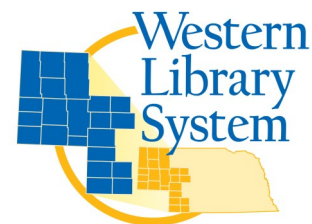


THE WESTERN SUN



Supporting libraries serving our communities November-December, 2023

SUNdries ~ Libraries Around the World—Little Free Libraries



***Building community.
Inspiring readers.
Expanding book access.***

This is the tagline for [The Little Free Library organization](#). Little Free Libraries, established in 2012, impresses with the following numbers.

7—All seven continents (even Antarctica)

50—All fifty states

100+ countries

100,000+ Little Free Libraries

1,000,000+ Books shared each year

Mission & Vision:

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Our mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book-exchange boxes.

Our vision is a Little Free Library in every community and a book for every reader. We believe all people are empowered when the opportunity to discover a personally relevant book to read is not limited by time, space, or privilege.

The mission and vision is achieved by:

1. **Providing 24/7 book access.** Little Free Library book-sharing boxes are open seven days a week, 24 hours a day and are freely accessible to all, removing barriers to book access.
2. **Fostering new Little Free Libraries.** Little Free Library (LFL) equips, educates, and guides volunteer stewards to establish Little Free Libraries in their communities.
3. **Granting Little Free Libraries to high-need areas.** Through our programs, LFL grants no-cost Little Free Libraries full of books to underserved urban, suburban, rural, and Indigenous communities.
4. **Championing diverse books.** Through our Read in Color program, LFL makes books available representing BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other diverse voices to promote understanding, empathy, and inclusion.
5. **Working with key community partners.** LFL collaborates with schools, public libraries, civic organizations, businesses, and other groups to bring Little Free Libraries to their communities.

Continued on page [3](#).

Mark Your Calendar 2023

November

National November Writing Month ([NaNoWriMo](#))

November 7

Low Cost~High Impact Programming with Chelsea Price, 1:00 (MST) (page [24](#))

November 18

Library Palooza, Nebraska School Library Association (page [23](#))

2024

January 19-22

American Library Association (ALA) [LibLearnX: The Library Learning Experience \(LLX\)](#), Baltimore, MD,

April

National School Library Month

April 3-5

Public Library Association [Conference](#), Columbus, OH (see page [26](#) for scholarship information)

April 7-13

National Library Week

April 9

National Library Workers Day

May 8-10

Mountain Plains Library Association Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah

June 27-July 2

ALA [Annual Conference & Exhibition, San Diego, CA](#),

October 8-10

Nebraska Library Association Conference, Younes Conference Center, Kearney

§tatute Savvy

Nebraska Revised Statute 79-3301 to 79-3305 [Computer Science and Technology Education Act](#)

Click on the link above for more information and active links

Nebraska Revised Statute 79-3301 to 79-3305, known and cited as the *Computer Science and Technology Education Act*, outlines the requirements for instruction in Computer Science and Technology. Additionally, 79-729 specifies the Computer Science and Technology requirement for high school graduation.

- The graduation requirement for the Computer Science and Technology Act will be required for all public schools beginning with the school year 2025-2026. Each public school district shall include computer science and technology education in the elementary and middle schools, as appropriate.
- Students in the graduating class of 2028 (current 8th graders in 2023-2024) in public schools must complete at least one course in computer science and technology .
- Each school district must provide an annual computer science and technology education status report to its local board of education and the State Department of Education.

How is Computer Science and Technology defined?

Nebraska Revised Statute 79-3303 states that computer science and technology includes, and is not limited to, knowledge and skills regarding computer literacy, educational technology, digital citizenship, information technology, and computer science.

When does the Statute go into effect?

Nebraska Revised Statute 79-3304 states that beginning with school year 2025-2026, each school district shall include computer science and technology education in the instructional programs of its elementary, middle, and high schools. Beginning in school year 2027-2028 (2023-2024 8th graders), each school district shall require each student to complete at least five (5) credit high school course equivalent to a one-semester course. The Class of 2028 will be in the following grades in these years:

- 8th Grade: 2023-2024
- 9th Grade: 2024-2025
- 10th Grade: 2025-2026
- 11th Grade: 2026-2027
- 12th Grade: 2027-2028

What courses meet the graduation requirement?

Each school district is able to determine which courses best satisfies the community needs for computer science and technology graduation requirements as long as it satisfies the necessary components Nebraska State Statute 79-3303. Courses must include: knowledge and skills regarding computer literacy, educational technology, digital citizenship, information technology, **and** computer science. The Statutes allow that the graduation requirement be met through a combination of high school courses that cover the computer science and technology academic content standards.

Each of the courses below is at least one semester long:

- Foundations of Computing (270704)
- IT Fundamentals (270504)
- AP Computer Science Principles (270702)

Who can teach Computer and Technology Courses

For teachers to be considered appropriately endorsed for their assignments, they must teach the grade levels and subjects indicated on their certificate. All approvable endorsements by course can be found within the Nebraska Course Codes and Clearing Endorsements. Three recommended courses are considered appropriate:

- Foundations of Computing (270704)
Endorsements: 0304 (Business, Marketing, Info Tech); 1100 (Mathematics); or 2701 (Information Technology)
- IT Fundamentals (270504)
Endorsements: 0304 (Business, Marketing, Info Tech); 2701(Information Technology); or 2911 (Information Technology – CE)
- AP Computer Science Principles (270702)
Endorsements: 0304 (Business, Marketing, Info Tech); 1100 (Mathematics); or 2701 (Information Technology)

Recommended Computer Science and Technology Resources

K-12 Technology Scope and Sequence – The Nebraska K-12 Technology Scope and Sequence was developed to provide school districts with a guide for when to teach technology knowledge and skills included within an instructional program. This document is broken up into different areas to make sure students leave high school with basic technology knowledge and skills. These standards do not replace the 7-12 grade technology standards found in the Communication and Information Systems courses.

Nebraska Microsoft IT Initiative
Common Sense Media – Digital Citizenship
Code.org
Project Lead the Way Computer Science (9-12)
Computer Science Resources by grade band level

Little Free Libraries (continued from page 1)

[The Little Free Library website](#) details how to start, register and map a little free library in your community. People who establish their own Little Free Libraries are called stewards. Stewards are welcome to create their own designs, use a pattern or purchase a kit from the LFL website.

Here are the direct links:

[Starting a Little Free Library](#)

[Registering your Little Free Library](#)

[Building patterns and kits](#)

Advantages of Little Free Libraries

According to a survey of more than 2,500 Little Free Library stewards:

92% of people say their neighborhood feels like a friendlier place because of a Little Free Library.

72% of stewards have met more neighbors because of their Little Free Library.

Pictures of registered Little Free Libraries in the Western Library System are on pages 4-7. Selected pictures of “novel” creative or literary libraries are featured on pages 8-9.

Registered Little Free Libraries in the Western Library System

Jatz's Little Library

2736 Laramie Dr., Alliance
Charter #142410



The Little Library that could. Built with love by Bob the Builder

NE Oleskys' Little Free Library

217 N. Morehead, Chadron
Charter #101102



Laura Whelchel

2213 HWY 71, Harrisburg
Charter #25688



We live in a very small rural community that has no public library. My husband and I recently purchased a building to renovate into a Café on the main highway. We thought it would be a great central location for not only folk in the community but also tourist and travelers to access a Little Free Library.

Phone Books

523 Niobrara Ave, Hemingford
Charter #140187



This is the first LFL in our town.
Read Books. Be Happy

Regan Hinton
N215 S. Webster St. Kimball
Charter #70384



I created my Little Free Library as a project for my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. My Little Free Library is unique from the others as it is only filled with children's books. I created my Little Free Library out of a recycled newspaper box, which I personally painted Dr. Seuss themed.

JP's Corner Little Free Library
1405 Newton Street, Sidney
Charter #129180

JP's corner was established in 2021 in memory of my son, Jonas Phillips, who was born sleeping on March 12, 2009. It is also a tribute to Mom, a local school teacher who has taught countless children the most important skill they will ever learn—how to read! This beautiful library was built by my brother-in-law. He and my sister installed it near their home and maintain its upkeep.



Palisade Public Library
124 N. Main Street, Palisade
Charter #131323



Tiny House Library
905 Sherman Ave. Grant
Charter #91012

Little Free Library and
Little Free Pantry



In 1930 the Village of Palisade established a Municipal Library according to Nebraska State Law and the first library board was formed. In 1957 or early 1958 the library was moved from Palisade School to a little white building south of the Bosley Law Office. In 1966 the library was moved to its present location, the former Palisade State Bank building. Come and visit our Heritage Room in the old bank vault!

Rita Book

902 Chase Street, Imperial
Charter #90868

One is that books are not available in the home. I am an avid reader and want to promote reading to others, and I hope by having a Little Free Library available for people of all ages to have access to free books to borrow or keep forever, children and adults will enjoy the opportunity to have all sorts of books.



Little Free Library
1602 Fifth Ave. Scottsbluff
Charter #31482



Little Blue Book House
1420 West 10th St. Imperial
Charter #161109



Here at the Little Blue Book House, we believe in the magic of words, that stories are spells casting us into imagination, connection, and joy. We hope you take a book, leave a book, and share the enchantment of a good story as often as possible.

Educational Service Unit #13
4215 Avenue I, Scottsbluff
Charter #96005



The ESU #13 Special Education Department wanted to give back to the community and provide a resource to expand access to books and reading. Our library is intended to put books into the hands of youth and includes items to meet babies to young adults. Stop by and grab a book and then share it with someone else! No need to return it.

Fair Weather LFL
 2110 2nd Ave, Scottsbluff
 Charter #100500



This library started during the pandemic when the public library closed. For nearly two years, the library was a non-waterproof book cart that had to be wheeled inside every night, or when it precipitated. In December 2021, the cart was retired and replaced with a weatherproof book box.

Tiffany Schank
 102 East Overland, Ave. Scottsbluff
 Charter #2345



Jeanne Laessle
 1703 Broadway, Scottsbluff
 Charter #44640

My new LFL has flourished from the beginning. I believe the success is the result of being in a coffee shop that has lots of traffic, and caters to people who enjoy reading, etc. It has been self-sufficient since I started it, with a nice turn-over of books, without a great deal of monitoring by me.



Creative, Innovative and Literary Little Free Libraries around the World



Colorful Library #68420 in Oostakker, Belgium.



Library #70499 is carved from a tree!

Little Free Library
 #34472 Everett, WA





Library #50893 in Rapid City, SD.



Gorgeous views surround Library #61838 in Sandnes, Norway.



This super-creative library is a repurposed washing machine!

7. Little Free Library #38570 Regina, SK



Look at that carved detail!

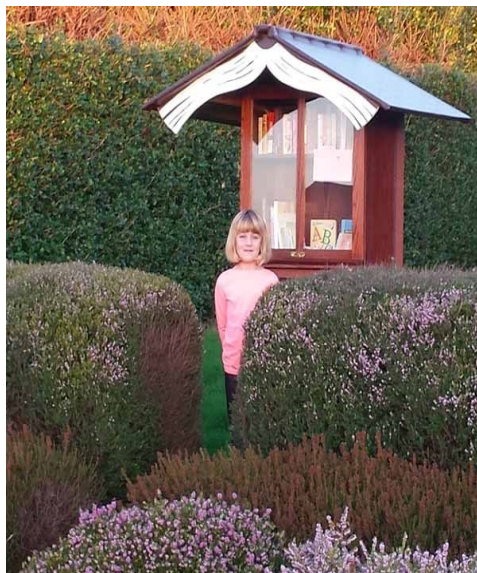


Little Free Library #23347 Kaunas, Lithuania

Little Free Library #17066 Seattle



Little Free Library #4523 McKinleyville, CA



A Library with a succulent roof



Gorgeous stained glass windows on this Little Library!

Links to more Little Free Library creations:

[39 Wildly Creative Designs](#)

[57 Jaw Dropping Designs](#)

[Pinterest Ideas](#)

[Little Free Libraries on a Shoestring Budget](#)

The Little Free Library website offers [12 alternative ideas](#) using the “Little Free” theme. Here are examples.

Hot Wheels



Fiber



Seeds



Sleds (you need to return)



Celebrations and Milestones

New Library Directors

Amanda Ziegler ~ Wauneta Public Library

Kate Parrish ~ Palisade Public Library

Re-accreditations through 2028

Hastings Memorial Library

Mitchell Public Library

Morrill Public Library

Rushville Public Library



Shovel Ready Project Grantees

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) announced the 17 recipients of \$70 million in grant funding for the second funding cycle of the Shovel-Ready Capital Recovery and Investment Act Program. As of October 4th, DED had received 66 applications totaling more than \$183 million in 2023 Shovel-Ready funding requests. All available grant funds for the 2023 Shovel-Ready have been allocated.

The Shovel-Ready program was approved for additional funding from the State General Fund during the 2023 Legislative Session and signed into law by Governor Jim Pillen. The funding assists qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations with capital projects that were delayed due to COVID-19 or that will provide a positive economic impact in the State of Nebraska.

For more information about the Shovel-Ready program, visit the [program webpage](#).

From Congressional District 3:

Chadron Public Library Foundation - \$640,054

Winners of READ Posters

READ Poster Winners from the September~October Western Sun contest are:

Becky Henkel, Bayard Public Library, Channing Tatum

Dianne Jay, Paxton Public Library, Dolly Parton

Successful Book Fair - Bridgeport Public Schools



Sharon Schluterbusch reports that this year's Book Fair raised \$6,236.00. This topped last year's proceeds by \$1,000.00.

Omaha Astronomical Society - Free Telescopes

Congratulations to the following libraries in the Western Library System who received free telescopes from the [Omaha Astronomical Society](#). There were 50 libraries statewide who received telescopes.

- Bayard Public Library, Bayard
- Cravath Memorial Library, Hay Springs
- Gering Public Library, Gering
- Kimball Public Library, Kimball
- Lied Scottsbluff Public Library, Scottsbluff
- Rushville Public Library, Rushville
- Sidney Public Library, Sidney
- Sioux County Public Library, Harrison
- Wauneta Public Library, Wauneta



Chadron Public Library Celebrates 110 Years



Celebrating Chadron Public Library 110 Years of Service to the Community

Thursday, October 19, 2023

- 6:30 pm Welcome and Celebration Opening. Remarks by President of CPL Foundation, Suze Jones.
- 6:45 pm Reception open to the public.
- 7:00 pm Silent Auction begins.
- 7:15pm A brief History of Chadron Public Library. Each Library staff member presents a decade of Library History.
- 7:30 pm Tribute to Elizabeth O'Linn-Smith, CPL First Librarian, by Vicki Kotschwar.
- 7:45 pm Mr. Pete Butler Music and Songs.

Friday, October 20, 2023

- 5:30 pm Friends of the Library's Mocktails. Everyone invited.
- 6:00 pm Presentation by Mr. Jerome Kills Small: Water: Lakota Spirituality and Science.
- 7:00 pm Movie: Coyote Waits.
- Silent Auction in progress.

Saturday, October 21, 2023

- 10:30 pm Special Story Time: Salute to Grandparents. Stories, Crafts and Songs. A free book for each child coming with his grandparents.
- 12:00 pm Chili Special. Everyone welcome.
- 1:30 pm Celebration of Library Volunteers and Presentation of the Doris Harrington Award.
- 2:30 pm Movie: The Rider.
- 6:30 pm On the library lawn (block closed to traffic). International Observe the Moon Night. S'mores on a Fire pit. Music by Mr. Pete Butler.

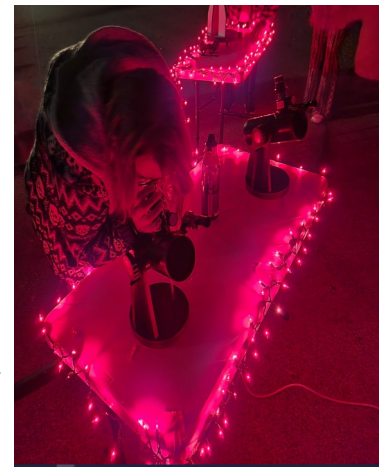
Sunday, October 22, 2023

- 12:00 pm Taco at your Library.
- 1:00 pm Best Library Stories Contest. Share your stories about the library. Prizes for everyone.
- 2:30 pm Best Stories Award.
- 2:45 pm Silent Auction Winners Announcement.

For information call 308-432-0531



Pictures from the event including the Doris Harrington Family presenting a \$5,000.00 check to the Chadron Library Foundation for their renovation project.



Celebrating Deb Carlson

The Western Library System acknowledges and appreciates the Star Herald and Fletcher Halfaker for granting permission to reprint this article from the October 3, 2023 Star Herald. We honor Deb Carlson, Children's Librarian for the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library and her dedicated, joyful services.

Star Herald, October 3, 2023 by Fletcher Halfaker

One Story Ends, Another Begins



Deb Carlson poses a question with a quizzical look during a reading of "Leaf Man" to children during story time on September 28.

Children's librarian Deb Carlson retiring after 46 years

Lied Scottsbluff Public Library children's librarian Deb Carlson will retire at the end of this week, closing the book on 46 years spent spreading the message of lifelong readership and unconditional compassion.

It all began when Carlson, who was studying elementary education at Graceland University in Iowa with a minor in library science, decided to ask for a summer job. The library gladly took her on. After her college graduation, she stayed on part-time while also teaching kindergarten.

Although she loved both jobs dearly, Carlson soon found herself at a crossroads. Would she pursue teaching or the library full-time? With some encouragement from her future husband, Clay, she made a decision that would shape the rest of her life as well as countless others.

"At the end of that year, I could see that the children's librarian was going to retire in a couple of years;," she said. "At the library, I felt like I could get out there more and touch more lives. The rest is history."

A few years later in 1982, Carlson accepted the position of librarian at Lied Scottsbluff Public Library. She inherited many solid programs from her predecessor, but she began to identify unmet needs and opportunities right away.

Over the years, Carlson added evening storytime events for kinds who parents worked day jobs, a Teacher Tote program to support local educators, Cradle Catchers and countless others, including one of the library's most impactful efforts: Kinder-Carding.



Lied Scottsbluff Public Library Deb Carlson and Teen Librarian Elaine Bleisch read “Leaf Man” during the children’s story time on Thursday, September 28. Children's story time also includes fun songs and other activities.

“We felt like we were reaching kids with storytime, but if they fell through the cracks, we wanted to get them when they were school aged.” Carlson said.

She partnered with the Star-Herald turn Kinder-Carding into a reality. At that time, the decision was made that for the program to be a success, Carlson would need to personally visit every kindergarten classroom in Scottsbluff.

That program has run for nearly 30 years, guaranteeing the every kid in town over multiple generations has been given an opportunity to sign up for a library card and meet Carlson face-to-face.

With a career spanning 46 exciting years and thousands of smiling faces, Carlson says it is difficult to pinpoint specific favorable memories. Instead, she said, that all of her best memories of times when she and her team know, without a doubt, that they had made a difference in the lives of the children they served.

“The library is more than a place to get books and materials and I think they feel valued and important. They come here because they feel cared for.” she said. ‘ she said. “I really fee like I was put here for a reason because I generally love these kids..”

Carlson also highlighted the relationship she’s had to opportunity to build with not only kids, but with families, teachers and co-workers, too.

“And maybe the hugs, too.” she added.

Another standout from Carlson’s career was the complete overhaul and addition to the library building in 2011. That effort, she said, incorporated many of her enduring philosophies about the importance of reading and libraries as a whole.

“We marketed it as “The Community’s Living Room,” and I’ve always felt that way,” she said. “I want them to feel like they’re coming home when they walk in the doors. And if they're comfortable in their library, they’ll use it.”

That passion ties directly into another: the importance of reading aloud. Carlson shared a favorite quote from children’s author and illustrator Rosemary Wells that summarizes her feelings on the subject.

“Put your child in your lap and read aloud. In the pages of the book you will find a tiny vacation of privacy and intense love.” she quoted.

Carlson said she believes that the experience and importance of reading aloud should not be forgotten as kids grow up, a philosophy that helped her quickly identify a kindred soul in the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library’s current director, Richard Landreth.

Landreth said that in their time together, he and Carlson bonded over their shared belief that people of all ages love to be read to aloud. In his eyes, no one is better suited to that calling than Carlson, who put her energy and charisma on full display through decades of storytime sessions.

“She just has this way of pulling us in and we want to listen to her read,” he said. “She’s going to be missed so badly. Her energy, the excitement she brings to all the programs. She’s just phenomenal.”

When asked what drove her decision to firmly root herself in the library for so many years. Carlson recalled the many opportunities she’d turned down throughout the years that might have offered a better paycheck. To her, no amount of money could replace the sheer joy that she experience by doing exactly what she was meant to do.

“Success can be found at every rung of the ladder,” she said. “I loved what I did, and if I was happy doing that, having more money wasn’t important.”

“And I never wanted to write a resume,” she added, with a laugh.

So what comes next? Carlson said that she will first have to take some time to explore who she is outside of the job that has defined her for so many years.

“I identify with this job to where it’s a part of me,” she said. “I’m not going to lie, I’ve got angst about who I am. But what I know for sure is that I want to spend more time with my 2-year old grandson with family, with former co-workers.”

No final plans have been announced regarding the position of children’s librarian, but Landreth said that the library plans to continue “full steam ahead: with programming. As for Carlson, she urged the community to keep up its support of the library and her successor.

“I hope I’ve served the community well enough that they will continue to bring their children to the library and support the library in our endeavors.” she said.

Carlson’s contributions to the library and the community that she served for 46 years will not be forgotten any time soon. Landreth acknowledged her accomplishments by offering the highest praise that a book lover could possibly craft.

“She’s leaving quite the legacy, “ he said. “It’s amazing. She’s helped create what I’ve been calling a culture of reading literacy here in Scottsbluff, and what better praise is there?”

How does one say goodbye after so many years of hard work and dedication? Carlson, an educator through and through wanted to give one final lesson about simply being alive and loving others.

“If everybody could just learn to give a little more of themselves, I’ve found people will open up,” she said. “You can’t be afraid. You’ve just got to open up and let them in.”

NSpire Today also featured an article on Deb and her brilliant career in the October issue. The story was written by Irene North.

Celebrating Deb Carlson Day!



Around the Sun

Mitchell Public Library



Maryruth Reed contributed pictures of the Mitchell Public Library's dragon sculpture. The creation was made by local "part-time" artist Doeg Hoevet. Doug is a civil engineer by day, and a talented artist in his spare time. The dragon is all metal, and should stand up to weather and small children. It was purchased with memorial funds we received for a current board member who died unexpectedly, and a former board member who was a life-long teacher. Doug is working on a smaller sculpture that will sit at the other side of our library garden. Maryruth particularly likes the picture that shows what the dragon is reading.

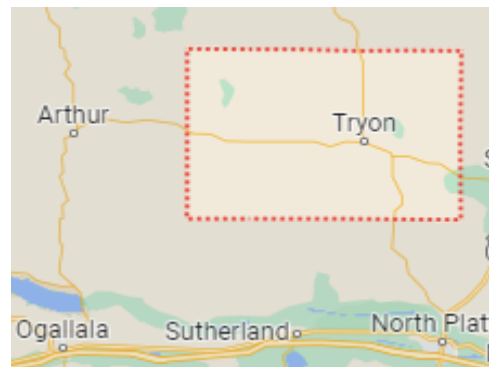


McPherson County Schools



September 20, 2023. McPherson County Schools Facebook page.

McPherson County is a county in the U.S. state of Nebraska. As of the 2020 United States Census, the population was 399, making it the least populous county in the state of Nebraska and the fifth-least populous county in the United States. Its county seat is Tryon. The school is located in Tryon in the beautiful Sand Hill Country.



NEBRASKA LIBRARY WEEK - November 12th ~ November 18th, 2023

In 2023, the Nebraska Library Association is proud to present the first inaugural Nebraska Library Week! This event aims to celebrate and promote public, academic, and special libraries throughout the state of Nebraska to the public, government officials, library advocates, and stakeholders, to celebrate and recognize library workers for their contributions to their local communities, and foster a sense of community between library professionals and library supporters throughout the state of Nebraska.

The theme for our inaugural NLW is **“Connecting Communities”**, in honor of the passing of the broadband legislation earlier this year. The theme emphasizes the various ways in which libraries connect people to each other, to their local communities, and to the global community.

You are also encouraged to design and implement your own unique, original programming to celebrate your community and library staff!

To sign up your library to be an official participant in Nebraska Library Week, please have a representative fill out [this](#) form. Libraries that complete the form will be listed as official participants in promotional materials and be a stop on the Connecting Communities roadmap. Participants will receive a programming guide with suggestions of programming to promote and celebrate their library, in addition to receiving promotion for their library and events through NLA’s social media platforms.

To finish out our week, we will celebrate all our accomplishments at Library Prom in Hastings, NE on November 18th!

More information can be found at:

https://nebraskalibraries.org/Nebraska_Library_Week

or by emailing NLW Chair, Lane Gibson, at lane.d.gibson@gmail.com

Alliance Public Library

Cynthia Horn, Children's and Youth Services Librarians sends pictures to the Western Library System Family of their Spooktacular event.



The participants used the Breakout Boxes checked out from the Western Library System. Please let the Office know if you would like to checkout one or two of the boxes.

Grant Opportunities

From the Nebraska Library Commission—due November 17th.

Nebraska Public Libraries and State-run Institutions! Do you have an idea for a program or project you would like to see funded?

The Nebraska Library Commission has made funding available for four grants for 2024: Continuing Education & Training, Internship, Library Improvement, and Youth Grants for Excellence.

Applications are being accepted for all NLC grants right now! Don't let your library miss out on these opportunities! **Grant applications for all 2024 NLC grants are due November 17, 2023.**

For more information about these grants, register for the September 20, 2023 archived *NCompass Live*.

Continuing Education & Training grants help assist Nebraska libraries to improve the library services provided to their communities through continuing education and training for their library personnel and supporters. Successful applications will show how the continuing education and/or training proposed will support the library's mission. There will be two rounds of CE Grants. The first fall grants will open in September and applications will be accepted for events/projects/classes that **must be completed before** July 1, 2024. The second spring round will open in March and applications will be accepted for events/projects/classes that **begin after** July 1, 2024.

Internship grants work to introduce high school and college students to the varied and exciting work of Nebraska libraries. The internships are intended to function as a recruitment tool, helping the student to view the library as a viable career opportunity while providing the public library with the finances to provide stipends to the student interns.

Library Improvement grants facilitate growth and development of library programs and services in Nebraska public and institutional libraries, by supplementing local funding with federal funds designated for these purposes.

Youth Grants for Excellence are available specifically for innovative projects for children and young adults in your community. The program encourages creative thinking, risk-taking, and new approaches to enable youth librarians to begin needed programs and try projects which they have been unable to undertake, and to offer an opportunity to expand youth service capabilities in new and different directions.

Creative Aging Through the Arts (CAAP) As seen on NCOMPASS LIVE, April 19

Celebrating lifelong learning in the arts with older adults. Grants are now available! CAAP grants cover the entire cost of artist residencies including plan time, supplies, artist travel and lodging and a sponsor stipend. No matching funds are required. First time applying? The Nebraska Arts Commission staff is available to help you get started. Creative Aging Arts Program (CAAP) grants pay for programs with teaching artists trained in best practices of creative programming with older adult participants. During CAAP residencies, artists share their expertise through skill-based, sequential arts lessons in a variety of disciplines. Sessions also foster intentional social engagement among participants, ending with a culminating event to showcase participants' work. Sponsor organizations, including senior centers, local agencies on aging, libraries, and nonprofits that work with seniors may apply. Grant applications have a rolling deadline - apply at least six weeks ahead. Watch the April 19th NCompass Live to learn more.



The American Library Association invites applications from small and rural libraries for the second application period of the Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant.

Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities will offer more than \$7 million in grants to small and rural libraries to increase the accessibility of facilities, services, and programs to better serve people with disabilities. ALA is now accepting applications for grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000.



Applications **will be accepted from September 11, 2023 through December 11, 2023.**

<https://www.ala.org/tools/librariestransform/libraries-transforming-communities/access>

Resources and tips for completing the grant can be found [here](#).

This opportunity is open to any type of public library in the U.S. and U.S. territories that serves a small and rural community – to be eligible, a library must have a legal service area population of 25,000 or less and be located at least five miles from an urbanized area (town/city with a population of 25,000 or greater). Participating libraries will first conduct community input-gathering sessions to assure that their work aligns with local needs. Libraries will be required to identify the primary audience they are hoping to reach (e.g., homebound seniors, children with autism, Deaf community members) and facilitate a community conversation with the impacted populations in order to guide improvement of the library's services. Grantees would then use the funds to create services or improve their facilities based on the needs identified by their audience.

Selected libraries will receive \$10,000 or \$20,000 to support costs related to their community engagement project; virtual training to assist project directors in developing their community engagement, facilitation, and disability service skills; a suite of online resources developed to support local programs; and technical and project support from the ALA Public Programs Office throughout the grant term.

Questions? Contact the American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office staff at 1-800-545-2433, ext. 5045, or publicprograms@ala.org

Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities is part of ALA's longtime commitment to preparing library workers for the expanding role of libraries. The initiative is offered in partnership with the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL). It is supported by a private donor.



[Link to the grant information:](#)

As one of the largest cement companies in the United States and one of the oldest still in operation, Ash Grove plays an important part in the foundation and infrastructure of our country. And with plants from coast to coast, being a good neighbor in the communities in which we live and serve is a priority and part of our DNA.

We believe in active participation to improve the existing and future quality of life in the communities we serve. We aren't just focused on building highways and buildings – we are also helping to build better communities.

Grant Guidelines

- The Foundation awards grants to charitable, educational, and scientific organizations, which are public charities.
- **The Foundation prefers to make monetary grants for capital and special projects rather than operational expenses. Grants for construction, renovation, repairs, and restoration of facilities are given primary consideration.**

Applicants will be required to answer narrative questions and provide documentation, which may include:

- Information supporting public charity status;
- Organization mission and purpose;
- Organization financial information;
- Project or program purpose;
- Project or program budgets;
- Project funding sources secured and pending; and
- Listing of current Board of Directors
- Requests submitted between September 16 and November 15, 2023 will be reviewed and responded to by December 22, 2023
- Requests submitted between November 16 and December 31, 2023 will be reviewed and responded to by April 30, 2024

The Art Resources Transfer's Library Program provides free books on art and culture to public institutions nationwide through its Library Program.

Public libraries, public schools, prisons, and reading centers to place an order for free books. We offer 400+ titles published by leading museums, galleries, and independent presses nationwide.

To get started, simply create an account on our [website](#):

Browse our book catalog and order as many titles as you like, at one copy per title, once per year. Books are free and shipped free .

Also offer free online teaching guides and other resources to help you use books in your educational work:

For questions about participating or placing your order, e-mail libraryprogram@artresourcestransfer.org.

Ricky Ruihong Li
Art Resources Transfer
+1 (917) 387 4568
526 W 26th Street, #614
New York, NY 10001

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/>

Title	Date
Golden Sower Award: Get in the Know	November 1
Racial & Gender Bias in Search	November 8
Redesigning a Library Website	November 15
Best New Children's Books of 2023	November 22
Pretty Sweet Tech	November 29
Using Creativity to Grow & Develop	December 6
Canvaholic	December 13
Summer Reading Program 2024: Adventure Begins at Your Library	December 20
Pretty Sweet Tech	December 27
Auditing Library Websites	January 17, 2024
Best New Teen Reads of 2023	January 24, 2024

Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians

One of the requirements for [Public Librarian Certification](#) is training in the basic skills of librarianship. This requirement may be fulfilled by completion of formal education in an institution of higher learning or completion of approved continuing education or certification courses, including the Nebraska Library Basic Skills Training Courses.

Why participate in the Public Librarian Certification program?

- Improves library service throughout the state
- Motivates librarians to acquire, maintain, and develop skills through basic and continuing education
- Provides guidelines for public library boards to use in selecting and retaining personnel
- Recognizes public librarians who update their knowledge and skills on a continuing basis to provide better library service for the community
- Basic Skills training is presented as a series of online asynchronous courses through *Campus*. Basic Skills participants are required to complete at least thirteen modules - six requisite modules and seven electives. These must be completed during the provisional (first) three-year certification period.

For each course successfully completed, participants will earn 2 CE credits. These count toward the 45 CE credits that all participants must earn during each three-year recertification period.

Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians 2023 Schedule

*

Class Dates	Class	Instructor
11/6 - 11/17	Leadership	Tammi Thiem
11/27 - 12/8	Library Services to Children & Teens	Sally Snyder

Featured Resource from the Nebraska Library Commission

Library Organizations

Each of the links found on the [Nebraska Library Commission's website](#) provides valuable information on library related organizations.

The screenshot shows a navigation menu on the left with categories like 'About Us', 'Accreditation • Certification', 'Blogs • Publications', 'Children • YA', 'Collections at NLC', 'Discounts • Group Purchases', 'Education • Training', 'Government Documents', 'Grants • Funding • E-rate', 'Jobs • Careers • Now Hiring', 'Library Management', 'Library Organizations', 'Nebraska Libraries', 'Reference • ILL', 'Regional Library Systems', and 'Talking Books & Braille'. The main content area is divided into 'National' and 'Regional' sections. The 'National' section lists organizations such as ALA, ARSL, ACRL, LITA, PLA, State Library Agencies, United for Libraries (ALTAFF), and WebJunction. The 'Regional' section lists MPLA and the Western Council of State Libraries. There is also a 'Systems' section with links for About, Central Plains, Southeast, Three Rivers, and Western, and a 'More' section for Professional Library Organizations. The 'Nebraska' section lists NCB, NLA, and NSLA.



The Call for Speakers for Big Talk From Small Libraries 2024 is now open!

This [free one-day online conference](#) is tailored for staff from small libraries; the smaller the better!

Small libraries of all types – public, academic, school, museum, special, etc. – are encouraged to submit a proposal. We’re looking for seven 50-minute presentations and four 10-minute “lightning round” presentations.

[Submit your proposal](#) by Friday, December 15, 2023.

Big Talk From Small Libraries 2024 will be held on Friday, February 23, 2024 between 8:45 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (CT) via the GoTo Webinar online meeting service.

Photo by Patrick Fore on Unsplash



Our third Library 2.023 mini-conference: "EDI 2.0: Individual Responsibility for Creating Belonging and Connection in the Library Profession," will be held online (and for free) on Thursday, November 9, 2023, from 12:00 - 3:00 pm US-Pacific Time.

In our fall Library 2.023 mini-conference we explore the evolution of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) efforts within the library profession, focusing on how libraries can help to create belongingness and meaningful connection and what individuals, specifically, can do to help make change.

EDI principles and their practical implementation have a profound impact on the cultural fabric of libraries and the relationships we have with users and staff. This event will showcase strategies that libraries employ to cultivate and integrate into their services a profound sense of belongingness, as well as the ways that library leadership is crucial in fostering an environment of inclusion and meaningful connection.

We will also look at the integration of EDI standards into the core of library services, enhancing inclusivity within the Library and Information Science (LIS) community, and discuss the growing integration of EDI into accreditation standards and professional competencies and the broader implications this holds for the future of the library profession.

Our special conference chair is **Julius C. Jefferson**, Current Chair of the International Federation of Library Associations & Institutions (IFLA), North American Regional Division, and Past President of the American Library Association (ALA).

We look forward to gathering online with you for this event!

This is a free event, being held live online and also recorded.

[Register here](#) to attend live and/or to receive the recording links afterward.

LIBRARY PALOOZA

NOVEMBER 18, 2023

Nebraska School Librarians Association

LOCATION:	TIME:
Lincoln Northwest Library 4901 W Holdrege St, Lincoln, NE 68528	8:30am - 12:00pm
COST:	
Current NSLA Members: \$30 (Current as of Oct 1, 2023)	
Non-member includes 1 year membership to NSLA: \$40 for school library students; \$70 for everyone else	

Register here:
for Library Palooza

See page [33](#) to apply for scholarship money for dues and attending the Palooza.

“We read to know we are not alone”

The character of C.S. Lewis in the
William Nicholson’s play,
Shadowlands.



LOW-COST HIGH-IMPACT PROGRAMMING



CHELSEA PRICE

PRESENTER
DIRECTOR, MESERVEY (IOWA) PUBLIC LIBRARY



NOVEMBER 7

1-2 P.M.
MOUNTAIN TIME

VIRTUAL AND RECORDED
1 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

Join the Western Library System on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 1 p.m. Mountain Time, for “Low-Cost High-Impact Programming.” Chelsea Price, Director of Meservey Public Library in Iowa, will be presenting her tips for programming on a budget.

Meservey, Iowa has just 220 residents and a tiny budget to match. Despite that, their public library has more than tripled their program attendance numbers in the last five years by hosting several memorable yet budget-friendly events. Ms. Price, author of “209 Big Programming Ideas for Small Budgets,” will share creative ideas for hosting inexpensive or free programs at your library, as well as discuss the importance of partnerships and passive programming.

Ms. Price has presented for Programming Librarian, PCI Webinars, Niche Academy, Florida Library Webinars, ARSL, and Pop YS Con, and she has also contributed to the Programming Librarian blog. “209 Big Programming Ideas for Small Budgets” was published in October 2020 in partnership with the Association for Rural & Small Libraries.

This free program is scheduled for: November 7, 2023; 1-2 p.m. Mountain Time.

Zoom link: Address: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82458382827?pwd=eFkraGVVSHd3VTJlcG5SNEhYNkdVZz09>

No registration required! Participants will report their own continuing education credit to the Nebraska Library Commission.

Resources for Librarians and their Communities

Family Engagement Programming from Nebraska Public Media

In August, Nebraska Public Media began piloting a family engagement program with libraries of all sizes. This program is a bimonthly initiative to curate free, high quality family engagement resources and activities for regular family events. Their goal is to support Nebraska children, families, and caregivers learn and grow together through intergenerational experiences. They are actively seeking libraries and community partners interested in piloting this program. They welcome all levels of previous experience with family engagement

The available resources will be available every other month and include:

- Event facilitator guide with learning goals that support intergenerational learning
- Slides with detailed speaking notes and tips
- Suggested book list
- Electronic resources, games, and activity guides

How to participate:

If you are interested in participating in the Storytelling with *Molly of Denali* family engagement pilot, email your intent to participate to Amy Cassner (acassner@nebraskapublicmedia.org.) Please provide the following information:

- Your intent to participate
- Date you plan to hold the event (if you do not have a date yet, we still encourage you to let us know of your interest)
- Location of the event
- Contact Name, Title, and Organization

Nebraska Public Media is excited to feature Storytelling with *Molly of Denali* for November and December family engagement opportunities. Storytelling with *Molly of Denali* is a literacy program that highlights the different ways stories can be told and celebrates intergenerational family stories. This event for children ages 3-8 and their parents/caregivers reinforces key literacy skills as they explore oral storytelling through playful activities. The included activities for families are available in English and Spanish. All materials for this program will be provided electronically. These curated, high-quality materials are available to libraries at no cost.

Detailed information about the Storytelling with *Molly of Denali* family engagement event can be found in this [recording](#) from our information session. You are also welcome to review the [slides](#) from the webinar.

At the beginning of 2024, they are featuring World of Work featuring *What Can You Become*. This event celebrates children's interests and honors the importance of all jobs and career pathways. Upcoming topics include Computational Thinking with *Work It Out Wombats* and Arts and Humanities with *Alma's Way*.



You are welcome to host events using all the topics or select the ones that work best for your community. Although they provide detailed instructions, you are welcome to make modifications to fit the needs of your organization. They ask that you let them know the changes you make so that they can improve future programming.

As a part of our family engagement pilot they ask that you track and share with them the following information during and after your event:

- Date and time of your planned event shared in advance of the event
- Attendance numbers
- Photos to share with us! We want to celebrate your great work. Please only share photos with us that we have permission to share on social media.
- Share the audience survey with attendees.

Complete the short event report to share attendance numbers, feedback, and your favorite photos.

If you would like to extend your family engagement learning further, PBS KIDS self-paced learning provides no-cost professional development on a variety of topics, including [Supporting Play with Media and Technology](#):

We look forward to partnering with you. In the meantime, if you would like to see the educational resources we have available, please check out our [website](#) or contact us directly by emailing acassner@nebraskapublicmedia.org.



The Public Library Association (PLA) invites you to join thousands of public library workers, supporters, and vendors from across the country and around the world to celebrate all things public libraries at the PLA 2024 Conference, April 3–5, in the vibrant city of Columbus, Ohio!

This three-day event offers more than 100 thoughtfully curated education sessions, inspiring speakers and authors, engaging networking opportunities, career services, micro-learning moments, and a bustling exhibits hall featuring the latest in products, services, and innovations. Together, let's shape the future of public libraries.

Conference Scholarships

PLA envisions a future where a dynamic public library is the heart of every community. We strive to make this vision a reality by strengthening public libraries and their contribution to communities.

The PLA 2024 Conference is central to achieving this vision and ensuring inclusive pathways for professional growth for all library workers. As part of our commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and social justice, PLA is expanding our 2024 conference scholarship opportunities for both in-person and virtual participants.

Fifty scholarships are available to cover conference registration fees and provide one year of PLA membership.

Scholarships are available for both the in-person conference and the virtual conference. Persons who receive scholarships to attend the conference in-person will also receive a \$750 stipend to help cover travel costs.

Scholarships are available to support applicants who belong to at least one of the following categories:

- Early career (i.e., fewer than five years) or un/under-employed (annual salary less than \$45,000)
- Students pursuing a master's degree in library and/or information science (i.e., MLS, MLIS, MIS)
- Working in small or rural libraries (i.e., serving communities with fewer than 25,000 people)

Selection Criteria

Applications are reviewed and scored by groups of PLA volunteers and staff. The review committee will select individuals whom they believe are most likely to leverage this learning opportunity. PLA seeks candidates who will bring unique perspectives to the conference and are eager to learn. Successful applicants will demonstrate how they plan to apply the skills and knowledge gained to benefit their careers, their organizations, and their communities. Scholarships are non-transferrable and limited to one award per recipient. Attendees who have received past PLA Conference scholarships are ineligible to apply. All decisions are final.

PLA 2022 Conference Attendee Testimony (from the PLA Website)

"The conference was the professional boost I needed after heading toward burnout. The change I'll make is looking at my work with fresh eyes and a renewed passion for what I do every day."



BOOK CLUB KIT

Great Plains

BISON

DISCOVER BY Dan O'Brien



BOOK

GREAT PLAINS BISON BY DAN O'BRIEN

FILM

SEED WARRIORS BY REBEKKA SCHLICHTING

(Ioway Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska)



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

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

NebraskaPublicMedia.org/bookclub

Letters About Literature

A wonderful opportunity for students. Public and school librarians you can garner and motivate your young readers to participate in [Letters about Literature](#) (LAL). LAL is a state reading and writing promotion program. The program is coordinated and sponsored in Nebraska by the Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Library Commission, with support from Houchen Bindery, Ltd., Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Lincoln City Libraries, Francie & Finch Bookshop, and Chapters Bookstore in Seward.

To enter, readers write a personal letter to an author, living or dead, from any genre—fiction, nonfiction, or poetry, contemporary or classic—explaining how that author’s work changed the student’s way of thinking about the world or themselves. Each letter must be submitted via the [Letters About Literature online platform for Nebraska](#).

Contest participants compete on three levels:

- Level I for young readers in grades 4-6
- Level II for young adult readers in grades 7-8
- Level III for readers in grades 9-12

One winner and honorable mention in each competition level will receive a cash prize. The prizes are presented during a recognition day in Lincoln, which includes a luncheon and a photograph with the Governor Pillen at the Capitol. The winners also sign copies of their letters at the January Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library, where they are placed in the Nebraska author archives.

Teaching Guide

The Letters About Literature Teaching Guide provides activities teachers and librarians can use to guide their students through the book discussion and letter-writing process. The guide addresses the LAL teaching strategies and ways in which the program can dovetail with national standards for teaching reading and writing as well as Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Also included are worksheets for duplication and assessment checklists.

Webinar

Watch the archived October 11, 2023 - NCompass Live: Letters About Literature - This session provides helpful information and resources for teachers and librarians interested in the competition. It also cover the new submission process and be an excellent opportunity to ask questions about the entire competition process.

READ Select a fiction or nonfiction book, a poem or play you have read and about which you have strong feelings. (Sorry, no song lyrics!) It might be a book that helped you through a difficult time or it might be a book that simply touched your heart or inspired you.

REFLECT Think before you write. How did this author’s work change you or your view of the world? How do you know it did? How and why are you different now than you were before you read this work?

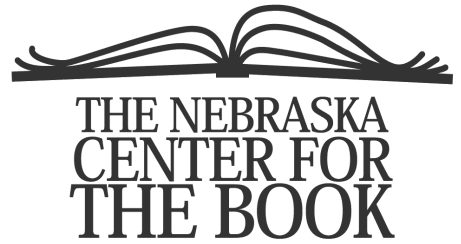
Persuade Write a personal letter to the author, stating how reading his or her work changed you. Be personal but also persuasive! Support your ideas with specific details, including details from the work itself. This is not a fan letter but rather a reflection on how an author influenced you.

WRITE Type your entry in letter format – do not send handwritten letters. Your name and complete return address (either school or home) must appear in the upper right corner of the first page of the letter.

Submit your letter by the deadline date at www.centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LALform.asp

Nebraska's 2023 Book Award Winners

The Nebraska's 2023 Book Award winners with author readings and an awards presentation ceremony at the Nebraska Center for the Book's Celebration of Nebraska Books. Held at the UNL City Campus Union on October 14th, winners of the 2023 Nebraska Book Awards were honored. The celebration included readings by some of the winning authors, designers and illustrators of books with a Nebraska connection published in 2022. And the winners are:



Design: *Eat Your Woolly Mammoths!* By James Solheim.

Publisher: Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

Children's Nonfiction: *Eat Your Woolly Mammoths!* By James Solheim.

Young Adult: *Scattered Showers* by Rainbow Rowell. Publisher: Wednesday Books, St. Martin's Publishing Group.

Design: *Feeding the Fire* by Twyla Hansen. Publisher: Wayne State College Press.

Illustration: *The Rowdy Randy Wild West Show* by Casey Day Rislov, illustrated by Zachary Pullen.

Publisher: Mountain Stars Press.

Fiction: *Private Way* by Ladette Randolph. Publisher: University of Nebraska Press.

Nonfiction Autobiography: *Monkey on the Other Side of the Window: The True Story of the Northeast Nebraska Zoo in Royal, Nebraska* by Dick Haskin. Publisher: Morris Publishing.

Nonfiction Biography: *The Women Who Built Omaha: A Bold and Remarkable History* by Eileen Wirth.

Publisher: Bison Books.

Nonfiction Fellowship: *From Your Friend, Carey Dean: Letters from Nebraska's Death Row* by Lisa Knopp.

Publisher: Cascade Books.

Nonfiction History: *Standing Bear's Quest for Freedom: The First Civil Rights Victory for Native Americans* by Lawrence A. Dwyer. Publisher: Bison Books.

Nonfiction Nebraska as Place: *Nourishing Waters, Comforting Sky: Thirty-Five Years at a Sandhills Oasis* by Stephen R. Jones. Publisher: Bison Books.

Nonfiction Solidarity: *Dirt Persuasion: Civic Environmental Populism and the Heartland's Pipeline Fight* by Derek Moscato. Publisher: University of Nebraska Press.

Poetry: *A Crazy Little Thing* by Lucy Adkins. Publisher: Wayne State College Press.

Poetry Honor: *Cord Blood* by Bonnie Johnson-Bartee. Publisher: Sandhills Press.

The Celebration of Nebraska Books also honored winners of the 2023 Jane Geske and Mildred Bennet awards.

The Bennett Award, given to Steven Shively, recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to fostering the literary tradition in Nebraska, reminding us of the literary and intellectual heritage that enriches our lives and molds our world. The Geske Award, presented to Pat Leach & "All About Books" is given to a Nebraska organization for exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, or literature in Nebraska. It commemorates Ms. Geske's passion for books, and was established in recognition of her contributions to the well-being of the libraries of Nebraska.

The Celebration of Nebraska Books is sponsored by Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Library Commission, with support from History Nebraska's Nebraska History Museum. Humanities Nebraska provides support for One Book One Nebraska. The Nebraska Center for the Book is housed at the Nebraska Library Commission and 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 supported by the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the Nebraska Library Commission.



2023-2024 Nebraska Golden Sower Nominees

Voting begins November 1, 2023 and ends April, 15 2024



Little Bluestem (formerly Picture Books)

Bathe the Cat by Alice B. McGinty, David Roberts, illustrator

Bear is a Bear by Jonathan Stutzman, Dan Santat (illustrator)

Chester Van Chime Who Forgot How to Rhyme by Avery Monsen Abby Hanton (illustrator)

Chez Bob by Bob Shea

Milo Imagines the World by Matt de la Peña, Christian Robinson (illustrator)

Knight Owl by Christopher Denise

Norman Didn't Do IT (Yes, He Did) by Ryan T. Higgins

Not Yeti by Kelly DiPucchio, Claire Keane (illustrator)

Something's Wrong: A Bear, A Hare and Some Underwear by Jory John, Erin Kraan (illustrator)

Time for Bed, Old House by Janet Costa Bates, A.G. Ford (illustrator)



Honeybee (formerly Chapter Books)

Across the Desert by Dusti Bowling

A Duet from Home by Karina Yan Glaser

Imaginary by Lee Bacon, Katy Wu (illustrator)

One Small Hope by Madelyn Rosenberg

A Place of Hang the Moon by Kate Albus

Rez Dogs by Joseph Bruchac

Six Feet Below by Ena Jones

Time Villains by Victor Piñeiro

What Comes Next by Rob Buyea

Willowdean by Katherine Applegate, Charles Santoso (illustrator)



Meadowlark (formerly novels)

Alone by Megan E. Freeman

Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston (Supernatural Investigations #1)

Daughters of the Deep by Rick Riordan

Fallout Spies, Superbombs and the Ultimate

Cold War Showdown by Steve Sheinkin

Paradise on Fire by Jewell Parker Rhodes

The Shape of Thunder by Jasmine Warga

Starfish by Lisa Fipps

Ten thousand Tries by Amy Makechnie

Too Bright to See by Kyle Lukoff

Year of the Reaper by Makiia Lucier

The Golden Sower website provides this information:

Nominee levels have new names! The Little Bluestem (picture book) category is primarily intended for grades K-2; Honeybee category (chapter books) for grades 3-5; and Meadowlark (novel category) for grades 6-8. In 2025-2026, we will be introducing a category intended for high school students. As long as a student has read four (4) books in a category, they are eligible to vote in that category. It is up to local adults to decide which books to use and how.

VOTING CRITERIA & GUIDELINES

- In order to qualify to vote, youth must read at least four titles on a specific list.
- Youth may choose to read and vote on more than one list if they complete the required number of titles.
- Youth may choose the best list suited for their interests and needs and are not required to vote based on their grade level.
- Schools and libraries should not require youth to read all nominees on a specific list or base awards or prizes on the number of titles completed. Reading choice fosters reading joy.
- Voting opens on November 1st and is open through April 15th each year. Votes submitted after the deadline may not be included in the total.
- Youth may only vote for one title per list.
- Youth may vote through their school, school library, home school, or public library.
- Adults in charge of tallying votes will:
 - Compile votes by their own chosen method. Paper ballots are available in the Golden Sower manual, but are not required to be used.
 - Total the votes for each individual title.
 - Submit each title total online through the Golden Sower website on behalf of program participants.
 - Only one submission per list is accepted for each school or library.
- Home Schools may submit their votes independently or through their public.

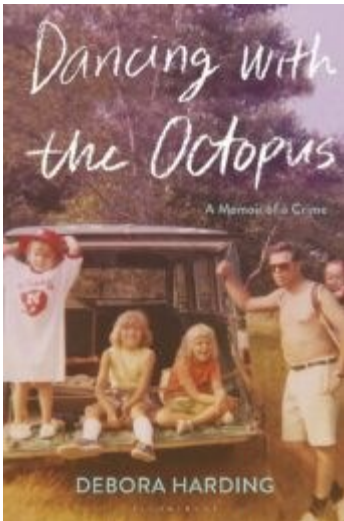
One Book One Nebraska ~ 2024

Celebrating 20 years of One Book One Nebraska

The 2024 selection is:

Dancing with the Octopus: A Memoir

By Debora Harding



2024 marks the twentieth year of the One Book One Nebraska reading program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book. It encourages Nebraskans across the state to read and discuss one book, chosen from books written by Nebraska authors or that have a Nebraska theme or setting.

Readers of *Educated* and *The Glass Castle*, will see similarities in *Dancing with the Octopus*, a harrowing, redemptive and profoundly inspiring memoir of childhood trauma and its long reach into adulthood.

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 will be available after **January 1, 2024** at <http://onebook.nebraska.gov>. 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 for Kids and Teens ~ 2024

Kids: *Parachute Kids* by Betty C. Tang

A middle-grade graphic novel that follows Feng-Li and her siblings as they navigate life alone in a new country. After a fun-filled vacation in California, Mom and Dad announce that the family is staying and enroll the children in school. When their parent's visas expire, the children are left in their rental house while their parents return to Taiwan to sort out a legal reentry to the United States.



Teens: *Between the Lines* by Nikki Grimes

This 2018 companion to Grimes' *Bronx Masquerade* combines verse and prose to explore the thoughts, feelings and struggles of a diverse class of poets as they for their school poetry slam. In addition to honing their writing skills, they find friendship and support in each other.

Western Library System New Book Titles

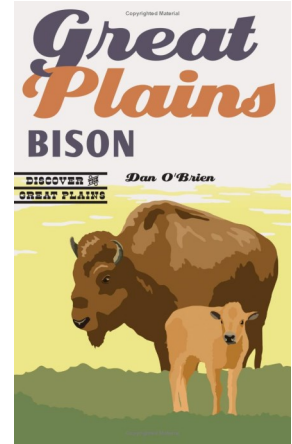
One Book One Nebraska 2024 *Dancing with the Octopus* by Deborah Harding, 2020 (10 copies)

Strangers on a Train by Patricia Highsmith, 2001 (5 copies)

Nebraska Public Media contributed Great Plains Bison bookkits to each of the four Regional Library Systems and the Nebraska Library Commission. This kit is inspired by Ken Burns's documentary *American Buffalo* which premiered October 16 and 17. The documentary is based on the Dan O'Brien book *Great Plains Bison* (published by University of Nebraska Press) with the short film "Seed Warriors" by Rebekka Schlichting. It is directed and executive produced by Ken Burns, written by Dayton Duncan, and produced by Julie Dunfey and Burns. (see page 27 for more details)

- 10 copies of *Great Plains Bison*; these will have information on the inside cover with the URL/website to direct people how to download resources and watch the film.

Contact the Western Library System if you would like to check out items from the collection.



Nebraska Library Commission New Book Kits in Spanish

The Nebraska Library Commission is pleased to announce the addition of Book Club Kits in Spanish to their collection. Book Club Kits must be requested by a librarian.

Title in Spanish	Number of Pages	Age Range	Number of Copies	Title in English
ANNE FRANK DIARIO	384	13 years and up	10	Anne Frank Diary
CALLING THE DOVES	32	6 - 10 years	5	Calling the Doves
CHARLIE Y LA FABRICA DE CHOCOLATE	200	8 - 12 years	5	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
DONDE VIVEN LOS MONSTRUOS	Not listed	2 - 5 years	5	Where the Wild Things Are
EL CAPITAN CALZONCILLOS	208	7 years and up	5	#12 Captain Underpants
EL COLOR DE MIS PALABRAS	107	10 - 13 years	5	The color of My Words
EL CONEJITO KNUFFLE	40	3 - 5 years	5	Knuffle Bunny
EL CUENTO DE FERDINANDO POR MUNRO LEAF	70	4 - 7 years	5	The Story of Ferdinand
EL PRODIGIOSO VIAJE DE EDWARD TULANE	192	8 - 12 years	5	Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane
ERES TU MI MAMMA	72	3 - 7 years	5	Are you My Mother
GRACIAS OMU	40	4 - 8 years	5	Thank You Omu
LA SILLA DE PEDRO	40	3 - 7 years	5	Peter's Chair

Money for You or Your Library from the Western Library System

All member libraries and staff are eligible.

- Eligible requests include: Dues for library association membership; registrations and travel expenses for conferences, workshops and presenters.
- Up to \$300.00 per person or library every two years.
- More than one person in a library can apply if applying for their own professional development.
- Scholarship recipients will provide a brief article for the Western Library System's Western Sun within a month of completion of the activities.

Complete the [online application](#), email or mail the office with the following information.

Name:

Library:

Money will be for: (include dates, location and title for conferences and workshops)

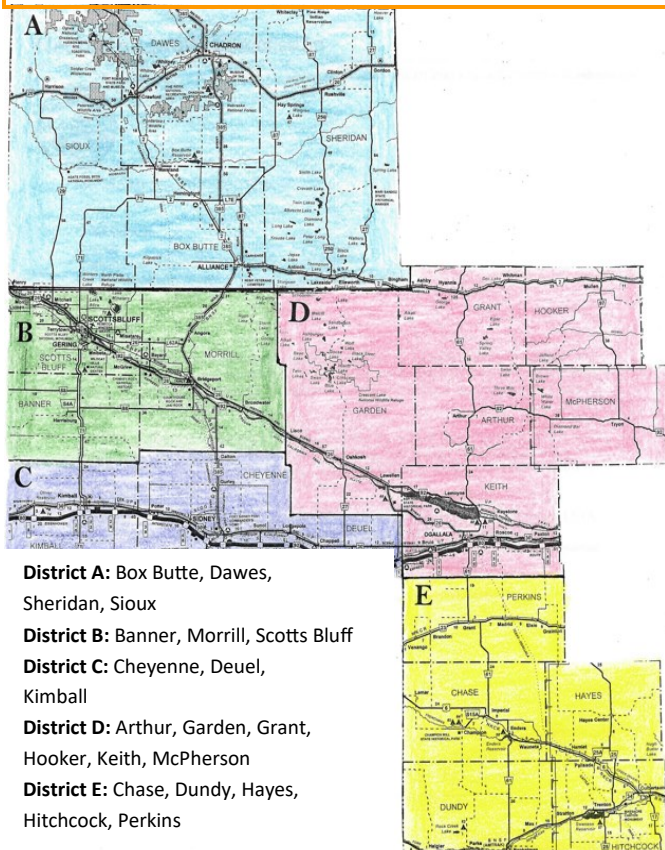
Benefit to your library or to you:

Amount requested:

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



Western Library System Board



The Western Library System Board represents geographical areas, school, public, and academic/special libraries of 21 counties of the State. The Board serves a three year term and can serve two terms.

Here are the 2023/2024 Board members and their representative area.

Amber Sweetland, District C

Becky Henkel, At Large

Beth Falla, District E

Cheryl Hamilton, Academic/Special

Elaine Lake, Public Library

Ethan Nelson, District B

Jennifer Holthus, District B

Judy Starke, School Library

Rossella Tesch, District A

Sarah Alfred, Public Library

Sharon Schluterbusch, School Library

Western Library System Resources



The Western Library System has a binding repair machine that fixes 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. You make your own repairs. The office offers print and YouTube instructions for this self-service. Call the office for an appointment.



The Eco Autosmart Repair System is a full service machine, not just a buffer. It cleans and repairs your valuable discs. The machine repairs scratched (not cracked) discs. The office will repair your discs for you. Bring your items to the office or mail them to us.

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