

THE WESTERN SUN

Trailblazing and Influential Librarians and Institutions

The Western Sun's front page articles in 2024 will highlight influential leaders and institutions of our esteemed library profession. Issues will feature trailblazers and leaders from the past to modern-day or libraries as an institution.

Libraries Role in Science, Mathematics and Cultural Ideas and Innovations

According to the "Development of Libraries in the Ancient World" article in Encyclopedia.com, Libraries are institutions designed to preserve records, written material, legends and literature. They preserve the history of time and place as well as the intellectual activity, discoveries and innovative ideas, within a culture. The first libraries of the western world were collections of literature, commentaries, records and speculations on the way the world worked. Many of these institutions also encouraged scientific investigations, new ideas and innovative methods understanding the world. "

One of the leading examples is the Alexandria Museum, founded by Alexander the Great (356-332 B.C.). The library was an integral part of the museum. The museum was created for scientific research and teaching and the library supported these objectives. The library purchased all the research scrolls and made them available to the scholars of the day.

The scholars, who studied and researched or taught at the Alexandria Library and their areas of expertise include:

- ◆ Erasistratus, an assistant of Herophilus, the founder of the school of anatomy in Alexandria,
- ◆ Euclid, the "Father of Geometry" worked and taught. He wrote several sections of the Elements, which includes proof of the Pythagorean Theorem.
- ◆ Archimedes known for discovering the basic laws of hydrostatics and the inventor of the Archimedean Screw , a hydraulic tool.
- ◆ Eratosthenes, a librarian at Alexandria, was the first person to calculate the earth's circumference and devised the sieve of Eratosthenes, a method for finding prime numbers .
- ◆ Ptolemy studied at Alexandria and is considered the greatest astronomer of the 2nd Century, A.D.
- ◆ Hypatia, the daughter of Theon, the final director /librarian of the Museum is known as the first woman scientist. Theon tutored her in the "sciences" of the day, mathematics, astronomy and philosophy. She was a charismatic teacher known for her ability to explain complex scientific concepts in easy to understand terms. Hypatia gained widespread influence despite her Neoplatonism beliefs and being a woman.



In this painting, Hypatia is shown teaching at the Museum of Alexandria, which was kind of like a university that included many schools and the great library of Alexandria.
PHOTOGRAPH BY NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY / SCIENCE SOURCE

Mark Your Calendar

January: National Braille Literacy Month, see page 13 for information on the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service.

January 9: Western Library System Board Meeting; 10:00 Riverside Business Plaza and Zoom

January 19-22: LibX, American Library Association, Baltimore

February 21: Western Library System Summer Reading Workshop, Kathleen Lute Public Library, Ogallala (page 16)

February 23: Big Talk for Small Libraries, Nebraska Library Commission and Association of Rural and Small Libraries (page 15)

March 5: Western Library System Summer Reading Workshop, Alliance Public Library (page 16)

March 12: Western Library System Board Meeting; 10:00 Riverside Business Plaza and Zoom

April 3 –5: Public Library Association Conference, Columbus, Ohio

April 7 - 13: National Library Week

May 8-10: Mountain Plains Library Association Conference, Salt Lake City

Policy Power

The 2024 issues of the Western Sun will feature the foundations of libraries and the power of core values, mission statements and policies that support and protect the institution.

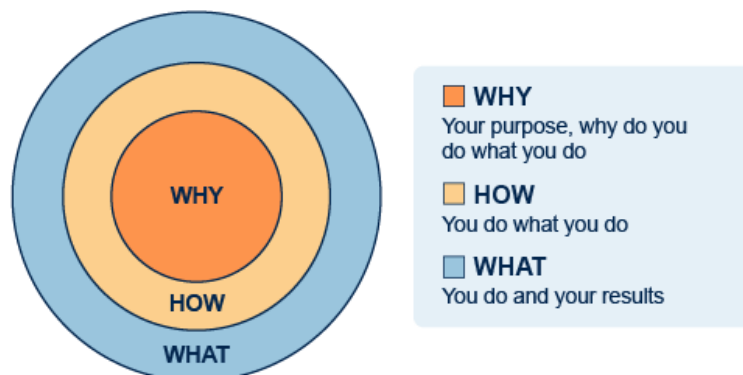
Core Values

Whether you work in a school, college or for a city or village or city, it is imperative to know your core values, mission and vision. These may be formally written in your policies or "understood." When school or municipalities have core values, the libraries must align with those values, too.

Core values, mission and vision statements are the foundation that establishes why entities exist.

In his book *Start with Why*, Simon Sinek presents the Golden Circle. He bases his theory on scientific and behavioral data. The center of the Golden Circle is the why. Which are the core values.

What's our Why



In terms of companies for profit, he provides the example of Creative Technologies versus Apple. Creative Technologies marketed their 'what' "5GB mp3 player" while Apple marketed their why, the iPod is "1000 songs in your pocket." It was Apple's why that persuaded customers that they "needed" to buy the iPod.

For non-profits, knowing and being able to explain their core values or their why is valuable for governmental funding, grants, and discussions of whether certain books should be in your library, etc.

Organizations and libraries are well served to have written or easily explained core values to ensure your community knows your values as well. The Core Values need to match your community. The recommended level for written material for the general public is between the sixth and eighth grade. It is important to avoid library terminology or current buzz words when possible.

Explore other corporations or libraries core values . It will provide insight when reviewing or developing your own. Libraries core values range from bullet points to detailed descriptions of each value. Here are a few samples.

This is a list of the American Library Association’s core values. Their [website](#) provides an explanation of each.

Access	Public Good
Confidentiality	Preservation
Democracy	Professionalism
Diversity	Service
Education and Lifelong Learning	Social Responsibility
Intellectual Freedom	Sustainability

The American Association of School Libraries’ core values [are simply](#).

- ◆ Learning
- ◆ Innovation
- ◆ Equity, Diversity, Inclusion
- ◆ Intellectual Freedom
- ◆ Collaboration

The Core Values for Whole Foods:

Whole Foods provides their core values along with details for each. Here are the main topics.

- We sell the highest quality natural and organic foods
- We satisfy and delight our customers
- We promote team member growth and happiness
- We practice win-win partnerships with our suppliers
- We create profits and prosperity
- We care about our community and the environment

Omaha Public Library offers:

Our Core Values

- ◆ **Service Excellence**
We provide positive and welcoming experiences to everyone, both online and in person.
- ◆ **Integrity**
We are a trusted resource for our communities. We take pride in our commitment to honesty and transparency.
- ◆ **Innovation**
We continually seek new and better ways to serve our communities. We anticipate change and respond quickly.
- ◆ **Community Engagement**
We are an integral part of the communities we serve. We seek and nurture relationships with other organizations to develop partnerships that move Omaha forward.
- ◆ **Equal and Inclusive Access**
We are free and open to all. We provide programs, services and resources that represent diverse viewpoints, and ensure equitable access to everyone.
- ◆ **Staff Talent**
We recognize our staff as our greatest resource. We are passionate about our work, we have fun, and we work together as a team. We trust each other and respect diverse ideas.

The March-April issue will feature the “How” in the Golden Circle - our Mission and Vision Statements.

Celebrations and Milestones

Rob-See-Co Rural Library Grant Awarded to Gering Public Library

Rob-See-Co, an independent seed company located in Elkhorn, Nebraska announced the inaugural recipients of the Agnes Robinson Rural Library Grant program. This program was established in recognition of the company’s 10th anniversary and Agnes Robinson’s hard work and devotion to the rural library in Waterloo, Nebraska. Agnes was the grandmother of the current CEO, Rob Robinson. According to the press release, “The response to this grant has been astounding and it was very difficult to select the grantees,” said Rob Robinson, Chief Executive Officer at Rob-See-Co. “We did not realize the extent to which so many rural libraries need funding.” These grants represent our commitment to our dealers, growers, and communities while honoring my family and the history of Rob-See-Co. We were thrilled to establish this grant and are elated we can have an impact on these rural libraries.” 570 applications were received from rural libraries across the Rob-See-Co market area requesting a total of \$825,754 for projects ranging from additional books and upgraded computers to renovations. A total of \$10,000, in honor of the 10th anniversary, was awarded to 20 rural libraries in eleven states.



Winners of the Prairie Stem Kits

[STEM Kits](#) | [STEM at Home](#) | [Omaha, NE](#) | [Prairie STEM](#)

“Prairie STEM is an education-based 501(c)3 non-profit focused on improving critical thinking and creativity in all PK-12 students. Using STEM and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) integration combined with teacher professional development, students are empowered to understand their greatest value.” Prairie Stem graciously donated stem kits to libraries in Nebraska through a drawing. The following libraries in the Western Library System won kits. The company offers kits to libraries for a reasonable price.

Library Name	Winning Kit
Broadwater Public Library	Quick Escape Challenge
Chadron Public Library	Blood Model Innovation
Gordon City Library	Toothpaste Challenge
Hemingford Public Library	Design a Glider
Kimball Public Library	Cell Building Innovation
Mitchell Public Library	Toothpaste Challenge
Mullen Public Schools	Blood Model Innovation
Nancy Fawcett Memorial Library	Environmental Challenge
Potter Public Library	Pendulum Painting
Wauneta Public Library	Environmental Challenge

Sherry Preston—Gering Public Library

Congratulations go to Sherry Preston who received her Masters in Library and Informational Studies from the University of Wisconsin at Madison on December 17, 2023.

Around the Sun

Wauneta Public Library—Amanda Ziegler

Santa Saturday @ the Wauneta Public Library would like to thank the community for their participation in our Santa Saturday event held December 2nd. Our turn-out was nothing short of amazing. We welcomed 91 guests and 16 volunteers for a grand total of 107 patrons from not only Wauneta, but Imperial, Palisade, Hayes, Grant and McCook! We certainly could not have done this without our board members and volunteers. Mrs. Donna Applegarth, Lindsay Anderson, Joyce Bley, Sharon Haarberg, Denise Krausnick, Jennifer DeWester, Lindsay Acton, Gypsy Emerick, Larry Ziegler, & Wauneta-Palisade cheer and guests ~ we couldn't have done it without you!

Our crafts were fun and entertaining, the hot cocoa and cookies were a hit, and our letters to Santa and Santa Express mailbox have worked their magic! 25 littles wrote to Santa and he replied to everyone who placed their letter in the Santa Express mailbox!

We also held several contests, and the winners took home brand new Christmas books amongst other goodies!





Gering Public Library - Christie Clarke

The Western Sun thanks NSpire Today for allowing the reprint of this article.

Enjoying her dream job

NSpire Today!

December 2023

Irene North Feature Writer and Photographer

Gering Public Library director Christie Clarke is living her dream. After moving to the valley more than a decade ago, the library became her second home where she gets to share her love of books with patrons every day.



Christie takes a break in the teen section to read her favorite book, "The Hobbit"

Christie Clarke is always surrounded by books. Her job is the pinnacle of a dream and something she can't imagine ever doing without. It's a long way from her home in North Carolina, but it's a life she wouldn't trade for anything.

Clarke moved to Nebraska in 2009 and began working at the Gering Public Library in August 2010. She had been a teacher for 15 years in South Carolina as well as in her home state of North Carolina. She moved to Nebraska because her ex-husband was from the area. They hoped to patch things up in the marriages, but the relationship didn't work out.

"We realized it was not going to work, and I needed to figure out what I was going to do with my life," she said. "I was single, and I had three kids."

Although she made the decision for herself, she also considered what her children would face if they moved again.

"I had already dragged them halfway across the county," she said. "It was a little traumatic for my daughter who was a sophomore at the time, and I felt it was best for kids to stay and remain stable."

It was one of the best decisions she ever made. When she first moved to the area, she settled in Minatare. She had looked into getting her teachers license in the state, but there was one thing that made her decide against it. "It made me angry," she said. "I had taught for 14 years without a blemish on my record and Nebraska wanted me to take a class on how to get along with my co-workers."

Clarke was looking through the want ads in the newspaper and saw an advertisement for a part-time position as a library assistant at the Gering Public Library. She had always wanted to work in a library.

"It was exactly what I needed at the time for my soul," she said. "It was peaceful and wonderful, and the community was welcoming."

"Clarke has always enjoyed interacting with people, and her love of reading and books made the position the ideal place to be as she began her second career.

Once Clarke settled into her new position and settled into the area, she discovered she loved the area. Whenever she speaks of what it's like to live in Gering, her eyes light up and she can quickly count the many things she loves about living here.

"I am a total Southern girl at heart, but I love this area in the Panhandle," she said. "Geographically, it's beautiful." She remained a part-time employee of the library until 2012, when she applied to be the library's public services librarian. In 2013, Beth Trupp retired as the youth services librarian and Clarke stepped into that position.

"It was a dream come true," she said. "I loved it and it was everything I wanted."

By 2017, her children were grown, and she continued to love her position, but in the library world in order to move into a higher position and receive a higher salary, one needed more education. She returned to graduate school to study library science.

"I had said to myself, 'Never in a million years would I go back to school,'" she said. "But after I went to a library conference and learned about a hybrid program at Emporia State, I decided to go.

The program was conducted part in-person and part online.

"I was old school and needed to be there in person," she said. "It helped me a lot."

She completed her master's degree in 2019. The hybrid program no longer exists. After Covid, society shifted to accepting online only education, but Clarke still recognizes the value of in-person education.

"I understand what kids were going through during Covid," she said.

When the pandemic arrived, her job also became more complicated. There were new protocols and restrictions to follow. It was a difficult time, but library staff accommodated the needs of its patrons as best as they could. After businesses and organizations were allowed to let customers back in, Diane Downer decided it was time to retire as the director of the library.

Clarke had decisions to make. Would she leave Gering since she had her master's degree. Would she apply for the director position? Would she remain in the area at all? She made her decision to stay and applied for the director's position at the library.

She knows she could go anywhere else to apply to be the director.

"I always felt I would love to reach that goal to be the director here," she said. "This is the only library I have ever worked at, and I felt like it was meant to be.

The position is the pinnacle of the library world, but Gering Public Library is also home.

"I've been here a long time and I know the community and I really wanted this," she said.

She loves learning about the history of the area, spending time in her community and her patrons.

North Carolina and South Carolina are steeped in history, but they don't have anything to do with the Oregon Trail, which Clarke adores learning about. She also fell in love with rural life. She can't imagine spending time in a big city anymore"

When I got here and learned about Minatare and Bayard and McGrew, I was like, 'Wowza,'" she said. "So, I did have a bit of culture shock."

She found it interesting how schools were run as well. It wasn't on a county-wide basis, as she was used to. "I was shocked that students can change schools at will, she said. Where I'm from, the population is so dense, that's not possible." "When you live in a place which is not inundated with people, you have more options," she said. "I was not used to that, but I liked it." she said.

She looks forward each day to seeing her two cats and often babysits her son's dog. He works long hours and you can't put a dog in a kennel for long hours," she said. Here smile reveals she enjoys having the dog with her, where he can run and play with Clarke, her boyfriend and the cats.

She is close to her children and their families. Two live in the valley and one lives in Chadron. She also has a two-year-old granddaughter.

"I get to see her a lot, and I am thankful I live in the same area as her", she said. Her family also has a tradition, which has helped them remain close-knit over the years.

"We get together every Thursday for family dinner night and go to a different house each week.," she said. "That is one of my highlights of life and I love that we do that."

When she's not at work or with her family, Clarke enjoys being at home and hanging out with her boyfriend.

"We enjoy pursuing things like visiting museums," she said. "Our first date was at the Legacy of the Plains Museum."

You can find her supporting the community in a variety of ways. She frequently attends local events such as Oregon Trail Days and Gering's downtown bash.

"I find the ones I am interested in and go to them." "I love our local events and businesses and go to support them."

Clarke finds the many historical events in Western Nebraska a lot of fun, but she's also not adverse to taking a trip to Fort Collins, Colorado or Cheyenne, Wyoming, to do some shopping.

"I don't do big, exciting things, but I like to get together with friends," she said.

She also enjoys a good science fiction show. Currently, she and her boyfriend are on their third and second viewing, respectively, of the TV show "Supernatural." The show ended its 15-year run in 2020 with 327 episodes.

"I am perfectly willing to wear the badge of honor of 'nerd.' She said.

If Clarke isn't working or hanging out with friends and family, you'll likely find her with a book in her hand. She was an avid reader until she went to graduate school.

"Grad school changed things," she said. "When you're forced to read, it loses its luster and I am just now getting back to reading for me."

One thing graduate school taught her was the types of books that used to appeal to her no longer do. She reads a lot more non-fiction today.

"I like to read on topics that interest me," she said. I am a lot more discerning on what I choose to read."

Clarke has fallen in love with memoirs, but the length of "Far From the Tree" gave her a moment of pause.

"It is an amazing book and gives you a look into their world," she said.

She smiles widely just before she begins talking about how fantastic reading can be.

"It gives you insights into other people and cultures, and you get to step out of your world," she said.

Her continued enjoyment of reading comes from the model her parents set up for her as a child. Her home was filled with books and she was encouraged to read. Her allowance often went toward Nancy Drew books. When her classroom's order of Scholastic Books arrived, she always had something to read.

"I would get so excited when the Scholastic box arrived," she said. "Strangely, I was not an avid user of the library, probably because I was fortunate enough to receive them."

Clarke never took for granted that she was able to read what she enjoyed and has always kept that in mind at the Gering Public Library. Hundreds of children have passed through its doors during Clarke's tenure and she wants everyone to be able to read a book they love like she did as a child. Her all-time favorite book, "The Hobbit" was given to her by an uncle, who was a high school English teacher known as "Lord English"

"I read it until the hard cover came off, and I had to buy a new one," she said.

Her adopted home has shown her many great things. She has excelled in her second career where three of her employees are in graduate school studying Library Science. She continues to learn the history of the Great Plains. She appreciates every patron who walks through the library's doors. She found love, a community and a place she can't imagine ever leaving.

After her graduate school reading experience, Clarke has one piece of advice to anyone reading a book who has the feeling they started it, so they must finish it. It's also practical advice for any part of life.

"It used to be me against the book, and I wasn't going to let it beat me," she said. "I came to the conclusion that life is too short to suffer through a book you don't like.



Pictures from left to right::

- ◇ Christie is dressed in period costume to teach local children about toys from long ago at Kinder Days at the Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering
- ◇ Hayley Grams, youth services library assistant and Christie review a new children’s book about frogs.
- ◇ Christie reshelves a book in the stacks at the library.



Reports from libraries who celebrated the inaugural Nebraska Library Week

Lied Scottsbluff Public Library ~ Ethan Nelson, Library Assistant

Nebraska Library Week happily coincided with our busiest week of programming in November at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library. On Monday, November 13th we held our first Monday Movie Night at the library, which will continue on the second Monday of every month. Then, on Tuesday our Fiber Arts Club met in the library’s cozy fireplace area to work on different types of knitting, sewing, and crocheting projects. The Novel Idea Book Club held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, where they discussed *The Christie Affair* by Nina de Gramont. On Thursday, the morning and evening preschool storytimes had a special Thanksgiving theme. And on Friday, we held “Art in the Dark,” a glow in the dark painting class for teens. To close out Nebraska Library Week, we started our Holiday Tiny Art Show with a painting workshop on Saturday, November 18th. Our Board Game Club met later in the day for an afternoon of board games and snacks.

For special library week programming, we asked patrons to fill out postcards provided by the Nebraska Library Association and we displayed their messages on our lobby windows. The postcards allowed patrons to describe how the library helps them connect with other people and meaningful information. We then mailed the postcards with the patrons’ messages to the Nebraska Library Association. Patrons were also able to take Polaroid selfies with their favorite book in the library. We received 44 postcards and 9 Polaroids to display on the lobby windows. Patrons who signed up for their first library card during Nebraska Library Week received a free library mug. We gave out 15 mugs throughout the week. We also did some window painting on the library’s main entrance to advertise Nebraska Library Week

Overall, the inaugural Nebraska Library Week at Lied Scottsbluff Public Library successfully invited patrons and community members to think about how libraries help build and strengthen connections across the state. Through discussions, workshops, learning new skills, collaborating, and simply having fun and making new friends, our programs complemented Nebraska Library Week’s theme of “Connecting Communities” by giving patrons the opportunity to create new connections and strengthen existing relationships within their community.

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Kira Perez ~ Gering Public Library

To celebrate Nebraska Library Week, Gering Public Library hosted Dog Man Day on Saturday, November 18th! *Dog Man* fans of all ages were welcome to come. We had Evil Weenies Bowling, Draw Your Own Comic, Pin the Nose on Dog Man, Petey Puppets, an 80-HD Robot Creation Station, a button station, and a dog chow station! We also offered *Dog Man* trivia, the most popular event at the program. We had a great time celebrating Nebraska Library Week and *Dog Man* with our patrons!



Kira Perez ~ Gering Public Library

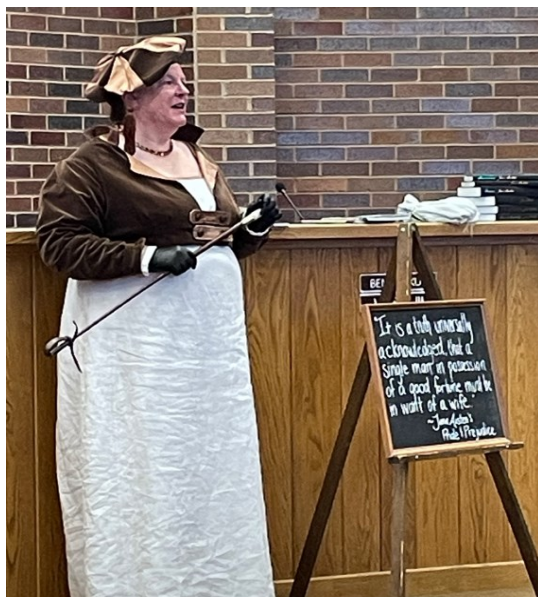


Sherry Preston ~ Gering Public Library

A Jane Austen Tea kicked off the inaugural Nebraska Library Week at the Gering Public Library. Mayor Kent Ewing was in attendance to read a proclamation about Nebraska Library Week, encouraging Gering citizens to visit their libraries and explore the wealth of resources available in our library.

Joining the celebration, The Friends of the Gering Library Annual Meeting was held the first Sunday of Nebraska Library Week. Fifty people came to City Hall to enjoy tea, crumpets, lemon curd and biscuits as well as other English treats.

The featured presenters were two members of the Jane Austen Society of North America, Wyoming Chapter who spoke about the life and writings of Miss Austen. Overheard: "This was lovely, and so interesting!" "It will be hard to beat this next year." Several people came dressed in regency costumes and six people joined the Gering Friends at the meeting.





National Book Awards ~ 2023

The National Book Awards ceremony on November 14th named the books indicated by the arrows as the winners among the five finalists in each category. Photo layout courtesy of the Star Herald, October 19, 2023. Arrows point to the winners.

FICTION	NONFICTION	POETRY	TRANSLATED LIT.	YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIT.
<p>'Chain-Gang All-Stars' By Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah</p>	<p>'The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of u.s. History' By Ned Blackhawk</p>	<p>'How to Communicate' By John Lee Clark</p>	<p>'Cursed Bunny' By Bora Chung, translated from Korean by Anton Hur</p>	<p>'Gather' By Kenneth M. Cadow</p>
<p>'Temple Folk' By Aaliyah Bilal</p>	<p>'Liliana's Invincible Summer: A Sister's Search for Justice' By Cristina Rivera Garza</p>	<p>'From unincorporated territory [amot]' By Craig Santos Perez</p>	<p>'Beyond the Door of No Return' By David Diop, translated from French by Sam Taylor</p>	<p>'Huda F Cares?' By Huda Fahmy</p>
<p>'This Other Eden' By Paul Harding</p>	<p>'Ordinary Notes' By Christina Sharpe</p>	<p>'Suddenly we' By Evie Shockley</p>	<p>'The Words That Remain' By Stênio Gardel, translated from Portuguese by Bruna Dantas Lobato</p>	<p>'Big' By Vashti Harrison</p>
<p>'The End of Drum-Time' By Hanna Pylväinen</p>	<p>'We Could Have Been Friends, My Father and I: A Palestinian Memoir' By Raja Shehadeh</p>	<p>'Tripas' By Brandon Som</p>	<p>'Abyss' By Pilar Quintana, translated from Spanish by Lisa Dillman</p>	<p>'The Lost Year' By Katherine Marsh</p>
<p>'Blackouts' By Justin Torres</p>	<p>'Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World' By John Vaillant</p>	<p>'From From' By Monica Youn</p>	<p>'On a Woman's Madness' By Astrid Roemer, translated from Dutch by Lucy Scott</p>	<p>'A First Time for Everything' By Dan Santat</p>

Featured Resource from the Nebraska Library Commission for Nebraska residents

Talking Books and Braille Service

Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service (TBBS) website describes the service. "TBBS is part of a nationwide network of cooperating libraries headed by the National Library Service (NLS), a division of the Library of Congress.

TBBS provides free audiobooks, audio magazines and Braille through the mail to individuals with a visual or physical condition, or a reading disability which limits use of regular print. Eligible individuals can also download books and magazines from BARD online. [Learn more about BARD.](#)

In our in-house sound studios, we also record and produce audiobooks and audio magazines from either Nebraska and regional authors or about Nebraska and the Great Plains. The recordings from our Nebraska Collection are made available for loan to our patrons.

How to Apply

Check if you are eligible for TBBS service. Service is free for eligible patrons

Complete an application form. Make sure it is signed by a doctor, optometrist, nurse, therapist, professional staff of a hospital or institution, a social worker, caseworker, rehabilitation counselor, or other certifying authority.

◇ When we receive your application at the library, we'll give you a call to set up service.

All materials are sent through the mail, no postage required. We'll send playback equipment, some books, and a welcome packet with large print catalogs and our policy information.

After you sign up, you will have the option of setting up an account to [download materials online through BARD.](#)

Featured Resource from the Nebraska Library Commission for Public Libraries

Questions or curiosities about Broadband? E-Rate? Filtering? Technology Equipment? The Western Library System office assists with the basics and contact information. For the details, the Nebraska Library Commission has experts who will answer your questions and /or can feed your curiosity.

Andrew "Sherm" Sherman at andrew.sherman@nebraska.gov; 402-471-4559 can assist you with questions such as:

1. Our technology equipment has not been updated in years, how do I know if it is still current?
2. We keep hearing about money for fiber to our community, where do we start?
3. Our village/city is resistant to fiber optics and concerned about the money. Who can help us prepare data and anecdotal support to present a case for fiber to our library and community.
4. We will be applying for E-rate, what filtering software will work? (see also Ncompass Live Webinar link below)
5. We have fiber connections and the library STILL has slow speeds.
- 6.

Christa Porter is the State authority on E-rate: christa.porter@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3107

If you are interested in other [Library Directors experiences](#) with fiber optics and broadband

Watch this inspiring [video](#) featuring two Western Library System Directors , **Amber Sweetland and Becky Henkel**, talking about bringing fiber to their libraries.

Christa and Sherm presented these informative Ncompass Live sessions on the subjects.

[NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech: Internet Filtering For E-Rate CIPA Compliance And](#)

July 26, 2023

[NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech: Secure Computers For Public Use](#)

June 28, 2023

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	2024 Dates
Ncompass Live: Meet the Nebraska Library Commission: Part 1	January 3
Ncompass Live: Meet the Nebraska Library Commission Part 2	January 10
NCompass Live: Auditing Library Websites	January 17
NCompass Live: Best New Teen Reads of 2023	January 24
NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech	January 31
NCompass Live: ConnectEd Nebraska: Bridging the Digital Divide through Innovative eduroam Expansion	February 14
NCompass Live: Using Creativity to Grow & Develop	February 21
Ncompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech	February 28

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 *NCampus*. 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. The courses for 2024 are listed on the next page.

Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians 2024 Schedule*

Class Dates	Class	Instructor	Registration Dates
open	Communication*	Self-paced	available any time
2/5 - 2/16	Customer Service*	-	1/2 - 1/26
3/4 - 3/15	Library Governance	-	1/29 - 2/26
3/18 - 3/29	Library Technology	-	2/12 - 3/8
4/1 - 4/30	Introduction to Cataloging (Organization of Materials)*	Self-paced	2/19 - 3/15
4/15 - 4/26	Library Finance	-	3/11 - 4/5
5/6 - 5/17	Intellectual Freedom / Core Values*	-	4/1 - 4/26
6/3 - 6/14	Readers' Advisory	-	4/29 - 5/24
7/1 - 7/12	Reference	-	5/27 - 6/21
7/22 - 8/2	Library Policy	-	6/17 - 7/12
8/12 - 8/23	Collection Management*	-	7/8 - 8/2
8/26 - 9/6	Programming & Outreach	-	7/22 - 8/16
9/16 - 9/27	Community & Library*	-	8/12 - 9/6
10/14 - 10/25	Management/Supervision	-	9/9 - 10/4
11/4 - 11/15	Leadership	-	9/23 - 10/18
12/2 - 12/13	Library Services to Children & Teens	-	10/21 - 11/15

(* Required Class)

Big Talk From Small Libraries

Small Libraries Doing Big Things!



Big Talk From Small Libraries 2024 will be held on Friday, February 23 between 7:45 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (Mountain Time) via the GoTo Webinar online meeting service. This annual training is developed by Christa Porter at the Nebraska Library Commission and co-sponsored by the Association of Rural and Small Libraries. Big Talk from Small Libraries is an informative, interesting way to receive your continuing education hours. Watch in real time or the recordings. Registration information will be available on the Nebraska Library Commission's website.

Registration for the 2024 workshops and additional information will be available in early January.

2024 SUMMER READING WORKSHOPS

9:30 AM Registration
10 AM to 1:30 PM
Wednesday, February 21
Kathleen Lute Public Library
Ogallala
(In-person)

Tuesday, March 5
Alliance Public Library
Alliance
(In-person, Virtual, Recorded)

Sally Snyder of the NLC
is bringing her children's book
recommendations for this year's theme:
Adventure Begins at Your Library!

Free lunch!
Collect 3.5 CE Credits!
And more!

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

Resources for Librarians and their Communities

Grant Opportunities

ALA invites library workers to apply for the fourth annual [Peggy Barber Tribute Grant](#), a programming grant named after the transformative ALA leader responsible for the creation of National Library Week and the Celebrity READ series.



Peggy Barber



The Peggy Barber Tribute Grant is an annual grant that recognizes, promotes, and supports meaningful programs in libraries that have limited and/or no access to budgetary support for programming. This grant aims to help ease budget challenges by annually awarding three libraries \$2,500 to support a proposed program, program series, or programming effort.

Applications for the award will be accepted from December 1, 2023, to February 1, 2024. Each year, the grant will focus on supporting a specific type of library programming. For the 2023–2024 cycle, libraries are invited to submit applications for a grant related to civic education.

Example proposals could include: a program focused on voting (i.e. a book discussion on the history of voting, a program to register voters, an event teaching patrons about voting rights); a program teaching media and/or information literacy skills to build an informed general public; a program relaying avenues for community advocacy, such as how to run for local office.

All library types — including public, academic, K-12, tribal and special libraries — in the U.S. or U.S. territories are eligible. Applicants must have a personal or institutional membership with either the American Library Association OR the Association for Rural & Small Libraries.

Last year's winners of the Peggy Barber Tribute Grant were Brookings (S.D.) Public Library, Gill Memorial Library (Paulsboro, N.J.) and Mount Kisco (N.Y.) Public Library. The awarded library programs focused on increasing library access for underserved community members.

Peggy Barber served as ALA's associate executive director of communications from 1970 to 2000. In that role, she established ALA's Public Information Office, Public Programs Office and the ALA Graphics department. After leaving ALA, she was a principal consultant with Library Communication Strategies and served as co-president of Friends of Libraries USA, now known as United for Libraries. She passed away in August 2019.

The Peggy Barber Tribute Grant was created with donations from Barber's friends and colleagues. To support the grant, make a contribution to the Peggy Barber tribute fund within ALA's Cultural Communities Fund.

CONNECT WITH NEBRASKA PUBLIC MEDIA

Nebraska Public Media established a family engagement pilot. Their description of this pilot is “The program is a bimonthly initiative to curate free, high quality family engagement resources and activities for regular family events. Our goal is to support Nebraska children, families, and caregivers learn and grow together. We are actively seeking library and community partners interested in piloting this program.”

Bimonthly the pilot provides:

- Event guide with learning goals that support intergenerational learning
- Suggested book list
- Electronic resources, games, and activity guides
- 30-minute Zoom training on upcoming themes

As a part of our family engagement pilot libraires are asked to track and share with us 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. With permission to share the photos on social media.
- Share the audience survey with attendees.
- Complete a short event report to share attendance numbers, feedback, and your favorite photo.

Here is the [resource page](#) for all the resources for children and their parents.

Contacts with this program:

Jessica Mitchell-McCollough, Director of Education
jmccollough@nebraskapublicmedia.org

Amy Cassner, Early Childhood Education Specialist
acassner@nebraskapublicmedia.org



The CLiC website announces their Virtual Winter Workshop

Why should you attend CLiC's Virtual Winter Workshop in February 2024, you might ask?

The session line-up is a smorgasbord of options for rural, small, and school libraries, (or any library, if we're being honest).

Thinking about the BIG PICTURE? You can attend:

- * "Finding Your Library's Core Values" with Nick McCarty-Daniels, Director of the Burlington, Colorado Public Library, or
- * "Moral Injury in Libraries: Strategies for Healing and Growth" with Alejandro Marquez of the Auraria Library.

If you're on the hunt for practical ideas you can implement right away, consider:

- * "The Power of Social Media for Rural Libraries" with Misti Anderson from the Silverton Public Library, or
- * "How Do I Build a Successful Spanish Collection at My Library?" with Carmen Zamarripa & Jorge Romero (Arapahoe Libraries & Denver Public Library).

Dates for Virtual Winter Workshop are Thursday, February 1, 2024, from 1-3:30 and Friday, February 2, 2024, from 9 – 3:00. [Registration](#) is open now. Convenience and great content for just \$25 *including* access to recordings for one year. Registration deadline is Friday, January 26, 2024.

Leap Day-February 29, 2024



“A Day Where
‘This Time Last Year’ and ‘This Time Next Year’
Does Not Apply”
Anonymous

According to the Forbes article on the “8 Scientific Facts Everyone Should Know About Leap Day” by Ethan Siegal, “Despite a bizarre historical origin and a series of urban legends surrounding it, Leap Day exists for scientific, not superstitious reasons.” The Gregorian calendar accounts for the extra time extraordinarily well. Leap Years occur every year that is divisible by 4 unless it’s also divisible by 100 but not 400.

Why Leap Day? It takes the earth 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 56 seconds to orbit the sun. For three years there are 365 days in the calendar. Every fourth year, February 29 accounts for the extra time.

Leap Day Traditions and Tidbits

- ◆ According to an old Irish legend, St. Brigid of Kildare entreated St. Patrick to allow women to propose to men “to keep things in balance.” St. Patrick allowed women the practice on Leap Day every four years.
- ◆ Irish monks brought the tradition to Scotland where Queen Margaret decreed that the women should wear a red petticoat when they proposed. She also added that if the man said no, the penalty would be a silk gown or 12 pairs of gloves along with a kiss.
- ◆ In Scotland it was considered unlucky to be born on Leap Day and in Greece it was unlucky to marry during a Leap Year.
- ◆ People born on Leap Day are called “leapers” or “leaplings.” The chances of this are about one in 1,461, and you qualify for membership in The Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies.

Celebrating Leap Day

In 2020, the Today Show compiled 29 things to do with your children on February 29th. Invite your patrons to leap into the library. Here are 15 of the 29 ideas to use for a library program.

1	Play leapfrog
2	Research the question "Why do we have a leap day?"
3	Make a time capsule. Seal it and label "Open on February 29, 2028"
4	Stargaze. In addition to learning about the Earth's orbit, learn about the stars.
5	Serve cupcakes in honor of the leapling birthdays.
6	Figure out everyone's ages in leap years
7	Watch the movie "Annie" "Leapin' Lizards" is the tie in to the movie
8	Jump Rope or hand clap to the rhyme. Leap year, leap year, when will you be? Every four years, then you'll see. You want more? We do too. How many more can you leap (or clap) to.
9	Make a frog mask. Here is a pattern from Kids Craft
10	Enjoy a paper worksheet maze of a frog trying to find his lily pad
11	Play a frog related board game, Frog Hoppers, Feed the Frog or Whack a Frog.
12	Practice your long jumps. Pretend you will be going to Paris for the 2024 Olympic Games this summer
13	Research animals that jump or pounce.
14	Have a scavenger hunt. Find 29 Leap-Day themed item
15	Adults only - At home at the end of the day prepare this special cocktail. The Today Show offered these details." In honor of February 29, John Griffin of Kitchen Riffs developed the Leap Year cocktail which he calls "delectable and martin- like. The drink is based on a 1928 recipe from renowned bartender Harry Craddock of The Savoy in London. Mr. Griffin adds, "Once you taste it, you probably won't wait four years for another."

A few books to celebrate Leap Day and Year

Children:

“Laughs and Giggles: Leap Year Jokes for Kids”, G. Nyla Phillips. Teacher Nyla Publishing, 2020.

“Notebook of Doom Series” Troy Cummings, Scholastic Press (2013-2018).

Alexander Bopp, the main character is a Leaping.

“Slacker” Gordon Korman, Scholastic (Series)

“Stink and the Freaky Frog Freakout” (Stink Moody Books) Megan McDonald, Candlewick Press, 2021. Stink was born on February 29.

Adults:

“Leap Years: Five Stories from Argentina” Rita Sturam Wirkala, All Bilingual Press, 2023

“Lucky Leap Day” Ann Marie Walker, Sourcebooks, 2022

Related leap day topics. Frogs, kangaroos and other leaping animals including:

Brown hares
Dolphin
Grasshoppers
Kangaroo rat
Mountain lion
Tree frog

Have a fun and memorable Leap Day 2024 or follow St. Brigid’s thinking and strive for balance!



2024 Training

Look forward to these trainings in 2024 and
MORE..

Details will be coming. All training qualifies
for continuing education credits.

Tuesday Training: Every third Tuesday
at 1:30 pm Mountain Time
Virtual and In-person

Topics to be covered:
Spring and Summer Accreditation
and Community Needs Response Plan
Collection Development Policy
Aesthetics and Merchandising

What topics would you like to see?
Contact the Western Library System Office
and let us know!

BOOK AND LITERACY FAIRS ~ 2024

[Publisher Archive](#) provided most of the content for this article. The Western Sun list features a small sample of the multitude of literary events. Your 2024 travel adventures may take you on the book festival circuit from Fort Collins to Abu Dhabi. The world of book and literacy fairs awaits you.

JANUARY

INTERNATIONAL KOLKATA BOOK FAIR: January 18 - January 31 Kolkata, India

SUNSHINE STATE BOOK FESTIVAL: January 26-27
Gainesville, Florida

FEBRUARY

FORT COLLINS BOOK FESTIVAL: February 1-February 19
Fort Collins, Colorado

TEEN BOOKFEST BY THE BAY: February 24
Corpus Christi, Texas

SHARP WORDS BOOK FAIR: February 24
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

MARCH

SCONE LITERARY FESTIVAL: March 9 - March 10
Scone, NSW Australia

TUCSON FESTIVAL OF BOOKS: March 9 - March 10
Tucson, Arizona

LONDON BOOK FAIR: March 12 - March 14
London, England UK

LEIPZIG BOOK FAIR: March 21-March 24
Leipzig, Germany

APRIL

PARIS BOOK FESTIVAL: April 12 - April 14
Paris, France

LOS ANGELES TIMES FESTIVAL OF BOOKS: April 20 - April 21 (Largest Book Festival)
Los Angeles, California

ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR: April 29 - May 05
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

MAY

FOREST OF READING FESTIVAL: May 14 - May 16
Toronto, Ontario Canada

INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL DUBLIN: May 17 - May 26
Dublin, Ireland

FRANSCHHOEK LITERARY FESTIVAL: May 17 - May 19
Western Cape, South Africa

MOUNTAIN WORDS FESTIVAL: May 24 - May 26
Crested Butte, Colorado

JUNE

IMAGINARIUM BOOK FESTIVAL: June 7 - June 8
Washington, DC US

SEOUL INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR: June 26 – June 30
Seoul, Korea

JULY

PENZANCE LITERARY FESTIVAL: July 3 – July 6
Cornwell, England

ORCAS ISLANDS LIT FEST: July (Date TBA)
Orcas Islands, Washington

AUGUST

NATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: August 24
Washington, D.C.

Moscow International Book Fair: August 30-September 3
Moscow, Russia

BUMBERSHOOT: August 31 - September 01
Seattle, Washington

MARTHA'S VINEYARD BOOK FESTIVAL: August (Dates TBA)
Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts

SEPTEMBER

BIENAL INTERNACIONAL DO LIVRO de São Paulo: September 15
São Paulo, Brazil

SOUTH DAKOTA FESTIVAL OF BOOKS: September 22-24
Deadwood, South Dakota

KANSAS BOOK FESTIVAL: September 28
Topeka, Kansas

INDONESIA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL: Late September – Early October (Dates TBA)
BSD City, Indonesia

NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR, Late September – Early October (Dates TBA)
Nairobi, Kenya

GOTHENBURG BOOK FAIR, September 26 – September 29
Gothenburg, Sweden

OCTOBER

LIBER, FERIA INTERNACIONAL del Libro: October 1- October 3
Madrid, Spain

FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR: October 16 – October 24
Frankfurt, Germany

HELSINKI BOOK FAIR: October 24 – October 27
Helsinki, Finland

IOWA CITY BOOK FESTIVAL: October (Dates TBA)
Iowa City, Iowa. Iowa City is a UNESCO City of Literature

MALTA BOOK FESTIVAL: October (Date TBA)
Ta' Qali, Malta

SOUTHERN FESTIVAL OF BOOKS: Late October (Dates TBA)
Nashville, Tennessee

NOVEMBER

SALON DU LIVRE DE MONTRÉAL, November 1 – November 30
Montréal, Canada

ISTANBUL BOOK FAIR, November 2 – November 10
Istanbul, Turkey

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR, November 23- November 27
Vienna Austria

GUADAJARA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR: November 30 – December 8
Guadalajara, Mexico

DECEMBER

KOCHI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL: December 1 – December 10
Kerala, India



Golden Sower Award

[The Golden Sower Awards website](#) describes the program with the following background.

On top of the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln, stands a 19,000-pound, bronze statue known as the **Sower**. He stands barefoot and without hat, sowing seeds. He is symbolic of the state of Nebraska as a major agricultural state. He is not merely sowing seeds of grain, but something much greater. He is the symbol of sowing the seeds of agriculture, life, hope and prosperity. The Sower, sculpted by Lee Lawrie, was chosen as the symbol of the Nebraska children's choice literary award for similar reasons.

The award's sponsor, Nebraska Library Association, hopes the program will sow seeds which:

- stimulate children's thinking
- introduce different types of literature
- encourage independent reading
- increase library skills
- foster an appreciation for excellence in writing and illustrating.

Whether student are seeking information or reading for pleasure, quality literature presented through the Nebraska Golden Sower Award program will enrich the lives of Nebraska's children and sow seeds of the future.



Voting for the Golden Sower award is open now through April 15, 2024. Visit the [voting page](#) to submit your selections for this year's award.

The 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. It is up to local adults to decide which books to use and how. As long as a student has read four (4) books in a category, they are eligible

Little Bluestem (Picture Book) Nominees



- Bathe the Cat** by Alice B. McGinty, illustrated by David Roberts
- Bear is a Bear** by Jonathan Stutzman, illustrated by Dan Santat
- Chester Van Chime Who Forgot How to Rhyme** by Avery Monsen, illustrated by Abby Hanlon
- Chez Bob** by Bob Shea, illustrated by the author
- Knight Owl** by Christopher Denise, illustrated by the author
- Milo Imagines the World** by Matt de la Peña, illustrated by Christian Robinson
- Norman Didn't Do It!: (Yes, He Did)** by Ryan T. Higgins, illustrated by the author
- Not Yeti** by Kelly DiPucchio, illustrated by Claire Keane, illustrated by the author
- Something's Wrong!: A Bear, A Hare, and Some Underwear** by Jory John, illustrated by Erin Kraan
- Time for Bed, Old House** by Janet Costa Bates, illustrated by A.G. Ford

Honeybee (Chapter Book) Nominees

- Bunnica: The Graphic Novel*** by James Howe and Andrew Donkin
Controlled Burn by Erin Soderberg Downing
Cress Watercress by Gregory Maguire, illustrated by David Litchfield
Finally Seen by Kelly Yang
Invisible by Christina Diaz Gonzales, illustrated by Gabriela Epstein
The Midnight Children by Dan Gemeinhart
Odder by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Charles Santoso
A Rover's Story by Jasmine Warga
Wayward Creatures by Dayna Lorentz
The Witchlings by Claribel A. Ortega

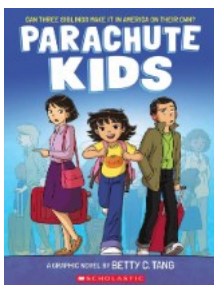


Meadowlark (Novel) Nominees



- Ain't Burned All the Bright*** by Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Jason Griffin
Attack of the Black Rectangles by A. S. King
Dear Mothman by Robin Gow
I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys
Lasagna Means I Love You by Kate O'Shaughnessy
Lines of Courage by Jennifer A. Nielsen
Miss Quinces by Kat Fajardo
Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy by Angie Thomas
Two Degrees by Alan Gratz
What Happened to Rachel Riley by Claire Swinarski

One Book For Nebraska Kids and Teens ~ 2024



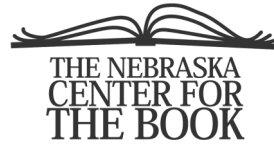
Kids: ***Parachute Kids*** by Betty C. Tang
 A middle-grade graphic novel that follows Feng-Li and her siblings as they navigate life alone in a new country. After a fun-filled vacation in California. Mom and Dad announce that the family is staying and enroll the children in school. When their parent's 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.

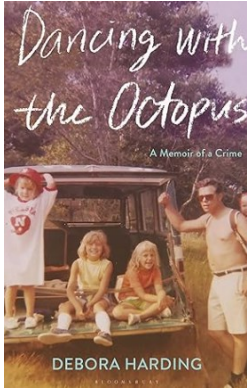




and the



2024 One Book One Nebraska *Dancing with the Octopus: A Memoir*



People across Nebraska are encouraged to read the work of a Nebraskan — and then talk about it with their friends and neighbors. *Dancing with the Octopus: A Memoir* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2020) by Debora Harding is the 2024 One Book One Nebraska selection.

For readers of *Educated* and *The Glass Castle*, a harrowing, redemptive and profoundly inspiring memoir of childhood trauma and its long reach into adulthood. One Omaha winter day in November 1978, when Debora Harding was just fourteen, she was abducted at knife point from a church parking lot. She was thrown into a van, assaulted, held for ransom, and then left to die as an ice storm descended over the city. Debora survived. She identified her attacker to the police and then returned to her teenage life in a dysfunctional home where she was expected to simply move on. Denial became the family coping strategy offered by her fun-loving, conflicted father and her cruelly resentful mother. It wasn't until decades later — when beset by the symptoms of PTSD— that Debora undertook a radical project: she met her childhood attacker face-to-face in prison and began to reconsider and reimagine his complex story. This was a quest for the truth that would threaten the lie at the heart of her family and with it the sacred bond that once saved her. Dexterously shifting between the past and present, Debora Harding untangles the incident of her kidnapping and escape from unexpected angles, offering a vivid, intimate portrait of one family's disintegration in the 1970s Midwest. Written with dark humor and the pacing of a thriller, *Dancing with the Octopus* is a literary tour de force and a groundbreaking narrative of reckoning, recovery, and the inexhaustible strength it takes to survive.

Debora Harding spent her childhood in the midwest prairie states of Nebraska and Iowa. At the age of nineteen she dropped out of university to work for Senator Gary Hart's presidential campaign, before relocating to Washington DC to run an environmental non-profit. Fed up with politics, she cycled across America where she met her English husband, author Thomas Harding. She then joined him in the UK and worked at an award-winning video production company that focused on the counter-culture protest movement in Europe. Later, she co-founded the UK's first local television station in Oxford and gave birth to two children, Kadian and Sam. Wanting the children to enjoy the great outdoors, the family moved back to the USA, and Debora trained as a restorative justice mediator and ran an independent bicycle business. She is now a full-time writer and activist, and splits her time between the UK and the US.

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. Updates and activity listings will be posted on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook page.

2024 will mark 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. The Nebraska Center for the Book invites recommendations for One Book One Nebraska book selection year-round .

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.

Bookkits for One Book ~ One Nebraska and One Book for Kids and Teens are available for check out from the Western Library System.

Check out the Great Plains Bison Book Club Kit created by Nebraska Public Media. The kit includes the cooks and downloads for the Seed Warrior video, discussion guide, recipes and more. Contact the Western Library System if you want to borrow the kit.

Nebraska Public Media
PBS npr

BOOK CLUB KIT

Great Plains BISON
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

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

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



SCAN ME

NebraskaPublicMedia.org/bookclub



Western Library System Board

The Western Library System Board is the governing body responsible for policies, budget and strategic planning. The Western Library System is divided into five geographical areas. Each area is represented on the board. Representation also includes library staff from academic/special, school, public libraries and interested citizens. Terms run for three years with a two-term limit. Elections are held annually for members who are seeking a second term or are term limited. Member libraries receive one vote, The board and officers are listed on the last page.

Board Meetings for 2024 are scheduled at 10:00 on:

January 9
March 12
May 14
July 9
September 10
November 12

Money for You or Your Library from the Western Library System money tree!

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 every two years. (More than one person in a library can apply if applying for their own professional development.)
- Up to \$300.00 per library for library events every two years.
- Scholarship recipients will provide a brief article for the Western Library System's Western Sun within a month of completion of the activities.

Complete this form and send or mail to the Western Library System. The Systems Scholarship/Awards committee will review the application and contact you.



Send all requests to: Western Library System
615 S. Beltline Hwy West
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Email: wls@westernlibrarysystem.com

In Memoriam

John Wheeler Hudson, faithful Library Assistant for twenty years at the Morrill Public Library, passed away on November 27, 2023. He served the community and the library patrons with modest passion and his organizational skills. He wore many Summer Reading program shirts over the years. In addition to his work at the library, he was a proud Veteran, who received a Quilt of Valor last August. The Western Library System honors and celebrates him. John's family designated the Morrill Public Library for those who want to donate in John's memory.



An Open House celebration of John's life will be held at the Morrill Public Library on February 4, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
119 E. Webster St. in Morrill.

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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."