AUG/SEPT 2024 I VOLUME 9 I ISSUE 4

PLAIN SPEAKING

CENTRAL PLAINS LIBRARY SYSTEM' NEWSLETTER Educate | Connect | Inspire

What's Your Book Group Reading?

Good books bring people together. October is National Reading Group Month and the Central Plains Library System is preparing for it. We have purchased a number of new sets and will be adding some more donated ones, too. Keep in mind that October is the perfect time to celebrate the joy of shared reading and to start a group.

One of the main concerns about starting a group is where to find book sets and discussion guides. Book Club Kits are available from the Nebraska Library Commission and the four Regional Library Systems, in addition to a number of Nebraska libraries that have Book Bags to Ioan. For discussion guides, there is a terrific resource called <u>Reading Group Guides</u> that has tips to help your Reading Group get started, select books, and there are more than 5,000 reading guides available on this website. Each printable guide includes a bit about the book, some information about the author, and a number of questions that will inspire a meaningful discussion.

Here is a list of the most recently added Book Sets in the Central Plains Library System's collection:

Golden Sower Little Blue Stem (Picture Books) 2 sets Golden Sower Honeybee (Chapter Books--2 c. each title) Golden Sower Meadowlark (Novels--2 c. each title) Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon (10 copies) Never Give Up by Tom Brokaw (10 copies) Spare by Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex (10 copies) Tailspin by John Armbruster (9 copies) Things Don't Break on Their Own by Sarah Easter Collins (10 copies) (See page 5 for summaries of these titles.)

The System considers all requests for Book Sets and will purchase them when our budget allows.

Happy Reading!



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BOARD MEMBERS:

Sharon Bohling Stephanie Branham Jody Crocker Jamie Dennis Sherrie Dux-Ideus Jane Hilton Lisa Mount Jennifer Norton Kina Stefka James Tidei



Nepvaska Library Association | Annual Conference 2024

Register TODAY for the NLA Conference!

Join us for the Nebraska Library Association's <u>annual conference</u>, themed "Thrive Together," from October 9-11, 2024, at the Younes Convention Center in Kearney, NE. This year's conference is dedicated to fostering collaboration, innovation, and growth within our library community.

Attendees will participate in a variety of workshops, panel discussions, and interactive sessions designed to inspire and equip library professionals with the tools and strategies needed to thrive in today's evolving landscape.

<u>Register</u> by September 3 to lock in discounts of up to \$25 per registration. Only able to attend on certain days? Registration is available on a day-by-day basis with earlybird perks, as well.

Keynote Speakers

We are thrilled to welcome racial justice advocate Dr. Artika Tyner and Omaha-based physician/author Dr. Lydia Kang as our distinguished conference guests!



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 <u>cplsasst@gmail.com</u> by September 30, 2024. She will send paper bags and die cut paws. The claws must be drawn on.



X

Game Suggestions Play While Wearing

Bear Paws

<u>Hot Potato</u>

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 <u>"Microwave"</u> <u>S'mores</u> for everyone.

BASIC SKILLS CLASSES

Class Dates	Class	Registration Dates
open	Communication*	available any time
7/22 - 8/2	Library Policy	6/17 - 7/12
8/12 - 8/23	Collection Management*	7/8 - 8/2
8/26 - 9/6	Programming & Outreach	7/22 - 8/16
9/16 - 9/27	Community & Library*	8/12 - 9/6

<u>Click here</u> 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, <u>CLICK HERE</u>.

NCompass Live: Learning New Technologies On-the-Fly: Vendorbrarian to Public Librarian	Aug 7	<u>Register</u>
NCompass Live: Operating a Culture of Belonging: Personal Librarian 2.0	Aug 14	<u>Register</u>
NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech	Aug 28	<u>Register</u>
NCompass Live: Board Games & Computer Science in Libraries	Sep 4	<u>Register</u>





NEW BOOK CLUB KITS AT CPLS

Tailspin by John Armbruster (9 copies) Donated by Broken Bow Public Library

World War II tail gunner Gene Moran fell four miles through the sky without a parachute and lived. Captured by the Germans, he survived a harrowing eighteen months as a prisoner of war, including a six-hundred-mile death march in 1945 across Central Europe. When Gene returned home, he kept those memories locked up for nearly seventy years. But when John, a young history teacher, learns of Gene's amazing fall, he's desperate to learn more. Finally, Gene agrees.

Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon (10 copies)

Maine, 1789: When the Kennebec River freezes, entombing a man in the ice, Martha Ballard is summoned to examine the body and determine cause of death. As a midwife and healer, she is privy to much of what goes on behind closed doors in Hallowell. Months earlier, Martha documented the details of an alleged rape committed by two of the town's most respected gentlemen—one of whom has now been found dead in the ice. But when a local physician undermines her conclusion, declaring the death to be an accident, Martha is forced to investigate the shocking murder on her own.

Never Give Up by Tom Brokaw (10 copies)

Tom's father, Red, left school in the second grade to work in the family hotel—the Brokaw House, established in Bristol, South Dakota, by R. P. Brokaw in 1883. Eventually, through work on construction jobs, Red developed an exceptional talent for machines. Tom's mother, Jean, was the daughter of a farmer who lost everything during the Great Depression. They met after a high school play, when Jean played the lead and Red fell in love with her from the audience. Although they didn't have much money early in their marriage, especially once they had three boys at home, Red's philosophy of "Never give up" served them well.

Things Don't Break on Their Own by Sarah Easter Collins (10 copies)

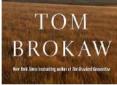
Twenty-five years ago, a young girl left home to walk to school. Her younger sister soon followed. But one of them arrived, and one of them didn't. Her sister's disappearance has defined Willa's life. Everyone thinks her sister is dead, but Willa knows she isn't. Because there are some things that only sisters know about each other—and some bonds only sisters can break. Willa sees fragments of her sister everywhere — the way that woman on the train turns her head, the gait of that woman in Paris. If there's the slightest resemblance, Willa drops everything, and everyone, and tries to see if it is her.

Spare by Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex (10 copies)

For the first time, Prince Harry tells his own story, chronicling his journey with raw, unflinching honesty. A landmark publication, Spare is full of insight, revelation, self-examination, and hard-won wisdom about the eternal power of love over grief.





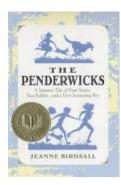






BOOK CLUB SPOTLIGHT AT NLC

CONTRIBUTED BY MACKENZIE MARROW



For this week's Book Club Spotlight, we are visiting a favorite of mine since I was nine years old, and when my roommate saw the book on our table she ran to grab her own copy-excited to revisit the world herself. *The Penderwicks* by Jeanne Birdsall immediately draws the reader in with a gorgeous cover; and its pastoral setting is like falling into the world of *The Secret Garden*. The Penderwick sisters, with their charming wit and a tendency for mischief rivaling the <u>March sisters</u>, culminate in a timeless story that spans five books. Following "a family that believes in truth and honor, yet can't seem to stay out of trouble" [x], this modern classic has been translated into 30 languages and most deservedly won the 2005 National Book Award for Young People's Literature.

Mr. Penderwick, a mild-mannered botanist who frequently speaks in Latin to his four young daughters, has booked the clan a summer getaway to a cozy cabin in rural Massachusetts. After getting lost, the Penderwick sisters, Rosalind (12), Skye (11), Jane (10), and Batty (4), discover their small cottage is nestled in a grand estate named Arundel. The rambunctious children are told to behave as the owner, the stuffy Mrs. Tifton, doesn't take kindly to ruckus. But soon, they are out on an adventure of a lifetime- braving bulls, hiding in the expansive gardens, and enlisting Mrs. Tifton's son, Jeffery, in their daring escapades.

"And then I'd ask you to have pity on motherless girls brought up without a woman's gentle influence, which doesn't really count, because our father is gentle, but I thought it sounded good"

~ Jeanne Birdsall

The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy is a delight that enchants 19 years later. It's not a tale of growing up but of the present. The responsibilities of an elder sister, young courage, individuality, and the unbreakable family bond. Birdsall revels in character and atmosphere, letting the sisters take her wherever they want to go next. Perfect for a book group of young readers wanting to hold onto the last bit of summer or adults who still feel the magic of inhibition and promise.

If you're interested in requesting *The Penderwicks* for your book club, you can find the Request Form <u>here</u>. **There are 11 copies.** (A librarian must request items)

Birdsall, Jeanne. The Penderwicks. Random House. 2005



Don't Forget About...



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. 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, <u>click on this link.</u>

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 public, school, and academic libraries year-round for reading programs for all ages. <u>Click here to sign up now!</u>

Contact <u>denise.cpls@gmail.com</u> if you have any questions.

Free Learning Resource: Verizon Skill Forward / edX

by Holli Duggan

"The Verizon Skill Forward program is a collaboration between edX and Verizon aimed at providing career-enhancing online courses focused on high-demand skills to facilitate long-term career growth. The Skill Forward effort is part of *Citizen Verizon*, Verizon's responsible business plan to prepare 500,000 individuals for in-demand jobs by 2030."

This program offers a one-year <u>free account</u> to anyone in the United States (must be over 18). Accounts are free to register for and do not require any banking or credit card information.

These online self-paced courses and programs include high-demand topics such as Artificial Intelligence, Coding, Cybersecurity, Project Management, and Leadership. Spanish-language courses are also available.

For more information about the courses or to enroll, click on the red "Get Started" button below.



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. 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: <u>https://humanitiesnebraska.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Catagory-I-new.pdf</u>, 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.

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 Peacock and the Sparrow by Berry, I.S. The Long March Home by Brotherton, Marcus & Lee, Tosca Deadline by Brown, Sandra Flags on the Bayou by Burke, James Lee Kill for Me, Kill for You by Cavanagh, Steve The Woman in the Window by Finn, A. J. The Trackers by Frazier, Charles Lessons in Chemistry by Garmus, Bonnie The Husbands by Gramazio, Holly Girl Forgotten by Henry, April Funny Story by Henry, Emily She's Not Sorry by Kubica, Mary Never Leave the Dogs Behind by Madia, Brianna **Extinction** by Preston, Douglas **Spare** by Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex Mind Games by Roberts, Nora City in Ruins by Winslow, Don



Library and Information Services

Fall 2024 Online Course Offerings Aug. 19, 2024 – Dec. 13, 2024 Registration is open as of April 15, 2024



LIBR 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services

Marty Magee, Instructor

This course, the recommended first in the Library and Information Services curriculum, provides introductory information in multiple areas.

- Library history and organizations
- Foundational Principles/Code of Ethics
- Information databases and Internet usage

LIBR 2250 Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies

Michael Straatmann, Instructor

This course includes the theories, concepts and activities integral to leading and managing 21st Century libraries and information agencies.

- Leadership principles
- Management strategies
- Policies and procedures

LIBR 2940 Library and Information Services Capstone Practicum

Patty Birch, Instructor

This capstone course is the last course in the Library and Information Services program. Students will complete 40 hours of service learning in a host library. The course also includes a review of the principal pieces of learning from the LIS program.

Prerequisites: LIBR 1010, 2100, 2150, 2210, & 2250

Fall 2024	Spring 2025
Libr 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services	Libr 2100 Reference Resources and Services
Libr 2250 Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies	Libr 2150 Develop and Organize Collections
Libr 2940 Library Science Capstone Practicum	

The Library & Information Services Certificate is a 15-credit hour program. All credits can be applied to a Central Community College associate degree.





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 <u>cplsasst@gmail.com</u>. There is no charge for this service.

This adorable fox, made out of fall leaves cut from cardstock, is quick and easy to put together. The children will use school glue or glue sticks to attach the ears, the eyes, and the black pom pom nose. The finished size of this craft is 4" w x 5" h.

Please let us know how many you need for your class by <u>August 19th</u>.

In order to ensure that your request does not fall through the cracks in our busy office, please look at the individual projects offered and submit an email each month with the number of the crafts you need for your class. We are not able to fulfill requests such as "Send 10 every month."



Book Suggestions:

Lawrence in the Fall by Matthew Farina (ages 3-5 yrs)

<u>Leaf Man</u> by Lois Ehlert (ages 3-5 yrs - 3rd grade)

Leaves Fall Down by Lisa Bullard (ages 3-5 yrs)



CPLS HAS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE!

Many of you may be looking forward to attending events such as 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. 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 <u>unlimited free</u> disc cleanings available to them.

Summer Reading Adventures at CPLS Libraries 2024





Hastings Public Library hosted a Cuddly Campout. Families brought stuffed friends to a makeshift campout where we sang campfire songs, read interactive stories, and made shadow puppets. Kids hung out in tents and made up stories with their shadow puppets and flashlights as well as a few other simple camping crafts. After the fun, we enjoyed smores and hot dogs to wrap up the program.

Wildlife Encounters of Nebraska visited with a variety of animals and Stomp, Chomp, and Roar was a blast. Dinosaur Ranger Anthony returned this summer to share facts about dinosaurs, fossils, and paleontology with real-life examples. He brought along his life-size baby Spinosaurus and did a gigantic volcano experiment that wowed everyone.



Lexington Public Library held a Gardening Adventures class that allowed children to explore the outdoors and learn about the importance of plants in our ecosystem. The kids had the opportunity to plant their own pots and take



them home at the end of the program, fostering a sense of responsibility and connection to nature.

In the Gift of Caring class held at Lexington Middle School, students were educated on the various organizations within our community that strive to create a safe and thriving environment. To show their appreciation, the students crafted a stunning sunflower wreath to donate to these organizations. The culmination of the class was a gathering at the library, where students presented the sunflower wreaths to the leaders/representatives of the organizations.

The **Holdrege Area Public Library** held an adult program where the participants created a unique dried flower bookmark that looked like the flowers are encased in an apothecary jar.

The teens used small wooden canvases to paint pint-sized wilderness scenes. These masterpieces were then displayed in the library. In the Teen Science Cafe, they explored the fundamental necessities for black bear survival as they talked virtually with a Ranger from Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Then, they created their own life-size black bear track cast to take home!







Gibbon Public Library held programs for all ages. They had 57 sign up for adult summer program this year. Bingo is ALWAYS a hit!

One week Miss Gab was able to source appliance boxes and put together a whole town for the kids to decorate and play in. The local shop teacher even came and helped them "build." Kearney Regional Medical Center came to our outdoor carnival and gave out free helmets to all of the kiddos who came. Over **90** helmets were fitted and given away! We had an evening program featuring our local fire department and SMOKEY THE BEAR! It was so much fun. We had fire trucks, a story time, games, a craft activity, birthday cupcakes and more. There were approximately 75 community members in attendance.





Valentine Public Library partnered with other organizations and had guest speakers/leaders at each session.











YOUR LIBRARY



Jaclyn Gomez from the National Weather Service (North Platte Office) gave a presentation to the **North Platte Public Library** elementary kids about extreme weather safety and the kids made water cycle bracelets.



Children at the St. Paul Public Library had fun reading to dogs and getting acquainted with visiting animals.



O'Neill Public Library patrons enjoyed going on Blind Dates with Books.



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We've had some great programming moments this summer at the **Blue Hill Public Library**!

We kicked off summer reading with the Fontenelle Forest Raptors. Local resident Mikayla Niederklein shares with summer reading students her experiences as a foreign exchange student in Costa Rica. Joan Wells, trick roper with Humanities Nebraska, helps lasso our summer reading wrap-up. Teresa Young, director of the Webster County Museum, presents an evening of interesting local history.











The Atkinson Public Library was busy with activities this summer!

Monday's were Crafts for Kids Day. They made fun "Up" themed houses, S'more paper crafts, and tippy bugs and bees. In all there were 236 crafters who also worked on activity and coloring pages, and enjoyed treats.

On Tuesday's, Library Director Judy Hagan, along with guest readers who read and entertained the groups with the "Let the Adventure Begin" theme for Story Hour. A total of 179 children and adults attended throughout the month, and enjoyed lots of great books, and action and campfire songs!

Wednesday mornings, the Summer Book Club met to discuss their Titanic book. *I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic*, 1912 by Lauren Tarshis, was the book for the younger group. The older students read *Iceberg* by Jennifer A. Nielsen. There were a total of 41 members, which included children and adult helpers.

Movie Days were Wednesday afternoons, where 120 children and adults came and enjoyed popcorn and animated movies during the month.





Faith Memorial Library in Wallace partners with the high school's chapter of the Future Farmers of America. FFA members plan the Summer Reading Program. They read stories and provide instruction for crafts.







Ravenna Public Library



Solar Öven S'mores



Craft with Mom - Frogs

Total participants Birth - 11th Grade 220

June 3 - June 29 96 programs 2346 attendees



End of Summer Party - 154 children

Mrs. Dawn at the **Beaver City Public Library** donned a pirate costume to promote *Adventure Begins At The Library* and sailing around the world on Mrs. Dawn's Pirate ship.

We had Big Power Day with about 100 in attendance this year on June 28th. The children from Kiddie City Daycare had a great time wearing the play safety vests and hard hats provided by the library. Twin Valleys Public Power District brought a cool bucket truck. They assisted the Kidde City Daycare children onto the supply deck.

Its been really great partnering with the daycare! They have boosted my traffic and programming provided.

We had a great summer at the Arapahoe Public Library!



Our Friends of the Library sponsored the Edgerton Explorit Center who brought their Raptor Program to us.

Tim Reith visited our Teen Group.





Our summer readers painted with mud, and then did what kids do best-got really dirty!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- 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. 3-23 Order October Preschool Project
- Sept. 11-14 ARSL Annual Conference, Springfield, Massachusetts
- Sept. 22-28 Banned Books Week, Freed Between the Lines
- Sept. 30 Deadline to order Smokey Bear Paws
- October National Reading Group Month
- Oct. 9-11 Nebraska Library Association Annual Conference, Kearney
- Oct. 14 Indigenous People's Day (Columbus Day) CPLS Office Closed
- Oct. 17 CPLS Board Meeting, Kearney Public Library 10:00 am

CPLS Office:

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Deb Fairbanks Phone: (402) 462-1975 Email: cplsasst@gmail.com

Nicole Ruzicka Email: cpls.nicole@gmail.com Libraries give students and faculties a contact with the great minds of the past, a contact that is at the heart of all learning.

~John P. Raynor