DEC. 2024 / JAN. 2025 | VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 6

PLAIN SPEAKING

CENTRAL PLAINS LIBRARY SYSTEM' NEWSLETTER

Educate | Connect | Inspire

The Games People Play

Games have been an important part of culture for as long as human civilization has existed. Throughout time, types of games have included tiles, dice, cards, and checkers, in addition to board, role playing, video, and tabletop games. Today, the game industry is booming and the variety of games available has never been larger.

The importance of play in the development of children is well documented, but it is becoming increasingly clear that it remains important in adulthood. Games promote learning in a fun and interactive way for all ages. Game stores and game cafes sustain tabletop gaming communities. Games can be expensive for individuals to purchase, so patrons may be looking for a place to borrow or play them before spending their money. This is where public libraries come in. Libraries offer an inclusive, non-judgmental space for people to spend time together.

If you want to invite your patrons to a "Game Night" at the library, here are some factors to consider. **Age**—the age group you want to attract will play a major part in your choice of games. **Complexity**—Simpler games, such as traditional and "gateway" games such as *Ticket to Ride* and *Carcassonne* are better choices than complex strategy games. **Time**—Connected to the complexity of games is the time it takes to play. Look for games lasting 30 minutes or less with one or two games that take up to an hour.

Central Plains Library System has a collection of games for you to borrow. A library may request up to five games and they are due back in 6 weeks. (Be sure to put a selection of titles in your request, in case some that you want are already checked out.) Click on this link for the list of games the System has available for loan and their descriptions. Let us know if there are games that your patrons are requesting that we don't have.

Watch for a workshop in March where you will have the chance to see, **and play**, the System's games.



NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Summer Reading Program 2025 Page 2

Continuing Education Page 3

Book Club Kits Pages 4-6

System Services Pages 8-9, 12

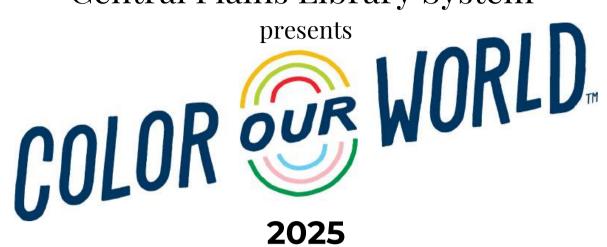
Deb's Preschool Project Page 11

Mark Your Calendars Page 16

BOARD MEMBERS:

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





2025 **Summer Reading Workshops**

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

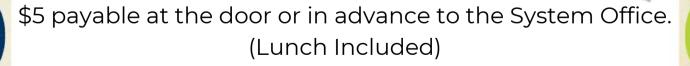
Two Locations to Choose From:

Thursday, February 6th (McCook City Library) Wednesday, February 26th (Kearney Public Library)



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

5 CEUs per participant



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 provisions 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
2/5 - 2/16	Customer Service*	1/3 - 1/29
3/4 - 3/15	Library Governance 1/29 - 2/26	
3/18 - 3/29	Library Technology	2/12 - 3/8

<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.

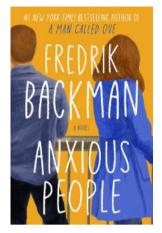
Every Wednesday 10am - 11am (CST) To view past presentations, CLICK HERE.

To Librarianship and Beyond: What's It Like Being a Corporate Librarian?	Dec 4	<u>Register</u>
Best New Children's Books of 2024	<u>Dec11</u>	<u>Register</u>
NO NCOMPASS LIVE THIS WEEK - HAPPY HOLIDAYS!	<u>Dec 25</u>	
NO NCOMPASS LIVE THIS WEEK	<u>Jan 1, 2025</u>	
Best New Teen Reads of 2024	<u>Jan 8</u>	<u>Register</u>
Pretty Sweet Tech	<u>Jan 29</u>	<u>Register</u>

BOOK CLUB SPOTLIGHT AT NLC

CONTRIBUTED BY MACKENZIE MARROW

In a small town outside Stockholm, Sweden, eight people viewing an apartment are taken hostage by a bank robbery gone wrong. So wrong, in fact, that the awkward bank robber tried to rob a cashless bank...and then took hostages by accident! Desperately keeping up the charade for the police, the "hostages", and the would-be thief are stuck in the apartment. Each prospective tenant comes to the table with insecurities, stressors, and fears, but here, they are not alone. During their forced proximity, the group learns, and grows from their new relationships, as their pasts and futures intersect in the strangest of circumstances all the while being surrounded by an increasingly confused police force trying to rescue them.



If you're interested in requesting **Anxious People** for your book club, you can find the Request Form <u>here</u>. There are 7 copies.

Backman, Fredrik. Anxious People. Atira Publishing. 2019

Read Mackenzie's full review here.

The Long March Home: A World War II Novel of the Pacific Chosen as 2025 One Book One Nebraska



People across Nebraska are encouraged to read the work of a Nebraskan — and then talk about it with their friends and neighbors. The Long March Home: A World War II Novel of the Pacific (Revell, 2023) by Marcus Brotherton and Tosca Lee is the 2025 One Book One Nebraska selection. The Long March Home is a historical fiction novel inspired by true stories of friendship, sacrifice, and hope on the Bataan Death March.

From the Inside Cover:

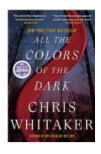
Jimmy Propfield joined the army for two reasons: to get out of Mobile, Alabama, with his best friends Hank and Billy and to forget his high school sweetheart, Claire.

Life in the Philippines seems like paradise--until the morning of December 8, 1941, when news comes from Manila: Imperial Japan has bombed Pearl Harbor. Within hours, the teenage friends are plunged into war as enemy warplanes attack Luzon, beginning a battle for control of the Pacific theater that will culminate with a last stand on the Bataan Peninsula and end with the largest surrender of American troops in history.

What follows will become known as one of the worst atrocities in modern warfare: the Bataan Death March. With no hope of rescue, the three friends vow to make it back home together. But the ordeal is only the beginning of their nearly four-year fight to survive.



NEW BOOK CLUB KITS AT CPLS



All the Colors of the Dark by Amanda Chris Whitaker (10 copies) 1975 is a time of change in America. The Vietnam War is ending. Muhammad Ali is fighting Joe Frazier. And in the smalltown of Monta Clare, Missouri, girls are disappearing. When the daughter of a wealthy family is targeted, the most unlikely hero emerges—Patch, a local boy, who saves the girl, and, in doing so, leaves heartache in his wake.



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson (10 copies) The Herdmans are the worst kids in the history of the world. They lie, steal, and swear. So no one is prepared when this outlaw family invades church one Sunday and decides to take over the annual Christmas pageant. None of the Herdmans has ever heard the Christmas story before. They will make this year's pageant the most unusual anyone has seen and, just possibly, the best one ever.



The Briar Club by Kate Quinn (10 copies)

Washington, DC, 1950. Everyone keeps to themselves at Briarwood House, a down-at-the-heels all-female boardinghouse in the heart of the nation's capital where secrets hide behind white picket fences. But when the lovely, mysterious widow Grace March moves into the attic room, she draws her oddball collection of neighbors into unlikely friendship.



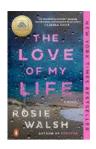
The First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray (10 copies)

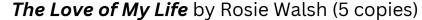
The daughter of formerly enslaved parents, Mary McLeod Bethune refuses to back down as white supremacists attempt to thwart her work. She marches on as an activist and an educator, and as her reputation grows she becomes a celebrity, revered by titans of business and recognized by U.S. Presidents. Eleanor Roosevelt herself is awestruck and eager to make her acquaintance.



Here One Moment by Liane Moriarty (10 copies)

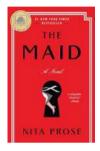
The plane is jam-packed. Every seat is taken. So of course the flight is delayed! Flight attendant Allegra Patel likes her job—she's generally happy with her life, but today is her twenty-eighth birthday. She can think of plenty of things she'd rather be doing than placating a bunch of grumpy passengers. Suddenly a woman none of them know stands up. She makes predictions about how and when everyone on board will die. Some dismiss her. Others will do everything they can to make sure her prophecies do not come to pass. All of them will be forever changed.





Donated by Valentine Public Library

Emma loves her husband Leo and their young daughter Ruby: she'd do anything for them. But almost everything she's told them about herself is a lie. When the very darkest moments of Emma's past finally emerge, she must somehow prove to Leo that she really is the woman he always thought she was . . .but first, she must tell him about the other love of her life.



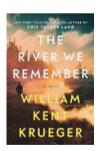
The Maid by Nita Prose (10 copies)

Molly Gray is not like everyone else. She struggles with social skills and misreads the intentions of others. Her gran used to interpret the world for her, codifying it into simple rules that Molly could live by. But Molly's orderly life is upended the day she enters the suite of the infamous and wealthy Charles Black, only to find it in a state of disarray and Mr. Black himself dead in his bed.



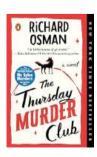
Mary Jane by Jessica Anya Blau (10 copies)

In 1970s Baltimore, fourteen-year-old Mary Jane loves cooking with her mother, singing in her church choir, and enjoying her family's subscription to the Broadway Showtunes of the Month record club. Shy, quiet, and bookish, she's glad when she lands a summer job as a nanny for the daughter of a local doctor. Caught between the lifestyle she's always known and the future she's only just realized is possible, Mary Jane will arrive at September with a new idea about what she wants out of life, and what kind of person she's going to be.



The River We Remember by William Kent Krueger (10 copies) On Memorial Day in Jewel, Minnesota, the body of wealthy landowner Jimmy

Quinn is found floating in the Alabaster River, dead from a shotgun blast. The investigation falls to Sheriff Brody Dern, a highly decorated war hero who still carries the physical and emotional scars from his military service.



The Thursday Murder Club by Richrd Osman (10 Copies)

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves the Thursday Murder Club.

When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case.

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

Contact denise.cpls@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Call for Speakers: Big Talk From Small Libraries 2025!



Submit your proposal by Friday, December 13, 2024 at nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk



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:

- Buffalo Bill's Nebraska by Jeff Barnes
- Excess Baggage: Riding the Orphan Train by Charlotte Endorf
- Grit 'n' Gumption by Cherrie Beam-Callaway
- 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

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."

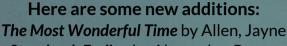






AUDIOBOOK COLLECTION

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.



Storybook Ending by Alexander, Poppy **Talking to Strangers** by Barton, Fiona **No One Will Know** by Carlyle, Rose **Safe Enough** by Child, Lee

In Too Deep by Child Lee and Andrew Child Close Knit by Colgan, Jenny

The Night We Lost Him by Dave, Laura Strange Folk by Dyer, Alli

Till Death Do Us Part by Flynn, Laurie Elizabeth

The Examiner by Hallett, Janice

The Favorites by Hennigan, Rosemary **The Four** by Keel, Ellie

We Used to Live Here by Kliewer, Marcus

Spirit Crossing by Krueger, William Kent **A Step Past Darkness** by Kurian, Vera

The Plus One by Lalli, S.C.

Once More From the Top by Layden, Emily

The Trip by Morgan Phoebe

The Third Wife of Faraday House by B.R. Myers **Lies He Told Me** by Patterson, James and David Ellis

By Any Other Name by Picoult, Jody

The Mirror by Roberts, Nora

Home is Where the Bodies Are by Rose, Jeneva

Slow Dance by Rowell, Rainbow

We Came to Welcome You by Tirado, Vincent



Scholarship Reports

I would like to say thank you for the scholarship that went towards the Youth Services Retreat at Camp Carol Joy Holling in August. To say that I had an amazing experience on my first retreat would be an understatement!

The presentation by Aura Sewell "Fantastic New Reads for Children" was great! It gave me a lot of ideas on some books to use for my Toddler Storytime along with books to look at for the other programs that I do as well!

The session by Liz Hittle "Programs and How I Plan 'Em" was amazing!! My mind went crazy with so many ideas for all of our youth programs, but especially for the new Tween group that just got started! She had so many awesome ideas that would be "cool" for the middle age group of kids to bring them back to the library and get them interested in hanging out in our space again.

Jennifer Norton and Rocio Casanova who did "Family and Community Programming - Major Successes and Epic Fails" had such fantastic community program ideas! Their Bike Rodeo /Summer Safety Workshop and Fall Faily Fun Fest sound like so much fun!

Thank you very much for the scholarship and I can't wait to attend again next year.

Alexis VanWey, Auld Public Library, Red Cloud

Thank you for the scholarship to attend the recent NLA conference. It was good to meet other librarians and hear what is going on in other libraries.

My favorite presentation was by Mitchell Rousch. He discussed how to better promote your library to the community. He mentioned that although social media can be an effective way to communicate, email is even better. I'll have to work on getting people's email addresses.

Gayle Mattox, Sargent Township Library

Thank you for the scholarship to attend the 2024 "Thrive Together" annual library conference in Kearney. I attended two sessions on Friday morning and enjoyed listening to the keynote speaker Dr. Lydia Kang and the Golden Sower Award winner, Ena Jones. Jill Snyder, Arapahoe Public Library

Thanks to the Central Plains Library System's scholarship award, I was able to attend the Nebraska Library Association's Annual Conference on October 10th. While all the sessions were incredibly helpful, there are a few standouts whose content I will be implementing here at our local library. The keynote speaker, Dr. Tyner was very inspirational and her message about creating a culture of reading, resonates with our Community Needs Response Plan.

The other session that was extremely helpful was the session entitled, "A Meeting Held in Public, Not a Public Meeting." This session really drove home the point of having a cohesive board that understands their roles and responsibilities. It affirmed our yearly agenda that we have in place, but I can see that we have a lot of room for growth and need to update our meeting outline. The information given regarding public comment was also very helpful and our board needs to sit down and look at what our policy says regarding public speaking parameters. The clarification regarding what is allowed at a meeting, what a successful meeting looks like and the importance of policy were really driven home.

Thank you for this opportunity to attend.

Jennifer Einspahr, Director, Arapahoe 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.



Five Little Snowmen

Five little snowmen standing on the ice,
The 1st one said, "Winter is so nice."

The 2nd one said, "There are snowflakes in the air."
The 3rd one said, "But we don't care."
The 4th one said, "It's cold outside today."
The 5th one said, "Let's play and play and play

Book Suggestions:

These five little snowmen are in a snow globe made with two colors of cardstock. The base needs to be trimmed on the dotted line and then the three pieces can be assembled with school glue or glue sticks. The children will need a crayon or marker to add the faces and hats. Snowflake stickers are provided.

Please email your request early since Deb will be out of the office close to the holidays.

Deadline: December 17th.



by Adam Wallace 3-6 years old







Sneezy the Snowman by Maureen Wright 3-6 years old



CPLS HAS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE!

You may be looking forward to attending a training opportunity that will come up in the first half of 2025. 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		
Scholarship requested for		(meal, room, etc.)
Amount requested		,
-	s be made out to	
Other information		
Send your request to:	Central Plains Library System	
, 1	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.

Library and Information Services

Spring 2025 Online Course Offerings January 13, 2025 – May 8, 2025 Enrollment for Spring Semester 2025 opens Monday, Nov. 18, 2024



LIBR 2100 Reference Resources and Services

Marty Magee, Instructor

- Professional competencies including legal and ethical responsibilities
- Reference interview process
- The Reference collection
- Evaluation and use of digital resources, including databases, and websites

LIBR 2150 Develop and Organize Collections

Patty Birch, Instructor

- Basics of collection management including terminology and models
- Community and collection analysis
- Selection, Acquisition, Deselection/Weeding
- Intellectual Freedom and Copyright
- Cataloging instruction including classification systems, subject headings, MARC records, and RDA

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



For more information on the Library and Information Services program, see: https://www.ccneb.edu/lis/

For information concerning Admissions or Registration, contact: Michelle Setlik msetlik@cccneb.edu, 402-461-2538 or Toll Free at 308-398-7341

Central Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

IEEE Grant Opportunity

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Science Kits for Public Libraries Grant project is offering up to \$2,000 per library in funding for public libraries across the Midwest for 2025. The grant is focused on the creation of a circulating science kit collection for primary and secondary education students (K-12).



Applications will be accepted from public libraries in the IEEE Region 4 starting November 1st and ending at 11:59pm on the 3rd Thursday of January (January 16, 2025). Those libraries which have previously applied for the grant but have not received funding are invited to submit again.

For grant program details and application, visit the SKPL website, https://r4.ieee.org/skpl/. Contact Doug DeBoer (Douglas.DeBoer@Dordt.edu) with any questions.

Ravenna and Grand Island have received this grant in 2023. Everyone in the Central Plains Library System are in IEEE Region 4.



Senator Conrad Earns Library Advocacy Award



Pictured left to right: Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission; Jenny White, Schuyler Public Library; Senator Danielle Conrad; Deb Robertson, Kilgore Memorial Library; Michael Straatmann, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries; Brenda Ealey, Lincoln City Libraries

View the complete announcement here: https://nebraskalibraries.org/announcements.php?id=58.

The NLA Advocacy Committee delivered the prestigious Advocacy Award to Senator Danielle Conrad (LD 46) in recognition of her outstanding support and commitment to libraries across the state.

Senator Conrad has been a dedicated advocate for Nebraska's libraries, fighting legislation and initiatives that threaten the state's public library systems, erode intellectual freedom rights, and impact access to educational resources for all Nebraskans. Her efforts have a profound impact on both urban and rural communities, ensuring that libraries remain vital hubs for learning, innovation, and community engagement. Senator Conrad's support was critical when LB 441 was being debated on the floor, during the 2024 Legislative Session.

This inaugural NLA Advocacy Award is being presented to Senator Conrad because her work has benefited **ALL** libraries in our state.



Apply for the National Friends of Libraries Week Awards by Dec. 6

Two Friends groups will be awarded \$250 each in honor of their celebrations during the 19th annual National Friends of Libraries Week held Oct. 20-26, 2024. Submission deadline is December 6, 2024.



National Consumer Protection Week



The Federal Trade Commission's newly-updated website for librarians: https://ftc.gov/libraries provides free reference materials, outreach and programming ideas for all ages, social media "shareables" such images and videos, and handouts including bookmarks and brochures that you can print yourself or order in bulk for free. All resources are in the public domain and can be used without restriction.

How To Bring National Consumer Protection Week to Your Library

Thursday, December 5, 2024 | 1:00pm - 2:00pm CT

Event Description:

National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) 2025 is March 2-8. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) invites you to celebrate NCPW at your library. NCPW is a great time to share information with your patrons about their consumer rights, spotting and avoiding scams, and reporting frauds.

Join the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS) for a free webinar on how to NCPW to your library through programming and outreach.

To join the webinar at 2pm ET/1pm CT/11am PT:

- URL: https://ftc.zoomgov.com/j/1612580692?pwd=OhhX8ylyoxrOCgS81AgQL1ac8A6rer.1
- Meeting ID: 161 258 0692
- Passcode: 304565































MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

December 5 Directors Talk, Thursday Morning Meeting, 10am December 12 All Staff, Thursday Morning Meeting, 10 am December 13 Deadline for Program Proposal for Big Talk From Small Libraries December 17 Deadline for Deb's January Preschool Project December 25 Christmas Holiday - CPLS Office Closed New Year's Day Holiday - CPLS Office Closed January 1 January 2 Directors Talk, Thursday Morning Meeting, 10am January 16 CPLS Board Meeting, Zoom, 10am January 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday - CPLS Office Closed All Staff, Thursday Morning Meeting, 10am January 30 CPLS Summer Reading Workshop, McCook City Library, 10am-3:30pm February 6 February 13 Directors Talk, Thursday Morning Meeting, 10am February 17 Presidents' Day Holiday - CPLS Office Closed February 20 System Directors' Quarterly Meeting with the Commission, 10am February 26 CPLS Summer Reading Workshop, Kearney Public Library, 10am-3:30pm February 27 All Staff, Thursday Morning Meeting, 10am February 28 Big Talk from Small Libraries Online Conference, 8:45 am - 5 pm.

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

To furnish the means of acquiring knowledge is the greatest benefit that can be conferred upon mankind.

~John Quincy Adams, 1836

