

From the Director

March 2015

It is time for some March Madness!

No I'm not talking about the NCAA Basketball tournament. I'm not talking about WWE WrestleMania or late professional wrestler and king of "Macho Madness", Randy Savage. I'm not even talking about breeding season of the European hare or the end of Canada's fiscal year. (Side note: Wikipedia is both a blessing and a curse when deadlines are near!)

I'm talking about the Library Madness tournament that kicked off this week. SELS is promoting this for the third straight year, this time with a college library, a school library and a mixed school & public library joining in the fun. More information can be found later in the issue.

Why do we do this? Why compete against other libraries? Well, this is a competition, I won't try to hide that, but it is like a family game night. There is some good natured back and forth, and there is an end goal, but this supposed to be fun.

The greater value in something like this isn't in the interaction between the libraries, but in having something that they can put in the paper, in the staff room, in the local grocery store or the lunch room at school. It is about making the library part of an event that will draw in the community in an active way. This active participation helps promote a long-term relationship between the library and that individual. They have more buy-in in the progress and reputation of the library instead of just being a passive observer. I'm saying this will suddenly sway people to be 100% library fanatics, but it can take that relationship between library and patron up a notch.

If you don't feel like competing against other libraries, you can always set book against book in a "madness that happens in March" tournament of your own. Pinterest has a bunch of examples, usually found under "book madness". Again, the focus is having the community be an active part of something instead of simply watching on the sidelines.

To quote from Shakespeare's Hamlet, "Though this be madness, yet there is method in 't." Or more simply stated, there is a method to this madness.

Scott Childers, Executive Director
Southeast Library System



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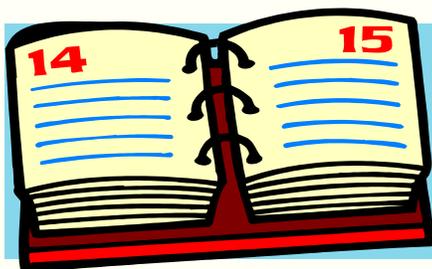
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CALENDAR

March 2015

March 14th—Pi Day, Albert Einstein's Birthday

March 19th—CASTL Meeting at Wahoo Public Library

March 20th—International Day of Happiness

March 25th—Waffle Day, Tolkien Reading Day

March 26th—Deadline to file E-Rate Form 471

March 30th—Open Your Doors to Writers event at Geneva Public Library

April 2nd—Open Your Doors to Writers event at Syracuse Public Library

April 3rd—Tweed Day

April 5th—Easter Sunday

April 8th—Bookmobile Day

April 12th-18th—National Library Week

April 14th—Library Worker's Day

April 17th—CASTL Meeting at Hebron Secrest Library

April 30th—Poem in Your Pocket Day



Photo of the Month

Part of the Love Your Library Open House at Central City was a lovely heart display. Their youth librarian, Judy Marco, found the idea on Pinterest. She pasted the hearts on a butcher block type paper, so kids (and adults) could get their photos taken looking like they are blowing up "heart kisses". Photo by Judy Marco.

More about the open house on [page 4](#).

CASTL Wrap-Up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

March 19
Wahoo

April 17
Hebron

May
TBA*

June 11
Syracuse

July 15
Lincoln

August 21
Pawnee City

February's CASTL meeting was held at Virgil Biegert Public Library in Shickley, hosted by Carolyn Schlegel. We kicked off the meeting with our round-robin discussion of what's been happening around the system. Several libraries are hosting LEGO® get-togethers, game nights, or card game groups, and so far they've all been big hits! There was a lot of discussion about technical support for public computers, and whether it's more common to have an IT staff person at the library, or to contract for IT support through the city. Either way, it was agreed that having a program on the computer to "freeze" the computer's settings is a plus. When notable authors or special guests host programs at the library, it was suggested to make a donation or to do something in their name, if they choose not to ask for a speaker's fee. Publicizing the event, through Facebook or the local paper, would be a good idea as well. Those who have completed their strategic plans recently recommended having someone proofread and copy-edit them before submitting them for review.

Our main discussion involved how to prepare for an extended absence, due to emergency, inclement weather, or unexpected circumstances. The city may already have some policies in place for situations such as these. It's good to have a notebook or folder with daily procedures, important passwords, and who to contact. It's also important to know who should have access to this information, and who shouldn't. Other measures can be taken, such as having a Knox Box to securely store the keys to the building, for example.

Note: May's CASTL Meeting is being rescheduled due to Beatrice's ongoing renovation.

What is CASTL?

CASTL is a monthly meeting where public library directors can get together and learn from one another. Each meeting has a round-robin discussion where everyone can share what's going on at their library, followed by a training discussion or presentation. There is CE credit available for all attendees! See the schedule on the left for where we'll be meeting next!

Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

Registration will be open soon for the next set of basic skills courses, offered through the Nebraska Library Commission. To see the full calendar & register for classes, [click here](#). Here's what's coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration Open</u>
March 23—April 3	Readers' Advisory	Feb. 13—March 13
April 6—April 17	Library Governance	Feb. 27—March 27
April 27—May 22	Organization of Materials	March 20—April 17

News Around the System

LEGO® Club Building Challenge at Geneva

By Sarah Johnson The Geneva Public Library held its first LEGO® Club event from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on February 26th. Library staff were thrilled with the turnout of 31 children and teens and six par-



ents. All participants were given a large cup of LEGO® pieces and encouraged to join in the building challenge for the month: Favorite Food February. We attempted to talk about where to find food-related books in the library, such as cookbooks and healthy diets, with a small amount of success. We displayed each creation with its title and the name of the child or adult who created, it for one week in the library, with fliers for the next LEGO® Club. Photos of the individual creations, plus the overall event are posted on the library's [Facebook page](#). We're not sure who had more fun – some of the kids, or their very creative parents!

Beautiful Glass on Display

By Sharon Steenbarger



The Harvard Public Library has book shelves all along the back wall. Since taking this position 6 1/2 years ago, I've shared some of my collection of colored glass pieces. We get so many nice comments on them. Even a baby who came in with his grandma would just stare at the "pretties."

Open House Photo Ops

By Sara Lee



Outlaws, princesses, cowboys and cowgirls were seen getting their photos taken at Central City Public Library's recent "Love Your Library Open House." One of the big draws for the event was definitely Sherlock the Magnificent Cat! He was on hand for PAWtographs and photo ops.

Mystery and Mayhem at Crete Public Library

By Lisa Olivigni

Susan Church put together an intriguing display of mystery titles recently. Novels and non-fiction are mixed in with bagged evidence and a variety of options for committing many of the crimes detailed in some of these books.

Complete with a chalk outline, this display catches readers' eyes as soon as they enter the library. Both Lindsey Weber Riskowski and Maridza Vasquez are to be commended for their creation of the mystery man who now only exists as an outline on the library's floor. Both Maridza and Lindsey are in this photo – Lindsey is the brave one resisting a book's coercion to make her read!

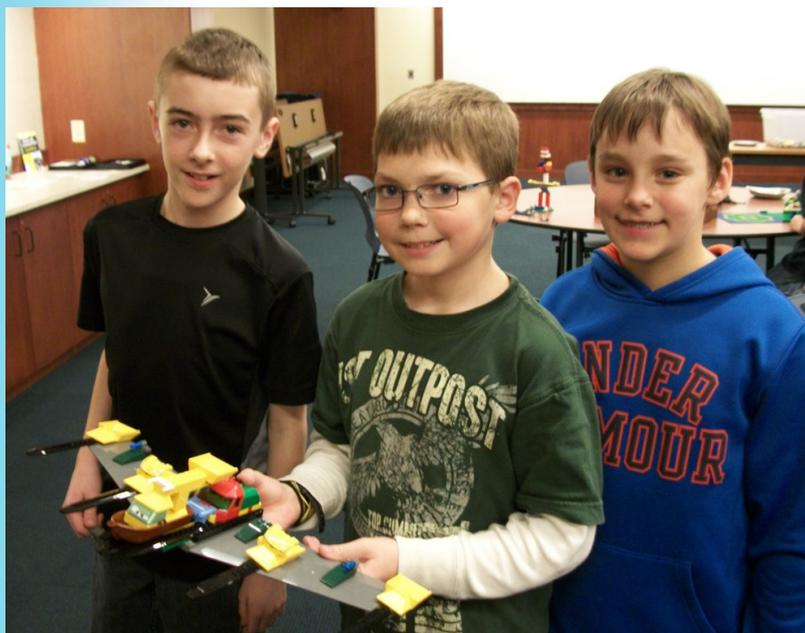


LEGO® Mondays at Seward

By Charlotte
Baldinger

It started with the delivery of a large box containing 10,000 LEGO® pieces. Seward Memorial Library was the recipient of a donation of LEGO® blocks from LEGO® Systems, Inc. and the Association of Library Services for Children. On February 2 the library launched LEGO® Mondays for students in grades 3-8. Each week tables are set up and students arrive at 4 p.m. for an hour of discovery, creativity and fun. The group starts with a weekly challenge which can be done without time limits. Products or “masterpieces” are saved on a camera and down-

loaded on the library website to share with others later. After the challenge there is time for free exploration done individually or in small groups. A variety of ages participate, and everyone seems to be enjoying their time working together. Beginning March 9 Junior LEGO® makers for children in kindergarten through second grade are invited to attend.

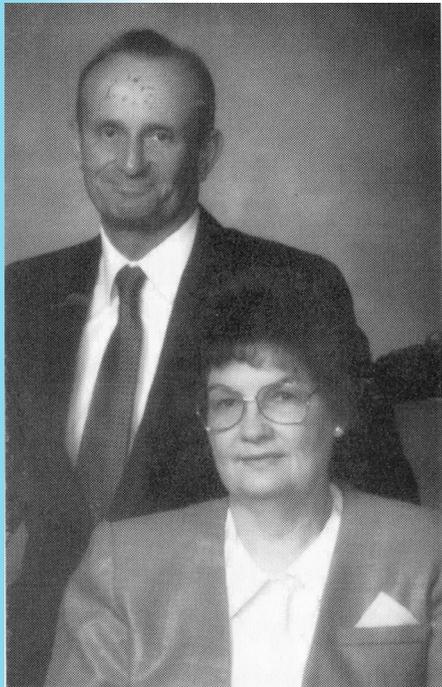


(Left) Some builders with their LEGO® creation.
Photo by Megan Boggs.

The Story Behind Storybook Park

By Jessica Votipka The Exeter Public Library lost a special friend Feb. 7, 2015.

Even though Marilyn Manning was a neighbor and family friend whom I'd known all my life, there was one particular act of kindness that I hadn't learned of until her passing: decades ago Marilyn applied for a grant through Readers' Digest to establish a park adjacent to the Exeter Public Library. She was awarded the grant, and "Storybook Park" was born.



Thomas and Marilyn Manning

Plans to improve Storybook Park have been in the works for about a year. The Exeter Public Library Board and I have been trying not to disclose too much about it to the general public (yet), but I regret not telling Marilyn about the upcoming improvements. Had I known she was behind the park's formation, I would have marched that one-and-a-half miles of gravel road between us to tell her all about them.

Marilyn's family remembered the library's park, asking that memorials be directed to Storybook Park, Exeter's St. Stephen's Catholic Church or the American Cancer Society. With this, the Exeter Public Library's ideas for Storybook Park have been given renewed vigor. We have already received several generous donations going towards park improvements, to be utilized for new landscaping and improved play equipment, along with park benches to replace those that were damaged in last year's hail storm. Other ideas are planned as well – I just wish that Marilyn had known about them.

This week I was discussing our park project with a former Exeter Library Board member. We talked about the park, the library and Marilyn in general. As I kept her up-to-date on how the landscaping was coming along, Patty reminded me: "The park isn't just for plants – it's for children."

Every time a child runs around the pint-sized merry-go-round, climbs the monkey bars or sways on the spring horse, I will be reminded of that – that Marilyn founded this park for children. The Exeter Public Library will continue to move forward, though more passionately, now knowing of the careful planning and loving spirit this park was created with.

Through every flower planted and spin of the merry-go-round, that loving spirit – Marilyn's spirit – will be in Storybook Park.



10 Do's and Don'ts on Rearranging Your Library

By Ann Garey

Do's

1. ...have every volunteer sign an agreement that they will be there in blood.
2. ...bring lots of snacks and drinks as bribery.
3. ...plan the new arrangement on graph paper and measure all the large furniture.
4. ...explain to the volunteers where the new adult fiction will start, and yes, they must start with "A".
5. ...give the task twice as much time than envisioned.
6. ...keep on task.
7. ...have a dust cloth and other cleaning supplies close by.
8. ...grab any cart with wheels to transport books.
9. ...wear comfy "walking" shoes and stretchable clothing.
10. ...pick a slow month to do this project, preferably January when patrons stay home.



Don'ts

1. ...assume the volunteer's priority is to remember to show up.
2. ...push and push. Let the volunteers sit and visit, and refresh themselves.
3. ...write down the rearrangement and ideas on the back of a grocery list.
4. ...assume the volunteers understand the Dewey System.
5. ... think it will all be done in one week.
6. ... decide to weed the non-fiction in the middle of moving books.
7. ... ignore the dust and cobwebs.
8. ... tell the volunteers that they have to carry heavy stacks of books from one end to the other before starting.
9. ...keep reminding them that "B" comes after "A" and before "C". You can take care of that later.
10. NEVER plan an event two weeks after the start of the rearranging!

The Do's are to remember "if I ever do this again"! The Don'ts contributed to the learning curve! Lessons learned when moving stacks at the Polk Public Library.

Dr. Seuss Goes to School

By Barbee Sweet

Every year the Clarks Public Library comes to visit the High Plains Elementary school in celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday. This year the library director, Barbee Sweet (Cat in the Hat), brought along some friends: Thing 1 & Thing 2 along with two volunteers who read Dr. Seuss stories to the classes. The Cat in the Hat explained the importance of reading daily & encouraged a library visit for all the kids, along with what an important man Dr. Seuss was & what his stories can teach us. All the elementary students received a Dr. Seuss bookmark, pencil, & a bag of gummy fish.



Hit the Books Reading Promotion with the Storm Chasers

By Pat Coshow

Louisville Elementary students were surprised at their assembly on February 6 to have Stormy, the mascot for the Omaha baseball team Storm Chasers, entertain them as Megan Burdek, the



Community Relations Manager, explained the prizes students could earn by reading for their Hit the Books reading promotion. When students reach 1st base they receive a bookmark, 2nd base is a pencil, 3rd base is a baseball card, and reaching home plate earns them a ticket to a Storm Chasers game! Families can purchase discounted tickets through the PTO, and students and families will be attending an evening game in May.

Left: Stormy and the kids having fun at the assembly. Photo by Angie Heinold.

Local Author to Have Book Discussion at David City

By Kay Schmid

At Noon on Wednesday, March 18th, local author Gina Barlean will discuss her book, *Moments of Clarity*, and share news of her upcoming book publications. Gina will have copies of *Moments of Clarity* available for purchase and signing following the presentation. Refreshments will be provided by Didier's Grocery. There is no charge for this program, but space is limited. Call 402-367-3100 to save a seat.



Fun Fair Friday at Palmyra

By Glenda
Willnerd

The Palmyra Memorial Library hosted 14 area youth for a Fun Fair Friday on Friday, March 6th. Kids learned about projects they could make for the county fair and then had an opportunity to create several of those projects with the help of library board members Lucinda Faunce, Beth Ranney-Thomas, and library director Glenda Willnerd. Personalized wands, upcycled craft projects and decorated t-shirts as well as cupcake decorating rounded out the day. Of course no fair would be complete without cotton candy.



From the SELS Office

SELS Shelves: One Book for All of SELS



Like the One Book, One Nebraska titles, we will have one book for all of SELS this spring. We're calling it SELS Shelves, and our title for this year is *The Homesman* by Glendon Swarthout. It follows early pioneer women in Nebraska as they endure hardship on the plains, and eventually return to the East with the help of a former teacher, as well as a lowlife gentleman. This award-winning novel was made into a major motion picture in 2014.

We will be having a book discussion of *The Homesman* during the SELS Training Extravaganza in May, so consider reading through this title & joining the discussion! There is a book kit available through the SELS office (10 copies, paperback), so if you'd like to reserve it for your library or book club, [contact the SELS office](#) anytime.

SELS Third Annual Library Madness!

This year's Library Madness tournament will go from March 9th to April 5th. This year there are 12 total teams, including several former players, many newcomers, and libraries of all types, from school and academic to public. For the first week, the 4 winningest teams from last year get a bye-week, so while everyone else is competing in the main event, they will have exhibition games for fun and for glory! Stay tuned to see who will be a champion this year! See this year's full bracket on page 11.



New SELS Logo to Debut

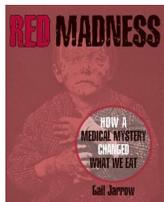


A new logo for SELS has been designed by Seth Boggs of Concordia University's graphic design department. Seth did a great job, and we can't wait for the official logo's debut next month!

Tidbits & Fast Facts!

- ➔ From the SELS Summer Reading Workshop: It's possible to draw a superhero and imagine them flying around overhead, and use a bee buzzer for the "whizzing by" noise. See more about bee buzzers [here](#). (From Sandy Wallick, Gere Branch Library—Lincoln.)
- ➔ The deadline to file E-Rate form 471 is March 26th. If you have questions about the form or the process, call the SELS office anytime and we'll do our best to help!

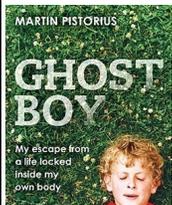
SELS Book Reviews!



Red Madness by Gail Jarrow

Submitted by April Stevens, Osceola Public Library

This is a hard to put down, true story of a medical mystery that affected over 3 million people in the United States alone. The conflicting research that was done by many doctors from 1907 through the 1930's only added to the mystery. Thousands died from this disease, many even after a simple cure had been found. This engrossing young adult book tells how the solving of this mystery changed what we eat today.



Ghost Boy by Martin Pistorius

Submitted by Sharon Steenbarger, Harvard Public Library

My son recently gave me *Ghost Boy* by Martin Pistorius. I bought one for the library & it is already checked out. My copy is loaned to a friend who describes it as "hard to put down." Non-fiction, it is so very insightful to so many aspects of life and what happens when a person becomes disabled. I rarely get emotional with books, no matter what, but I cried at the end of this book.

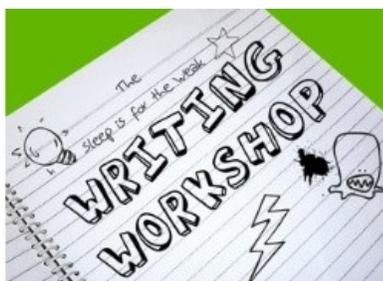
Highlights from February's Board Meeting



The SELS board met last month at Wahoo Public Library, hosted by Denise Lawver. There were several nuggets of business to discuss, such as electing new officers. At this time, Kent Munster is our new board president, Denise Lawver is vice president, and Ruth Carlock is secretary. They will hold these positions through June. There were several submissions for the new SELS logo that were reviewed and tweaked, and the one that was ultimately approved is the version seen on page 9 of the newsletter. There was a discussion about what information to feature on the website, vs. through email or the monthly newsletter. There was some clarification on how to utilize each resource, but there will be a more official statement about that at the next board meeting.

The full minutes will be available on the SELS website once they have been approved.

Open Your Doors to Writers



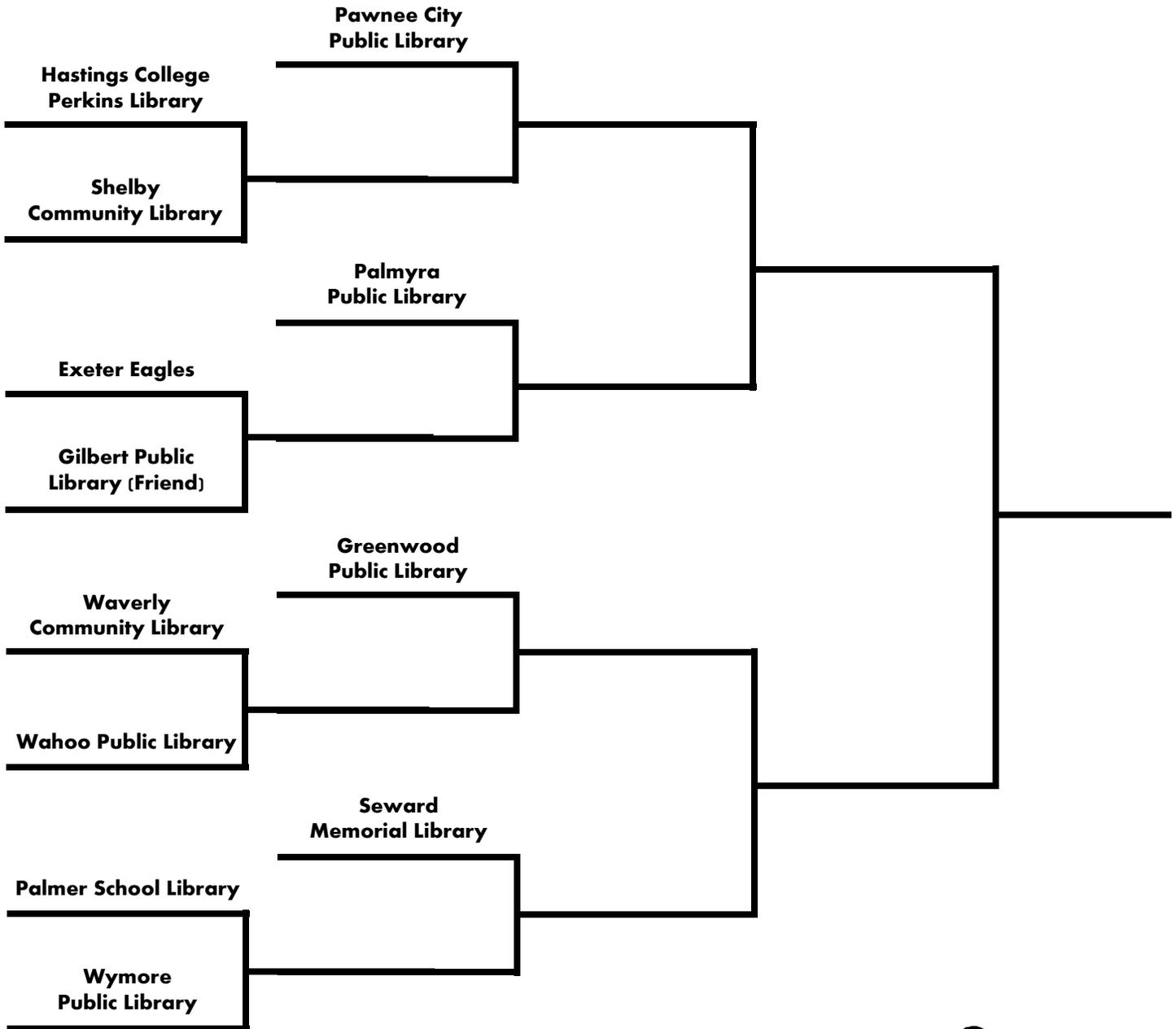
SELS will be hosting two different sessions on how to bring together writers in your community. Led by Becky Breed, these sessions will discuss how to foster generative writing groups, and how to encourage writers to work together to create new material. If you'd like to RSVP for either session, [contact the SELS office](#) anytime.

March 30th, 1-3 pm—Geneva Public Library

April 2nd, 1-3 pm—Syracuse Public Library

LIBRARY MADNESS 2015

WEEK ONE





Nebraska School Librarians' Day: It's All about Literacies!

Saturday, March 21, 2015 at a location near you.

Omaha, UNO Roskens Hall Ideas Room -- Registration at 8:30 AM. Sessions start at 9:00 AM

Kearney: Kearney Public Library -- Registration at 9:00 AM. Sessions start at 9:30 AM

North Platte: North Platte High School-- Registration at 8:30 AM. Sessions start at 9:00 AM

Registration, Coffee and Refreshments

Wrapping Your Head around the Nebraska's Multiple Literacies Standard

Omaha – Courtney Pentland, Omaha Public Schools and Kim Gangwish, Bellevue West High

Kearney – Angie Richeson, UNK

North Platte – Dr. Becky Pasco, UNO

Break and NSLA Door Prizes

Technology and Multiple Literacies

Omaha – Sara Churchill, Arbor Park Intermediate School and Gavin Flint, Bryan High

Kearney – Michael Sauer, Nebraska Library Commission

North Platte – Wendy Loewenstien, UNO

Literature and Literacy Strategies/Books

Omaha – Kim Jones, Elkhorn Ridge Middle School and Annette Luedtke, Belle Ryan Elementary

Kearney – Dr. Carrie Kracl, UNK

North Platte – Tiffany Frost, Papillion La Vista South High

Lunch and short presentation from NSLA

Round Robin Book Reviews for All Grade Levels

Book review sessions will be interactive. **Please bring two books you would like to share**

Omaha Facilitators – Jo O'Garro, Central Park Elementary and Jill Annis, Grandview Middle School

Kearney Facilitators – Angie Richeson and Dr. Sherry Crow, UNK

North Platte Facilitators – Patty Birch, North Platte High School and Mary Reiman, Lincoln Public Schools



Registration

Cost—\$20.00 (includes lunch). Please register by **March 13**.

Make checks payable to **Nebraska School Librarians Association** and mail to:

Kim Gangwish, Executive Secretary
Bellevue West High School
1501 Thurston Ave.
Bellevue, NE 68123

Name _____ School _____

Email _____ Special diet (gluten free, vegetarian, etc.) _____

Phone (cell or home in case of weather) _____

Which site are you attending? _____ Omaha _____ Kearney _____ North Platte

Creating Caring Connections

A Powerful Approach to Building Relationships with Young Children

When: Friday, March 27, 2015
9:00 a.m. to Noon

Where: Sump Memorial Library
222 N Jefferson St, Papillion, 68046

Cost: FREE training!

To best meet the needs of young children’s developing brains, the interactions they have with adults must have four qualities: nurture, engagement, structure and challenge. This session will present an approach to building relationships that supports optimal brain growth and social-emotional Development. Participants will not only know “the what” and “the why” but they will have lots of ideas on “how to” create these kinds of relationships with young children.

There is a \$15 fee for required materials - check or money order to ESU #3 (paid the day of the training)

**Pre-registration by March 20 is required!
To register, contact Cathy McMahon,
cathytmcmahon@gmail.com**



Brought to you by Sump Memorial Library and the Early Childhood Consortium of the Omaha Area (ELC ECCOA). ELC ECCOA is the Early Learning Connection partnership supporting training, technical assistance and consultation for those who work with children birth through age eight in Cass, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. ELC ECCOA is supported in part by a grant from federal CCDF, and a grant from Part C and Part B, 619 IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) administered by the Nebraska Department of Education.



Who We Are, What We Do, Why It Matters: Why Nebraska Needs Libraries More Than Ever

Registration Fee:
Only \$30



Presenter: Valerie Gross,
President & CEO of Howard
County Library System,
Maryland

9:30 AM
to
3:00 PM

April 22—Alliance Public Library

April 23—Kearney Public Library

**April 24—Columbus Public
Library**

Learn to describe your work and profession in terms that people understand and value. Explore, discuss, and practice proven techniques to:

- Redefine libraries in a new, innovative way
- Align your library with what the community understands: education
- Incorporate intuitive, value-enhancing words into your everyday lexicon
- Heighten your library's visibility, stature, and funding
- Develop strategies that you can integrate immediately into your work



PLTS Spring Meetings 2015

Major Sponsor: The NLA Public Library and Trustee Section. (We use your NLA dues to make terrific events like this one possible!) **Co-sponsors:** Central Plains Library System, Southeast Library System, Three Rivers Library System, and Western Library System. **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.**



Public Library and Trustee Section 2015 Spring Meetings

Who We Are, What We Do, Why It Matters: Why Nebraska Needs Libraries More Than Ever

April 22—Alliance Public Library
April 23—Kearney Public Library
April 24—Columbus Public Library

- 9:30 – 10 am Coffee & Registration
10 am - 12 pm Part I: Getting It Together
• The "Libraries = Education" Vision
• The Power of Language
• Q&A
12 – 1 pm Lunch on your own
1 – 3 pm Part II: Putting It Together
• Implementing the Vision
• Education Innovation
• Q&A/Wrap-Up
3:30-5:30 pm Navigating the Law (Kearney only)
An extra, optional workshop with Richard Miller of the Nebraska Library Commission. Especially geared towards library directors and trustees.

Registrant's Name: _____

Library Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

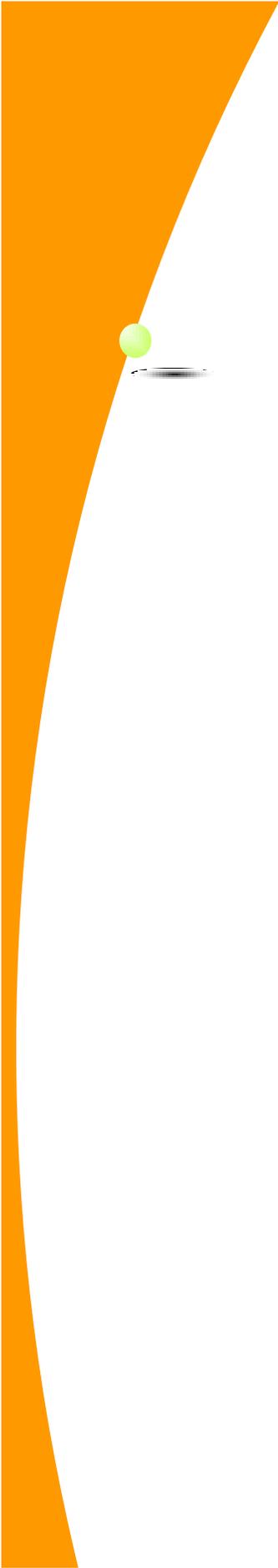
Location: __Alliance __Kearney __Columbus __Kearney with additional workshop (add \$5)

Include a check for \$30 made out to the NLA Public Library and Trustee Section with this registration form. Send to Amy Hafer, NLA PLTS Secretary/Treasurer, Hastings Public Library, 517 W 4th St., Hastings, NE 68901.

Registration deadline is April 10. Late or onsite registrations will be \$40.

Questions about registration? Contact Amy Hafer at amy@hastings.lib.ne.us or 402-461-2348, or Todd Schlechte at tschlechte@omahalibrary.org or 402-521-0405.

Co-sponsors: Central Plains Library System, Southeast Library System, Three Rivers Library System, and Western Library System. 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.



University of Missouri–Columbia
School of Information Science
and Learning Technologies
(SISLT)
Open House

**Saturday, April 25, 2015
1-4 pm**

**Southeast Library System Office
(5730 R St, Suite C-1, Lincoln NE)**

Join us for an open house and learn about the opportunity
to earn your MLS from Missouri!

- In-state tuition
- Classes meet at UNO and online
- 39-hour program you complete on your schedule

**Laura England-Biggs
Program Liaison, SISLT**

Phone: 402-290-3969
E-mail: engandle@missouri.edu

Southeast Library System

Serving libraries in the counties
of:

Butler • Clay • Fillmore • Gage •
Hamilton • Jefferson • Johnson •
Lancaster • Merrick • Nemaha •
Nuckolls • Otoe • Pawnee • Polk •
Richardson • Saline • Saunders •
Seward • Thayer • York

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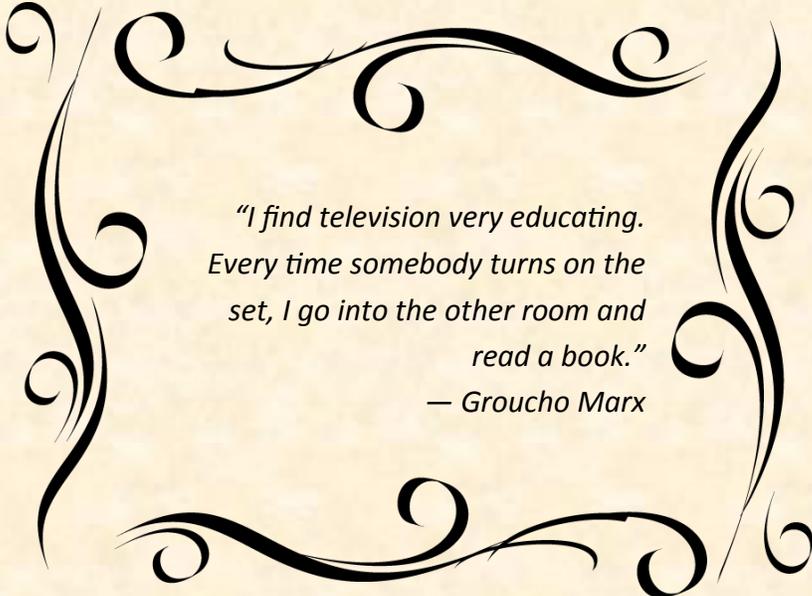
selsne@gmail.com

Website

<http://www.selsne.org>

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March 2015



*"I find television very educating.
Every time somebody turns on the
set, I go into the other room and
read a book."
— Groucho Marx*