



## The Role of the Three Rivers Library System

*by Tammi Thiem*



I have done presentations here and there to share all that the Three Rivers Library System (TRLS) has to offer, but it never hurts to go over things again. In everyone's busy lives, it is easy to overlook available resources. Here is a short video covering the [Nebraska Regional Library Systems](#).

If you are reading this, it means that you likely already know about the monthly newsletter that TRLS provides. This is a great way to keep track of events happening in the library world. It is also interesting to learn about the fabulous ideas that other librarians have for their libraries, and it is a perfect platform to share your own terrific programs, events, and ideas. If you have pictures or articles to share, please send them to [Chelsea](#). The most current issue is found [here](#), and all of the past issues are found [here](#).

TRLS offers [scholarships](#) for continuing education opportunities. The [application form](#) is easy and basic, and the only requirements are that you, of course, attend the event for which you applied and then submit an article for the monthly newsletter sharing details of the event. This helps other librarians learn about these opportunities, and it also reminds others that these scholarships are available. The usual process is reimbursement once the article has been submitted, but the money can be provided ahead of time if necessary.

Another scholarship opportunity through TRLS is for a [Humanities Nebraska](#) speaker. Again, this is an easy and basic [application](#). The librarian hires the speaker and pays the fees. After the event, the librarian will write an article for the newsletter, and pictures are welcomed! The \$50 or \$75 fee will then be reimbursed. Again, if there is hardship with waiting for the reimbursement, TRLS is willing to work with you.

[Book kits](#) and [STEAM](#) (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) kits are available at the TRLS office. These are easy to borrow. Simply contact [Chelsea](#) for assistance. You are welcome to make arrangements to pick up the items at the office in Omaha; these can be delivered as schedules allow; or these can be mailed, depending on the weight and size of the item(s). If these items are mailed, you have the option of having the return postage paid by TRLS. This makes the process even more beneficial to your libraries! If there are specific titles that you would like, [please offer the recommendation](#) for consideration by the TRLS committee.

TRLS offers workshops, librarian meetings, and networking opportunities. Many of these are in-person events, and sometimes these are done virtually. Several of the virtual events are available on the TRLS [YouTube Channel](#). If you ever have a specific topic you would like to explore in a workshop or meeting setting, please share your ideas.

I help with other things such as weeding or inventory projects, public library surveys, board meetings, and more. I am always just an [email](#), call, or text away (402-910-7005). I am an enthusiastic cheerleader for libraries, and I am available as a sounding board whenever needed.



# At the TRaILS Office

Identify the best American authors of the titles listed below. Read the remaining letters from top to bottom, left to right, to answer the question for the puzzle. Submit your answer to [trls.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:trls.assistant@gmail.com) by March 20th to be entered into a prize drawing.

[https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/2413.100\\_Best\\_American\\_Authors](https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/2413.100_Best_American_Authors)

H	O	M	E	L	V	I	L	L	E	E	W	M	A
N	Y	O	F	T	H	E	T	O	P	A	C	E	B
Y	R	U	B	D	A	R	B	W	A	L	K	E	R
O	Y	O	K	R	L	S	O	N	E	C	C	T	H
T	A	E	T	O	E	A	P	N	T	O	E	W	E
U	W	N	T	Y	L	G	R	I	S	T	B	T	W
G	G	E	R	E	W	O	N	E	R	T	N	R	I
E	N	T	T	E	H	N	B	I	G	Y	I	E	T
N	I	M	I	T	C	H	E	L	L	Z	E	L	S
N	M	T	W	A	I	N	J	O	E	A	T	L	O
O	E	A	H	N	S	T	E	I	O	N	S	I	R
V	H	E	L	L	E	R	B	E	P	C	K	M	F

*To Kill a Mockingbird*  
*The Great Gatsby*  
*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*  
*The Catcher in the Rye*  
*The Grapes of Wrath*  
*Fahrenheit 451*  
*Of Mice and Men*  
*The Scarlet Letter*  
*In Cold Blood*  
*Gone with the Wind*

*East of Eden*  
*The Tell-Tale Heart*  
*The Old Man and the Sea*  
*Little Women*  
*The Color Purple*  
*Moby Dick*  
*Slaughterhouse-Five*  
*Catch-22*  
*Death of a Salesman*  
*The Poetry of Robert Frost*

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY  
SYSTEM PRESENTS:

<http://bit.ly/DigitalHandouts>

Check out the link for a folder of flyers from presenters for your Summer Reading Program. We're always updating the information, so check back anytime.

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY  
SYSTEM'S

BREAKOUT  
CHALLENGES

TRaILS

## Basic Skills

(\* Required Class)

### Library Technology

Registration Dates: 12 February 2024 - 8 March 2024

Class Dates: 18 March 2024 - 29 March 2024

### Introduction to Cataloging.(Organizing of Materials)\*

Registration Dates: 19 February 2024 - 15 March 2024

Class Dates: 1 April 2024 - 30 April 2024

### Library Finance

Registration Dates: 11 March 2024 - 5 April 2024

Class Dates: 15 April 2024 - 26 April 2024

## Upcoming NCompass Live

### Pretty Sweet Tech

Date: 27 March 2024 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

## Calendar of Events

### SKILLS Meeting

Wayne Public Library

5 March 2024

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

### Book Care Workshop

Millard North High School

14 March 2024

9:00 am - 11:55 am

### NLA Advocacy Day

Cornhusker Hotel (Lincoln)

20 March 2024

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

### SKILLS Meeting

Online

26 March 2024

10:00 am - 11:00 am

### SKILLS Meeting

Springfield Memorial Library

9 April 2024

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

## NLC Book Club Spotlight

Book Club Spotlight:

[When Stars are Scattered](#)

Mackenzie Marrow is the librarian in charge of book clubs at the Nebraska Library Commission and wants to share with everyone the hidden gems in the [NLC's Book Club Collection](#). Below is an excerpt, but to read the full details go to [Mackenzie's blog post](#).

*Omar and his brother Hassan have been in the Dadaab refugee camp for seven years! Without their parents, the boys live on their own, watched over by an aging foster mother, Fatuma. Having the responsibility of caring for himself and his nonverbal brother, everyday Omar must clean the floorless tent they sleep on, hide any valuables from thieves, and wait. Wait for water, wait for food, wait for his mother to find them, wait for the war to end, and wait to leave the refugee camp. When Omar gets a chance to attend school, he is far behind other children his age, and soon, the pressure of school and chores begins to make him angry and resentful. As he grows and becomes continually frustrated with his situation, he sees how everyone else is stuck just like him—especially the girls, who, like Omar, are burdened with too many responsibilities. With encouragement from his friends and community, Omar grows more confident in his abilities and in Hassan and starts dreaming about a future outside the camp. And one day, Omar's and Hassan's names are called for an interview with the UN for a chance to finally leave Dadaab, an exciting and terrifying possibility.*



10 Copies Available at TRaiLS

PLACE HOLDS AT:  
[LIBIB.COM/U/TRAILS](https://libib.com/u/trails)

FROM THE NEWBERY HONOR-WINNING CREATOR OF ROLLER GIRL

WHEN STARS ARE SCATTERED

VICTORIA JAMIESON  
AND OMAR MOHAMED



# Library News

## Lied Pierce Public Library's 24th Annual Chocolate Lover's Day

*by Dawnn Tucker*

The Lied Pierce Public Library hosted the 24th Annual Chocolate Lover's Day on Valentine's Day. Local patrons made "homemade" chocolate goodies for the event. The goodies were dispensed into sampler packages in four different sizes the prior evening. All proceeds help with children's programming.



## Clarkson Public Library's Valentine Bingo!

*by Debra Nadrchal*

Clarkson Public Library hosted Valentine Bingo! February 10 and there were lots of children and moms here! They had a really good time matching up the fun pictures on the cards. And LOTS of treats!!! Next one will be a birthday party for Dr. Seuss!





# Library News

## Genoa Public Library's Princess Spa Day

*by Jocelyn Robertson*

On Sunday, February 25th, Genoa Public Library's Teen Advisory Group (TAG), hosted a "Princess Spa Day" for kids ages 11 and under. Services included face masks, with complementary cucumber slices, hair styling, nail painting, and makeup. There was also a snack table, with princess fruit snacks, goldfish, and lemonade. The services were done by three members of the TAG, president Jocelyn Robertson, secretary Ava Martinez, and treasurer McKenzie King, as well as Genoa Library director Kimberly Ellenwood. The event had a turnout of 30 kids, with most girls having every service done. They also spent time playing and gossiping with each other. The TAG group earned \$149 in freewill donation and tips. Overall, the spa day was a success with many requests for another one!



## Stanton Public Library's 'Explore Chess'

*by Tami Barth*

Once a month, we have a program called "Explore Chess!" This is lead by a local citizen. She actually came up with the idea. The supplies were purchased by our local Friends of the Library group. The kids love it! People of all ages come and play with the kids. In this picture, they make one move and hop to the next board! This is a very popular feature of our chess gatherings!



# Scholarship Experiences

## 29th Annual Joint Youth Services Retreat

*by Jordan Fashing*

I have stared at a blank page several times trying to think about what to say about the 29th Annual Joint Youth Services Retreat. Being a new children's librarian, and never having gone to something like this, I was nervous from the very beginning. I should not have been. I will admit the amount of people who had no idea where my library was or who I was did not help with my nerves. It made me want to be a spokesperson for the community I serve. The entire experience reminded me that even in the moments when one feels alone, we never are because there are librarians who are experiencing the same challenges.

The time listening to presentations was eye-opening, especially when learning about things one is curious about. I was constantly wanting to turn into a sponge and soak it into my knowledge fund. Hearing about other tried practices from other librarians in the "'Booktalk' Your Favorites (But Not Books)," where so many items that worked for libraries across the state was fascinating, especially since almost none of them were the same. Discussions of easy ways to organize teen nights, or even how sometimes events are impacted by word of mouth, made each speaker's presentation important and interesting. I found the conversation of STEM programming on the last day to be inspiring in many ways. The conversation at my table was interesting and a lot of advice was shared. I feel that this retreat was a great unexpected experience for a new children's librarian. After all, I did not expect to stay up late playing games, I did not fully understand, yet discuss various topics with the librarians around the table. I did not expect to get to know all the librarians around every table I sat at (including during lunches) and find the conversations interesting, feeling like I could express myself to fellow librarians.

I absolutely found this retreat amazing and it was thanks to this scholarship that I was able to attend with financial support. I loved the experience this gave me to meet and learn from other librarians throughout the state. The value of the speakers during this retreat was beyond what I thought it would be, and the conversations around the table were wonderful. I highly recommend taking the time to come to this lovely retreat!

## ARSL Conference

*by Kathy Stender*

I am immensely grateful for the scholarship that enabled me to attend the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Conference in Wichita, Kansas. This experience has been nothing short of transformative, and I wanted to express my appreciation.

The workshops, such as "Building the Library Culture You Want," emphasized the importance of fostering an inclusive environment. "How Can I Help You?" underscored the value of personalized service, enhancing our ability to meet the unique needs of our community. The workshop on "AI: The Time-Saving Superhero for Libraries" opened my eyes to the practical applications of Artificial Intelligence, offering insights that will undoubtedly shape the future of our library operations. AI offers so much beyond my imagination that it just blows my mind!

Your support has made this enriching experience possible and invested in the future of Leigh Public Library. The knowledge gained will contribute to the enhancement of our services and the overall well-being of our community. I am committed to applying these lessons and sharing them with my library board members, ensuring that the impact of your generosity extends far beyond this conference.

# Scholarship Experiences

## Association of Rural and Small Libraries Conference 2023

*by Kathy Doescher*

I want to thank the Three Rivers Library System for the grant which gave me the opportunity to go to my first ARSL Conference held in Wichita, Kansas. Also for the fun bus ride. Thank you for providing the bus from Genoa to Wichita. I enjoyed meeting the area librarians and exchanging ideas and library talk with them.

I attended as many sessions as possible and many times it was hard to choose as there were so many informative sessions I was interested in. Some of my favorites were: the seed library as we are in the process of starting one at our library and the games workshop as we have recently started that at our library a few years ago. I enjoyed hearing what the other libraries are offering.

It was also interesting to go to the vendor area to have an opportunity to talk face-to-face with them about their products. Since we went by bus we were able to cash in on some of the swag. One of my favorite things was the dine around dinner and I ended up with a really fun group with people from all around the country.

I came back to the library with so much good information that I will be using at our library and I hope I get an opportunity to go again very soon.

## ARSL 2023

*by Lara Lanphear*

I was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship through The Three Rivers Library System for the Association for Small and Rural Libraries Conference in Wichita, Kansas. I have always wanted to go to a bigger conference, and I am so grateful for the opportunity! Tammi Thiem was gracious enough to rent a party bus for any librarians who wanted to share a ride to the conference. The party bus was an amazing way to meet and chat with all the librarians in our area who were going to the conference.

The conference was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The venue was huge! Breakfast and lunch were provided, and there were various speakers and awards during that time. My favorite lunch was the Awards Lunch. I loved hearing all the stories and amazing projects other small and rural librarians are doing for their communities.

During the conference, there were a multitudinous number of sessions that you were able to attend. I loved the variety and the fact that they were targeted toward smaller libraries. Many of the sessions were inspiring. My favorite session was "Libraries and the First Amendment: Book Bans, Meeting Rooms, First Amendments Audits, and More." Deborah Caldwell-Stone was the speaker during this session, and I learned so much. The conference also had an exhibit area full of different vendors. I loved all the freebies the vendors were giving away, and I definitely added way too many new books to my TBR pile!

Thank you, Three Rivers Library System, for this amazing opportunity!



demco®

# Book Care Workshop

With the Book Doctor,  
Kimberly Young

- **Hands-on** training
- Tailored **repair** and **processing** instruction
- **Free** book care resources

Thursday,  
March 14th

9:00 to 11:55

Millard North  
High School  
Library

Register Online:

<https://bit.ly/LibStrength>

Bring books  
that need  
repaired and  
a pair of  
scissors.



THREE RIVERS LIBRARY  
SYSTEM PRESENTS:



## This Quarter's Topic: Weeding

Get together with librarians near you to Share Knowledge, Ideas, Learning, and Library Solutions! You are welcome to join any or all of the meetings for networking and discussions. They will be worth 3 Continuing Education Credits each. If your plans allow, stick around for lunch afterwards.

Research has shown that networking with fellow librarians is beneficial professional development that improves professional practice, promotes shared leadership, and helps people remain in the profession. Do NOT feel guilty when you leave your library for these meetings because isolation is unproductive.

Register at: <http://bit.ly/SKILLSMeeting>

**6 February 2024 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at Genoa Public Library**

**5 March 2024 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at Wayne Public Library**

**9 April 2024 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at Springfield Public Library**



*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 administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.*

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY  
SYSTEM PRESENTS:



Get together virtually with librarians to Share Knowledge, Ideas, Learning, and Library Solutions! You are welcome to join any or all of the meetings for networking and discussions. They will be worth 1 Continuing Education Credits each.

Research has shown that networking with fellow librarians is beneficial professional development that improves professional practice, promotes shared leadership, and helps people remain in the profession. To attend, please use [this Zoom Link](#).

**19 December 2023 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am**

**23 January 2024 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am**

**27 February 2024 from 10:00 am -11:00 am**

**26 March 2024 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am**

**30 April 2024 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am**



*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 administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.*



## Great Plains BISON

DISCOVER THE  
GREAT PLAINS Dan O'Brien



BOOK

**GREAT PLAINS BISON**  
BY DAN O'BRIEN

FILM

## SEED WARRIORS

BY REBEKKA SCHLICHTING

(Ioway Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska)



Explore the  
themes of  
conservation,  
restoration and  
respect, inspired  
by Ken Burns's  
*The American  
Buffalo*.

### Downloadable, print-at-home guide includes

- Discussion questions
- Additional reading suggestions and organizations to explore
- Two recipes from Chef Anthony Warrior

Watch *Seed Warriors*,  
download the discussion  
guide and explore more  
resources.

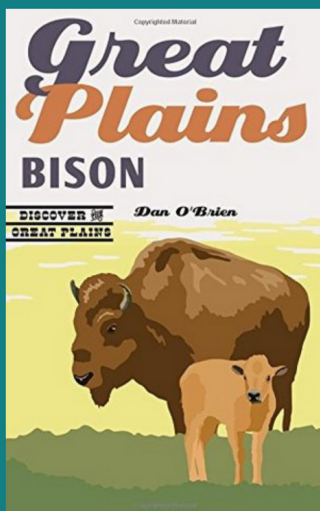


SCAN  
ME

[NebraskaPublicMedia.org/bookclub](https://NebraskaPublicMedia.org/bookclub)



## 10 Copies Available at TRaiLS



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Three Rivers  
Library System

# Suggest a Book Kit

**Suggest a title!**

Wanna teach a specific book in your classroom? Does your book club want to read a certain title?

Do you wish TRaiLS had a specific book kit?

Fill out our form at: <https://bit.ly/SuggestBookKits>  
and we'll take it into consideration. If we add it, we'll  
let you know first!



# Nebraska Public Media Family Engagement

Featuring

## Exploring Cause and Effect



Exploring Cause and Effect with *Work It Out Wombats!* is a family engagement electronic resource kit that helps children and families learn together through critical and computational thinking. This kit supports partners as they plan family engagement events for children ages 3-6 and their parents and caregivers.

This event will reinforce key problem-solving skills through curated, playful activities. Included electronic resources and activities are available in English and Spanish when available. All resources and facilitator support are provided at no cost for early childhood education providers, programs, libraries, and community partners.

Partner with us to plan your family engagement event today!

To learn more contact Amy Cassner  
[acassner@nebraskapublicmedia.org](mailto:acassner@nebraskapublicmedia.org)



Nebraska Public Media Family Engagement initiative is a collection of curated high-quality, free electronic resources to support early childhood education partners as they hold family engagement events or monthly family socializations. Our goal is to support Nebraska children, families, and caregivers as they learn and grow together through intergenerational play.

**Audience:** Libraries, early childhood education programs of all shapes and sizes, and other early childhood community organizations and community partners.

**New family engagement resource kits are available bi-monthly and include:**

- Event facilitator guide with learning goals that support intergenerational learning
- Event slides with detailed speaking notes and tips
- Electronic resources, games, and activities
- Suggested book list for extended learning
- Pre-event training and support via Zoom with our qualified education staff.



**Nebraska  
Public Media**



[NebraskaPublicMedia.org/education](https://NebraskaPublicMedia.org/education)



# TRaiLS Scholarships



In order to apply, you must be part of the Three Rivers Library System 21 county membership. Continuing education scholarships are available to attend state, regional, and nationwide conferences and events. These scholarships are available to any director, media specialist, staff member, or trustee at libraries in the TRaiLS service area. The list has some upcoming scholarships, but you are always able to apply for other conferences for the Scholarship Committee to deliberate on. All scholarship funds are allocated *after* the event and *after* the essay is submitted to the Library Services Assistant. The essay should focus on the experience of the event and only needs to be a few hundred words.



## UPCOMING SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- Computers in Library Conference
  - Award: \$1,500
    - Arlington, VA from 12-14 March 2024
- NETA (Nebraska Education Technology Association) Spring Conference
  - Award: \$600
    - Omaha, NE from 14-15 March 2024
- NLA (Nebraska Library Association) Advocacy Day
  - Award: \$200
    - Lincoln, NE from 19-20 March 2024
- PLA (Public Library Association) Conference
  - Award: \$1,500
    - Columbus, OH from 27 June - 2 July 2024
- Youth Services Retreat
  - Award: \$200
    - Ashland, NE from 29-30 August 2024
- ARSL (Association of Rural and Small Libraries) Conference
  - Award: \$1,500
    - Springfield, MA from 11-14 September 2024
- NLA (Nebraska Library Association) Conference
  - Award: \$600
    - Kearney, NE from 9-11 October 2024

Apply Online: <https://bit.ly/trlsScholarshipApp>

NEW

# PUZZLE SPRINTS: JIGSAW ASSEMBLY RACE



New STEAM Kits are now available at TRaILS! We now have multiple copies of puzzles for you to borrow for your patrons. They can race the clock or other patrons in this fun program. Check out the options at our Libib site.



TRaILS