

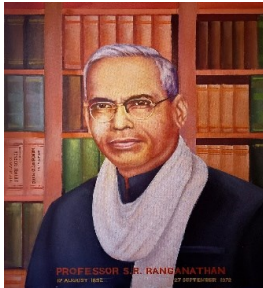
# THE WESTERN SUN

## Trailblazing and Influential Librarians and Institutions

Influential librarians who shaped the profession over the years include the well-known names of Melvil Dewey, Minnie Earl Sears who developed the Sears Subject Headings for small library collections and Charles Cutter. Librarians advancing the profession with their technology expertise include Jessamyn West, creator of Library 2.0 and Roy Tennant, owner of Web4Lib and worked with OCLC.

This Western Sun will focus on three influential librarians who have also fashioned the profession in momentous ways.

### S. R. Ranganathan



S. R. Ranganathan was a mathematician and librarian from India. He is considered to be the father of library science, documentation, and information science in India. His birthday is observed every year as the National Librarians Day in India. His most notable worldwide contribution to the field were his five laws of library science.

His laws were published in a book in 1931 that has been reprinted numerous times since 1931. Many librarians apply these laws as the foundation of the philosophy of their work and service in the library.

#### The Five Laws of Library Science:

1. Books are for use
2. Every reader his or her book
3. Every book its reader
4. Save the time of the reader
5. The library is a growing organism

One extensive summary of the laws was written by M.D. Ashikuzzaman on September 18, 2013 and updated on June 19, 2023. Here are excerpts from this paper.

**1. Books are for use:** The aim of the library is to ensure maximum use of reading materials. The first law is to be achieved through the following factors:

- Services, usages, and accessibility
- Publicity
- Building
- Equipment
- Open access
- Cooperation of library staff

**2. Every reader his/her books:** The library should amplify the user's demand and enhance the utility of book usage. The second law is to achieve by the following factors:

Books for all

- Book selection
- Inter-Library loan
- Catalogue or analytical entries
- Open Access

(Continued on page 3)

## Dates to Remember

**May 8-10:** [Mountain Plains Library Association Conference](#), Salt Lake City

**May 14:** Western Library System Board Meeting, 10:00 am

**June 10-11:** [Nebraska Future Ready Conference – In-Person and Virtual](#)

**June 27-July 2:** [American Library Association Annual Conference](#), San Diego

**July 30-August 1:** United For Libraries : Trustees, Friends, Foundations Virtual 2024

**August 5:** Western Library System Annual Meeting: Wildcat Hills Nature Center, 9:30 ~ 2:00

**August 29-30:** Nebraska Regional Library Systems Joint Youth Services Retreat, Camp Carol Joy Holling, Ashland

**October 7:** Author Tour 2024, William Kent Krueger, Midwest Theater, Scottsbluff, 7:00 pm

**October 8:** Author Tour 2024, William Kent Krueger, Kathleen Lute Public Library, 7:00 pm

**October 9-11:** [Nebraska Library Association Conference](#), Younes Conference Center, Kearney

# Policy Power

## Board of Directors/Trustees Codes of Ethics

Just as libraries and librarians have Codes of Ethics, the National Council of Nonprofits encourages boards to adopt a set of principles for decision making, activities and behavior. These principles are named referred to “codes of ethics” or statements of values” or similar names. This code provides a formal statement for making ethical choices, ensuring accountability and commitment to ethical behavior.

## Public Libraries

The American Library Association’s United for Libraries division provides a sample [code of ethics](#). Boards often adopt that code using their unique name and logo when applicable. Below is an example of a code using the United for Libraries document as a base. This may be addressing specific issues for the Board not needed for all Boards.

### (Board Name Ethics Policy)

#### Year

The \_\_\_\_\_ Board is dependent on the trust of its community to successfully achieve its mission. Therefore, it is crucial that all Board members conduct business on behalf of the \_\_\_\_\_ with the highest level of integrity, truth and honor, avoiding any impropriety.

## Guiding Principles:

Board members do not engage in discrimination of any kind including that based on race, class, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity, or belief system.

Board members do not use or attempt to use their position with the \_\_\_\_\_ to obtain unwarranted privileges or advantages for themselves or others.

Board members recuse themselves immediately whenever a conflict of interest arises.

Board members protect and uphold library patrons’ right to privacy in their use of the library’s resources, while being aware of and in compliance with applicable laws governing freedom of information.

Board members, in fulfilling their responsibilities to uphold the values of the public library, are not swayed by partisan interests, public pressure, or fear of criticism.

Board members must distinguish clearly in their actions and statements between their personal philosophy and attitudes and those of the \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledging the formal position of the Board even if they personally disagree.

## Compliance:

If any board member appears to be in conflict with the Guiding Principles above, he or she will be asked to meet with the executive committee to discuss the issue. The executive committee will make a recommendation to the full Board based on their findings.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Less common is an additional Oath of Office which is tailored for your community. It is signed when installed on the board and every year after that.

### Oath of Office

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do swear, affirm or swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of \_\_\_\_\_ and the laws of the State of \_\_\_\_\_, and will faithfully perform the duties of the office of \_\_\_\_\_ Board of Trustees upon which I am about to enter to the best of my ability.

### School Library Boards

School Boards are responsible for approving and supporting library policies have code of ethics, too.

The National School Boards Association Board endorses the following code for local school board members.

#### Code of Ethics for School Board Members

*As a member of my local Board of Education, I will strive to improve public education, and to that end I will:*

- Attend all regularly scheduled board meetings insofar as possible and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings;
- Recognize that I should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held board meetings;
- Render all decisions based on the available facts and my independent judgment and refuse to surrender that judgment to individuals or special-interest groups;
- Encourage the free expression of opinion by all board members and seek systematic communications between the board and students, staff and all elements of the community;
- Work with other board members to establish effective board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the superintendent;
- Communicate to other board members and the superintendent expression of public reaction to board policies and school programs;
- Inform myself about current educational issues by individual study and through participation in programs providing needed information, such as those sponsored by my state and national school boards association;
- Support the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff, and insist on a regular and impartial evaluation of all staff;
- Avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest;
- Take no private action that will compromise the board or administration and respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law; and
- Remember always that my first and greatest concern must be the educational welfare of the students attending the public schools.

### Influential Librarians (continued from page 1)

**3. Every Book its reader:** The third law, 'Every book its reader' acknowledges the duty of the librarian to bring the readers into contact with the books. The third law is to be achieved by the following factors:

- Proper cataloguing
- Book selection
- Publicity
- Open Access

**4. Save the time of the readers:** The methods of classification, cataloguing, issuing of books, proper shelving of books, etc., all play an important role in saving the time of the reader. This law is to be achieved by the following factors:

- Classification: (An aside: Libraries are choosing to use classification systems similar to a book-store model and finding this method works best for easy, open access and saves their time)
- Cataloguing
- Changing methods
- Shelving
- Open Access

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- Classification: (An aside: Libraries are choosing to use classification systems similar to a book-store model and finding this method works best for easy, open access and saves their time)
- Cataloguing
- Changing methods

**5. Library is a growing organism:** The library is an ever-expanding organization. The growth is of three kinds, and they are as follows:

- Growth in size
- Growth in the number of readers
- Growth in staff
- Growth in size

## Nancy Pearl



Nancy Pearl is a beloved writer, librarian and Seattle icon. In 1993, she became the executive director of the Washington Center for the Book at the Seattle Public Library and a rock star among librarians. She built a following by reviewing books on NPR's Morning Edition and won national recognition for her work. She also wrote the novel, "George and Lizzie" and the non-fiction series named; Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment and Reason. There is a children's and teens version titled Book Crush. She co-wrote The Writers Library containing interviews with twenty three American authors, including Michael Chabon, Jennifer Egan, Louise Erdrich, Richard Ford, Andrew Sean Greer, Viet Thanh Nguyen, and Donna Tartt.

In 2003, Accoutrements, makers of action and super-hero dolls, created a Nancy Pearl doll. Ms. Pearl was humbly honored. Yet she spoke of the of the profession, "The role of a librarian is to make sense of the world of information. If that's not a qualification for superhero-dom, what is?"

The following year, the Public Library Association Conference was held in Seattle. Librarians were excited to purchase a doll and have the box signed by Nancy Pearl. Ms. Pearl found humor in the shushing doll, even though she would never shush herself. She was pleased that the figure is holding a copy of one of her Book Lust editions.



In the fall of 2022, Sasquatch Books published Library Girl: How Nancy Pearl Became America's Most Celebrated Librarian, written by Karen Henry Clark and illustrated by Sheryl Murray.

The publisher describes Library Girl as the inspiring childhood story of how beloved librarian, author and Seattle icon, Nancy Pearl discovered her strengths and realized her passion. It is a loving tribute to the power books and librarians have to transform children's lives.

Nancy loved books and spent so much time in her school library that her grade school classmates teased her, calling her "library girl." When she discovers her neighborhood public library (in Detroit, Michigan) is open on Saturday, she begins the adventure of her lifetime.

There an inspiring librarian recognizes her abilities, recommends books that ignite her vivid imagination and provides experiences to bolster her burgeoning self-confidence.

This young girl grows up to become "America's Most Celebrated Librarian" devoting her life to talking about books up and down library aisles, on radio and television, at conferences and colleges around the world. Ultimately, she authors books about books, believing that reading allows people to find dreams of their own...with the turn of every page.

## Carla Hayden-Librarian of Congress

Upon Senate confirmation in 2016, Ms. Hayden achieved several “firsts”

- \* First woman Librarian of Congress
- \* First African American Librarian of Congress
- \* First professional librarian in that position in more than 60 years.

According to information supplied by the Library of Congress website. Her vision? Connecting all Americans to the Library of Congress, redefining and modernizing the Library’s mission: to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity. During her years of service she made the collections more accessible to the public and introduced the public to the many treasures of the Library.

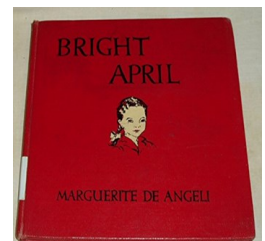


By investing in information technology infrastructure and digitization efforts, she has enabled the American people to explore, discover and engage with more with this treasure trove of America’s stories maintained by the Library of Congress,

During her first days at the position she discovered books in hundreds of languages; the papers of Rosa Parks, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sigmund Freud, 23 presidents, and 36 Supreme Court justices; the world’s largest comic book collection. A lock of Walt Whitman’s hair, a map used by Lewis and Clark on their westward expedition, the palm print of Amelia Earhart and boxes of Frederick Douglas’ documents.

As Hayden walked the aisles, taking it all in, she arrived at a set of boxes labeled “Frederick Douglass.” She got chills. Hayden reveres Douglass. His life, perhaps more than any other, testifies to the power of books and the life-giving force of literacy. She quotes him often: “Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.” Hayden asked the curator serving as her guide if she could have a look. Of course, the curator said. Hayden pulled a random file from one of the boxes and marveled at what she had found.

In 2017, Ms. Hayden was named by Time Magazine as a woman who is changing the world. She recounts one of her first library experiences when a librarian at the storefront branch across the street from her home introduced her to the book Bright April by Marquerite de Angeli. Ms. Hayden said, “I don’t remember who put that book in my hand, but somebody knew that a little girl who was brown and had pigtails needed a book that reflected her. ‘I saw myself in a book and that will never leave me.’ The book is still in print today with a newer cover.



Ms. Hayden’s work experience started as Library Associate in as storefront library in Chicago. She was inspired by the librarian’s storytime with black autistic children. She realized the potential held within every library. More than a book lender, the library could become a “quiet engine of betterment in the world, a source of water and light for undernourished communities.” From there she became a children’s librarian, Chicago Public Library Executive Director and Director of the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore. Along the way, she was a professor at a couple of ALA accredited library schools.

Of note during her career at Enoch Pratt was implementing free internet to users a first for libraries. Another monumental decision in 2015 was to keep the Pennsylvania branch open the day after the Freddie Gray protests. The branch was in the center of the violence. An article in the [University of Chicago News by Dylan Welsh](#) describes Ms. Hayden’s actions, “Hayden arrived at the library the next morning carrying fruit, flowers, coffee, Danish, cups, plates, and water. She praised the staff for their courage. Patrons went about their business. A man applied for a job and landed an interview. Groups of children entered, many hungry, as the schools where they ate breakfast and lunch were closed. Food donations rolled in; tutors showed up. Reporters arrived to charge their phones”

Effectiveness and charm are two traits widely acknowledged by those who know Hayden. “She is a constellation of talent, determination, grace, and experience,” says Betsy Hearne,. Hayden is soft-spoken, often reaching to touch those she knows on the upper arm in a warm, familial gesture. And she possesses a preternatural willpower, seemingly always capable of closing the gap between a vision and its realization.

## Celebrations and Milestones

Congratulations to the following libraries who received grants from the Nebraska Library Commission—2024

### Library Improvement

**Bayard Public Library**, Bayard NE

Grant Amount: \$4,609.00 Total Project: \$9,800.00

Bookcases

**Hastings Memorial Library**, Grant NE

Grant Amount: \$669.00 Total Project: \$1,074.00

Games and supplies to lend puzzles and board games

### Internship Grant

**Bayard Public Library**, Bayard NE

Grant Amount: \$1,000.00

**Nancy Fawcett Memorial Library**, Lodgepole NE

Grant Amount: \$1,000.00

**Palisade Public Library**, Palisade NE

Grant Amount: \$1,000.00

### Youth Grants in Excellence

**Bayard Public Library**, Bayard NE

Grant Amount: \$744.00 Total Project: \$930.00

Maker Space Adventures: Steam activities for the Summer Reading Program.

**Hastings Memorial Library**, Grant NE

Grant Amount: \$910.00 Total Project: \$1,137.00

The Great LEGO Reorganization Project.

## Recognitions



Just as these children and librarian show delight checking out a book, we are delighted to honor two librarians who have devoted their time and talents to the profession.

*Laurie Bauer*, Elementary School Library for the Bayard Public Schools and former Western Library System Board Member and

*Julie Kunzman*, Alliance Middle School Librarian

The Western Library System wishes Laurie and Julie all the best in the next chapter in their lives.

## Grant Opportunities

**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.

For this second round of CE Grants, we are accepting applications in three different areas: taking an online course, attending an out-of-state professional conference, and other larger continuing education projects for library staff or library board members. These courses/events/projects must be **after July 1st**.

### [Continuing Education and Training Grants 2024](#)

#### [Details and Applications](#)

**Applications and support forms are due May 10, 2024.**

For more details about this and other NLC grants, the NCompass Live archived session "NLC Grants for 2024" is also available. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact [Holli Duggan](#)

# Around the Sun

## Gering Public Library—Read With Jenna

Gering- Cover to Cover By Sherry Preston

*Read With Jenna donates 60 books to the Gering Library*

I got an interesting phone call on February 22. It was someone named Sasha calling from the Today Show. She told me NBC was celebrating the five year anniversary of their Read With Jenna bookclub. As part of the celebration, they were sending a complete set of books from the bookclub to one library in each state. She wanted to know if Gering Public Library would like a box of books.

How often do you get a phone call from New York City asking if you want free books? In my experience, more often than you would think. I decided if this was a scam they had nothing more than my work address. If it wasn't a scam, then someone was going to be sending us a box of great books!

Last week, I found a box on my desk with a return address of 30 Rockefeller Plaza. Yes, 30 Rock. Inside the box were 20 new books! Then later in the week we got two more boxes of books, totaling 60 as promised.

I was excited to see some wonderful books I have already read, as well as a number of books I have on my "To Be Read" pile (TBR). I've read nine of the 60, and I intend to read several more in the coming months.

Some of my faves include Amor Towles' "The Lincoln Highway" (I took a carload of fans to Omaha last fall to hear him speak at the Governor's Lecture for Humanities Nebraska). I love the depth Taylor Jenkins Reid writes into her characters, and "Malibu Rising" is no exception. Last month, one of my book groups enjoyed discussing "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt. Finally, Tom Hanks read the audio version of "The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett, and his voice made a great book even better. I recommend all of these authors.

On to my TBR pile. I've heard a lot about "Dear Edward" by Ann Napolitano, and I love reading historical novels set in Texas, like "Valentine" by Elizabeth Wetmore. I am always up for a fictional book set in New York City that doesn't include entitled 20-somethings, like "A Woman is No Man" by Etaf Rum. I also enjoy Donna Tartt, so I will add "The Secret History" to my pile. There are too many interesting books to list here, but you are welcome to stop by and peruse them.

Jenna Bush Hager's mother, Laura Bush, was a librarian. She promoted literacy throughout her time as the First Lady of Texas and continued to promote literacy as the First Lady of the United States. She passed along her love of books and reading to her daughter Jenna, who works for NBC's Today Show. Jenna started a bookclub segment on the Today Show, the Read With Jenna Bookclub #readwithjenna.

Jenna brings her life experiences and her personal insight to the club. Some of the books she has discussed are classics, like "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison, or popular authors like Kristin Hannah. Many are books by relatively new authors, like Charmaine Wilkerson or Thao Thai. Most of the books are written by women authors that represent a broad swath of humanity. I would be curious if any of you follow Read With Jenna, please let me know if you do.

You can find our unboxing video on Facebook, Instagram, and our YouTube page. The books that are already in our collection will become prizes for the adult summer reading program. But for the time being, they are in a huge stack on my desk, and you are welcome to come admire them. I'm a little embarrassed to admit it, but I also saved the address label.



### Quotes from Laura Bush

"Children who learn to read learn two things: First, that reading is worthwhile, and second, that they are worthwhile."

"Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open."

# Lied Imperial Public Library

## WORLD STORYTELLING DAY CELEBRATED AT PARKVIEW HEIGHTS

Taylor May | The Imperial Republican

Residents of Parkview Heights Assisted Living celebrated World Storytelling Day on Wednesday, March 20th. Lied Imperial Public Library librarian Beth Falla along with Library Board members Joan Wenzlick and Jan Graham joined residents on Wednesday morning with hopes of creating a digital record of the residents' stories. Falla said that the ultimate goal is to create a digital copy of the recordings to keep at the library and eventually have copies at the Chase County Historical Museum.

Residents told stories of their youth and memories that they have. Larry Schneider recalled always hoping for candy rather than apples or other healthy options when he knocked on each door on Halloween night. They talked about the games they would play at school—jacks, marbles and red rover. Bonnie Majors spoke of her time at the St. Paul Parochial School and the one room schoolhouse that sometimes held dozens of students at once. "It was crowded but we all liked each other." Many residents reminisced about the farm chores that they grew up doing. They talked about milking cows, hoeing the garden and gathering eggs.

Overall, Falla believes that the event was successful. She hopes to continue the project and would like to spend more time recording stories at Parkview.



Parkview Heights residents tell stories from their lives. From left to right: Donnabeth Ferrell, Ann Tuton, Wava Daschofsky, Kay Cheney and Carroll Greene.



Larry Schneider Jokes with fellow residents



Jan Graham listens as Bonnie Majors describes the farm chores that she used to do as a child.

### World Storytelling Day

World Storytelling Day is a global celebration of the art of oral storytelling. It is celebrated every year on March 20 to coincide with the spring equinox. The event started in Sweden as 'Alla Berratares Dag' in 1991. Since that time the World Storytelling Day reaches every continent except Antarctica.

Storytelling dates back to the stone age. Over the years cave paintings, drawings and messages have become a source of information. It serves as remnants of ancient knowledge that educates us about the past. With the advent of language, another form of storytelling was added. Each time the story was told, the art form of storytelling started to grow.

As the populations expanded and people started moving across borders, they carried their experiences in stories passed on from generation to generation and multiplied.

Besides true stories that contained experiences and information, people also created fictional stories. Listen for the four P's in the stories...people, place, plot, and purpose. The best, most impactful stories, fiction or non-fiction, combine these four elements.



## Scholarship Recipient ~ Davina Butler— Kimball Public Library

Davina Butler provides us with this delightful, insightful write-up of experience at the Nebraska Advocacy Days.

Thanks to the approval of the Scholarship Committee, I was able to travel from Kimball to Lincoln to attend the 2024 NLA Advocacy Day. This two-day event was to cover relevant information to all libraries; from controversies regarding book challenges to how we can advertise, form connections with those in the community to support our endeavors, and invite all to benefit from the services we offer. It was unifying to see that public libraries, school libraries, and academic libraries, all of which had representation at this conference, are experiencing many of the same triumphs and struggles. The director of the Kimball Public Library, Amber Sweetland, and I were able to collect several suggestions that we can adapt to fit our library. We are excited to share these ideas with the rest of our staff and brainstorm how we can best implement them.

We were helped to appreciate how we can improve some of our personal library advocating by presenting what we do in a more visual and personable way. Such as taking patron testimonies and sharing those with others (perhaps in a newsletter). Another was to make visual displays in our library or share it at board meetings or city meetings to depict the benefits that the library serves in our community. Facts are more fun and interesting when you make it into a colorful graph. Don't let the community forget that libraries are valuable and relevant. Instead of saying so many people visited the library in a year as a bullet point at a meeting, use a visual aid and relate how that compares to the size of a stadium. At the conference, they shared a statistic survey put out by the Nebraska Library Commission that is probably the most fun survey I have read; it implemented all of these suggestions. "Over 4.6 Million Nebraskans visited public libraries last year. That's more than 53 sell-outs at Memorial Stadium".

One of my favorite suggestions was advertising in bathroom stalls. You have a captive audience! Write about how awesome your library is and all of the things it is doing to benefit the community. Other suggestions included even something as simple as bookmarks, advertising for your services and programs. We all lead busy lives and many of us have short attention spans. So keep it brief, keep it relevant, and make it nice to look at.

Another reminder we get constantly is to go where the people are. It's invaluable for libraries to be involved in community events. You could make library card signups accessible to people that don't normally come to the library.

Share all of your offerings besides books. Libraries are awesome! Books are awesome too, but we do so much more than books! All of these were some helpful gleanings from Tuesday, Day 1.

The schedule for Wednesday slightly turned on its head. Something came up, so the presenters were unable to give their presentations. This last minute change came as a surprise but it freed up my schedule and gave me an opportunity to explore other ways to take advantage of the trip and best use my time in Lincoln for further professional development. Joann McManus helped me connect with Jeff Reif, the assistant director at the Nebraska Innovation Studio at the college campus in Lincoln, Nebraska.

A few years ago, many Nebraska libraries participated in the Innovation Studio Makerspace grant in conjunction with NLA and Innovation Studios in Lincoln. Through this grant, libraries were able to house a temporary travelling makerspace that included a host of new technology that we had never had access to before. In 2019, the Kimball Public Library received this grant and we were able to borrow a Laser Cutter, 3-D printer, sublimation and pigment printers, a heat press, vinyl cutter, sewing/embroidery machine, and so much more. The hope was to encourage Nebraska Libraries to consider developing their own permanent makerspace to encourage creativity and entrepreneurship in our communities. It was a huge success in Kimball and we have had our permanent makerspace for close to four years now. I was actually originally hired at the Library as an intern for this studio, and now I'm the Tech Librarian and have the privilege to maintain these machines and train our patrons on how to use them.

Presenter Vicki Wood made my favorite quote during her presentation "Understanding What's Really Behind Book Challenges and Bans". "In the pages of a book is the safest place to explore the human experience"

I felt very much like a kid in a candy shop when I met with Jerry at the studio. It has morphed and expanded since I visited it the first time back in 2019, and it was amazing to see what they have available both to their students and any in the community that join their membership. Included in their studio is a pottery room, textile room, sewing/embroidery/quilting room, woodworking shop, CNC routers, laser cutters, 3-D printers, robotics kits, and visions of expanding!

Our Makerspace has been an incredible addition to our Library, but it has not come without its challenges. Jerry generously shared his time to give me a personal tour of the studio and answer all of my many questions. I came out of that experience with tips on generating more support for our makerspace, and helpful advice on what to consider in improving and expanding our makerspace. He made suggestions on trustworthy brands, how to be cost-effective without being cheap, as well as hosting workshops to show the community what our makerspace can do and how easy our items are to use.

I am grateful that the committee approved this grant. To date, it proved to be the most valuable work event I have participated in. Even with some unexpected changes, I was able to adjust my plans and obtain a plethora of information that is so relevant to my everyday work and I'm so excited to put all of this information to the best use I can.

## Chappell Memorial Library and Art Gallery



### Chappell Memorial Library & Art Gallery hosting 'A Book Adventure Tasting'

The Chappell Friends of the Library invite the public to a tasting event based on the "Hannah Swensen Mystery Series" books. The event will be Saturday, April 13 at the library. Friday, March 29th 2024.

Francis Bacon once said, "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested." The Chappell Friends of the Library are inviting the public to taste recipes from a book series.

Helen Lechman, a member of the Chappell Friends of the Library, said "This author caught my interest, and I thought this would be a good moneymaker to have a tasting featuring her recipes because you're not

going to find them someplace else," said Helen Lechman, a member of the Friends of the Library.

The Friends of the Library are hosting a fundraiser tasting event 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 13. There will be breakfast, appetizers, entrees, desserts and cookies all based on recipes from the Hannah Swensen Mystery book series. A \$20 entry allows participants to try any and all of the recipes. There will also be door prizes throughout the event.

The event is designed to be fun and educational, and to encourage people to visit the library. Lechman said the Library has encountered expenses recently, and the fundraiser event is to support the library in purchasing new computers. The Hannah Swensen Mystery Series books are available at the Chappell library, for purchase at any book store or online.

## Elaine Bleisch ~Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

### Finding joy in a world of books

Reprint of an NSpire Today, April 2024, Courtesy of the publisher

By Irene North

Elaine Bleisch has always loved books and working with youth. As the youth services librarian at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library, she works to ensure everyone from birth to 18 has the right book at the right time to enrich their lives.

Elaine Bleisch isn't afraid of making herself look foolish. During a recent storytime at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library, she pulled out a tube of toothpaste and took the cap off.

"Do I eat it?" she said. The 95 children in the room responded with a resounding "no." She tried to put it on the ground, and the children again responded that isn't what you do with toothpaste. So she asked what she was supposed to do with it, and the children explained to her how to brush her teeth.

"I love how fun the little ones are because they like to laugh and giggle." She said.

"It's all part of another day as the youth services librarian. Bleisch enjoys storytime because it is a mixture of education and fun. Books are part of her life and have been since she was a little girl.

When Bleisch was in grade school, she was fascinated by books. She was also enthralled by the stamping of books when people checked them out. Physically stamping books is appealing to children, and Bleisch found the stamping and the noise it makes something she wanted to do for a living.

"I also wanted to be a teacher, do missionary work and be a UN translator even though I only speak one language," she said.

Bleisch lived in Scottsbluff until she was a sophomore in high school when her family moved to Alliance. She had attended St. Agnes in Scottsbluff and transferred to St. Agnes Academy where she graduated in the second to last senior class the school had.

"I feel like I got a good education here and not just in schools, but in the library," she said.

She was a quiet, young woman who received good grades and loved a good book, which helped her grow as a person.

"I discovered you can learn a lot about the world through books," she said. "Even the historical novels are well-researched."

She attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in English. It was a big change from small town Nebraska, but she never hesitated in taking on the challenge and a new experience.

"I loved it. It was huge and intimidating, but I went with friends," she said. "I would have stayed in Lincoln if I could have after graduation, but it was the early nineties and there weren't any jobs."

She was told not to pursue a degree in library science because there were no jobs in the field. She was disappointed because being a librarian was what she wanted to do since she was a little girl. She grew up surrounded by books at the library. She read a book a day and had read all the teen books in the library.

She worked in a daycare for nine months in Lincoln but was not making enough money to sustain herself. After her roommate moved out, she moved back to Alliance and put her English skills to work for the Alliance Times-Herald.

She eventually returned to college and attended Colorado State University in Fort Collins where she earned her master's degree. Her intention was to teach college and get a PhD. She got married, worked in daycare, put on puppet shows through the extension office, and worked for the Boys and Girls Club.

"Most of what I did involved children," she said. "I also knew that I didn't want to teach."

For Bleisch, being in front of a classroom all day was not what she desired to do, and it seemed all the teachers she knew didn't enjoy working with children.

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For Bleisch, being in front of a classroom all day was not what she desired to do, and it seemed all the teachers she knew didn't enjoy working with children.

"The schedule is hard and people think you get summers off, but when you are in a classroom, that's all you do," she said. "You have to be on all the time and can't have a bad day or an off day."

All of her jobs, including a stint as a teacher's aide, circled back to working with children. She just didn't realize it yet. She returned to work for the newspaper and also as a proofreader for colleges.

When there was an opening at the Alliance Public Library, she applied for the position which she held for four years. At the time, the library had a few programs, including storytime and the Summer Reading program. Bleisch started a LEGO club and crafts on Fridays. She was responsible for books and programs from birth to 12<sup>th</sup> grade and noted they didn't have much for the older children, so she got the younger kids used to coming to the library regularly and then started a program on coding for the other children.

It was the perfect fit for Bleisch. It was an hour at a time with children and in small doses, a situation she naturally thrived in.

"It's great because you're not grading the children and you are teaching, but it's not formal," "There's a lot less stress and you don't have to deal with all the stuff teachers do."

During those four years, Bleisch also learned a lot about the library and how it works. She learned how to catalog and spent a lot of time shifting books.

"We moved the juvenile nonfiction from one end of the library to the other," she said. "you learn a lot about a library when you have to move it."

Her time in the Alliance library was also during a time when libraries were moving to become more than a place where people checked out books. It was becoming a place of "things." There were books, DVDs, puzzles and backpacks with a variety of items in each.

"Some had a stuffed animal or puzzles," she said. "This is where the idea of keeping track of things is so important and it really is a science."



Bleisch also began working in fundraising for the library and building an escape room. Her director gave her freedom and supported her by giving her space and time to figure things out.

"I had the experience from running the community theater for years, so I knew how to organize and put on an event," she said.

When the family moved to Alliance, they had wanted to be in Scottsbluff, but with young children, a decision was made to be close to family and the supports they needed during that time. They eventually decided to move to Scottsbluff, where her daughter had the opportunity to play violin in the orchestra.

"We felt it was time to make a change," she said. "My husband works for the railroad, though, so we can't move very far."

Bleisch attempted to commute back to the Alliance library, but after a month driving back and forth it was evident the trips were too difficult and were starting to take a toll.

A few months after making the decision, a library assistant position opened in Scottsbluff, and she got the job.

"The teen librarian position opened up before I actually started – they hired me and then a week later, before I'd actually started working, the other position opened up," she said.

She was asked to fill the position.

"Of course I said yes," she said. "It was a lucky thing to happen."

Bleisch is grateful for the three years she was able to learn under the tutelage of retired Children's Librarian Deb Carlson, who gave more than 40 years of service to the library. It helped Bleisch prepare further for her new role, but she never counted on the position as being hers to inherit.

Since she took over in December, an ages 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade book club has also been started and after school art club; everyone hopes to make better use of the MakerHub. Like the LEGO club, there isn't anything specifically planned, you just show up and create whatever comes to mind.

Bleisch is also already working on the summer reading program, which is a huge part of libraries across the country each year. The program's main aim is to keep reading and not to lag in their skills when school is out.

"Coming from Alliance to here, the program is literally 10 times bigger," she said. "Last year, we had a little over 2,000 participating."

It's a lot of work. For a library the size of Scottsbluff, the numbers are also huge.

"I think if I were to have come in here from the outside and do the program, it would be extremely difficult." She said. "But I can't imagine a different way of doing it." She again credits Carlson and the way the summer reading program was honed over the years to run as smoothly as it does.

Today, libraries have adapted to meet modern needs. There are more patrons, and programs have continued to grow over the years. Bleisch is enjoying every part of her new position and is already looking for ways to improve and expand current programs while also creating new ones. She's also having fun regardless of age group. she's working with. Bleisch said the library has built a good teen presence, but that it ebbs and flows depending on what is going on at the moment. I've learned not to do a lot in March because a lot of kinds are involved in musical and never to do anything on a Friday during football

Through all of her positions over the years, Bleisch had done the bits and pieces of her youth services position with the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library. "A lot of the skills I had from other jobs dovetailed into this one, even as proofreader, where I proofread the statistics and surveys and saw how the data was collected and used," she said.

Those other jobs prepared her for almost anything that could be thrown at her in Scottsbluff.

"It was not the most direct route to youth services librarian, but all the things I did up to this point trained me for the job," she said.

In the "library world" if she were in a bigger city, she would have never had the opportunity to she has today.

"I don't have an MLA, so they wouldn't even look at me," she said. "I don't want to say it's sort of a snooty thing, but it kind of is."

She is happy she learned the position from the ground up and the intricacies of all the decisions that must be made.

"The question of where do you put a book and how to organize a shelf isn't clear cut," she said.

The famous Dewey Decimal system of organizing books even leaves a lot open to interpretation. For example, in fiction, it's by author by last name, but it could also be put in the 800 section.

We could put the entire fiction section there, but then it would be divided up by where the author is from or by state or country." She said. "You can get super picky about how to catalog books."

Bleisch has been in the children's section in other libraries where they don't alphabetize by subject but have them arranged by subject in bins and have the books shelved by the author.



Elaine Bleisch works with youth during a dinosaur-themed Storytime at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library. Courtesy Photo.



Elaine Bleisch works with youth molding clay during the STEAMPunks event at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library. Courtesy Photo.

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“You have to make those decisions for what works best for your library,” she said. “I changed the teens here by author within the genre because that’s the way teens look for books.”

When she worked in Alliance, biographies were a separate section and a decision was made to interfile them with the rest of the library.

“Some went into biography, but it’s about an astronaut, it would be in the space section,” she said. “The idea was people would see it there and want to read it.” Those kinds of decisions are made in hopes of boosting a book’s visibility and lead to more patrons checking out a book.

“In juvenile (books) it’s simple, but in adult it’s different and can get complicated,” she said. “No matter how you do it, there’s always some decisions that have to be made.”

Bleisch is a creative person, but she enjoys some things being more set in stone. She likes that libraries have some standards, which you can find around the world and is happy books are no longer shelved like they were originally.

“I knew I was qualified, but we could have had someone apply for the position who did this for 20 years and had an advanced degree.” She said. “You don’t know 100 percent if you’ll get it even if you’re doing the job in the interim.”

She was delighted to be offered the position, but she still feels like the position is a big one to take one.

Deb left a big legacy and I don’t want to be the one to ruin it,” she said. “She honed it over four decades and had a great system that worked really well and, hopefully, I can keep that up.”

“When libraries first started, they put the books on a shelf where the space was,” she said. “When you came in you would say what book you wanted and they would look it up and go find the book for you.”

She’s also finding that, although she wants to read every new book that comes in, she, too, is busy and has to adapt and admit that she can’t do it all.

“I order the new books and I get to read them before they go out but there are so many,” she said. “I can get through the picture books, but trying to get through them all is a lot.”

Early chapter books are still her favorites as well as juvenile fiction.

“I think it’s the best written stuff out there,” she said. “They’re well-researched and you can see the authors put more time and care into it – I think even more than adult books”

One of her favorite reads is “Flora and Ulysses,” a book about a girl and a superhero squirrel. The book is a hybrid between a graphic novel and a story. While graphic novels are not Bleisch’s favorite genre, she stresses the importance in growing as a reader and a person.

Reading what’s going on in the picture is an important skill to learn,” she said. “just because graphic novels have fewer words doesn’t mean there less of a book.

Bleisch is a firm believer that every book has a reader and everyone deserves to have access to a book that can tell their story.

“The library is a great way to connect people to what they need,” she said. “Not everybody can write, but someone had a similar experience to you and being able to find that book is valuable.”

Having access to information is an important part of what libraries do and she wants to make sure no one is denied access to a book someone can learn from and/or identify with.

“I learned a lot about myself through books and there’s so many different kinds of people in the world, we need different books,” she said. “There should be a place in a library for every book.”

Bleisch also recognizes that there is a line in what books people read; for instance, you would not provide an adult book to someone who is not ready for it, which is why shelving books in appropriate categories helps everyone.

“We also don’t dictate what anyone should read or is reading,” she said. “With children, that’s up to the parents and, as an adult, it’s your decision.



Another aspect of libraries Bleisch finds valuable is that anyone can have access to the knowledge contained within a library. It eliminates a cost factor, especially when books can be expensive.

“Libraries pool everyone’s resources and you share them with others, so we have books that are accessible to everyone,” she said.

She has enlisted the aid of library tech Liz Perez, who have been helping Bleisch prep and run some programs.

“I’m not sure if we will split it more, but we’re figuring it out as we go,” she said. “She also helps at the desk and with other projects.”

Perez is also weeding out some of the library’s collection, which is part of the life cycle of books at any library.

“You can’t keep adding,” Bleisch said. “You have to make room for new books, so anything outdated or that has old information or misinformation or is worn has to go.”

A few other noticeable changes include moving some of the books around. It all goes back to making decisions of where to shelve a book. Although it was only a couple of shelves worth of books, Bleisch is helping people get used to the new look.

“It’s probably a bigger deal to use as librarians,” she said. “We get weirdly moody about where things go.” She comes in to work and makes plans, schedules and rearranges some shelves, she ultimately has a single goal in mind.

**“We all just want kids to come and read,” she said.**

## Sidney Public Library Friends



### Elks Lodge donation supports Imagination Library participants

Wednesday, April 24th 2024, By Forrest Hershberger

The Sidney Elks Lodge presents the Friends of the Library a \$1,000 donation today for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program.

The Sidney program has about 200 children enrolled, nearly 100 children have graduated from the book-gifting project. The donation will enroll 38 children in the program for one year. Book options include braille and bilingual.

Imagination Library is a book-gifting program that mails free books every month to children ages birth through five years of age who are registered in the program. The Foundation covers overhead costs and negotiates wholesale pricing for the books. Community partners fundraise to finance the cost of mailing and book prices (about \$2.10 per child).

Children who remain part of the program through age five can expect 60 books.

The Dollywood Foundation was founded in 1988 by Dolly Parton to inspire children in her home county to achieve educational success and decrease high school dropout rates.



Pictured from left: Debbie Taylor, Liz Borgmann, Bridget Goding and Anita Pennel.

The Sidney Elks Bingo Committee donated \$1,000 to Imagination Library participation.

Forrest Hershberger/News Channel Nebraska

Please send articles of interest about your library and/or staff to [wls@westernlibrarysystem.com](mailto:wls@westernlibrarysystem.com)  
 Programs, community events, creative projects (professional and personal)  
 Readers of the Western Sun truly enjoy these stories!!!!

## Small Town Stars

By Aliyah American Horse

Reprinted from the Nebraska Community Foundation 2023 Annual Report.

When we were little  
We used to spend our time looking at the sky  
Asking ourselves what tomorrow will bring  
Our earliest years were spent dreaming  
For things we never imagined we could reach  
As children we were dancers, teachers, writers and preachers'  
We were politician, actors, and musicians  
We could travel anywhere—no matter how far  
We knew we could do anything under the stars  
The ones that lit the quiet corners of forgotten towns  
The stars that our little hands were wrapped around  
It wasn't just our parents who taught us to dream  
But the community guiding and nurturing  
Through life's grand scheme  
Our hometowns are just dots in the rear view mirrors  
To cars passing by  
But to us, it's where aspirations lie  
It's where the streets are lined in familiarity  
And family isn't just family  
But community  
Where dreams aren't just dreams  
But reality



Aliyah America Whitehorse is the state's Youth Poet Laureate named by the Nebraska Writers Collective. As the poet laureate she was asked by the Nebraska Community Foundation to write a poem. This poem describes her experience growing up in Gordon.

*The Western Sun welcomes articles, pictures of art work, sewing and quilting project for our newsletters!. Send to [wls@westernlibrary.com](mailto:wls@westernlibrary.com)*

## MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

SUPPORT



MONTH

The month of May has been recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month in the United States since 1949. It was founded by the Mental Health America organization (then known as the National Association for Mental Health) in order to raise awareness and educate the public about mental illness, including conditions like depression, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder, and reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness.

Mental Health Month aims to raise awareness regarding the trauma and societal impact that mental illness can have on the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of children, families, and communities as a whole.

Resources from Mental Health America includes [a toolbox](#) to educate and promote the month. The toolbox includes general information, social media language and images, fact sheets, worksheets, coloring pages to use for coping mechanisms and posters.

[Nebraska Passport Locations](#) in the Western Library System.

Enjoy visiting these gems in our area and throughout Nebraska. The 2024 Western Library System's Annual Meeting will be held at a Nebraska Passport location. (page 28)



**Bean Broker Coffee House & Pub** Chadron



**Beans and Steams Coffeehouse** Sidney



**Cheyenne County Museum and Post Commanders Home** Sidney



**Chimney Rock Museum [BONUS STOP]** Bayard



**Fort Robinson History Center [BONUS STOP]** Crawford



**The Simple Co. Coffee & Floral Shop** Bridgeport



**Hangar 39 - Flyover Brewing Co.** Potter



**Knight Museum and Sandhills Center Alliance**



**Mullen Arts Center**



**Potter Sundry [BONUS STOP]** Potter



**Powerhouse On Broadway — Suites & Social** Scottsbluff



**Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area** Gering



**Swanson Reservoir SRA** Trenton



**The Museum of the Fur Trade [BONUS STOP]** Chadron



**Ole's Big Game Steakhouse & Lounge** Paxton



**Our Lavender Co. [BONUS STOP]** Big Springs



**Wildeflour Baking Co.** Lodgepole





# Conferences and Special Meetings

**Spring Meeting**  
NLA Public Libraries & Trustees Section

**May 2, 2024**  
**9am - 3pm**  
Kilgore Library  
York, NE

Rebroadcast  
via Zoom  
May 6  
12:30pm - 4pm

**PLTS Member**  
In-person - \$55\*  
Virtual - \$20

**Non-member**  
In-person - \$50\*  
Virtual - \$35  
\*includes lunch!

**Featured Speakers**

"Policies of Yes"  
Jennie Garner  
Kellee Forkenbrock  
North Liberty Library, IA

"Adults Need to Play Too!"  
Dr. Melissa Cast-Brede  
Erica Rose  
University of Nebraska - Omaha

**Earn 4 Continuing Education Credit**

[In-person Registration:](#)

[Virtual Registration:](#)

For more information,

email [nlaplts@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaplts@nebraskalibraries.org).

ULA/MPLA **MAY**  
**2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE** **8<sup>TH</sup> - 10<sup>TH</sup>**

**Just Wingin' It**

The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is a twelve state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals and friends of libraries. in Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Its purpose is to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities. The organization is designed to improve present and future library services in the Mountain Plains region through the development of librarians, trustees and library employees.

MPLA bases its success on an active, enthusiastic, sharing membership. Where our people are so few and distances are so great, each librarian, staff member and library is a vital resource

[Information on the conference here:](#) [Exciting program sessions here.](#)



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## FUTURE READY NEBRASKA CONFERENCE JUNE 10-11, 2024



# ADVANCING EDUCATION IN THE ERA OF AI

Future Ready Conference

June 10- June 11, 2024

8:00 am to 3:30 pm

In-Person:

Nebraska Department of Education | 500 South 84th Street,

Lincoln, NE 68510

Lunch is provided for in-person participants

Virtual Option Available

[Registration](#)

### Conference Highlights

- More than 70 Breakout Sessions
- Breakout Session Strands: Administrators, Librarians, Educators, Equity & Wellness, and Canvas
- The Future Ready Conference is a statewide partnership between the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), Educational Service Units (ESU's), and the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC). The Future Ready Framework is Nebraska's PK-12 Digital Learning Plan, and the annual Future Ready Conference is held in conjunction with the framework to equip educators to help prepare students for future success. Keynote and featured speakers include Amanda Bickerstaff, Jaime Donnelly and Kristen Mattson.

The **ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition** will bring together thousands of librarians and library staff, educators, authors, publishers, friends of libraries, trustees, special guests, and exhibitors to the world's largest library event! Featuring discussions on timely and enduring issues, reflections on the ever-evolving role of libraries, and updates on relevant legislation and policies; the Annual Conference includes a depth and breadth of programming such as:

- **Educational programming**, created and curated by library professionals
- The **Library Marketplace** with innovative and informed exhibitors, LIVE Stages, ARCs, and more
- **President and Chair Programs** featuring timely updates and professional recognition events that highlight important work happening across our diverse organization
- Memorable and inspiring featured speakers
- Top-tier authors
- Fun and entertaining networking opportunities to share and connect with peers
- and more!

### [Registration Rates and Registration](#)



**Tuesday, July 30 - Thursday, August 1, 2024**

This interactive three-day virtual event will feature expert speakers on current topics facing library Trustees, Friends, Foundations, and staff who work with them. Programming runs from 11:00 am Eastern to approximately 4:00 pm Eastern daily with scheduled breaks. Registrants may participate in some or all program sessions live, and/or watch recordings on-demand.

- Participate in live Q&A sessions with presenters.
- Network with colleagues across the country in roundtable discussions.
- Enjoy exclusive access to keynote speakers and authors.
- Receive a certificate of attendance (for live participation or on-demand viewing).

### What is United for Libraries?

United for Libraries is a division of the American Library Association with approximately 5,000 Friends of Library, Trustee, Foundation and individual and group members representing hundreds of thousands of library supporters. This organization unites the voices of those who support libraries to create a powerful force for libraries in the 21st century.

The mission of United for Libraries is to support those who govern, promote, advocate, and fundraise for all types of libraries.

# SAVE *the* DATE

OCTOBER 9-11, 2024



## THE NLA CONFERENCE IS BACK!

Meet us in Kearney this October to convene with Nebraska's largest network of library professionals!

This year, we are celebrating the fact that Nebraska libraries are for everyone. Our industry will **Thrive Together** as we learn about:

- Community building
- Organizational excellence
- Intentional advocacy work
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion

NLA invites submissions that embrace this theme, seeking a multitude of voices that can share knowledge and contribute lived experiences towards an understanding of how to face challenges and capitalize on opportunities that impact our profession.

### SUBMIT A CONFERENCE PROPOSAL BY MAY 27!

Please use [this form](#) to submit a Preconference or Conference presentation proposal for the **2024 NLA Conference: Thrive Together**.

Have an idea but need more contributors? Check out this [networking sheet](#) to brainstorm ideas.

Questions? Review the [FAQ](#), or contact Lane Gibson at [nlapresidentelect@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlapresidentelect@nebraskalibraries.org).

Registration Information will be available [here](#):

## About the Nebraska Library Association

The Nebraska Library Association (NLA) is a Chapter of [the American Library Association \(ALA\)](#) and a member of [the Mountain Plains Library Association \(MPLA\)](#).

The Nebraska Library Association supports and promotes all libraries, library media centers and library services in the state. Its foremost concerns are the professional development of its members, library advocacy and open access to information for all citizens.

NLA is divided into sections and round tables to reflect the diverse specializations and interests of its membership.

NLA is divided into sections and round tables to reflect the diverse specializations and interests of its membership. Section Chairs and Round Table Chairs (elected by the individual sections and round tables) are members of the NLA Board of Directors, along with the association officers elected from the full NLA membership. The Board of Directors also includes the ALA Councilor and MPLA Representative as voting members. The Executive Director, Internet Site Coordinator, and the Lobbyist sit on the Board as non-voting members.

## Featured Resource on the [Nebraska Library Commission's website](#).

Many of our libraries take advantage and are appreciative of the multiple discounts and group purchases offered by the Commission

Nebraska Library Commission



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### Discounts on Books & Supplies

The companies listed below have asked the Nebraska Library Commission to share the following discounts on books, supplies, and furniture with Nebraska libraries.

- Rifkin Co. || Baker & Taylor || Barcodes Inc (formerly RACO Industries) || Barnes & Noble Institutional Discount Program || bibliotheca (formerly 3M) Library Security (Minitex) || Brodart || Computer Software || DEMCO || Gumdrop Books || Highsmith || Ingram Library Services Inc. || Listen & Live Audio || Liu & DB Enterprises Inc. || Meescan || Midwest Library Service || Minitex || Mitinet Library Services || Printastic || RACO Industries || Sentry || Symbology (Minitex) || TechSoup Stock || The Library Store, Inc. || Vernon Library Supplies

### Discounts on Databases & eResources

The [list of discounts](#) for databases & eResources is extensive. The Group purchases and NLC Funded discounts are extremely valuable for our libraries and our patrons.



[There is a Day for That](#) describes the commemoration as: ***“June is a month of significance in the United States as it marks the observance of National Immigrant Heritage Month.*** This annual celebration, initiated in 2014, aims to honor and recognize the countless contributions made by immigrants to the fabric of American society. It serves as a powerful reminder of the diverse heritage and rich tapestry of cultures that make up the United States.

The history of the United States is intricately tied to immigration. Throughout the centuries, millions of people from all corners of the globe have sought refuge, freedom, and a better future on American soil.

National Immigrant Heritage Month presents an opportunity for Americans to reflect on their own immigrant roots, regardless of whether they are first or fifth-generation Americans.

One of the primary objectives of this month-long celebration is to educate the public about the profound contributions made by immigrants in various fields; culture, arts, sports, cuisine, and scientific advancements.

National Immigrant Heritage Month encourages individuals and communities to organize events and activities that highlight and recognize the achievements and contributions of immigrants.

Ideas for programming:

Immigration stories

Foods from our immigrants

Cultural performances from around the world



[The United Nations Refugee website](#) describes this international day as: “designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. It falls each year on 20 June and celebrates the ***strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution.*** World Refugee Day is dedicated to refugees around the globe. World Refugee Day was held globally for the first time on 20 June 2001, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. World Refugee Day shines a light on the rights, needs and dreams of refugees, helping to mobilize political will and resources so refugees can not only survive but also thrive. While it is important to protect and improve the lives of refugees every single day, international days like World Refugee Day help to focus global attention on the plight of those fleeing conflict or persecution.

The Statue of Liberty, standing in New York Harbor is a symbol of freedom and hope. The inscription includes the poem “New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus. Here is a profound verse from the poem.

“Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

## Bibliography

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***Dear Friend, from My Life I Write to You in Your Life***, by Yiyun Li, Random House, 2017

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***La Misma Luna [Under the Same Moon]*** by Lighia Villalobos, 2007 (Movie)

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***Newcomers: Finding Refuge, Friendship and Hope in America***, by Helen Thorpe, Scribner, 2017

***The Other Americans***, by Laila Lalami, Pantheon, 2019

***Silver, Sword, and Stone: Three Crucibles in the Latin American Story***, by Marie Arana, Simon & Schuster, 2019

***Someone Like Me: How and Undocumented girl fought for her American dream***, by Julissa Arce. Little Brown, 2018

***This Time Will Be Different***, by Misa Sugiura, Harper Collins, 2019

***The Ungrateful Refugee***, by Dina Nayeri, Catapult, 2019

***What Drowns the Flowers in Your Mouth***, by Rigoberto González, University of Wisconsin Press, 2018



LIBRARY SERVICES FOR  
**IMMIGRANTS**  
AND  
**NEW AMERICANS**



CELEBRATION AND INTEGRATION  
JENNIFER KOERBER

This excellent resource is available through the Nebraska Library Commission.

***Library Services for Immigrants and New Americans: Collaboration and Integration***, Jennifer Koerber, Libraries Unlimited, 2018.

Described by the publisher as a book “replete with resources, tips, and suggestions providing valuable guidance to librarians who want to better serve this still-growing part of America's population.

This up-to-date guide to developing and implementing a wide variety of services to immigrants and new Americans focuses on the practical steps of creating and promoting programs. Illustrated by success stories in libraries throughout the country, the book discusses both traditional (ESOL and citizenship classes) and transformative (legal aid and workforce development) programs and services in terms of size, type, and local political climate (e.g., sanctuary cities) at a variety of public libraries as well as in select school libraries.

## LOCAL RESOURCES

### EMPODERANDO FAMILIES: EMPODERANDO FAMILIAS

The [mission](#) of Empowering Families states:



Rooted in Scotts Bluff, we're dedicated to crafting a more resilient and inclusive community through the pillars of education, civic participation, and bridge building. Explore how we nurture connections and empower individuals to thrive within the vibrant tapestry of the Panhandle community.

615 S Beltline Hwy W, Suite 2,  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
info@empoweringfamiliesne.org  
(308) 633-5091

### Immigrant Legal Center

[Immigrant Legal Center + Refugee Empowerment Center](#) is a non-profit organization focused on empowering immigrants and refugees to live with confidence and free from fear. Our comprehensive and innovative approach combines legal services, refugee resettlement, social work, education, and advocacy to meet the ever-changing needs of immigrant communities. The Center is headquartered in Omaha with an office in Scottsbluff. The Scottsbluff location covers the State west of Lexington.



615 S Beltline Highway West  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
Phone: 402.898.1349  
Fax: 402.502.4604  
info@immigrantlc.org



This conference is focused on providing professionals and community leaders with a forum for awareness, dialogue and skill-building to create welcoming and inclusive environments.

Session topics include:

Healthcare Disparities

Cross Cultural Communication

LatinX/Hispanic Identity in the Midwest & Language

Overcoming Community Divisions through Mindful Response

For more details go to [Welcoming Communities Conference](#)

June 20, 2024, Gering Civic Center

Check in at 8:00 and Conference 9:00 to Noon

Cost: \$65.00 includes breakfast, lunch, snack and vendors.

## JAPANESE HALL: GRAND OPENING: JUNE 8, 2024



Kabuki Theater at Japanese Hall – CIRCA 1930

*A Japanese Hall built in 1928 by members of the Japanese community and continued to function as a Japanese Hall until 2018 has been relocated to the Legacy of the Plains Museum (LPM) in Gering, NE. Here, the history of the Japanese and Japanese Americans from Nebraska and the High Plains will be preserved.*

### [Japanese Hall and History Project < Legacy of the Plains Museum](#) ~ Gering Nebraska

The Legacy of the Plains website provides the following information.

The Japanese Hall holds a rich history in the North Platte Valley and High Plains. Here are some fascinating details about it:

- ◆ The Japanese Hall, originally located on Avenue C in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, was constructed in 1928. For decades, it served as a vibrant gathering place for the Japanese-American community. Within its walls, you'd find Japanese language classes, dances, festivals, theater, productions, sports clubs, and church services. The Friendly Circle Bazaar was also held there from the 1950s through 2016 to support the building's upkeep.
- ◆ As time passed, many descendants left the area in pursuit of the American dream. In November 2017, the building was sold, and its final event took place in March 2018. Fortunately, the owner generously donated the Japanese Hall to the Legacy of the Plains Museum.
- ◆ In December 2019, the Japanese Hall was moved to the Legacy of the Plains campus in Gering, Nebraska. The museum aims to preserve and protect the heritage of the Japanese community of the High Plains for future generations. New exhibits featuring collections from the Japanese community are planned, and the Grand Opening of the Japanese Hall is scheduled for Saturday, June 8, 2024. On that day, all activities at the museum will be free of charge.
- ◆ Since 2015, the Japanese Hall and History Project, with Legacy of the Plains has planned, relocated and renovated the hall and exhibits including a look at the early Issei migration to the U.S. and to the High Plains; their livelihood in business and agriculture; coping with racism and prejudice; experiences during WWII and other military operations; cultural, artistic and athletic activities; the current and future state of Japanese Americans in the High Plains. Most items in the exhibits have been donated to the museum by families. These items include heirloom dolls, clothing, dinnerware, books, paper goods and photographs. The exhibits within the Japanese Hall explore various aspects of Japanese-American history on the High Plains, including migration, livelihoods, experiences during WWII, cultural activities, and more. Most of the items in the exhibits have been donated by families and include heirloom dolls, clothing, dinnerware, books, paper goods, and photographs.

# 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
One Book for Nebraska Kids & Teens	May 1
The 2024 Public Library Accreditation Process	May 8
Pretty Sweet Tech	May 29
Pretty Sweet Tech	June 26

## 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.

## Continuing Education Sources from other States



Sharing ideas and information is what libraries are all about, so the Colorado State Library created the [Library Learning website](#) to house the information, tutorials, webinars, and other resources, you and your staff need. All content and resources shared here are hand selected to help you find the quality information and learning opportunities you need to serve your patrons.

The Maine State Library created a colorful [continuing education calendar](#).



## Basic Skills 2024 Schedule

Class Dates	Class	Registration Dates
6/3 - 6/14	<u>Readers' Advisory</u>	4/29 - 5/24
7/1 - 7/12	<u>Reference</u>	5/27 - 6/21
7/22 - 8/2	<u>Library Policy</u>	6/17 - 7/12
8/12 - 8/23	<u>Collection Management*</u>	7/8 - 8/2
8/26 - 9/6	<u>Programming &amp; Outreach</u>	7/22 - 8/16
9/16 - 9/27	<u>Community &amp; Library*</u>	8/12 - 9/6
10/14 - 10/25	<u>Management/Supervision</u>	9/9 - 10/4
11/4 - 11/15	<u>Leadership</u>	9/23 - 10/18
12/2 - 12/13	<u>Library Services to Children &amp; Teens</u>	10/21/2011

\*Required Class

## *Training Tuesdays 2024*

Third Tuesday of the month from 1:30-2:30 Mountain Time.

May 21: *A Rural Library's Journey with Artificial Intelligence (AI)*: Sean Jensen

June and July: Enjoy Summer Reading and Summer School Break

August 20: *Training Topic to be announced*

September 17: *Social Media for Rural Libraries*, Ashley Lincoln

October 15: *Outreach in Rural Libraries*, Jenny White

November 19: *CANVA*, Kelly Kenny

December: Holiday Hiatus

In-person or virtual or hybrid. Links to virtual and/or hybrid sessions are e-mailed on the second Tuesday of the month.

One hour continuing education credit for each session.

## Library and Information Services

Fall 2024 Online Course Offerings

Aug. 19, 2024 – Dec. 13, 2024

Registration opens April 15, 2024



### ***LIBR 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services***

*Marty Magee, Instructor*

This course, the recommended first in the Library and Information Services curriculum, provides introductory information in multiple areas.

- Library history and organizations
- Foundational Principles/Code of Ethics
- Information databases and Internet usage

### ***LIBR 2250 Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies***

*Michael Straatmann, Instructor*

This course includes the theories, concepts and activities integral to leading and managing 21st Century libraries and information agencies.

- Leadership principles
- Management strategies
- Policies and procedures

### ***LIBR 2940 Library and Information Services Capstone Practicum***

*Patty Birch, Instructor*

This capstone course is the last course in the Library and Information Services program. Students will complete 40 hours of service learning in a host library. The course also includes a review of the principal pieces of learning from the LIS program.

- Prerequisites: LIBR 1010, 2100, 2150, 2210, & 2250

<i>Fall 2024</i>	<i>Spring 2025</i>
<b>Libr 1010</b> Foundations of Library and Information Services	<b>Libr 2100</b> Reference Resources and Services
<b>Libr 2250</b> Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies	<b>Libr 2150</b> Develop and Organize Collections
<b>Libr 2940</b> Library Science Capstone Practicum	

For more information on the Library and Information Services program, see: <https://www.cccneb.edu/lis>

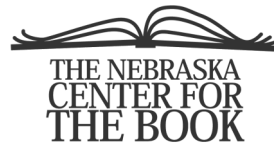
For more information concerning Admissions or Registration, Contact: Michelle Setlik [michellesetlik@cccneb.edu](mailto:michellesetlik@cccneb.edu)  
402-461-2568 or Toll Free at 308-398-7341

Central Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

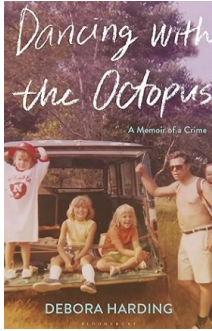




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## 2024 One Book One Nebraska *Dancing with the Octopus: A Memoir*

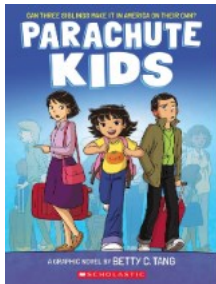


People across Nebraska are encouraged to read the work of a Nebraskan — and then talk about it with their friends and neighbors. *Dancing with the Octopus: A Memoir* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2020) by Debora Harding is the 2024 One Book One Nebraska selection.

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.

Libraries across Nebraska will join other literary and cultural organizations in planning book discussions, activities, and events that will encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this book. Support materials to assist with local reading/discussion activities are available. Updates and activity listings will be posted on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook page.

## 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.



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

# Save the Dates

**August 5, 2024**  
Wildcat Hills Nature Center  
*Gering*

## **WLS Annual Meeting**

More information to come in early May \*



## **Author Tour**

featuring William Kent Krueger

**October 7**  
Midwest Theater  
*Scottsbluff*

**October 8**  
Kathleen Lute Public Library  
*Ogallala*

\*“Sow Connection with Seed Libraries” continuing education hour will follow the Annual Meeting Lunch. This hour will cover everything from how to start a seed library to hearing the success and best practices stories from seasoned seed libraries.

## Western Library System Board Members “In the News”

Amber Sweetland , Board Chair and Kimball Public Library Director was selected by Governor Pillen to serve on the Nebraska State Advisory Council. This Council was established advise the Commission on statewide library development and planning. In addition, the Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries is used for:

1. Advice and planning on such other matters on which the Commission may seek counsel.
  2. Review and evaluation of interlibrary cooperative and resource sharing plans and programs.
- Development, review and evaluation of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Plan, consisting of the Basic State Plan, Annual Program, and Long Range Plan.

Amber was also one of the Big Talk for Small Libraries presenters on February 23. She provided a lightning talk on Farmer’s Day Fundraiser.

[Amber Sweetland](#), Director, Kimball Public Library, Kimball, NE (Population served: 2,500)

Here is the description of her session:

Kimball celebrates Farmer’s Day every year as a part of its Founders Day celebrations. Due to the decrease in revenue, libraries have to raise funds as much as possible. Kimball Public Library utilized this occasion to raise funds through various projects to supplement its budget. The events that were organized included a bake sale, a salsa-making contest, Pie a City Guy, a book sale, and a local craft sale.

See stories in the Western Sun from Lied Imperial Public Library on page 8. Beth Falla, Library Director, is the Board Vice-President. Celebrations on page 6, Becky Henkel is also on the Board.

The results of the ballot for the directors positions will be announced early in May.



The Nebraska Library Commission provides access to Reader Zone. This web-based software lets you create paperless reading logs for your summer program. Your patrons can report their progress through the Reader Zone app or via the Reader Zone website. You will be able to see statistics and reports without having to compile them yourself. **This program is free for your library.** If you are not familiar with Reader Zone, [click on this link](#).

You will be able to create multiple "groups" to best serve your community's needs. For example - you might create a group for young readers that has the goal based on the number of books read per week, one for teens based on number of minutes spent reading per month, and then one for adults that has per-page milestones.

This system is available to you year-round for reading programs for all ages. [Click here to sign up now!](#)

Contact me at [denise.cpls@gmail.com](mailto:denise.cpls@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## Considering joining MPLA, NLA or going to a conference?

### Consider applying for a Scholarship.

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 or library worker 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](mailto:wls@westernlibrarysystem.com)



### Western Library System Board of Directors

Amber Sweetland, President  
Becky Henkel  
Beth Falla, Vice President  
Cheryl Hamilton  
Elaine Lake  
Ethan Nelson, Secretary  
Jennifer Holthus  
Judy Starke  
Rossella Tesch  
Sarah Alfred  
Sharon Schluterbusch

### Western Library System Office

Cindy Osborne, Director  
[cindy.osborne@nebraska.gov](mailto:cindy.osborne@nebraska.gov)  
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[wlsadmin@westernlibrarysystem.com](mailto:wlsadmin@westernlibrarysystem.com)  
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615 S. Beltline Highway West  
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Phone: 308-632-1350  
Toll Free: 888-879-5303  
<http://libraries.ne.gov/wls/>

“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.”