

# T R a i L S

## What Exactly IS the Three Rivers Library System?



*by Tammi Thiem*

When asked what my job is or what the Three Rivers Library System is, I really struggle with identifying the many layers involved in what I do. After all, no two days are alike, and it seems I continue to learn new things every day. My silly tagline is, "They gave me a car and pay me to visit libraries!" While that is technically a true statement, there is much more to it than that.

There are [four regional library systems](#) in Nebraska. These non-profit corporations are governed by boards and supported with state and federal funding. The Three Rivers Library System (TRLS) covers [21 counties](#) in the northeastern corner of the state. Within those counties, there are 95 [public libraries](#), 465 [school libraries](#), 20 [academic libraries](#), and 20 [special libraries](#). TRLS offers a variety of services, including [monthly newsletters](#), workshops, networking opportunities, and consulting.

I do my best to connect with new directors to help them maneuver the many responsibilities of being a librarian. I assist with the accreditation process, and I offer workshops that provide professional development worth continuing education credits. I am readily available to answer questions to the best of my ability, or at least direct them to the best resource. I have spent countless hours researching laws and policies. I have attended city council meetings to provide librarian support. I have provided training events for library boards worth continuing education credits to help them maintain their certification status. I have even been known to help with summer reading programs when possible.

TRLS has over 200 book club kits available for librarians to borrow. Return postage is paid for those librarians within the 21-county region. Additionally, TRLS offers a variety of STEAM kits that can be borrowed. This includes jigsaw puzzles for races; a telescope; a Cricut and heat press with accessories; a Cricut Joy and accessories; two sizes of button makers with supplies; Breakout Boxes; and many other options. We are open to recommendations and welcome suggestions for what libraries need.

Another amazing resource that TRLS offers is scholarships for continuing education events, such as conferences and workshops. The application for these is easy to complete, and the continuing education scholarship works efficiently to ensure that everyone has a fair opportunity to attend these events. These are done as reimbursements, with the money sent once an article is submitted for the TRLS newsletter. The reason for this is twofold: others learn about the awesome training events that are available, and they also become aware of the offered scholarships. TRLS also offers scholarships to help libraries pay for Humanities Nebraska events. These, too, are done as reimbursements, but the applications are easy, and the articles are beneficial for all those who read the newsletters.

...and, yes, I hop in the car and visit libraries!

Remember, I am here to help, just an email ([tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com](mailto:tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com)), text, or call away (402-910-7005).



# At the TRails Office

Send the correct word to Chelsea at [trls.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:trls.assistant@gmail.com) by July 20th to be entered into a drawing for a prize.



## Basic Skills

(\* Required Class)

### Library Policy

Registration Dates: 17 June 2024 - 12 July 2024

Class Dates: 22 July 2024 - 2 August 2024

### Collection Management\*

Registration Dates: 8 July 2024 - 2 August 2024

Class Dates: 12 August 2024 - 23 August 2024

### Programming & Outreach

Registration Dates: 22 July 2024 - 16 August 2024

Class Dates: 26 August 2024 - 6 September 2024

## Calendar of Events

### SKILLS Meeting

Virtual

30 July 2024

10:00 am - 11:00 am

### 2024 Annual Meeting

Divots Conference Center & Brewery  
(Norfolk)

2 August 2024

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

## Upcoming NCompass Live

### Helping Students Be Google Aware

Date: 3 July 2024 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

### Think Outside the Box: Transformative Training with Breakout Challenges

Date: 17 July 2024 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

### Pretty Sweet Tech

Date: 31 July 2024 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

## NLC Book Club Spotlight

Book Club Spotlight:

Funny Boy

by Shyam Selvadurai

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](#).

*June 28th will be the 54th anniversary of the [Stonewall Uprising](#). Although we have come so far in equal rights for the LGBTQ+ community, it's important to remember our history and those who came before us as we celebrate Pride Month. *Funny Boy* by Shyam Selvadurai is a historical fiction novel taking place in Colombo, Sri Lanka when the [Tamil diaspora](#) was the target of racism and violence leading to the [Black July pogroms](#) and the Sri Lankan Civil War (1983 to 2009). *Funny Boy* is a work of courage in the face of anti-LGBTQ+ laws in Sri Lanka, that author Selvadurai faced before he emigrated to Canada to escape persecution. His novel portrays love and humanity in a time of violence, and was awarded the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Men's Fiction and the Books in Canada First Novel Award.*

*In the politically strife 70s and 80s Sri Lanka, a young boy must come to himself in his queerness as political and ethnic tensions threaten him and his affluent Tamil family. Though he is not aware of it himself, Arjie's supposed homosexuality labels him as "funny" when he shows his feminine side and dreams often about the romance of true love. When he meets soon-to-be bride Radha Aunty, Arjie's perception of love shifts as she falls for a Sinhalese man and their relationship threatens the family. As he matures, Arjie also falls for a Sinhalese boy and has to look past the shame to find himself as the ambivalent world violently crashes around them.*

# Library News

## Bellevue University Library's Escape Room

by Alicia James

Since 2019, the staff at Bellevue University Library has put together an annual escape room event for our students, faculty, and staff. Past themes have included *The Wizard of Oz*, Edgar Allan Poe, and *Alice in Wonderland*. This year was a fun filled room called "Problems with Pixies" where players had to solve puzzles and crack clues all across our Hogwarts room in order to escape within the one hour time limit. We were pleased to host 79 players across 23 teams during our two week run for the room!



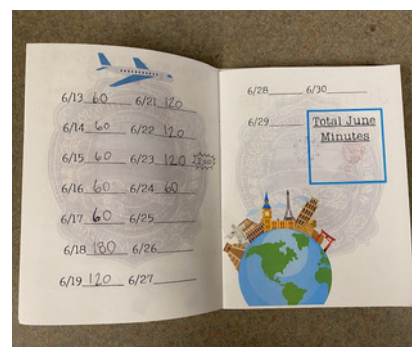
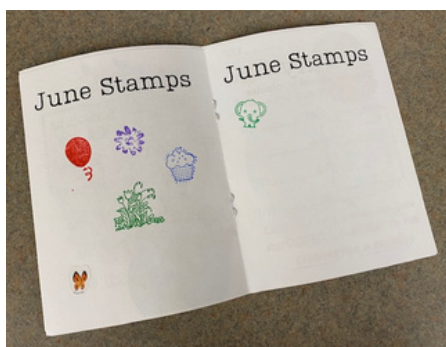
## La Vista Public Library's Reading Passport

by Rachel Bachman

This Summer the La Vista Public Library leaned into the theme that "adventure begins at your library". So instead of handing out a typical reading log, we opted to hand out a reading passport!

In the passport SRP participants could: track the minutes they read, receive stamps for attending library programs, and calculate the total of minutes they read and how many programs they attended. The biggest surprise was how eager people were to collect stamps. Even without a prize incentive, patrons still wanted to know when stamps would be given out and what the shape of the stamp would be.

Handing out reading passports was the perfect way for patrons to start their reading adventure!



# Library News

## Lied Pierce Public Library's Retirement Party

*by Tammi Thiem*



Best wishes to Dawnn Tucker from the Lied Pierce Public Library! Her retirement party was on Friday, May 31st, and her daughter, Danielle, said it best by referring to it as a celebration for all Dawnn has done to make the Lied Pierce Public Library feel like a second home to the community over the past 25ish years.



## Madison Public Library's Summer Reading Program Kickoff

*by Lori Porter*

Madison Public Library kicked off their Summer Reading Program with a birthday party for Smokey Bear. We enjoyed birthday cake to celebrate and learned about the Smokey Bear Reading Challenge along with our program. After celebrating, we went outside and learned about campfires and how important it is to make sure they are put out properly. Each child drew a campfire on the sidewalk with chalk and then, with the help of a water bottle, put the fire out.

The children celebrated Smokey's 80th Birthday by joining the Smokey Bear Reading Challenge by engaging the youth in reading about wildfire prevention, forests, and natural resource careers while they explore their local environment.

The challenge is designed to complement the 2024 Collaborative Summer Reading Program theme of "Adventure Begins at Your Library".



# Library News

## Stanton Public Library's Birds of Prey

*by Tami Barth*

We had three different raptors (birds of prey) inside our Stanton Public Library on Saturday, June 22. About fifty people of all ages attended with lots of interesting questions. Raptor Recovery from Fontenelle Forest in Bellevue, Nebraska provided an excellent program at a very economical cost! We received many positive comments for all ages!



## Bellevue University Library's New DEI Committee

*by Alicia James*

This June, the Bellevue University Library's new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee put together a book display of LGBTQ+ related books for Pride Month. This display featured history books, memoirs, and more. Additional information regarding Pride parade history and monumental moments was set up in a colorful timeline next to the display.



# Library News

## Lied Pierce Public Library's Spacey Summer

*by Jennifer Thomsen*

The first photo is of our latest summer reading day. The 60 preschool to 3rd grade kids were read to by Sara who is the summer intern at the Pierce County Extension (and my daughter!).



The other photos are from when the Edgerton museum brought their Spaceflight program to us. The youth learned what it is like to be in space and the effects of being in space with no atmosphere on a marshmallow and balloons. They tested their grip with and without 'space suit gloves'; saw a scale model of how far it was to the moon from here (all the way across the room!). It ended with a literal bang, a hydrogen filled balloon where they used their senses to tell what happens when hydrogen and flame meet.



# Scholarship Experiences

## 2023 Association for Rural & Small Libraries Conference

*by Jenny White*

Ever since I heard back in 2022 that the next ARSL conference was going to be in Wichita, I started making plans to attend. Not only is it the most valuable conference for small libraries, it was practically right next door! This was not my first ARSL convention, but I knew this one would be special due to the high number of Nebraska library workers attending.

The welcome reception and tour of Wichita's new Advanced Learning Library was properly impressive, but it is the keynote speakers and breakout sessions where the good stuff is. Will Stuck greeted the huge gathering of us with humor and encouragement, which is just what we needed in these crazy times of book challenges and threats of defunding at our libraries.

My first breakout session was from the good team at LibraryReads about uniting library staff and publisher reps. They talked to us about using NoveList and appeal elements when doing readers advisory interviews. They showed us how to connect with publishers to learn about upcoming titles. Reach out and get on those publisher newsletter email lists! And if you use Baker & Taylor as your book distributor, did you know that they have a LibraryReads cart all ready for you to order from?

It was both inspiring and dreadful listening to Debra Caldwell-Stone, the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom Director, speak about the unprecedented times we are working in. One of her practical recommendations was that your meeting room agreements include behavior rules, so I will certainly be reviewing our library's community room policy. And it was enlightening to me to hear her state "saying a book is obscene is an opinion."

As a new member of ARSL's Advocacy Committee, I was proud to see my colleagues and Kent Oliver, from the ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy Office lead a panel and a round table discussion to Unite Against Book Bans. If you find your library in a challenging situation, ARSL's Advocacy Center can help: <https://arsl.memberclicks.net/advocacy-center>. You don't have to be a member to make use of these resources.

And the Author Fest was a grand way to wrap up our time in Wichita! This conference was truly outstanding. The wealth of practical advice and support, connecting with other library folk, the sharing of ideas! And of course getting to socialize with other fabulous Nebraska librarians out at some of the great restaurants and sights was awesome, too!

Thank you, Three Rivers Library System, for providing such a generous scholarship that allowed me and so many other Nebraskans to attend this year's conference.



# Scholarship Experiences

## Public Library Association Conference

*by Melodee Pedersen*

Thank you to the Three Rivers Library System for granting me a scholarship to attend the PLA (Public Library Association) Conference in Columbus, Ohio this April. It was truly mind-blowing! What a boost to see over 7,500 public librarians all gathered together, because they want to get ideas to improve their libraries, and through that their communities.

Each of the three days of the conference began with an inspiring speaker, touching on general concepts that apply to everyone. Then came the breakout sessions. There were so many options to choose from, it was tough to settle on just one to attend. There were definitely times I wished I could clone myself, so that I could attend more than one.

Some of the sessions were on large concepts, such as leadership or staff training. One library even used new hires as “secret shoppers”, asked them to visit the library from the perspective of a new patron and fill out a questionnaire about their experience. Some sessions were “how tos” on very specific topics, such as circulating Roku devices or using Canva.

The exhibit hall was almost 120,000 square feet of a variety of vendors. I saw things I had never seen before, like a book vending machine and an animatronic cat used with people with dementia. I also learned valuable information from the vendors, such as that Demco will come give a book-mending workshop for FREE if we have at least 40 people attend. I intend to pursue hosting this workshop here at the Columbus Public Library, so watch the Three Rivers newsletter for more information on that. The workshop won't happen until 2025, because it is in such demand it is booked out until then.

I also learned from the Cover One vendor that I had been using way too much glue in our Cover One book gluing machine. That will save me time and money, two commodities all librarians are usually short of.

Just standing in line at PLA was educational, because of the conversations sparked when all of these librarians were getting coffee or queuing up to get into the exhibit hall.

If you have thought about attending a conference but hesitated because of money, apply for a Three Rivers scholarship! The application process was easy and the experience of PLA will be bearing fruit for us for years to come.



Three Rivers Library System presents:

# 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Register:  
<https://bit.ly/TRAILSAnnual>

2 August  
2024

Divots Brewery and  
Conference  
Center in  
Norfolk

1 CE Available

\$5  
Registration  
Fee

9:00 am - 9:30 am - *Registration*

**Morning Sessions** - *Quarterly Meeting*

- Andrew Sherman, NLC

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - *Lunch*

**Afternoon Sessions** - *Annual Meeting*

- *Tour of Brewery*

4:00 pm - *Farewells*



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.

# 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:

- 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
- ALA (American Library Association) Conference
  - Award: \$1,500
    - San Diego, CA from 27 June - 2 July 2024



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



# TRaiLS Board Nominations

Would you or someone you know be interested in serving on the TRaiLS Board of Directors? The Three Rivers Library System is governed by board representatives who serve three-year terms. The board meets quarterly to oversee the budget, activities, and operation of the System. Nominees must be based in the 21 county System Region. We prefer to keep our board diverse to represent all different types of libraries in our system, therefore we require at least one member from academic, public, and school libraries.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

### BOARD MEETINGS

The System Board meets four times per year within the System or virtually by Zoom. Meetings are typically a couple of hours, except for the Annual Meeting in August which is a full length workshop.

### ROLE

The role of the System Board is similar to any non-profit or library board of trustees. Tasks include: determining budget specifications each fiscal year, evaluate and improve System services and programs, advocating for the System and its services.

## REIMBURSEMENT

### EXPENSES

Members do not receive payment, however they are reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in carrying out their duties. The cost of travel to and from System Board Meetings is reimbursed at the current Federal allowable rate as well as the fee to the Annual Meeting is waived.

*For questions or concerns in participating in the Three Rivers Library System Board, please contact Tammi at [Tammi.Thiem.TRLS@gmail.com](mailto:Tammi.Thiem.TRLS@gmail.com)*

Nominate Online:

<https://bit.ly/TRLBoardNominations>

Swanson Center

Camp Carol Joy Holling

# 30TH ANNUAL JOINT YOUTH SERVICES RETREAT



**AUGUST 29 & 30**

- Hosted by the Regional Library Systems
- A chance to network with your colleagues
- Learn from experienced presenters and from each other

**Save the dates!**

**Planned opening of registration in  
early June**

Thanks to these  
librarians for including  
me in the summer fun!!!



Tammi Thiem

Madison Public Library  
Library Board Breakout Box Challenge  
Newman Grove Public Library  
Nebraska Breakout Box Challenge  
Baright Public Library, Ralston  
Adventure Breakout Box Challenge  
Raymond A. Whitwer Public Library, Tilden  
Fear Factor Judge  
Clearwater Public Library  
Library Board Meeting  
Genoa Public Library  
Pirate Breakout Box Challenge  
Waterloo Public Library  
Library Board Breakout Box Challenge  
Lied Lincoln Township Library, Wausa  
Adventure Breakout Box Challenge  
Stanton Public Library  
Adventure Breakout Box Challenge



# 2024 United for Libraries Virtual

July 30-August 1, 2024



## FREE Statewide Registration for Nebraska

Congratulations! The Nebraska Library Commission has purchased statewide registration to 2024 United for Libraries Virtual, a value of \$149 per person. Library directors and staff, Trustees/board members, Friends Groups, and Foundations regardless of library type are eligible.

Registration includes live attendance and on-demand access to three full days of programming, keynote featuring author Eric Klinenberg, and the virtual Gala Author Tea. Individuals may attend any/all sessions live and/or watch on-demand.

<b>New for 2024 – Themed Days!</b>		
<b>Trustee/Board Member Day</b> Tuesday, July 30	<b>Foundations/Fundraising Day</b> Wednesday, July 31	<b>Friends of the Library Day</b> Thursday, August 1

## Registration Options

Choose one of the convenient registration options below.

<b>ALA eLearning Website</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Register via the <a href="#">Nebraska Statewide Group Membership course</a> (must be enrolled in the course).</li><li>You will be prompted to login if not already logged in.</li></ul>
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<b>Statewide Free Registration Form</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Submit the <a href="#">Statewide Free Registration form</a>.</li><li>Allow one business day for registration.</li></ul>
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<b>Email United for Libraries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Email <a href="mailto:united@ala.org">united@ala.org</a>.</li><li>Include your full name, email address, library, and primary role on behalf of your library.</li><li>Allow one business day for registration.</li></ul>
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<b>Bulk Registration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Library directors may email <a href="mailto:united@ala.org">united@ala.org</a>.</li><li>Include full name, email address, and primary role on behalf of the library for each individual to register.</li><li>Allow two business days for registration.</li></ul>
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## Questions/Assistance

Contact United for Libraries by phone at (312) 280-2161 or email at [united@ala.org](mailto:united@ala.org) for questions and/or further assistance.