

THE WESTERN



SUN

Supporting libraries serving our communities

September~October

SUNdries

Nebraska~The Good Life is Calling~

Nebraska Authors - Nonfiction

The July-August issue of the Western Sun featured Nebraska fiction authors to commemorate the Tosca Lee Author Tour in October. This issue highlights nonfiction authors. Authors included in the issue (pages two through five) have all won a Nebraska Book Award for nonfiction. All are living authors except for Thomas Buecker. His work for the Nebraska Historical Society and on Fort Robinson deserves special recognition. Their Nebraska Award winning book is listed under their name in bold italics. Some of the authors have active blogs.

<p>The Western Library System is honored to present: Author Tour ~ 2022 Tosca Lee</p>	
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Ms. Lee will be visiting three locations in the Western Library System. Each location will include:

6:00 Meet and Greet with Book Signing

6:30 Author Talk

October 11, Sidney High School Auditorium

October 12, Kathleen Lute Library, Ogallala

October 13, Alliance Public Library

She specifically chose Sidney and Ogallala for speaking locations as her latest book, *A Single Light*, takes place in Western Nebraska. She references landscapes and locations from Sidney to North Platte. *A Single Light* is the second book in this duology. The *Line Between* is the first book. See pages 26 and 27 for more information about Tosca Lee and her publications.

Author Tour Committee members: Sarah Alfred (chair), Angie Schaeffer, Ethan Nelson, Jennifer Holthus, Judy Buhr, Sherry Preston, Cindy Osborne.

	<p>Read about the library card sign-up honorary chairs ~ sisters Cara Mentzel and Idina Menzel and their delightful new book "Loud Mouse"</p> <p>Celebrate Library Card Sign-Up– Month and loudly sing the praises of libraries. See page 23.</p>
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Mark Your Calendar

Mountain Time for all listings

September 14-17: ARSL Annual Conference "[Connecting at the Crossroads: on Track to Real Change](#)" Chattanooga, TN

September 23-24: [Plum Creek Literary Festival](#): 23rd Children's Day, 24th; Adults.



October 5-6: [Nebraska Library Association \(NLA\) Annual Conference](#), Kearney, NE



Western Library System

Author Tour 2022:

Tosca Lee

October 11:
Sidney High School
Auditorium
6:00—Meet and Greet
6:30 Author Talk

October 12:
Kathleen Lute Public Library,
Ogallala
6:00—Meet and Greet
6:30 Author Talk

October 13:
Alliance Public
Library
6:00—Meet and
Greet
6:30 Author Talk



November 4-6: [Young Adult Library Services Association \(YALSA\) Symposium](#), Baltimore

"Chat" Opportunities: Energizing discussions with other library staff—Open to all:

- ◆ Third Thursday @10:00, NLA Chat
- ◆ Fourth Wednesday @Noon Chew and Chat, MPLA

Nebraska Nonfiction Authors

Carson Vaughan

Zoo Nebraska: Dismantling of an American Dream



Photo @Mary Anne Andrei

Carson Vaughan is a freelance journalist from central Nebraska with a focus on the Great Plains. In addition to the Nebraska Book Award, he received the 2018 Individual Artist Fellowship from the Nebraska Arts Council. His works has appeared in the New York Times, the online New Yorker, The Atlantic, The Guardian and more.

Mr. Vaughan maintains an active [blog](#). [Listen](#) to an interview regarding his *Zoo Nebraska* book. Vaughan spent 10 years chasing the backstory of how a handful of chimpanzees ended up in Northeast Nebraska. It's a crazy tale involving a big check from Johnny Carson, a police chase, small town politics, big ambitions, and broken hearts.

Jeff Barnes

Cut in Stone, Cast in Bronze: Nebraska's Historical Markers

Jeff Barnes is a writer based in Omaha, Nebraska. He is the also the author of *Forts of the Northern Plains*, *The Great Plains Guide to Custer*, *The Great Plains Guide to Buffalo Bill*, *Extra Innings: The Story of Modisett Ball Park* and *150@150/Nebraska's Landmark Buildings at the State's Sesquicentennial*.

He is a past trustee with the Nebraska State Historical Society and past chairman of the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission.

Jeff is also a registered presenter with Humanities Nebraska, South Dakota Humanities Council, and Wyoming Humanities Council. He has given his talks on the history of the Great Plains throughout nine states at museums, libraries, state and national parks, conferences, and to civic organizations. Mr. Barnes is associated with the [Nebraska Humanities Speakers Bureau](#) and can also be contacted through is [Facebook](#) page.



Joe Starita

A Warrior of the People: How Susan LaFlesche Overcame Racial and Gender Inequality to Become American's First Indian Doctor



Joe Starita was a professor in the University of Nebraska's College of Journalism and Mass Communications until June 2021. He taught in-depth classes designed to give students the skills to probe deeply into a focused topic while also providing some international reporting opportunities.

In 1992 he began work on a three-year book project about five generations of an Indian family. "The Dull Knives of Pine Ridge - A Lakota Odyssey" published in 1995. In 2009, St. Martin's Press published Starita's "I Am a Man: Chief Standing Bear's Journey for Justice," a book on the life and death of Standing Bear, the Ponca chief who, in 1879, unwittingly ended up in the crosshairs of a landmark legal case. That book was the One Book-One Lincoln selection for 2011 and the One Book One Nebraska pick for 2012. In July 2011, Starita received the [Leo Reano Award](#), a national civil rights award, from the National Education Association for his work with the Native American community

His bibliography also includes: *A Day in the Life: The Fans of Memorial Stadium*. 1996.

Lisa Knopp



Bread: A Memoir of Hunger

According to the University of Nebraska at Omaha’s website, Lisa Knopp is the author of six books of creative nonfiction, with a seventh under contract. *Bread: A Memoir of Hunger* (University of Missouri Press, 2016), addresses the little-discussed phenomenon of eating disorders and disordered eating among older women. But, too, *Bread* is an exploration of the nature of hunger, desire, yearning, nourishment, sustenance, fulfillment, and contentment. *Bread* won the Nebraska Book Award for memoir in 2017. *What the River Carries* won the 2013 Nebraska Book Award in the essay category and tied for second place in the 2013 Environmental Creative Writing Book Award from the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. Lisa's seventh book, *From Your Friend, Carey Dean: Letters from Nebraska’s Death Row* tells the story of her 23-year friendship with Moore, a double murderer who the state of Nebraska executed on August 14, 2018. She is the recipient of two literature fellowships from the Nebraska Arts Council. Ms. Knopp’s [website](#).

Matthew Luckett

Never Caught Twice: Horse Stealing in Western Nebraska, 1850-1890

According to Amazon. Dr. Matt Luckett studies and writes about the American West, World War II, and American History in general. Originally from the Midwest, Luckett received his B.A. in history from Southeast Missouri State University in 2003 and an M.A. in history from Marquette University in 2005. After taking a few years off he relocated to California, where he completed his Ph.D. in American history at UCLA in 2014. His first book, *Never Caught Twice: Horse Stealing and Culture in Western Nebraska, 1850 - 1890*, was released by the University of Nebraska Press in fall 2020. He is also working on a documentary about earthquake prediction scares in the Mississippi Valley and a book about his grandfather's experiences during World War II. Follow Mr. Luckett’s [blog](#).



Marilyn Holt

Nebraska During the New Deal: The Federal Writers’ Project in the Cornhusker State

In her award-winning book, Marilyn Irvin Holt focuses on the Nebraska project, which was one of the most prolific branches of the national program. Best remembered for its state guide and series of folklore and pioneer pamphlets, the project also produced town guides, published a volume on African Americans in Nebraska, and created an ethnic study of Italians in Omaha.

In addition to her Nebraska Award winner, her publications include:

- The Orphan Trains: Placing Out in America
- Mamie Doud Eisenhower
- Linoleum, Better Babies & the Modern Farm Woman, 1890-1930
- Indian Orphanages Children of the Western Plains



Marie Mutsuki Mockett

American Harvest: God, County and Farming in the Heartland



The New Yorker describes American Harvest:

“Mockett, writing with a gentle self-consciousness, offers a compassionate portrait of conservative evangelicals, along with lucid musings on agricultural science, Native American history, and the quiet majesty of the Great Plains.” **The New Yorker**

Watch this powerful [book trailer](#).

Nancy Plain

Light on the Prairie: Solomon D. Butcher, Photographer of Nebraska's Pioneer Days

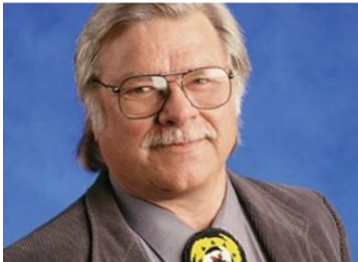
The Nebraska Award winner won for Youth Nonfiction. Ms. Plain is a four-time Spur award winner and active in the Western Writers of America. Other publications by Ms. Plain include:

This Strange Wilderness
Sagebrush and Paintbrush
Western Writers of America Cookbook
Why Cows Need Cowboys
Visit Ms. Plain's [website](#)



Roger L. Welsch

Why I'm an Only Child and Other Slightly Naughty Plains Folktales,



In his 1981 collection of old time horse trading tales *Mister: You Got Yourself A Horse*, we find Welsch digging the files of the WPA's Nebraska Federal Writers' Project of the 1930s out of Omaha basements and lost file cabinets in Washington, D.C., and corresponding with the Project's editor, [Rudolph Umland](#). The 1930s effort was led behind the scenes by Lowry Wimberly and [Mari Sandoz](#). Welsch recovered, analyzed, and mined its materials for his own books.

Excerpts from [nebraskaauthors.org](#) talk about Roger Welsch as not only Nebraska's most famous and recognizable humorist and storyteller, he one of its great scholars of folklore. Welsch introduced his 1966 collection *A Treasury of Nebraska Folklore* with observations by [Louise Pound](#). Welsch has been the beneficiary and perhaps the last widely read scholar of that tradition.

Selected publications from his large repertoire:

A Treasury of Nebraska Pioneer Folklore. 1966. revised, 1984
Sod Walls: The Story of the Nebraska Sod House. 1968, revised, 1991.
Tall Tale Postcards: a Pictorial History. 1976.
The Summer It Rained: Water and Plains Pioneer Humor
Mister, You Got Yourself a Horse: Tales of Old-Time Horse Trading. 1981.
Of Trees and Dreams: The Fiction, Fact and Folklore of Tree-Planting on the Northern Plains. 1982.
Cather's Kitchens: Foodways in Literature and Life. 1987. (with Linda Welsch, introduction by Susan Rosowski). 1987.
It's Not the End of the Earth, but You Can See It From Here: Tales of the Great Plains. 1990..
Postcards From Nebraska. 2000.

Thomas R. Buecker

Last Days of Red Cloud Agency

Mr. Buecker had a long and distinguished career as a curator for the Nebraska State Historical Society, serving at the Neligh Mills, the Fort Robinson Museum, and the Thomas Kennard house in Lincoln. His widely admired two volume history of Fort Robinson, consisting of *Fort Robinson and the American West, 1874-1899*, 1999, and *Fort Robinson and the American century, 1900-1948*, 2002 is the definitive history of the Fort in the broad context of the history of the American West. His book *A Brave Soldier & Honest Gentleman: Lt. James E. Foster in the West, 1873-1881*.

In 2013 he received American Association for State and Local History's Award of Merit. Buecker's final book, *Last Days of Red Cloud Agency* was published posthumously by the Nebraska State Historical Society in 2016. Mr. Buecker passed away on February 2, 2015



Publications by Thomas Buecker

Flour Milling in Nebraska.

Water Powered Flour Mills in Nebraska. 1983.

Fort Robinson and the American West: 1874-1899. ("Fort Robinson" vol. 1) 1999.

Fort Robinson and the American century, 1900-1948. ("Fort Robinson" vol. 2) 2002.

A Brave Soldier & Honest Gentleman: Lt. James E.H. Foster in the West, 1873-1881. 2013.

Last Days of Red Cloud Agency: Peter T. Buckley's Photograph Collection, 1876-1877. 2016.

Congratulations

NIXON SCHOLARSHIP

Sherry Preston, Public Services Librarian, Gering Public Library, was one of three people receiving the prestigious Nixon Scholarship named for Louise A. Nixon. She is attending the University of Wisconsin at Madison. The Nebraska Library Association provides the following description of the scholarship.

Louise A. Nixon (1897-1989) worked constantly to enlighten the legislature about Nebraska's libraries' needs. She served as Assistant Director of the Nebraska Legislative Reference Bureau and as Legislative Council Librarian. Louise Nixon was head of the Nebraska Library Commission from 1950 to 1969. When federal funds were made available, she initiated bookmobile demonstration projects; public library construction; extension services; services to institutional residents and the physically challenged; and an inter-library communication network. Our lives have been enriched by her open-minded, conscientious dedication to building library service in this state.

When Nixon reflected on her life for the *Lincoln Journal*, the paper wrote, "There is no single figure of greater 20th century significance in developing Nebraska's contemporary system of community libraries – facilities, collections, trained personnel, cooperative networking."

The Louise A. Nixon Scholarship Fund was established to help each recipient reach for Nixon's goals of dedication and vision. This scholarship supports students who pursue full- or part-time graduate-level library education.

WESTERN LIBRARY SYSTEM SCHOLARSHIP

Melissa Butler received a Western Library System Scholarship for membership dues and money to attend the Nebraska Library Association Conference in Kearney October 5 and 6. Melissa is the Library Director of the Bridgeport Public Library.



A bioblitz is an event that focuses on finding and identifying as many different types of plants and wildlife as possible in a specific area over a specific period. Most bioblitz events contain a public component so anyone interested can join experts and scientists in the field. Participating in these hands-on events is a fun and exciting way for people to learn about Nebraska nature and better understand how to protect it.

While these events are fun and educational, they are also important – over the years, participants have identified many species rare to the parks where they were conducting their events. Nebraska Game and Parks Commission hosts several annual bioblitz events across the state.

Upcoming events: September 3-4, Enders Reservoir
September 10-11, Chadron State Park

Bioblitz Education Trunks

Nebraska Game and Parks also offers [Schoolyard Bioblitz Education Trunks](#) for check out. These trunks have all the information and materials for local schools, nature centers and other groups to host their own mini bioblitz.

Around the Sun

Cravath Memorial Library ~ Julie Rasmussen



Friday, May 6th, Cravath Memorial Library hosted a **Pollinator Party!**

Guests enjoyed a preview of the Nature program *My Garden of a Thousand Bees*, received information about planting to encourage pollinators and bee identification and free wildflower seed packets from the One Square Foot initiative. Some “sweet” door prizes were awarded and refreshments were served. Attendants shared gardening knowledge and information or a very enlightening and enjoyable afternoon. Thank you for coming!

This local “Celebrating Nebraska Pollinators” event was presented in partnership with Nebraska Public Media, Nebraska Game and Parks, Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bee Lab.

For more information about wild bees and pollinators and “Celebrating Nebraska Pollinator” across the state, visit NebraskaPublicMedia.org/pollinators.



Lied Scottsbluff Public Library (LSPL) ~ Elaine Bleisch

LSPL has been lucky enough to have had a teen room for over a decade, but it recently underwent a “refresh”. Our room had a large table and chairs as well as six upholstered chairs that could be moved into various seating arrangements, a small television mounted on the wall within the bookshelves, fixed cupboards and a counter in one corner, four public-use computers, and the teen fiction collection. Due to space constraints, the teen nonfiction was shelved just outside the room. It was a good space, but there were several goals we wanted to accomplish. The first was to move the nonfiction into the teen room, and to do that we needed to make more space. The solution was to remove the cupboards in the corner, which were only being used for storage. We were able to add a larger television in that corner along with a DVD player and a Nintendo Switch that can be used upon request (and under staff supervision). We took down the smaller TV and added in more shelving, giving us the space to add the nonfiction collection. Since we had to repaint where the counters had been, we painted the corner a soft green. We also added a lamp, since the corner is very dark.

Another goal was to move the books into genres, since we have found that most teens look for books by genre. After a lot of research, our teen librarian split the books into seven genres or categories: science fiction; fantasy/fairy tale/mythology; horror/supernatural; action/adventure/mystery; classics; general fiction; and quick reads. The next step was to go through every single fiction book in the room and decide which genre to put them in; the genres are indicated by a colored label placed over the white spine label. The last step in this project was to physically move the books on the shelves. Surprisingly, it took only three afternoons with two people to do it.

Our third goal was to give teens more to do in the teen room, as we have quite a few who come to hang out in the library after school. In addition to being able to watch movies or play the Switch, we added a maker cart with art supplies such as scissors, glue sticks, paper, cardstock, beads, yarn, origami paper, and stencils. We also recently added board games, and our plan this fall is to begin “pop-up” crafts and activities in that space. Teens have been enjoying the new amenities and layout.

Teen Room Before:

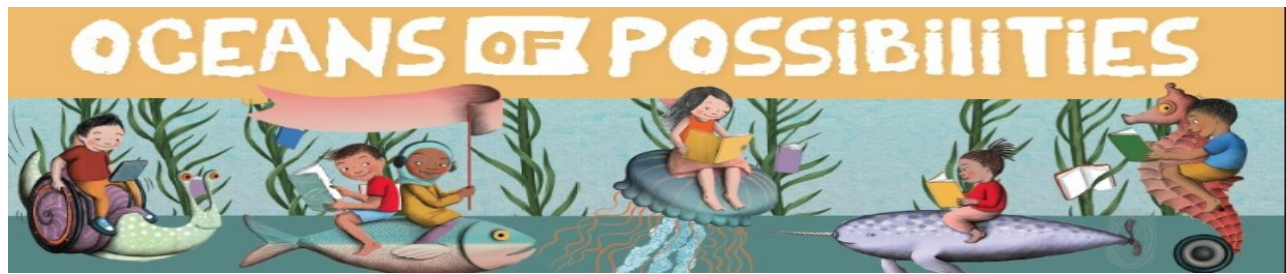


Teen Makerspace Cart:



Teen Room After:





The July~August Western Sun featured articles and pictures from Summer Reading programs across the System. This issue continues the celebration of creativity, learning and fun for participants and library staff. Many of these library received grants from the Western Library System ranging from \$50.00 to \$150.00.

Bayard Public Library - Becky Henkel

a library pirate adventure series

Gather your lads and lassies for *Oceans of Possibilities* on a shipload of fun and adventures.

Capt KID will take your crew *Beyond the Beaten Path* where X marks the spot. A pegleg adventure your kids will long remember.

Swashbuckling fun for everyone.
Capt KID unfurls the jolly roger and his treasure map to excitement. As your landlubbers follow, Capt KID leads them along the dotted line to where X marks the spot. Magic, comedy, hornswoogling, and general silliness accompany every turn on the map.

Sail away to adventures with Capt KID

The Bayard Public Library had their Summer Reading kickoff on May 26, 2022. We had 55 in attendance, everyone enjoyed a visit from Captain Kid and the Snow Cone Bus. Captain Kid is from Iowa and provides a travelling show. Thanks to the grant from the Western Library System we had a great kickoff. We had 554 sign up for Summer Reading program, it ran for eight weeks. The first three weeks, we had 23 Summer School kids join us.



Bridgeport Public Library ~ Melissa Butler

This year Bridgeport Public Library did different types of activities for different age groups. Our Daycare and PreK groups did a revved-up Storytime with several books, sing a longs with movement, and fingerplays. The K-1st and 2nd-3rd grade groups also had Storytime, but with an added craft element (we used a lot of watercolor paints!) The older kids, 4th-5th grade and 6th-8th grade, made ocean themed stop motion movies. They were required to write, storyboard, shoot, and edit their movies.

The biggest change this year was being able to purchase over 100 books from the RIF (Reading is Fundamental) program with the WLS grant and other community donations. Each child was given the opportunity to choose a book for ownership during the first week of the program. Our participants seemed to really enjoy choosing a book for their own home libraries. We will be having this as part of the program again next year.

For our final activity, we partnered with the Dee Berg Memorial Pool for an “End of Summer Reading” pool party. Anybody who registered for summer reading was invited to attend with their guardians.

Daycare group picking RIF books and bags



Watercolor painting and salt. What happens this time?
(2nd/3rd grade)



Daycare group doing the “Jellyfish” for Jellyfish Week



Water colors and crayons...what will happen????
(K/1st grade)



Making Stop Motion Movies:

4th/5th graders setting up background



6th~8th graders making figures, backgrounds and decorations to tell their stories.



Finishing
with
a
swim!!!!

Chadron Public Library ~ Susan Rolfmeier

Science fun at Chadron Public Library

Summer Reading is always an exciting (and busy) time for libraries. Chadron Public Library is no exception. While the primary driver of our summer reading program is Youth Services, each summer the assistant director and the youth services manager collaborate on a series of science programs called *Friday Family Fun*. The name has changed over the years because we adjust the day and time in order to adapt to the needs of our community. The premise of our series has not changed: bring science programming to children, adults, and families in a fun and comfortable way.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) has become a familiar buzzword in the education and library fields. There is strong evidence to support that offering science programming in libraries enhances learning (see website and supporting publications at <https://www.starnetlibraries.org/make-your-case/why-stem/>) with implications for positive student outcomes in academic settings. Science Foundation and NASA recognize this.

Libraries welcome people of all ages and abilities to explore. Agencies such as the National Science Foundation and NASA recognize this. Through programs such as NASA@MyLibrary (NAML for short) (see <https://www.ala.org/tools/programming/nasalibraries>) and the STAR Library Network (<https://www.starnetlibraries.org>) they help libraries offer high quality science content to their communities. The best part is that library staff members do not need to be experts, they can be guides on the side, exploring right along with their participants. Because Chadron Public Library participated in the NASA@MyLibrary program, these two resources are familiar to the author, but there are museums and agencies all around the country that want to help libraries offer great programming. One of them is right here in Nebraska.

In late spring, Cindy Osborne sent out information about a virtual field trip opportunity. Participants would see fossil life from the Western Interior Sea and using just pencils and paper library participants would get to draw ancient sea monsters. This was a perfect fit for our library! The Art of Ancient Sea Monsters took our visitors on a live visit, via Zoom, to the Mesozoic Gallery in Morrill Hall. Our tour guide and personal educator was Annie Mumgaard, Virtual Learning Specialist at the Nebraska State Museum in Lincoln. Funding for this virtual trip was provided by a grant from the Western Library System. Our guests had a fabulous time, and it was no easy task for Annie to guide us because we had a broad age range: from pre-school to senior citizen!

Annie showed off enormous fossil skeletons as she walked us through the gallery. She instructed participants on how to make simple sketches of what they were seeing. Annie combined information about the animals and the time period with focused questions that helped participants discover for themselves clues about the diets of each species and about the habitats where they lived. She greeted us as friends and made it easy to converse with her even though we were across the state from each other. Kids were especially excited about the enormous fossilized shark jaw. It was filled with rows of razor sharp teeth. They loved being able to talk about what they were seeing and to share what they know about paleontology.

Our library wanted to reserve a traveling kit from Morrill Hall for the week of the Ancient Sea Monsters program, but it was not available. Instead, with permission, we used the remaining fifty dollars of our grant money to purchase a few items for a kit we are developing about light and color.

If you are considering adding science programming to your library this year, a virtual field trip to Morrill Hall can be a fun way to take your audience somewhere new without leaving home. If you would like to visit more about our field trip experience or to learn about resources for STEM programs such as the STAR Library Network, please contact Susan Rolfsmeier at srolfsmeier@chadronpubliclibrary.com for more information.



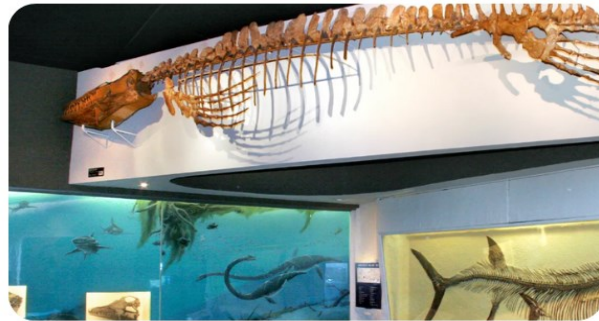


Art of Sea Monsters

2:00 p.m. Friday, June 17th

State Museum Virtual Tour!

Live interactive tour of the Mesozoic Gallery where we will see fossil "sea monsters." We will be drawing as we explore and there will be plenty of time for questions, too!



Cravath Memorial Library ~ Julie Rasmussen

Cravath Memorial Library recently wrapped up their four week Summer reading Program, Oceans of Possibilities. We were pleased with an average daily attendance of thirty participants at each session hosted on consecutive Wednesdays at Hay Springs Public School. Participants enjoyed not only reading but crafts, science activities and music with an ocean or water theme.

A number of unique activities were offered. Nebraska Game and Parks provided an Education Trunk which aided us in classifying, exploring and analyzing water samples from Walgren Lake, The Bird Conservancy of the Rockies presented "The Journey of Water", a fun hands on exploration of water on the Earth. Bev Wellnitz with Sheridan County G.I.V.E. provided an escape box activity which the older students loved. Our program was capped off by Jared Fernau of Chadron entertaining participants with his balloon animal creations and all attendees received prizes.

I couldn't be happier with this year's Summer reading Program. The community shows such tremendous support for its youth and our volunteers go above and beyond to help make it happen. We are grateful for the grant from The Institute of Museum and Library Services, and funding from Western Library Services, Security First Bank, Walmart and The City of Hay Springs.



Gering Public Library Teens ~ Lexi Tallmon

The Gering Library's Teen Summer Reading Program went well this year. On sign-up day, teens relaxed in our Coral Reef Teen Lounge, complete with pillows, music, and coloring sheets. We had a total of 19 teens sign up.

Our program was based around scratch tickets; for every check-in, teens scratched off a scratch ticket for a chance to win a prize, such as books, candy bars, and \$25 gift cards.



At our first program, Aquatic Quiz Night, teens split into two teams for a jeopardy-style quiz game. In this cutthroat competition, our teams answered trivia about deep-sea creatures, ocean-themed books and more. For each correct question, teens won stickers and small candies. Our winning team received Dairy Queen coupons.

Our second program consisted of two stations: a mini-robot maze, where teens guided mini-robots through coral reefs, and a hydro-dipping craft, where teens decorated rocks with nail polish and hydro-dipping techniques. After completing the maze, teens had fun racing each other and creating their own games to play with the robots.



At our Pirate Puzzle Room, teens worked together to solve the mystery of Captain Biblios' treasure hidden somewhere in the library. Our team of sleuths investigated the library and solved puzzles to find a chest full of pirate-themed candy and prizes. With 18 of our 19 teens attending, this was definitely the fan favorite.

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Our wrap-up party, a parody of the Netflix series *Squid Game*, consisted of a variety of playground games, such as tug o' war, marbles, and rock-paper-scissors. We also baked cookies to recreate the show's Dalgona challenge. Teens competed for grand prize entry slips, coupons, and other goodies.

Overall, we had a good turnout at each of our events, and teens showed enthusiasm for both the scratch tickets and our programs.



Several libraries served shark bait popcorn during the summer. Here is a simple five ingredient recipe to try:

- 1 3 oz box Swedish Fish
 - 2 cups popped popcorn
 - 1 cup melted white chocolate chips
 - 2 tablespoons blue sprinkles
- Optional:
- 1 package gummy sharks



Gering Public Library ~ Kira Perez

The Gering Public Library used the funds we received from the Western Library System for supplies for our early literacy programs and to bring the Edgerton Explorit Center to Gering for a program all about sound waves! We had two Storytime & Activity programs with our early literacy group: A Day at the Beach and Shark Week.

During "A Day at the Beach", we made sensory bottles, ocean snacks, and fingerprint fish.



For "Shark Week", we took a closer look at sharks and made shark bite popcorn mix and recycled book sharks.



Kids of all ages came to the Edgerton Explorit Center's presentation, where they taught us how sound travels. After they demonstrated their amazing Rubens tube, we made wave machines, screaming balloons, and waves in a bottle.



Kathleen Lute Public Library—Michael Coolidge

At the Kathleen Lute Public Library, we decided to have a water themed obstacle course with a surprising activity when everyone finished the course. Money provided by Western Library System helped us purchase some of the inflatable water features pictured.



Library staff set up the inflatables all around the library. The inflatables were part of the obstacle course, with “dry” activities breaking up the “wet” activities to engage the participants that didn’t want to get wet. Some of the dry activities included: hop scotch, hula hoop, army crawl, jump rope, bag toss (using the wood cut out of the whale pictured), zig-zag between cones, and a tire run.

We thought weather would play a small role in our Finale. Staff members were worried that the cloudy/rainy weather would deter parents from bringing their kids to come run around in the water. Come to find out, the weather was a non-factor. We saw many kids that we saw throughout our summer reading program, as well as some new faces. Turns out kids don’t mind getting wet, no matter the weather.

We found that the Backyard WaterPark-Water Table (purple tubing in the picture) was the most enjoyable for the kids. They got to play with tubs filled with water and water toys, run underneath and get sprayed, and try to avoid the green bucket from dumping water on them. Kids would actually time it so the bucket would dump on them, rather than avoid it. For the surprise at the end of the obstacle source was a water balloon fight. Kids and staff participated in the water balloon fight. We couldn’t let the kids have all the fun. The kids had a great time getting the librarians wet. The librarians had a fun time getting the kids wet too.



Kimball Public Library ~ Amber Sweetland

Kimball Public Library's Summer Reading: a tale of survival by Amber Sweetland

The library staff had planned for a normal, average summer reading program this summer. We had our plans in place. Our supplies were purchased. Flyers went out and 92 children signed up. Not our highest number but not our lowest either. The week before our program began our summer intern started as well as a new regular employee with no library experience. Our first week went very well. The kids came, they did several fun crafts. The teens had a good turn out too. All was well in the library of Kimball. Due to unforeseen events our director, Amber Sweetland, had to fly out of state for a weekend. Up to this point no library staff member had ever had COVID 19. When she returned the streak had been broken. The director had COVID as well as our library clerk, Davina Butler. Quarantine began. It should be noted that Amber and Davina are the two most senior members of the KPL staff. So that left 3 part time employees, assistant director Cheryl Paul, youth services Amelia Shada, and our library page 15 year old Tori Williams, to not only run the library, continue summer reading programming, but also train two new employees. The first week wasn't too bad because we had scheduled the Riverside Discovery Center to come and bring animals and give a talk to the kids. The event went well. But the next week was a break out room, for 92 children! Amelia has been with the Kimball Public Library for 1 year. This was her first year planning and implementing a summer reading program. She had used the Breakout kits once before. But I can proudly say that Amelia rose to the occasion, with help from Tori and our intern Brionna the program was a success. Cheryl held down the library and continued our newest staff members training. As a director of a small community library I have to say that I couldn't be prouder of the amazing staff we have here are the Kimball Public Library. When a difficult situation arose the staff came together, took care of the patrons, and made sure that everything ran smoothly. Thank you to all the staff for your hard work.



I realize this article was supposed to be about some of our summer reading events so here is some information about one of the teen programs that went very well. The favorite event with the teen group was the pirate break out puzzle. This idea was taken from the Summer Reading Workshop, presented by the youth services librarian, Lexi Tallmon, from Gering Public Library. Our library clerk, Davina Butler, took the lead in planning this event. The original puzzle was created for the Gering Library so Davina had to change and adapt it to our library. The puzzle took the teens throughout the library and gave clues to utilize different areas that the kids wouldn't normally pay any attention to. Most of the teens had never been able to use the take part in a Breakout kit game before because we generally only use these for the grade school age children. They had a great time and learned more about the library in the process.

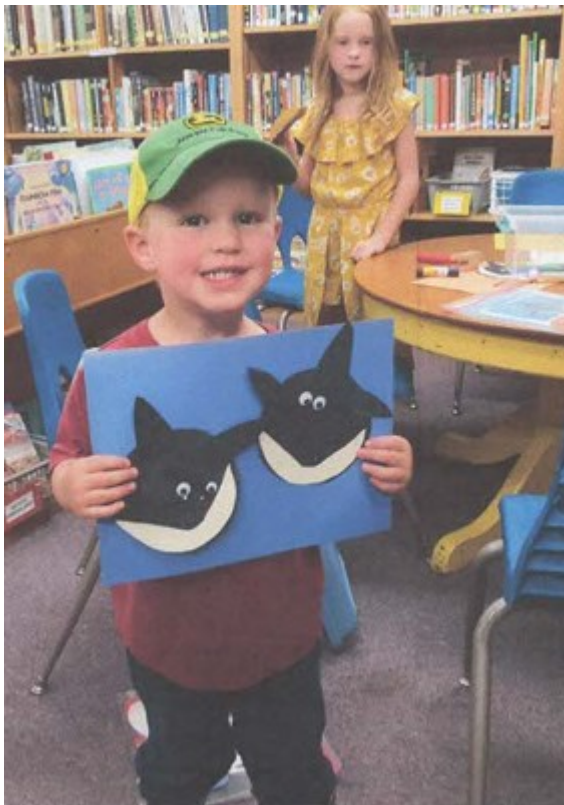
Minatare Public Library ~ Caryle Covalt

As part of the Minatare Library 2022 Summer Reading Program, the Library partnered with the Minatare Elementary summer school to schedule two special events. The Bird Conservancy of the Rockies brought an activity to help students understand the sources of fresh water on planet Earth. The Conservancy teachers set up stations for each water source. Each water source was represented by a colored bead. Gray beads represented clouds, blue beads represented rivers and lakes, green beads represented crops, grass and plants and so on. The students rolled a dice, went to the station indicated by a picture on the dice and collected a bead to complete a bracelet for themselves. The students learned that clouds comprise the largest source of fresh water on Earth and that's why their bracelets were mostly made of gray beads.

Theatre West brought a musical play to the Minatare Community Room. The play was called "The Library in the Lighthouse." The Minatare summer students were interested to see how the actors prepared the background sets and sound systems for the production. The actors then told the story of the library in the lighthouse through their words and songs.

There were 23 participants in the Minatare Library summer reading program. Participants earned one point for visiting the library to use the computers, complete a project using the Makerspace kits or to read a book. Eli Green earned the most points. He was the winner of the Beats Studio Ear Buds. Other prizes included books, Lego kits, Play-doh kits, journals and pens, notebooks and markers.

Thank you to the Western Nebraska Library System for the grant to the Minatare Library summer reading program.





Lied Scottsbluff Public Library ~ Elaine Bleisch

The Lied Scottsbluff Public Library received a grant from the WLS for the Teen Summer Reading Program. We decided to use it to purchase prizes for a summer-long Treasure Hunt, tying in with the Oceans of Possibilities summer reading theme. The prizes went into a chest that was locked with a combination lock, and the teens were challenged to figure out the combination by completing puzzles over the eight weeks of the reading program. All teens who registered for summer reading were given the first puzzle when they registered. Beginning with the second week, a new puzzle was available each week for teens to pick up. Each puzzle was different and included coded messages, riddles, videos, marking coordinates on a map, a scavenger hunt, a crossword puzzle, and even a math problem. Some of the puzzles gave them a character in the lock and others led to a prize in themselves, so teens could still participate even if they didn't solve all the puzzles. Our goal for this program was to get the teens to come to the library and to interact with staff in a positive way; they had to ask for the puzzles and turn them in for prizes. We also wanted to challenge them with "out of the box" thinking and problem-solving.

In the end, we had five teens that were able to try to open the lock at the wrap-up party. They drew numbers to see who would go first, and each one got only one try to open it. The second person was able to get the chest open and had first pick of the prizes, but all who tried got to choose a prize. Prizes included a drone with a camera, wireless earbuds, an ocean-themed LEGO set, an ocean-themed puzzle, and small Squishmallows. Surprisingly, the Squishmallows were the most popular prize!



Sioux County Public Library ~ Sarah Sanderson

We had a great time with Summer Reading this year! We had an event once a week from May through the beginning of July. One of the more popular events was the Water War! The kids had great fun with the water balloon fight and getting good and wet with the slip and slide! It was great way to help break the heat! We also invited Amanda Filipi from the Wildcat Hills Nature Center and she brought some fascinating friends with her! Some of the kids overcame their fears and touched some of the animals! The Theatre West Company was great fun with their production of Library in the Lighthouse. The kids spent the afternoon painting and coloring the sidewalks with images from the play. Our last event of the summer was Toby the Pirate! He was loads of fun and we hope to have him back again! Thank you to the Western Nebraska Library Commission with their generous grant funds to help make all this possible!



Stratton Public Library ~ Teri Faimon

During the month of June, 15 kids and 2 young adults took time out of their busy summer to READ! Our Stratton kids experienced everything from Pirate Games, Ocean Facts, Oil Spills and Outdoor Water Games to making their own snack each day. They consumed Twinkie Submarines, a Ritz Cracker Octopus, Vanilla Wafer Clams, Ocean Water Jell-O, Ocean Floats and a Fruit filled watermelon Pirate Ship!

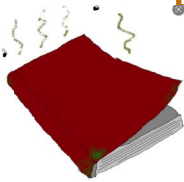


Each week the kids had to Walk the Plank and Dive through the Deep Ocean in order to add stickers to their Treasure Map. Then after enjoying stories, games and activities such as making floating jelly fish – each child would move their submarine or sea animals throughout the ocean to mark the number of books they read that week. After four weeks of maneuvering past Turtle Beach, Sea Monster Bay, Mermaid Cove and Pirate Territory the readers found themselves a little wiser about the ocean, along with the group reading a total of 91 books! 101 reading coupons to be spent at local businesses were earned by the readers. Coupons were earned by the number of books read and how many stickers were earned on the treasure map.





Resources for Library Staff



A book returns to the library and reeks of smoke or other offensive odors. The book is relatively new and in demand. The library cannot afford to purchase a new book. What can you do???

This question was recently posed on the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) Listserv. The originator of the question made the following comment. “Apparently, stinky books are a universal small and rural library issue!”

The listservers provided the following solutions.

The majority of responders suggested various solutions using dryer sheets. Other ideas included coffee grounds, odor eliminating rocks, baking soda, kitty litter, Ozium spray, unwrapped soap bars or crumpled old newspapers in a closed bin. The odor eliminating rocks are available at [Amazon](#): Other libraries placed dryer sheets between pages of the guilty book. Another technique was to stand the books, spread out the pages in front of a fan, open a window or use an ozone generator. Several followed [bookbinders' instructions](#).

The Power of Libraries

At a recent non-librarian meeting, attendees were asked to answer the following icebreaker. “Tell us a favorite summertime childhood story”

One woman offered to go first and gave a touching story about growing up in Crawford. Around the age of seven on a summer day, a friend took her to the library for the first time. It opened a whole new world to her and she has been a reader ever since. Today, she is a civic leader and was an accomplished nurse.

When she was a child, the library was in the upstairs of the City Building. Today, the Crawford Library is in the former Christian Science Reading Room built in 1918 and remodeled for the library in 1987.



◀ City Building Former Home of the Library

Current Home of the Library ▶



Idina Menzel and Cara Mentzel get loud for libraries as honorary chairs of Library Card Sign-up Month 2022

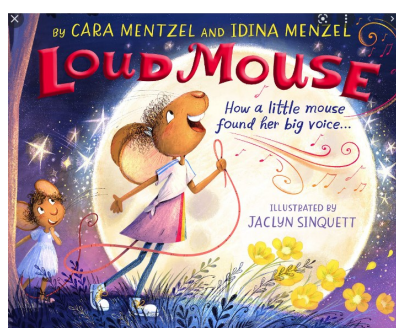


The American Library Association (ALA) chose sisters Cara Mentzel, author and educator and Idina Menzel, actress, singer-songwriter as honorary chairs of Library Card Sign-Up Month. Their debut picture book **Loud Mouse** will be released by Disney Hyperion. Dee is the mouse in the book who loves to sing loudly. She is featured in the ALA posters singing. “Find your voice in the la,la,la, la, library—get a library card.”

Patty Wong, ALA Past-President, is quoted “Idina’s voice has inspired millions of people, and we are so grateful to have her in duet with her sister Cara to promote the value of library cards this September. The sisters express their sentiments on the library.

Idina: “It’s a little card that goes a loud way. Let your imagination sing at the library.”

Cara: “The library is where you imagination sings. Get your library card and “Check it out today.”



Patty Wong describes **Loud Mouse** as “Their new picture book is an inspiring tale of finding and embracing your voice, and there’s no better place to do that than at your library. Library cards give readers and pre-readers of all ages access to tools they need to become lifelong learners. Far from being a quiet place full of shushing, the library is alive with ideas and opportunities so that even the smallest among us can make big impressions.

According to the ALA website: Library Card Sign-Up Month, is a national campaign to emphasize the importance of library cards to a child’s education and to combat illiteracy. The campaign first started in 1987 as a response to then Secretary of Education, William Bennett, who stated: “Let’s have a campaign ... Every child should obtain a library card and use it.”

The ALA took Secretary Bennett’s words seriously and teamed up with the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) to start the campaign, with a grant of \$85,000 from the Reader’s Digest Foundation. A telegram was sent to Secretary Bennett saying, “We accept your challenge.”

Nebraska Library Commission

Featured Resource

Nebraska Makerspace and Makerspace Resources

Nebraska Makerspace and Makerspace Resources [Main Page](#)

provides the following: resources.

[Nebraska Makerspaces and Their Machines/Devices](#)

[General Makerspace Resources](#)

[Planning Your Space](#)

[Makerspace Policies and Use & Liability Forms](#)

[Training and Program Materials](#)

The NLC website defines makerspaces as collaborate learning environments that serve as gathering points where people gather together to share materials, knowledge and experiences. Makerspaces can have different varieties of tools (high tech and low tech) where the focus is to create, invent, tinker, explore and discover using the tools, materials and knowledge available. The mindset of a makerspace is community partnership, collaboration and the free exchange of ideas. Makerspace “equipment” range from inexpensive to expensive anything from Legos, puzzles, craft kits, to Cricuts, 3D printers or Laser Cutters. Regardless of library size and resources, a makerspace can be created to support a learning, fun environment for students or patrons.

Joann McManus has been a major driver of the Makerspaces, the Innovation Studio Project and Makerspace Convention.

The Innovation Studio Project allowed libraries to experiment with a variety of makerspace equipment and evaluate public interest and need to see if it would be cost-effective for libraries to add to the collection. The Nebraska Library Commission used a \$715, 732 National Leadership Grant awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to carry out the project. The project began July 1, 2017 and concluded March 31, 2022.

According to the NLC website: The Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities project used makerspaces. hosted by 35 libraries to support participatory learning experiences by providing access to technological and innovate learning tools not readily accessible locally. The project achieved success in stimulating creativity, innovation and the exchange of ideas to facilitate entrepreneurship, skill development and learning. Makers reported making and selling produces, starting businesses, purchasing equipment and gaining skills.

The latest enhancement is the resourceful, easy to use Makerspace [Database](#). Makerspaces in Nebraska were invited to add their inventory information into a database launched. database that was launched in May 2022. Any library, school or community makerspace in Nebraska that can be accessed by patrons, members, and/or students can be included in the database. For-profit businesses are not included in the database. The Nebraska Makerspace Database is a great way to find a makerspace near you or to learn what interesting equipment and devices makerspaces are making available to their makers

If your makerspace would like to enter your makerspace equipment and basic information about your makerspace into the database, request the login information from [JoAnn McManus](#).

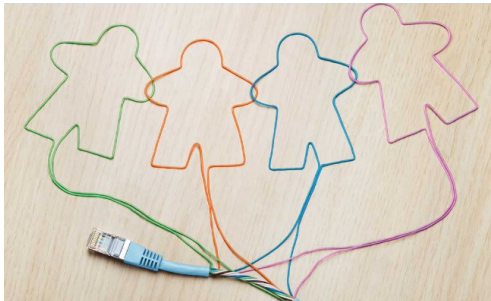
Semper Disco - Always Learning

Upcoming NCompass Live

Upcoming NCompass Live events: Sessions count for Continuing Education credits.

NCompass Live is broadcast live, every Wednesday, from 9am - 10am, Mountain Time. For more information, to register for NCompass Live, or to listen to recordings of past events, go to: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/NCompassLive/>

NCompass Live Webinars	Wednesdays 9am-10am (Mountain)
Retirement: Time to Ease on Down Ease on Down the Road	September 7
Building Cultures of Reading with Readers Zone	September 14
Letters about Literature	September 21
Pretty Sweet Tech	September 28
Enjoy NLA Conference—Ncompass Live cancelled	October 5
Navigating the New NebraskAccess	October 12



September 22, 2022 @10::00 A special webinar from the Nebraska Library Commission hosted by Holly Woldt on the Fiber Optics projects across Nebraska. Amber Sweetland, Library Director for the Kimball Public Library will be one of the featured presenters.

Watch for more details coming in September.

Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians ~ 2022

Course Dates	Course Title	Instructor	Registration Dates
9/19 - 9/30	Community & Library*	Sam Shaw	8/15 - 9/9
10/17 - 10/28	Management/Supervision	Holli Duggan	9/12 - 10/7
11/7 - 11/18	Leadership	Holli Duggan	9/26 - 10/21
11/28 - 12/9	Library Services to Children's & Teens	Sally Snyder	10/24 - 11/18
*Required Class			



TOSCA LEE

“**TOSCA LEE** is the *New York Times* bestselling author of eleven novels. Her work has been translated into seventeen languages and optioned for TV and film. She is best known for her nuanced prose, unexpected points of view, meticulous research, and high-octane thrills.

“Tosca Lee infuses every speaking engagement and presentation with a compelling mix of **wisdom and heart.**”

Nicole Baart, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Little Broken Things*

Tosca Lee’s books:

- ◇ *A Single Light*, September 17, 2019, Simon & Schuster
- ◇ *The Line Between*, January 2019, Simon & Schuster
- ◇ *Firstborn*, May 2017, Simon & Schuster
- ◇ *The Progeny*, May 2016, Simon & Schuster
- ◇ *The Legend of Sheba: Rise of a Queen*, September 2014, Simon & Schuster
- ◇ *Ismeni*, August 2014, Simon & Schuster
- ◇ *Iscariot: A Novel of Judas*, February 2013, Simon & Schuster
- ◇ *Havah: The Story of Eve*, 2008, NavPress; re-released by B&H Publishing 2010; re-released by Simon & Schuster 2014
- ◇ *Demon: A Memoir*, 2007, NavPress; re-released by B&H Publishing 2010; re-released by Simon & Schuster 2014

The Books of Mortals with Ted Dekker

- ◇ *Forbidden*, September 2011, Hachette Book Group
- ◇ *Mortal*, June 2012, Hachette Book Group
- ◇ *Sovreign*, June 2013, Hachette Book Group

Ms. Lee’s speaking bio provides a list of accolades. She has received the following kudos for her duology alone.

- 2020 International Book Award – Mystery (*The Line Between*)
- 2020 International Book Award – Science Fiction (*A Single Light*)
- 2020 Killer Nashville Silver Falchion (*The Line Between*)
- 2020 Killer Nashville Silver Falchion finalist (*A Single Light*)
- 2020 High Plains Book Award finalist (*The Line Between*)
- 2020 Nebraska Book Award (*The Line Between, A Single Light*)
- 2020 Virginia People’s Choice Awards finalist (*The Line Between*)
- 2019 Literary Titan Gold (*A Single Light*)
- 2019 Goodreads Choice Awards Semifinalist (*The Line Between*)
- 2019 Library Journal Starred Review (*The Line Between*)

"A Single Light" by Tosca Lee—Nebraska Public Media All About Books Podcast Hosted by Pat Leach, Director of the Lincoln City Libraries.

Air Date: 09/26/2019

Best-selling Nebraska author Tosca Lee has written a sequel to her thriller, “A Line Between.” Her latest novel is set in Western Nebraska where survivors of a global pandemic emerge from an abandoned missile silo into a world they didn’t expect to find. Hear an interview with author Tosca Lee about her new book, “A Single Light”

Here is the [link](#) to the podcast.

The Western Sun thanks Nebraska Public Media for generously giving permission to provide the readers the link to the podcast.

Tosca Lee's newest book coming May, 2023



Revell Signs Powerful World War II Novel with New York Times Bestselling Authors Marcus Brotherton and Tosca Lee

Ada, Mich. (August 17, 2022)—Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group, is pleased to announce that they have signed a contract with Marcus Brotherton and Tosca Lee, New York Times bestselling authors of *A Bright and Blinding Sun* (Brotherton) and *The Line Between* (Lee). Inspired by true stories, *The Long March Home*, which is scheduled for a May 2023 release, is a coming-of-age story of friendship, sacrifice, love, and the power of unrelenting hope. Based on the lives of three friends, *The Long March Home* follows the friends' journey from Mobile, Alabama, to the Philippines during World War II, covering not only the lives and loves they left behind but also the impossible odds they face as they struggle to survive what has become known as the Bataan Death March. "Reading this novel was an evocative, rich literary and emotional experience that these authors worked seamlessly together to provide," said Kelsey Bowen, Revell senior acquisitions editor. "Editing this novel was a highlight of my entire career." "Normally I write nonfiction," Brotherton said. "But I've discovered that some people read only fiction or read only for the sake of a story. It's important to get the message out about the war in the Pacific to let people know that events such as these truly happened. Years ago, many people endured much so we can live in freedom today." Lee said, "It's an honor to shine a light on the Defenders of Bataan and hope this story brings greater awareness to this chapter of World War II history and its Allied heroes."



Marcus Brotherton is a New York Times bestselling author and coauthor dedicated to writing books that inspire heroics, promote empathy, and encourage noble living. His most recent nonfiction book on World War II in the Pacific, *A Bright and Blinding Sun*, was lauded as "storytelling at its best" by Heather Morris, #1 internationally bestselling author of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*. His commendations include the Christopher Award for literature "that affirms the highest values of the human spirit." For more information, please visit www.marcusbrotherton.com.

Tosca Lee is a New York Times bestselling author of eleven novels, including *The Line Between*, *The Progeny*, *The Legend of Sheba*, *Iscariot*, and the *Books of Mortals* series with New York Times bestseller Ted Dekker. Her work has been called "superior storytelling" by Publishers Weekly, translated into seventeen languages, and optioned for TV and film. Her commendations include two International Book Awards, *Killer Nashville's* Silver Falchion, and ECPA Fiction Book of the Year. To learn more, please visit toscalee.com.



Revell Books provides books that inspire and equip readers, offering them hope and help for daily life. Learn more at www.RevellBooks.com.

MONEY FOR YOU OR YOUR LIBRARY

Western Library System Application for funding assistance:

- Up to \$300.00 per event for registration, mileage, meals, etc.
- All member libraries are eligible.
- One scholarship per person every two years.
- Scholarship recipients will provide a brief article for the Western Sun Newsletter as a form of resource sharing within one month of completion of the activity. Submit articles to the WLS office.

Submit electronically [here](#).

Name:	
Library/School Agency:	
Phone and Email:	
Event Date:	
Requested Amount:	

Please describe the activity, why you want to attend this activity, and how it will contribute to your professional growth. Be as specific as possible with the date, location, and function of the activity:

Send your request to: Western Library System
615 S. Beltline Hwy. West
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
or Email: wls@westernlibrarysystem.com



Graphic from the United for Libraries Virtual Conference, August 10, 2022

Western Library System Board



The Western Library System is pleased to announce the 2022-2023 Board Members.
Your representatives are:

Board Member	Representing	Term
Amber Sweetland	At Large	07/01/21-06/30-24
Beth Falla	District E: Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins Counties	07/01/20-06/30/23
Cheryl Hamilton	Academic-Special	07/01/22-06-30-25
Elaine Lake	Public Libraries	*07/01/22-06/30/24
Ethan Nelson	District B: Banner, Morrill, Scottsbluff	*07/01/20-06/30/23
Jennifer Holthus	District D: Arthur, Garden, Grant, Hooker, Keith, McPherson	07/01/22-06/30/25
Judy Starke	School Libraries	07/01/22-06/30/25
Matt McLaughlin	School Libraries	07/01/20-06/30/23
Rossella Tesch	District A: Box Butte, Dawes, Sheridan, Sioux	07/01/21-06/30/24
Sarah Alfred	Public Libraries	07/01/20-06/30/23
*Finishing term of previous Board Members		

The Officers for 2022-2023 will be:

Amber Sweetland, President

Beth Falla, Vice-President

Sarah Alfred, Secretary

Committee Sign-up will begin at the July 19th Annual Meeting followed with an online signup, if you cannot attend the meeting. Library staff connected with a academic, public, school or special library in the Western Library System may participate on a committee. Consider joining one of the following committees:

Annual Meeting

Awards/Scholarships

Nominations

Pubic Relations (includes special events)

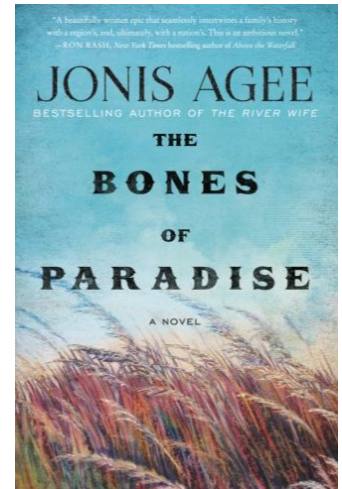
Summer Reading Workshop

Technology

2022 One Book One Nebraska ~ *The Bones of Paradise*

During 2022, join fellow Nebraskans by reading and discussing *The Bones of Paradise: A Novel* (William Morrow, 2016). The novel was written by Jonis Agee, a native Nebraskan and was selected for the 2022 One Book One Nebraska.

The press release announcing the selection stated “*The Bones of Paradise*” is a multigenerational family saga set in the unforgiving Nebraska Sand Hills in the years following the massacre at Wounded Knee—it is an ambitious tale of history, vengeance, race, guilt, betrayal, family, and belonging, filled with a vivid cast of characters shaped by violence, love, and a desperate loyalty to the land. The One Book One Nebraska selection committee enjoyed the intricate plot development and well developed characters. They felt that the novel was a compelling read and contained a variety of themes that would engage discussion on a number of topics. Jonis Agee is an award-winning author of twelve books. Her awards include the John Gardner Fiction Award, the George Garrett Award, a National Endowment for the Arts grant in fiction, a Loft-McKnight Award, a Loft-McKnight Award of Distinction, and two Nebraska Book Awards. A native of Nebraska, Agee teaches at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

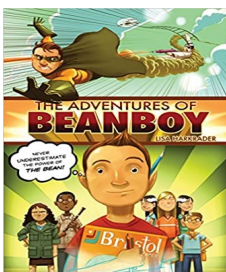


Libraries across Nebraska will join other literary and cultural organizations in planning book discussions, activities, and events that will encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this book. Support materials to assist with local reading/discussion activities are available [here](#). Updates and activity listings will be posted on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/onebookonenebraska>.

One Book One Nebraska is sponsored by Nebraska Center for the Book, Humanities Nebraska, and Nebraska Library Commission. The Nebraska Center for the Book brings together the state’s readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book, supporting programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. The Nebraska Center for the Book is housed at and supported by the Nebraska Library Commission.

A bookkit with ten copies is available to check out from the Western Library System.

Kids: *The Adventures of Beanboy* by Lisa Harkarder



Activities

[Author Information](#)
[Teacher Guide](#) from Reading to Kids
[Book Club Kit](#)
[Blank Comic Template](#) from Scholastic
[Read-alikes](#)

Puzzles

[Tile Puzzle](#), [Answers](#)
[Crossword](#), [Answers](#)
[Letter Drop Puzzle](#), [Answers](#)
[Word Search](#), [Answers](#)

Teens: *Stupid Fast* by Geoff Herbach

Activities

[Author Information](#)
[Discussion Guide](#) from Sourcebooks
[Book Club Kit](#)
[Read-alikes](#)

Puzzles

[Tile Puzzle](#), [Answers](#)
[Crossword](#), [Answers](#)
[Cryptogram Puzzle](#), [Answers](#)
[Word Search](#), [Answers](#)



Western Library System Resources

Golden Sower and Professional Book Collection

The Western Library System is now offering the Golden Sower nominated books from 2021 and 2022 for check out. Here is the [list](#) which includes bookkits (set of eight) for the following.

- ◇ Because of the Rabbit—Cynthia Lord
- ◇ Dragon Hoops—Gene Luen Yan
- ◇ Dragon Ops—Mari Mancusi
- ◇ Lion of Mars—Jennifer L. Holm
- ◇ News of the World: A Novel—Paulette Jiles
- ◇ Roll with It—Jamie Sumner
- ◇ Strike Zone—Mike Lupica
- ◇ Twins—Varian Johnson, Shannon Wright

Author Tour Bookkits—Tosca Lee

- ◇ The Line Between
- ◇ A Single Light

Contact the WLS offices if you are interested checking out these books. Later in 2022, the items will be available to check out using.



The Western Library System has a binding repair machine that restores a variety of types and sizes of books. Take advantage of this useful service to save your valuable books and avoid the cost of replacements.

Bring your books into the WLS office to make your own repairs! Call the office for an appointment. 308-632-1350.

The ECO AUTOSMART DISC REPAIR SYSTEM is a full service machine, not just a buffer. It cleans and repairs your valuable discs. Bring or mail your discs to the WLS Office.



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Sarah Alfred, Secretary

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“This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.”