plan? And why does my library need one?

Public Library Directors, Staff, and Library Board Members are encouraged to attend.

Dates and times:

- June 4 – 1:00-4:00pm Central / 12:00noon-3pm Mountain
- June 6 – 9:30am-12:30pm Central / 8:30-11:30am Mountain
- June 11 – 9:30am-12:30pm Central / 8:30-11:30am Mountain
- June 12 – 1:00-4:00pm Central / 12:00noon-3pm Mountain

To register for a session, go to the Nebraska Library Commission's Training & Events Calendar and search for **accreditation 2024**.

Nebraska Library Commission Awards Grants for Youth Library Service

The Nebraska Library Commission recently awarded \$37,495 in grants for Excellence in Youth service. Of the grants awarded to thirty-nine Nebraska libraries, several addressed the need for educational programs, Summer Reading programming, and materials like LEGO®, STEAM, and other activities to encourage creativity in young people. The Nebraska Library Commission congratulates all the libraries who received grants as they develop new and innovative programs to ensure excellence in library service for Nebraska young people. You can find the full list of grant recipients on the Nebraska Library Commission grants database.

Proposals include:

Adventure Backpacks; STEAM programming and materials; Book Club activities; Tween Makerspace Camp; Summer Reading programs; Music and movement class; Creative Coding for Kids; Makerspace items for children/youth; Builders' Club with Lego; 1000 Books Before Kindergarten.

The following public libraries from the Central Plains Library System were awarded 2024 Youth Grants for Excellence funding:

- Broken Bow Public Library
- Grand Island Public Library
- Jensen Memorial Library, Minden
- CB Preston Memorial Library, Orleans
- Ravenna Public Library
- Sargent Township Library
- Shelton Public Library
- Maxine White-Sutherland Public Library
- Maltman Memorial Library, Wood River

Youth Grants for Excellence are made available by the Nebraska Library Commission with funding from the State of Nebraska. As the state library agency, the Nebraska Library Commission is an advocate for the library and information needs of all Nebraskans. The mission of the Library Commission is statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library and information services, “bringing together people and information.”



CPLS Will Provide A Speaker for Your Library

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

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 any time, 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.

New System Service

Have you ever thought about setting up a library-based putt putt golf course? If your answer is yes, the System Office can help you! We have 9 adjustable clubs. They can go from 21" to 37" long. The clubs work for both right- and left-handers. We also have 45 practice balls. They are heavier than a wiffle ball but are much less likely to break windows than an actual golf ball. Call or email Denise if you would like to borrow our new Putt Putt Golf Set.



The NLA Conference is Back!

Meet us in Kearney this October to convene with Nebraska's **largest network** of library professionals!

This year, we are celebrating the fact that Nebraska libraries are for everyone. Our industry will **Thrive Together** as we learn about:

- Community Building
- Organizational Excellence
- Intentional Advocacy
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



This photo is from Storytime in Ainsworth on April 16th when we used the frog craft. It was *really* fun! The kids learned how to tell the difference between a frog and a toad. Thanks for providing the crafts!!

Gail Irwin
Ainsworth Public Library



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:

Fourteen Days by Atwood, Margaret
One of Us Knows by Cole, Alyssa
The Mystery Writer by Gentill, Sulari
The Reaper Follows by Graham, Heather
Everyone is Watching by Gudenkauf, Heather
Watch Where They Hide by Hall, Tamron
Close to Death by Horowitz, Anthony
The Ghost Orchid by Kellerman, Jonathan
Homecoming by Morton, Kate
Pay Dirt by Paretsky, Sara
The Truth About the Devlins by Scottoline, Lisa
The Happiness Blueprint by Zetterburg, Ally

Summer Reading Decorations at Rock County Library



CPLS Week of Weeding

April 14 - 20, 2024

*We have **TWO** Winners!!*

Rock County Public Library

Southern Valley Jr. - Sr. High School Library

Those who submitted their forms to the CPLS Office by April 26th were entered into a drawing. A random drawing was held on Monday, April 29th. The first library drawn received a \$100 Amazon gift card. The second library drawn received a \$50 gift card from Amazon.

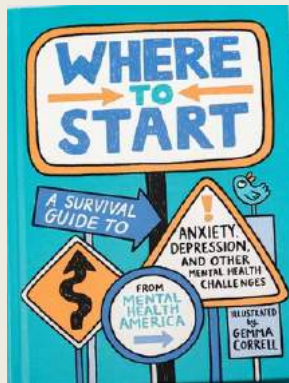


Mental Health Mondays in May

May 20, 2024

We have a Winner!!

Judy Hagan, Atkinson Public Library



Those who submitted their forms to the CPLS Office by May 26th were entered into a drawing for the book, **Where to Start** from Mental Health America. The winning person was selected in a random drawing on Tuesday, May 28th.

Magic Show by Adam White

We have a Winner!!

Ord Township Library

Everyone who attended a CPLS Summer Reading Program Workshop in person had the opportunity to submit a registration form to win a Magic Show by Adam White provided by the Central Plains Library System. Value: \$300



Central Plains Library System
Hybrid Board Meeting
Kearney Public Library
April 12, 2024 11:00 a.m.

President, Terri Johnson called the meeting to order at 11:04 am. Terri Eberly called the roll.

Present: Sharon Bohling, Stephanie Branham, Jody Crocker, Jamie Dennis, Sherrie Dux-Ideus, Terri Eberly, Jane Hilton, Terri Johnson, Lisa Mount, James Tidei. Also in attendance: Denise Harders, Tim Johnson. Absent: Janene Hill

Approval of the minutes: Jane Hilton moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2024, minutes. James Tidei seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Financial Reports: Sharon Bohling moved to accept the financial reports. Jane Hilton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Correspondence: Denise Harders shared thank you notes from Deb Fairbanks for the plant at her brother's funeral, and Carrie Graham (Valentine) for the scholarship to attend PLA in Columbus, Ohio; and from McCook for Denise visit at Bison Day event. Denise also received email notes and pictures for the preschool craft kits that were sent out.

Director's Report: Highlights featured the workshops and webinars hosted and attended by Denise. She has been visiting libraries to deliver games, book sets, preschool crafts, and to assist with weeding guidance. Thursday morning meetings have been held. The next meeting on April 18th will feature "Poetry Out Loud". The system spoke with Adam White, Magician regarding his show featuring the Adventure Begins at Your Library Summer Reading Program theme. All participants in the SRP workshop were entered in a drawing for this performance. The winner was Ord Township Library.

Old Business: Denise shared updates on Nicole's progress on updating the website. She also shared summer reading resources that are available through the system.

New Business:

- Week of Weeding April 14-20. Participating libraries will be entered in a drawing for a \$100.00 Amazon gift card.
- The office is also weeding materials.
- Mental Health Mondays in May will feature information from Library 2.0
- Annual meeting locations were discussed. Denise will look at places and prices. Stuhr Museum in Grand Island, Hastings Museum and Planetarium, and Phelps County Museum in Holdrege were suggestions. The meeting will be held July 12th.
- Board retirements were discussed. Terri Johnson and Terri Eberly will be retiring due to term limits. Consider being President or Secretary. Terri Eberly will also need to be replaced on the financial signature cards. According to By-Laws the board can consist of 9-12 members. Election of officers and new members will be held at the annual meeting.
- Denise will send out a survey regarding meeting dates/times that work best for members.

Other Business: The Library Commission report was included in the board packets. Highlights included:

- NLC Grant recipients
- 2024 One Book One Nebraska: Dancing with the Octopus: A Memoir of a Crime by Debora Harding. Materials are available through the NLC.
- Big Talk from Small Libraries: Another successful conference with 301 individual logins from 40 states, and 4 logins from Canada.
- nCompass Live and Basic Skills Schedule available on the NLC website.

There being no further business, Jane Hilton motioned to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted
Terri Eberly, Secretary



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.

Here is a Sneak Peek for Fall! Each project will fit on an 8.5" x 11" background sheet. First order date and dimensions are next to each one.

September



First Order Date:
8/1/24

Due: 8/19/24

4" w x 5" h

October



First Order Date:
9/1/24

Due: 9/23/24

7.5" w x 8" h

November



First Order Date:
10/1/24

Due: 10/21/24

9.5" w x 8" h

December



First Order Date:
11/1/24

Due: 11/18/24

7" w x 9" h



CPLS HAS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE!

Many of you may be looking forward to attending events such as the Youth Services Retreat, the ARSL Annual Conference, the NLA Conference, or other training opportunities that will come up before the end of the 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. There is a special full-ride scholarship to the Youth Services Retreat this August. Apply for your scholarship early since the funds are limited. 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, 2024, thru June 30, 2025, each CPLS member library has unlimited free disc cleanings available to them.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

June 11-	Early Bird Registration for ARSL Opens
June 12 -	Deadline to order Hot Air Balloon Craft for your Summer Reading Program
June 19 -	Juneteenth - CPLS Office Closed
July 4-	Independence Day - CPLS Office Closed
July 11-	Thursday Morning Meetings Resume after Summer Break
August 1-19-	Order September Preschool Project
August 29-30-	Jt. Youth Services Retreat, Camp Carol Joy Holling, Ashland
Sept. 2-	Labor Day - CPLS Office Closed
Sept. 11-14-	ARSL Annual Conference, Springfield, Massachusetts
Sept. 30-	Deadline to order Smokey Bear Paws
Oct. 9-11-	Nebraska Library Association Annual Conference, Kearney

The free access to information is not a privilege, but a necessity for any free society.

~Edward Asner

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