

From the Director



Due to SELS having a bunch of activities this month, (Training Extravaganza last Friday, CASTL this coming Friday, getting ARPA Grant paperwork done...) I'm picking an article from our archives this month. Appropriately

enough – it is one from May 2016 talking about getting things done.

A woodsman was once asked, "What would you do if you had just five minutes to chop down a tree?" He answered, "I would spend the first two and a half minutes sharpening my axe." – Anonymous

I've often seen a similar quotation being attributed to Abraham Lincoln floating around, spending anywhere from minutes to hours to cut down that darned tree. Whoever actually said it, the sentiment still rings true.

For some it seems counter-intuitive to spend any part of your valuable time preparing to get something done instead of just doing it. For those, I would ask them to imagine trying to cut down a tree with an ax that's as sharp as an old butter knife. Not even a new one, but one of those that the neighbor down the road kept around just to pry things open.

Unfortunately there are many times when we jump right in to a task without taking a little bit of time to make sure we know what the plan is and that whatever we need to do it is in good condition.

This tree and ax metaphor can be used for more than just actual tools. It can refer to your skills as a library employee or trustee. Keeping your knowledge up on what's out there is the same as keeping your tools ready to be used. Spend some time to get them in shape and you will be rewarded with the work being easier to do and of better quality. And yes, sometimes you have to replace the ax with a chainsaw for larger jobs, or with a smaller handsaw for delicate, more precise work.

Your mental tool box includes so many things, such as the experiences you have had, the skills you have had training for, your intuition, your attitude and so much more. Be proud of all of them, keep them all in good order, and choose the right tool for the job and you will be rewarded when the work becomes easier and results more nuanced.

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Calendar

May 20, [CASTL, "Open Meeting Act Refresher,"](#) SELS Meeting Room

National Endangered Species Day

May 24, National Scavenger Hunt Day

May 30, Memorial Day, SELS Office Closed

June, [Rainbow Book Month](#)

National Pollinators Month

June 3, [School Librarians in a Changing World](#), 9:00-12:00 pm, p. 9

June 4, National Prairie Day

June 8, World Ocean Day

June 9, National Strawberry Rhubarb Pie Day

June 10, National Movie Day

June 12, National Children's Day

June 24, CASTL, Shelby Community Library

September 1-2, 28th Joint Annual Youth Services Retreat



Photos of the Month



About 30 people attended the hugely successful Mother's Day Tea Party at Hebron Secret Library on May 7th. They hope to host it again next year! —*Provided by Kelly Spellman*

CASTL Wrap-up

Our April CASTL meeting was held online and was a discussion about vendors that our libraries use for different things. Our discussion was rather free flowing that morning, so instead of the usual chronological recap – we'll reorganize it to be more based on topic, so it makes more sense. Also note that this just reflects those that were brought up during the meeting and is not an exhaustive list of what is available.

General Book Purchases

- [Baker & Taylor](#) – most of those at meeting using a supplier are using Baker & Taylor. Some librarians mentioned using services such as author auto-order, but mostly refrain from genre bundles.
- [Ingram](#) – Ingram was mentioned, but many are switching to B&T or more individual book purchases through other means
- [AbeBooks](#) – AbeBooks was mentioned specifically as a place some libraries are using to get older books for doing things like filling out a series.
- Amazon
- Local bookstore

Large Print Books

- [CenterPoint](#)
- [Thorndike](#) (part of Cengage/Gale)
- Some librarians reported finding better prices for large print on their general book vendors for some titles as well

Kids Books

- [Penworthy Books](#) was mentioned by a few of our attendees very favorably
- [Usborne](#) was also received some favorable mentions
- [MidAmerica](#)
- [Junior Library Guild](#) seemed to have had mixed reviews

Book Leasing

A few libraries have tried collection leasing from [Baker & Taylor](#) and [McNaughton](#) but found that the concept wasn't a good fit for their libraries

Places to send weeded materials

- [Thrift Books](#) – mixed reviews by the meeting attendees, they sometimes require a minimum number of boxes per shipment. Some have found they will sometimes take DVDs and CDs.
- [Baker & Taylor Sustainable Shelves](#) – some expressed that they had rocky starts with the program and others have had good results.
- [Better World Books](#) – Libraries are still using them, often as the secondary source after book sale or the services listed above.
- Local used book stores will sometimes take library books, depending on condition.

News Around the System

Fairmont Public Library Participates in WanderNebraska

By Wanda Marget

Fairmont Public Library has been picked for their inaugural passport travel program called WanderNebraska.

The Program starts Memorial Day Monday May 30, 2022 and wraps up on Labor Day September 5, 2022. Booklets show 27 statewide travel adventures around the state.



This program encourages travelers to visit Nebraska Museums, Parks, Libraries and other points of interest in order to win participation prizes along the way. According to U.S. Tourism statistics over 36% of vacations in 2021 were history-focused.

Many of the sites you will visit are located in close proximity to historical markers which are easily accessible and provide educational interpretation of the stories and people of the past. To learn more about Nebraska History, download History Nebraska's app "Explore Nebraska History".

Pat Leach Retires in August

Pat Leach began her career at Lincoln City Libraries in 1979. She started as a part-time assistant while still a college student. She also served as South Branch Supervisor and as the Youth Services Librarian before being selected as the Director .

"I am so proud of the people who make up our library staff, and of their ability and commitment to serve the people of Lincoln," said Leach. "I want to thank the many people who have been our partners throughout the years, especially those who served on the Library Board and through the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries. It's been an honor to be the Library Director in this city that so clearly values lifelong education."



Pat has presented numerous workshops for Southeast Library System, including a keynote on advocacy at its 2019 Training Extravaganza.

Leach's last day with Lincoln City Libraries is scheduled for August 31, 2022.

News Around the System

Décor for Summer Reading Theme

Pictures by Chelsea Foust

In Nebraska City at Morton-James Public Library preparations are underway for the Summer Reading Program!



Bannedbookstore.co launches

If you want to get a taste of what sort of books are banned, this might be a fun web site to visit. EveryLibrary is responsible for the site, and states that “book selection comes from a wide range of sources including PEN America’s [comprehensive list](#), Dr. Tasslyn Magnusson’s [spreadsheet of book bans and challenges](#), various smaller lists provided by the American Library Association, and other historically banned or challenged book lists. “ Sales of books go toward the support of libraries. (<https://www.everylibrary.org/bannedbookstore>)

News Around the System

Organization of Cake Pans in Osceola

By April Stevens, Photo by April Stevens

We have had a special collection of cake pans at the Osceola Public Library for 22 years. They were back in a small area on shelves and in various cloth bags and paper bags with no good organization. We recently had a fairly large donation of cake pans to add to our collection. I decided it was past time to revamp our cake pan collection. Our pans are now in clear hanging bags on rods and a chain for oversized pans that were installed by the Director's husband, Joel Stevens. Our 87 cake pans are alphabetized, clearly marked, and have pictures that show the original inserts in our [online catalog](#).



2022 YALSA's Top Teen Nominees Announced!

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association, has officially announced the 2022 Teens' Top Ten Nominees. This year's list of nominees features 25 titles that were published between Jan. 1, 2021 and Dec. 31, 2021. The annotated list is available at <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/teenstopten>.

Teens are encouraged to read the nominees throughout the summer to prepare for the national Teens' Top Ten vote, which will take place Aug. 15 - Oct. 12th. The ten nominees that receive the most votes will be named the official 2022 Teens' Top Ten. As the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has put a strain on in-person library experiences, this is a great opportunity to better utilize digital resources. We encourage teens to engage in digital resources, especially e-books and audiobooks offered by their libraries. To learn more, visit www.ala.org/yalsa/teenstopten.



News Around the System

28th Joint Annual Youth Services Retreat to be Held September 1-2

This year we will again be holding our retreat in person at Camp Carol Joy Holling near Ashland.

Currently we are still in the middle of planning the Joint Youth Services Retreat, but most presentations and events are already confirmed. These include:

- **Top Teen Books** with Sally Snyder
- **Story times with ASL** with Amanda Winkler
- **Illustrator Visit** with Aaliya Jaleel
- **“Booktalk” Your Top Successes, Crafts, Programs, Etc.!** (participants)
- **Technology Kits from the NLC** with Amanda Sweet (think Oculus Quest 2, Finch 2.0 Robot, DJI Tello EDU Drone, Sphero Bolt Robots with Terrain Station and with Chariot, and Hummingbird Bit Premium). You will have a chance to play with these items!
- **Gaming in the Library** with James Tidei
- **Best Children’s Books** with Ali Bousquet and Garren Hochstettler.
- **How To Find the Right Verbiage When Someone Does Not Like a Book** with Vicki Wood
- **Calming, Centering Activities for Children** with Sheila Palmquist

We are still working on this event and will provide a complete schedule and a link for registration, which will include pricing, when ready.



Save the Date!

Other News

NLC Book Kit Spotlight: Bronx Masquerade

By Mackenzie Marrow

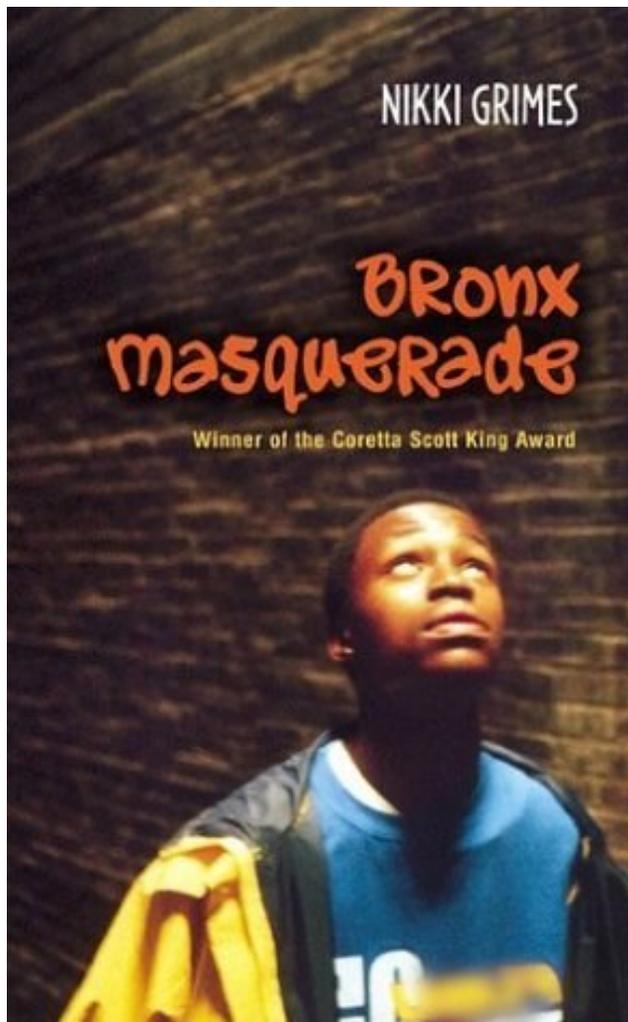
What sold me on *Bronx Masquerade* by Nikki Grimes was a Goodreads review that said “**I hated it, but my students loved it!**”. And that’s how you know you have a good book on your hands.

Bronx Masquerade is a fictional pseudo-narrative that hosts a collection of poems and slam poetry by Black and Hispanic high schoolers. Each poem and accompanying chapter gives the reader a short peak into the student’s lives. It’s a great way for your readers to explore other perspectives, and delve into how you never really know what’s going on beneath the surface of your classmates. Some poems are cheesy, and maybe even cringe worthy (especially facing its 20th anniversary), but that makes the story more realistic. Not every 16 year old is going to be the next Ocean Vuong or Rupi Kaur and that’s ok! Maybe there are some aspiring poets in your class that can take that to heart.

This title can be used in the classroom as a great introduction into contemporary poetry, especially slam poetry. It is recommended for grades 7-12 and has a slew of awards including the 2003 Coretta Scott King Author Award. Further information about the title, including a Teaching Guide can be found on [the author’s website](#).

If you’re interested in requesting this book for your book club/classroom, use the Book Club Kit Request Form listed [here](#).

Grimes, Nikki. *Bronx Masquerade*. Speak. 2002.



**School
Librarians
In A
Changing
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9 am Dayna Derichs
Cool Creative Apps

10 am Alexandra Ball
Teaching Media Literacy at the Elementary Level

11 am Sara Friest
Technology from the NLC: Drones, VR Headsets, and Spheros

June 3

9 am – 12 pm

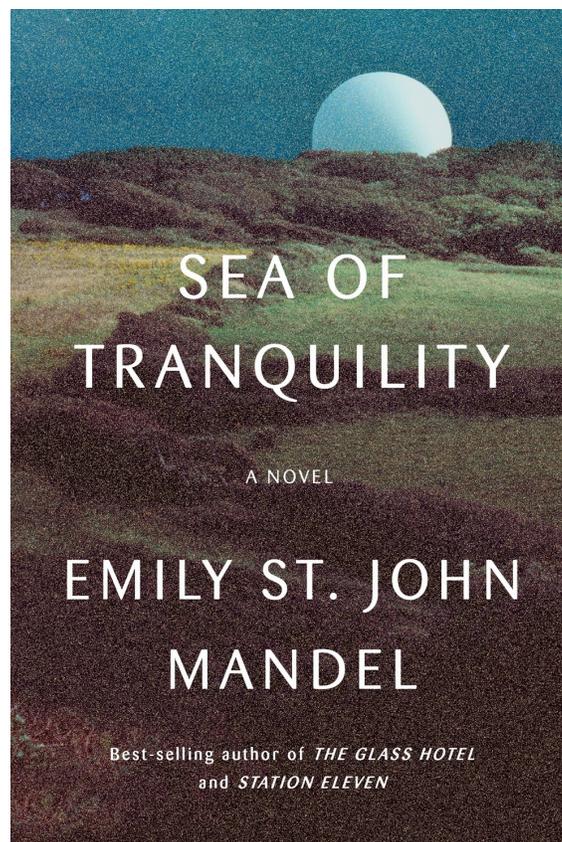
Via Zoom

[Register here by June 1](#)

System Spotlight

New Book Kit!

The book *Sea of Tranquility* plays with the concept of time. Edwin St. Andrew is eighteen years old when he crosses the Atlantic by steamship, exiled from polite society. He is spellbound by the beauty of the Canadian wilderness, and in the wilderness suddenly hears the notes of a violin echoing in an airship terminal—an experience that shocks him to his core. Two centuries later a famous writer named Olive Llewellyn is on a book tour. Her home is the second moon colony, a place of white stone, spired towers, and artificial beauty. Within the text of Olive’s bestselling pandemic novel lies a strange passage: a man plays his violin for change in the echoing corridor of an airship terminal as the trees of a forest rise around him. When Gaspéry-Jacques Roberts, a detective in the Night City, is hired to investigate an anomaly in the North American wilderness, he uncovers a series of lives upended.



Southeast Library System

<http://libraries.ne.gov/SELS/>

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