

From the Director



A long time ago, I was in a training session put on by UNL Campus police in regards to preventing theft of classroom equipment. The presenter put up a slide with a picture of a media “cart”

found in a typical classroom. On the top of the cart was an old tube-style TV – probably one that weighed about 50 pounds. It was big and bulky and had a chain draped over the top and attached to the cart. A little further down was a VCR attached to the cart with a cable lock. (I told you this was a while ago)

The question was put forward to the attendees – why was this setup not lowering the number of thefts of classroom equipment? At that time the TV was probably the most expensive thing on the cart, but it was also going to be the hardest to carry out of the room undetected. The VCR on the other hand was small enough that it could have fit snugly in a style of backpack that many students used every day on campus.

The people who were deciding the levels of theft protection were only using one criteria – cost. In the end they lost about the same amount of money due to the recurring theft of similar, yet cheaper, equipment. Also in the conversation was the fact that VCRS were fairly cheap at the time and it was

probably just cheaper to replace them to really secure them.

Why bring this up? For libraries, I have seen similar discussions about theft among library board members that still want their libraries to install massive amounts of theft protection equipment. I saw one for a smaller library that suggested spending about what would be around \$10 per book, while most of the collection could be replaced at a cost of about \$8 per book.

Don’t get me wrong. In some cases, security measures might make really good sense for a library. One that is mostly specialized and filled with hard to replace items. Larger libraries that can buy in bulk the necessary equipment.

Just remember to examine any proposals to make sure that you are protecting the items that might actually be easy to sneak out of your library, and that you aren’t spending more per item to secure them than the possible replacement costs.

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Calendar



September 15, Start of National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 19, Talk Like A Pirate Day

September 26-October 2, [Banned Books Week](#)

September 24, [CASTL, Kilgore Memorial Library, York, OR via Zoom, "Dolly Parton Imagination Library/How are You Using Your ARPA Grant Funds"](#)

September 25, [Plum Creek Literacy Festival](#). Concordia University, Seward

September 29, [Banned Websites Awareness Day](#)

October, [TeenTober](#)

Health Literacy Month

National Bullying Prevention Month

October 11, Columbus Day, Indigenous Peoples' Day, SELS OFFICE CLOSED

October 12-14, [NLA Conference, "The World Turned Upside Down: Reinventing Libraries in Changing Times"](#)

October 16, [Nebraska School Librarians Day](#)

November 5, [Read Aloud Nebraska Workshop](#)

December 3, SELS Summer Reading Program Workshop

Photos of the Month



At Fairmont Public Library Wanda Marget held a "Learn to Crochet" class and was thrilled to have a teenage boy and tween girl attend with their mom and grandma. —*photos courtesy of mother Stephanie Chambers.*

CASTL Wrap-up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

September 24

Kilgore Memorial Library,
York and via Zoom
“Dolly Parton Imagination
Library/How are You Using
Your ARPA Grant Funds?”

October 29

Falls City Library and Art
Center

November 19

Gilbert Public Library
Friend
“Bibliostat”

Our August 27th CASTL was hosted by Southeast Library System and was entitled "Summer Reading Successes." The original plan was to host this CASTL at the SELS office in Lincoln, but as the COVID risk dial went up in Lancaster County to the point of "high risk of COVID-19 spread," and when other factors were also taken into account, such as the lack of ability to sufficiently spread out in the meeting room, the difficult decision was made to switch to Zoom.

We heard a wide variety of library experiences with summer reading programs this year. One director switched to simple logging with just one entertainer at the end. Participation was excellent, with prizes (including cash prizes) as an incentive.

Another library had a tween/teen book club during their summer reading program and the book club decided that they want to keep meeting throughout the year.

One library held all big programs outside due to COVID. They purchased a large tent from the local hardware store to provide some shade. The elementary programs went really well and people understood why programs were outside.

For another library the local daycare was crucial in feeding kids into the SRP program. There was excellent attendance for a final event by Edgerton with owls and falcons. This library finds that having animals or something live provides a larger attendance than most other events.

There was a library who had a really great group of kids with no complainers, plus every event went well.

Another library found they needed a way to get people in, and so kids could enter once a day for an Amazon Fire Tablet when they checked out a book. For adults, the grand prize was a \$100 shopping spree.

For another library, a major event was when Game and Parks gave a tour at Lake Wanahoo with the highlight for the kids being the finding of a dead snake. They also had an increase in the number of people who turned in their reading logs.

There was also a library that had an excellent event where the presenter made balloon animals--the kids didn't want him to leave!

Lastly, a library shared that animal programs were their biggest draw. The balloon program mentioned earlier was also awesome. There were more reading logs from middle schoolers, high schoolers, and adults than normal. It helped that middle schoolers and high schoolers could enter a drawing for a Kindle Fire. The NRD did a free Nebraska animals program that included animal furs.

Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

To see the list of basic skills classes, [click here](#). Here's what's coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
October 18—October 29	Management/Supervision	September 13—October 8
November 1—November 11	Leadership	September 27—October 22
November 29—Dec. 10	Library Services to Children & Teens	October 25—November 19

News Around the System

The Beatrice Public Library Participates in 9/11 Memorial and Museum's Education Exhibition

Provided by Joanne Neeman

Beatrice Public Library is excited to announce its participation in *September 11, 2001: The Day That Changed the World*, a downloadable educational exhibition that presents the history of 9/11, its origins, and its ongoing implications through the personal stories of those who witnessed and survived the attacks. Told across 14 posters, this exhibition includes archival photographs and images of artifacts from the Museum's permanent collection. It explores the consequences of terrorism on individual lives and communities at the local, national, and international levels, and encourages critical thinking about the legacies of 9/11.



Twenty years after the attacks, with terrorism still a threat today, the events of 9/11 and its aftermath remind us that we may never be able to prevent all the actions of people intent on harming others, but we do have control over how we respond to such events. Whether by volunteering in our local communities, serving our nation in the military, caring for the sick, or through other efforts, all of us can help build the world in which we want to live. As we witness history unfolding in our own time, the ways we choose to respond – both large and small – can demonstrate the best of human nature after even the worst of days.

The poster exhibition was developed by the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and has been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy Demands Wisdom. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this exhibition do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment of the Humanities.

News Around the System

Seward Ends the Summer Reading Program with a Birthday Party

Provided by Charlotte Baldinger

It was a festive morning in Seward Memorial Library on July 31. Over 100 children and adults came to Harry Potter's birthday party. All ages joined in the celebration which included games, activities, treats and prizes. Patrons in costume mixed potions, raced to deliver mail with the owls and solemnly entered the sorting room. They visited Hogwarts Express at 9 3/4 for photos. The trivia area gave readers a chance to show off their knowledge of Harry Potter and children enjoyed the challenge of finding pixies who were hiding around the library. Prizes related to Harry Potter's adventures were awarded during a random drawing. For almost 2 hours the community was able to leave cares behind and enter the magical world where there were no masks or Covid lurking in the background. Attendees left with a smile and sweet memories of escaping into one of their favorite places.



Jeff Barnes Speaks in Fairbury

Story and photos by Debbie Aden

On August 26 Fairbury Public Library had 21 people attend Jeff Barnes Humanities Nebraska program "Marking Nebraska: Our (Mostly) Hidden Historical Monuments." The program was very interesting and well received. It is obvious that Mr. Barnes has researched his book thoroughly and enjoys speaking to the public about it.



News Around the System

Stromsburg Public Library Bids Good-Bye to Intern

Provided by Monica Tidyman

We were so sad to say goodbye to our summer intern, Jaci Rutherford. (As you can tell, we had a lot of fun.) Jaci is a junior at Cross County Schools and was a big help this summer as we moved our adult non-fiction and fiction around, added a board game collection to the library and moved the Young Adult section to make room for the board games. Jaci also helped with summer reading and applying new barcodes to books that are causing issues in our system.

Jaci is an avid reader and has been coming to the library with her family since she was in elementary school. She was a good worker and we would not have completed all of our projects this summer without her.

Funding for Jaci's internship is supported in part with state funds allocated through the Nebraska Legislature and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the Nebraska Library Systems.

Photos were staged on her last day of working as we'd been so busy all summer we hadn't taken any!



Crete Public Library to Host Grand Opening

Provided by Joy Stevenson

Crete Public Library's Grand Opening is Wednesday, September 15, with a formal program at 1:30 p.m. Other activities will be held for families after school.



Save the Date!

Summer Reading Program Workshop

Oceans of Possibilities



December 3

Via Zoom



TEENtober

What will you discover at the library?

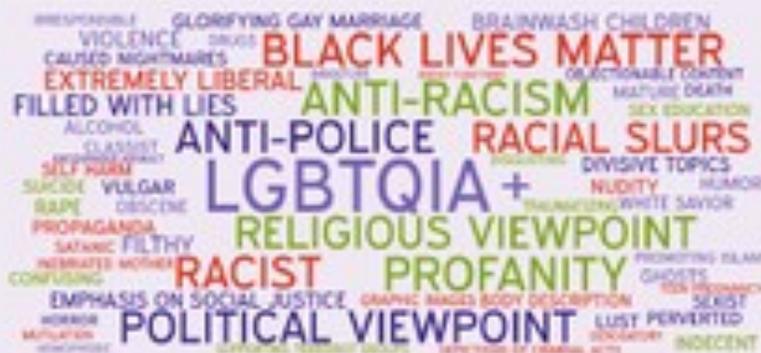
www.ala.org/yalsa/teentober



Censorship by the Numbers

Books unite us. They reach across boundaries and build connections between readers. Censorship, on the other hand, divides us and creates barriers. In 2020, 273 books were affected by censorship attempts. [Learn more at ala.org/bbooks.](http://ala.org/bbooks)

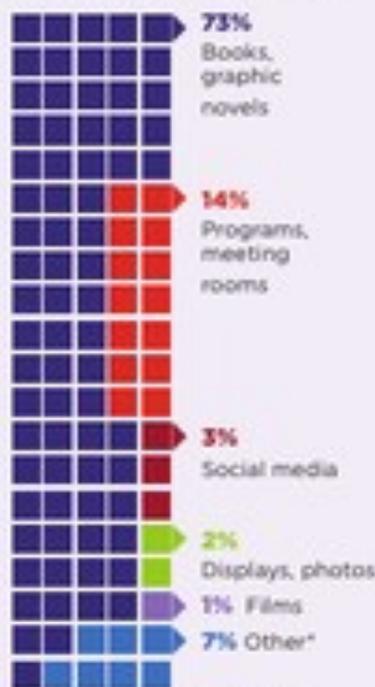
Reasons for Challenges



Each word and phrase in this graphic is cited from 2020 censorship reports

Books and Beyond

The ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 156 challenges in 2020. Here's the breakdown:



* Includes filtering, access, databases, magazines, online resources, legislation

Who Initiates Challenges?



- 50% Parents
- 20% Patrons
- 11% Board/administration
- 9% Political/religious groups
- 5% Librarians/teachers
- 4% Elected officials
- 1% Students

Statistics based on 147 responses

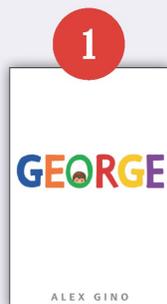
Where Do Challenges Take Place?

Statistics based on 156 responses

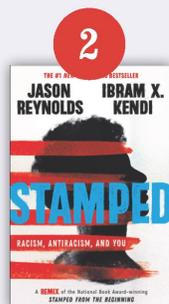


Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2020

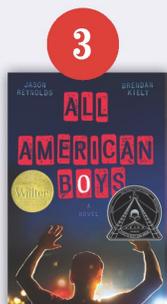
The American Library Association tracked 156 challenges to library, school, and university materials and services in 2020. A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials or services based on content. Overall, 273 books were targeted. Here are the “Top 10 Most Challenged Books in 2020,” along with the reasons cited for censoring the books:



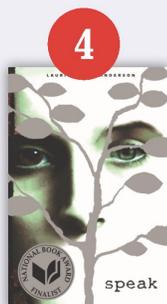
George
by Alex Gino
Challenged, banned, and restricted for LGBTQIA+ content, conflicting with a religious viewpoint, and not reflecting “the values of our community”



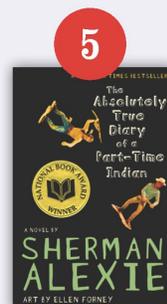
Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You
by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds
Banned and challenged because of author’s public statements, and because of claims that the book contains “selective storytelling incidents” and does not encompass racism against all people



All American Boys
by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
Banned and challenged for profanity, drug use, and alcoholism, and because it was thought to promote anti-police views, contain divisive topics, and be “too much of a sensitive matter right now”



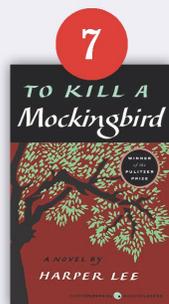
Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson
Banned, challenged, and restricted because it was thought to contain a political viewpoint and it was claimed to be biased against male students, and for the novel’s inclusion of rape and profanity



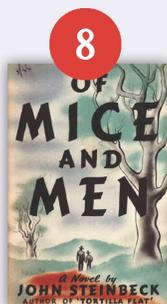
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
by Sherman Alexie
Banned and challenged for profanity, sexual references, and allegations of sexual misconduct by the author



Something Happened in Our Town: A Child’s Story About Racial Injustice
by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard, illustrated by Jennifer Zivoin
Challenged for “divisive language” and because it was thought to promote anti-police views



To Kill a Mockingbird
by Harper Lee
Banned and challenged for racial slurs and their negative effect on students, featuring a “white savior” character, and its perception of the Black experience



Of Mice and Men
by John Steinbeck
Banned and challenged for racial slurs and racist stereotypes, and their negative effect on students



The Bluest Eye
by Toni Morrison
Banned and challenged because it was considered sexually explicit and depicts child sexual abuse



The Hate U Give
by Angie Thomas
Challenged for profanity, and it was thought to promote an anti-police message



2021 Fall RAN Workshop

**FRIDAY
NOV. 5**

Seward Memorial Library
233 South 5th Street, Seward, Nebraska



Kathi Wagner

The Top Ten Reasons to Read Aloud with Others

From increasing vocabulary to strengthening listening skills, the benefits of reading aloud are incredibly important to our children and our society as a whole. Kathi Wagner-Most, author, librarian, and parent, will discuss the top ten reasons for reading aloud and the incredible importance of sharing the magical world of words with others.

Kim Jocelyn Dickson

The Invisible Toolbox: Why Reading to Your Child is One of the Greatest Gifts a Parent Can Give

Kim draws on thirty years in the elementary classroom, her own parenting experience, and the latest research in neuroscience, to explain the literacy crisis the U.S. faces and how it can be mitigated, one child at a time. She believes that every child begins kindergarten with a lunchbox in one hand and an invisible toolbox in the other. If a child has been read to from the beginning, their invisible toolbox will be equipped with all the foundational tools and motivation they need for success in school and beyond. (Zoom Presentation)

Amber and Andy Ankowski

How to Make Kids Love Books (Every Time You Open Your Mouth)

Did you know that there's a sentence-swallowing, chapter-chewing, insatiably ravenous reader hiding inside every child? And the best way to lure it out... is with your voice! Join parenting authors Amber and Andy Ankowski as they explore the power of speaking to kids in ways that help them develop monstrous literacy skills, and a lifelong love of reading. Learn fun and easy techniques for turning read-alouds into conversations, seamlessly incorporating language learning into everyday activities, and choosing a balanced diet of book types that will keep kids clamoring for more! (Zoom Presentation)

Advance and Online registration - \$35

Must be postmarked or submitted by October 29.

Please fill out the registration form and mail with your check or visit www.readaloudnebraska.org to pay by credit card via PayPal. No PayPal account is needed.

Onsite registration - \$40

Registrations received after October 29 will not include lunch.



Advance & Online registrations include lunch sponsored by Runza Restaurants!

AGENDA

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Registration, Refreshments, Welcome

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Breakout Session 1

10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Kathi Wagner Keynote

11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Breakout Session 2

11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Lunch, Book Sales & Signing

12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Kim Jocelyn Dickson Keynote

1:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Breakout Session 3

2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Amber and Andy Ankowski Keynote

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Closing, Evaluations, Book Sales

Please mail this registration with your check to:

Read Aloud Nebraska
233 South 5th Street
Seward, NE 68434

Sorry, no purchase orders are accepted.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Circle which breakout sessions you want to attend:

Breakout 1: a b c Breakout 3: a b c

Breakout 2: a b c

Breakout Session 1 9:00–9:45**a Plunge into Poetry!***Anne Alston, Program Director, Nebraska Arts Council*

Take a deep dive into teaching poetry through resources presented in this session. Participants will learn about online sites that house some of the world's best published poetry, along with poets' biographical information, and lesson plans about reading, writing, and performing poetry. We will explore best practices and tips for teachers to engage students through poetry and introduce online materials that students can navigate for themselves. Hear from one teacher about how she has successfully employed poetry as a vehicle to engage her most reluctant students and prompt others to find expression through performance and writing. Discover what the Poetry Foundation, Poetry Out Loud, and Nebraska's very own Poetry from the Plains have to offer!

b Picture Book Read Alouds*Carla Ketner, PhD., Chapters Books & Gifts*

Reading aloud is the single most important activity leading to language development, and that's only one of the reasons to share great books with children. Carla will share high-quality, engaging new picture books to read aloud.

c Read Aloud in Your Community*Ali Bousquet, Lincoln City Libraries Librarian*

Reading aloud is the single most important activity parents can do to prepare their children for reading and learning. Learn how your library can promote reading aloud in your community. Get ideas for how to get started, make connections, and spread the word.

Breakout Session 2 11:00–11:45**a How Reading Aloud Helps Illustrate Books***Ruth Harper, Illustrator of *The Kissing Hand* and other titles*

Picture books are a child's first exposure to creative language and also to art. Illustrators find the 'perfect' balance of words and images, by reading it over and over - aloud - so that when the book is read it can speak to all the ways different children learn. This is especially important for children with ADHD - enabling them to move, while hearing and seeing.

b Non-Fiction for the Young Ones*Vicki Wood, Lincoln City Libraries Youth Services Coordinator*

When people think of reading aloud, they often think of picture books and fictional stories. There's a wonderful world of informational picture books for kids that are equally delightful. Vicki will share some of her favorites from the last few years.

c NebraskaREADS - Developing Strong Early Literacy Skills*Abby Burke, Nebraska Department of Education*

Reading with children outside of school is the best way to help them achieve strong early literacy. The Read at Home Plan from NebraskaREADS provides games and activities that can be played in non-school settings to help boost early reading skills. Many separate skills must be developed for a child to become a skilled reader. These can be taught in fun and creative ways.

Breakout Session 3 1:30–2:15**a Reach Out and Read in Nebraska**

Hear from a team working to spread and strengthen the presence of Reach Out and Read across Nebraska, a nonprofit that works to incorporate early literacy guidance and book sharing as a standard of pediatric well-care. Already an established program throughout the state, Reach Out and Read National has been working in partnership with the Nebraska Partnership for Mental Healthcare Access in Pediatrics and You Go Girl Omaha to provide enhanced support and sustainability to participating clinics while working to expand the program to reach even more families. Learn more about the impact of the program and work being done to serve Nebraska's youngest children and promote reading from birth. (Zoom Presentation)

b New Fiction Read Alouds for Older Readers*Youth Panel, Seward Middle School*

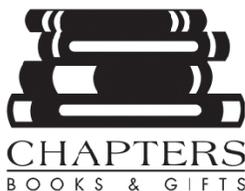
Learn about some awesome fiction books for older readers directly from students in that demographic! Kayla Albright, Ethan Boggs and Addilyn Sugden, eighth grade students at Seward Middle School, will review books published in 2020 and 2021 and let you know which titles would make great read-alouds!

c Enhancing Your Read Aloud while Engaging Students*Julie Kozisek, Ph.D.*

Julie will talk about ways to catch your readers' attention while focusing on the techniques of using your voice to enhance the read aloud and other strategies that could be used with students to get them engaged with the read aloud.

Questions? info@readaloudnebraska.org

Books by the keynote speakers as well as many of the titles that will be reviewed during the sessions will be for sale by Chapters Books & Gifts!

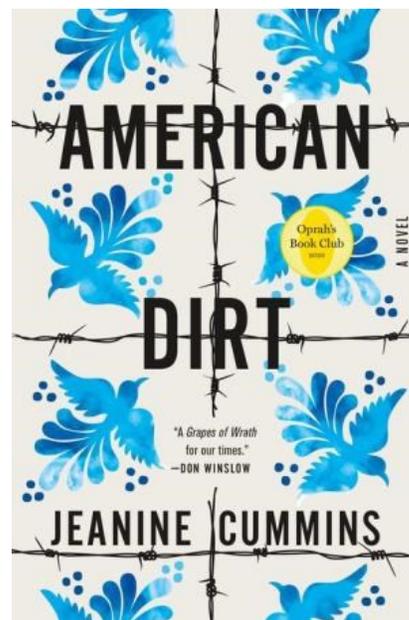


System Spotlight

New Book Kit!

We now have 10 hardcover copies of *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. A description follows: “Lydia Quixano Pérez lives in the Mexican city of Acapulco. She runs a bookstore. She has a son, Luca, the love of her life, and a wonderful husband who is a journalist. And while there are cracks beginning to show in Acapulco because of the drug cartels, her life is, by and large, fairly comfortable.

Even though she knows they’ll never sell, Lydia stocks some of her all-time favorite books in her store. And then one day a man enters the shop to browse and comes up to the register with a few books he would like to buy—two of them her favorites. Javier is erudite. He is charming. And, unbeknownst to Lydia, he is the jefe of the newest drug cartel that has gruesomely taken over the city. When Lydia’s husband’s tell-all profile of Javier is published, none of their lives will ever be the same.” -*Goodreads*



Southeast Library System

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

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

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