

# PLAIN SPEAKING

CENTRAL PLAINS LIBRARY SYSTEM NEWSLETTER

Educate | Connect | Inspire



This article was written by Scott Childers, Director of the Southeast Library System, was published in the January 2024 issue of *The Southeast Signal* and is reprinted here with Scott's permission.

“If this nation is to be wise as well as strong, if we are to achieve our destiny, then we need more new ideas for more wise men reading more good books in more public libraries. These libraries should be open to all — except the censor. We must know all the facts and hear all the alternatives and listen to all the criticisms. Let us welcome controversial books and controversial authors. For the Bill of Rights is the guardian of our security as well as our liberty.”

- Then Senator John F. Kennedy,  
in reply to a questionnaire for Presidential  
candidates, *Saturday Review* (October 29, 1960),  
p. 44.

I came across this quote recently by then Senator John F. Kennedy the other day in an online discussion about the current surge in book censoring legislation across the nation. It struck me how controversial this comment would be in modern politics, yet so apropos.

Kennedy made many comments about how having the freedom to read and having access to a wide variety of ideas helped create a better life and a better nation; how the international problems of the time weren't going to be solved by doing things the same way that got there in the first place.

*(Continued on page 2.)*



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## BOARD MEMBERS:

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You can see that in a few other speeches he gave. One on April 13, 1959, for National Library Week and two on April 16, 1959, one to the National Civil Liberties Clearing House Annual Conference, and another at the Cleveland Press Book and Author Luncheon. Parts of the speeches really do read as products of their time, but there is a continued theme of how an educated nation with access to diverse ideas is a strong nation that still rings true to this day. Sometimes we need a reminder of how libraries have been and will continue to be recognized as a very important part of our history and future.

## Blue Hill Public Library Presents

### *...A Lifelong Love of Reading*

A new wall display at the Blue Hill Public Library pays tribute to two former residents, the late Dr. Dorothy Dusek, a prolific author and 1956 graduate of Blue Hill High School, and her mother, the late Laura Louise Berns Dusek, a Bladen-area native. The display was inspired by the gift of a plaque and monetary donation from Dorothy Dusek's estate to the library's Friends Foundation.

The fall of 1956 found Dorothy headed for Lincoln to attend the University of Nebraska with a Regents' Scholarship, where she majored in physical education with an English minor. After teaching high school for a time, Dorothy felt the need for further challenges and enrolled in graduate school, eventually earning her Ph.D in exercise physiology from the University of Toledo in Ohio.

In collaboration with her lifelong partner, Daniel Girdano, Dorothy wrote 35 college textbooks on the subject of health and fitness. Dorothy also published dozens of research articles on topics such as nutrition, stress management, and drug education and prevention. Dorothy loved the mountains and the western area of the country. She was an avid tennis player, skier, pickleball enthusiast and kayaker, even though she hated water. As an adult, Dorothy spent a good deal of time in Blue Hill, visiting friends and relatives.

"It's fitting that this year's summer reading theme is 'Adventure Begins at Your Library,'" said library director Carla Post. "Plans are to highlight books with an outdoor adventure focus, and to hopefully tie in a bit of information about one of Blue Hill's very accomplished adventurers – one who also happened to be an author and a book enthusiast."



# Book Protection and Repair

On March 21, we had a **Thursday Morning Learning** session about book protection and repair with products from KAPCO. [Click here to watch the recording.](#) Report 1 CEU.

The System is providing a 20% discount on the featured KAPCO products plus free shipping to our member libraries. The deadline for turning in this order to Denise at [denise.cpls@gmail.com](mailto:denise.cpls@gmail.com) is **Friday, April 5, 2024.**

| Item                                 | Price   | Discounted Price | Quantity Ordered |
|--------------------------------------|---------|------------------|------------------|
| Orange Squeegee                      | \$1.25  | \$1.00           |                  |
| Easy Corners - Poly                  | \$10.65 | \$8.52           |                  |
| Easy Bind (1.25" x 100") Inside      | \$19.65 | \$15.72          |                  |
| Easy Bind II (4" x 90") Spine        | \$44.45 | \$35.56          |                  |
| Easy Bind Tyvek (1.25" x 100") White | \$15.75 | \$12.60          |                  |
| Easy Trimmer                         | \$71.75 | \$57.40          |                  |
| Easy Hold (250) Bow Tie              | \$45.00 | \$36.00          |                  |
| Easy Wings (50) Top of Spine         | \$11.30 | \$9.04           |                  |
| Label Protectors (500) Vinyl         | \$11.95 | \$9.56           |                  |
| Label Protectors (500) Poly          | \$23.80 | \$19.04          |                  |
| 12" Ruler                            | \$3.25  | \$2.60           |                  |

Voting for the 2023-24 Golden Sower Winner is Nearly Done

Voting is open November 1st - **April 15th**



Click on the picture to vote.,

# BASIC SKILLS CLASSES

| Class Dates | Class   | Registration Dates |
|-------------|---|--------------------|
| open        | Communication   | available any time |
| 4/1 - 4/30  | Introduction to Cataloging<br>(Organization of Materials) | 2/19 - 3/15        |
| 4/15 - 4/26 | Library Finance   | 3/11 - 4/5         |
| 5/6 - 5/17  | Intellectual Freedom / Core Values                        | 4/1 - 4/26         |
| 6/3 - 6/14  | Readers' Advisory   | 4/29 - 5/24        |

[Click here](#) for the Nebraska Library Commission's webpage for the 2024 Basic Skills Schedule and to register for any of the classes.

## NCompass LIVE PRESENTATIONS

NCompass Live is the Nebraska Library Commission's weekly webinar series, covering a variety of library activities and topics. The show is free and open to anyone to watch. These one-hour sessions are hosted by Christa Porter, the NLC's Library Development Director, and include a mixture of presentations, interviews, book reviews, Web tours, mini training sessions, and Q & A sessions presented by NLC staff and guest speakers. Attendees ask questions and participate in the show via VoIP, using their own microphone, or in the live text chat.

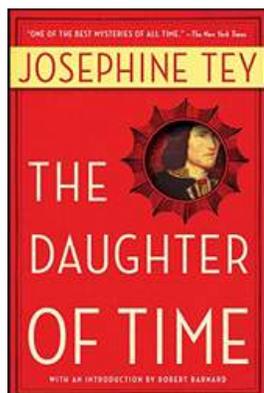
Every Wednesday 10am - 11am (CST)  
To view past presentations, [CLICK HERE](#).

|   |        |                          |
|---|--------|--------------------------|
| <a href="#">NCompass Live: Improving the Quality of Childcare Through STREAM</a>                      | Apr 3  | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| <a href="#">NCompass Live: Program Planning with a Marketing Mindset</a>                              | Apr 10 | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| <a href="#">NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech: Computers in Libraries 2024 Highlights &amp; Trends</a> | Apr 24 | <a href="#">Register</a> |
| <a href="#">NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech</a>  | May 29 | <a href="#">Register</a> |

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# BOOK CLUB SPOTLIGHT AT NLC

(CONTRIBUTED BY MACKENZIE MARROW)



With the British Royal Family gossip mill recently abuzz, now is the perfect opportunity to visit Josephine Tey's 1951 novel *The Daughter of Time* and take a step back to the 15th century to investigate the murderous reputation of Richard III. Holding the top spot in the British Crime Writers' Association's list of Top 100 Crime Novels of All Time, *The Daughter of Time* is quite the influential novel, leading in part to the discovery of Richard III's burial site in 2012. Like Nebraska's own Mignon G. Eberhart, Tey wrote during what is called the "Golden Age of Crime Fiction", and her novels continue to surprise and delight readers.

Hospitalized from his latest case, Inspector Alan Grant is at a loss for entertainment. Having counted the ceiling tiles and studied the comings and goings of his nurses, he is growing restless. It's not until a friend suggests he attempt to solve a cold case from his hospital bed does inspiration strike. Examining a portrait of the late King Richard III, Grant (a fan of physiognomy) doesn't see the ruthless uncle who would kill his two young nephews. He sees a gentle man, lost to time. With the help of the young American Researcher, Grant races across histories written by second hands with ulterior motives. And as the pair work to challenge myths and legends to clear Richard's name, they can't help but wonder, what could be gained by besmirching an usurped King?

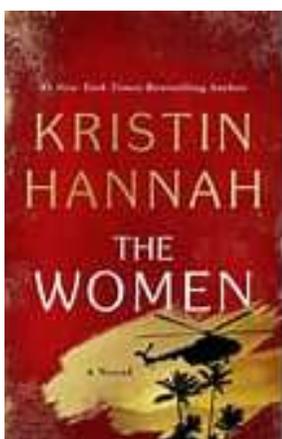
If you're interested in requesting *The Daughter of Time* for your book club, you can find the Request Form [here](#). **There are 7 copies available.** (A librarian must request items.)

Tey, Josephine. *The Daughter of Time*. Simon and Schuster, 1951.

[Complete book review](#)

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## NEW BOOK CLUB KIT AT CPLS



*The Women* by Kristin Hannah (10 copies)

**Women can be heroes.** When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances "Frankie" McGrath hears these unexpected words, it is a revelation. Raised on idyllic Coronado Island and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing, being a good girl. But in 1965 the world is changing, and she suddenly imagines a different choice for her life. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she impulsively joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path.

As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war, as well as the unexpected trauma of coming home to a changed and politically divided America.

# Yarn Wrapped Hot Air Balloon Craft

## Materials Needed:

- Paper Plates
- Cardstock “Basket”
- Craft Sticks
- Yarn
- Marker
- Scissors
- Tape
- Glue



1. Make a few slits around the edge of the paper plate.
2. Insert one end of the yard into one of the slits and tape it down.
3. Wrap the yarn around the plate, inserting the yarn into the slits as you go around.
4. Wrap until the plate is covered to your liking. Tape the end of the yarn to the back of the plate.
5. Use the marker to draw cross hatch marks on the “basket” if you choose.
6. Glue the craft sticks to the basket and the back of the wrapped paper plate.

The Central Plains Library System will provide paper plates in assorted colors, cardstock “baskets,” craft sticks, and a variety of yarn for this craft to our member libraries to use during their Summer Reading Programs in 2024. Please email Deb with the number of balloon kits you need at [cplsasst@gmail.com](mailto:cplsasst@gmail.com).

**The deadline to request this craft is June 12, 2024.**

# Don't Forget About...



## Reader Zone

The Nebraska Regional Library Systems and the Nebraska Library Commission have teamed up to provide 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 [denise.cpls@gmail.com](mailto:denise.cpls@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## Order Your Die Cuts ASAP

We want to help our CPLS librarians save time. You choose which die shapes you want us to cut out for you, how many you want, and what kind of material you want them cut from (cardstock or foam). We will get them ready for you ASAP so that you have them in time for your program. To ensure we have all the orders done for everyone, please turn in your order before **May 1, 2024**.

[Click here to see the Die Cut Order Form.](#)

Email this form to [cplsasst@gmail.com](mailto:cplsasst@gmail.com).



# Puppets!!



We will be doing a group purchase of Folkmanis puppets [<https://www.folkmanis.com/>] again this year. If you are interested in getting any of these amazing puppets to include in your story time or virtual programming related to this summer's theme, **Adventure Begins at Your Library**, now is the time to order them so you get the best discount.



Puppets will be ½ of the price listed on the website. The company does require 15% of the final cost as a handling fee on all orders. Central Plains Library System will cover the shipping to your library.

Orders are due APRIL 15, 2024.

Please email your orders to: [cpls.nicole@gmail.com](mailto:cpls.nicole@gmail.com).



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# CPLS Will Provide A Speaker for Your Library

*Would you like to have a live performance at your library this summer?*

Humanities Nebraska has many fine speakers with programs that coordinate beautifully with this year's Summer Reading Program theme. Browse the Speakers Bureau Catalog: <https://humanitiesnebraska.org/catalog/>. Here are a few suggestions:

- History of Trick Roping and Wild West Shows by Joan Wells
- Ho for America! Northern European Immigrants to the Midwest by Jeff Kappeler
- Meet Buffalo Bill by Terry Lane
- Music of the Plains by David Marsh
- Nebraska Territory Stories by David Seay
- Overland Trails: The Children on the Trail by Renae Hunt
- Train Songs and Tales by David Seay

The Central Plains Library System will provide the administrative fee for each library in our System that books a Humanities Nebraska program this year. That means you can have a terrific live performance, without cost for your library.

1. First, contact the performer.
2. After your program details are finalized, fill out the form on the Humanities Nebraska website: <https://humanitiesnebraska.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Catagory-I-new.pdf>, print it out and mail it to the address on the bottom of page 2.
3. When completing the form, include the following on the bottom of the first page: "Please bill to CPLS."



**Book early to confirm your preferred date.**

# Smokey Bear Reading Challenge



Celebrate Smokey's 80th Birthday by joining the Smokey Bear Reading Challenge and engage youth in reading about wildfire prevention, forests, and natural resource careers while they explore their local environment.

Libraries can run the challenge anytime from January 1st to November 28th, 2024. The challenge is designed to complement the 2024 Collaborative Summer Reading Program theme of ***Adventure Begins at Your Library***.

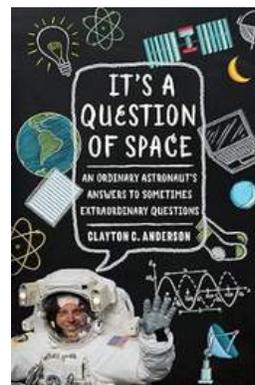
Access the digital toolkit which contains everything needed to promote and implement the challenge. Nebraska is registered as a participating state. **Every public library in Nebraska will receive a FREE physical incentive kit.** It will be coming from the System Office, so watch your mailbox in the upcoming months.

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## Nebraska's Astronaut

Astronaut Clayton Anderson is the author of five books including *It's a Question of Space: An Ordinary Astronaut's Answers to Sometimes Extraordinary Questions*. This title, as well as his memoir *The Ordinary Spaceman*, are available as eBooks in Nebraska OverDrive Libraries.

He recently provided posters for Nebraska libraries. The Regional Library System Offices will distribute these **FREE posters** to the libraries that request them. Contact me at [denise.cpls@gmail.com](mailto:denise.cpls@gmail.com) to request your poster.



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## Silent Book Club



The Holdrege Area Public Library is starting a new type of Book Club for adults during National Library Week this month. It is called a Silent Book Club. Here is how it works:

All readers are welcome—ebooks, audiobooks, textbooks, comic books...

6:00–6:30 pm ~ Kick off the evening by arriving at the library and settling in. Grab a drink from our refreshment area and mingle with fellow attendees. Share the titles of the books you're currently engrossed in and connect with others over your shared love of literature.

6:30–7:30 pm ~ As the clock strikes 6:30, you'll hear a bell ring as we transition into the heart of the Silent Book Club experience, an uninterrupted hour of quiet reading.

7:30–7:45 pm ~ At 7:30, you'll hear the bell ring again as the quiet reading hour draws to a close. You have the option to either continue your literary journey in silence or take some time to socialize with your fellow bookworms. Share your thoughts on your current read, recommend books to one another, or simply enjoy the company of like-minded individuals who share your passion for literature. The choice is yours!

To learn more about Silent Book Clubs, go to the Silent Book Club website. It is **FREE** to register your chapter. They provide a logo and ideas on how to run an event. They also add you to a google group where you can network with other locations and get more ideas. Here is the link to the Holdrege Area Public Library's Chapter page.

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# AUDIOBOOK COLLECTION

CPLS owns over 1,300 circulating audiobook titles. System member libraries may borrow audiobooks (CD and MP3 formats) for a loan period of 90 days.

Here are some new additions:

*Three-Inch Teeth* by Box, C. J.  
*I Will Find You* by Harlan Coban  
*Resurrection Walk* by Connelly, Michael  
*The Women* by Hannah, Kristin  
*The Heiress* by Hawkins, Rachel  
*The Engagement Party* by Kane, Darby  
*The Bad Weather Friend* by Koontz, Dean  
*The Night Island* by Krentz, Jane Ann  
*The Librarian of Burned Books* by Labuskes, Brianna  
*All That is Mine I Carry with Me* by Landay, William  
*Random in Death* by Robb, J. D.  
*Dead Man's Hand* by Taylor, Brad

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## Free Coloring Books from Libraries and Museums



The [Color Our Collections](#) project, which was launched in 2016 by the New York Academy of Medicine Library, has released its 2024 collection of free coloring books featuring images from libraries, museums, archives, and other cultural institutions around the world. This year's collection includes thousands of downloadable and printable images from 93 institutions, including Chicago's [Newberry Library](#); [National Library of Medicine](#) in Bethesda, Maryland; [Europeana](#), [Harley-Davidson Archives](#) in Milwaukee, and [Stanford \(Calif.\) University Libraries](#).

# CPLS Week of Weeding

April 14 - 20, 2024

*It is time for Spring Cleaning!!*

I want to encourage everyone to participate by agreeing to weed a section of your library that you have been avoiding. You know what it is—that corner, that shelf, that genre of books that you have put off weeding for a while. Now's the time! ALL libraries in CPLS are eligible to participate!

## How to Participate:

1. Commit to weeding a portion of your library collection.
2. If you need extra encouragement or help deciding what to weed, I will be glad to give advice and to lend a helping hand. Call or email to set up an appointment. I recommend this [article by Amanda Struckmeyer and Demco](#) to learn how to get support for your project.
3. After you finish your weeding project, let me know how it went by [clicking on this link](#) and completing the report form.



Those who submit their forms to the CPLS Office by April 26th will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 Amazon gift card. The winning library will be selected in a random drawing on Monday, April 29th.

**Don't forget to take Before and After pictures.**

# How to Start a Book Club for Kids

Have you ever wondered how to put together a Book Club for children? Here are some helpful tips from Jason Keil on the Life Hacker blog.



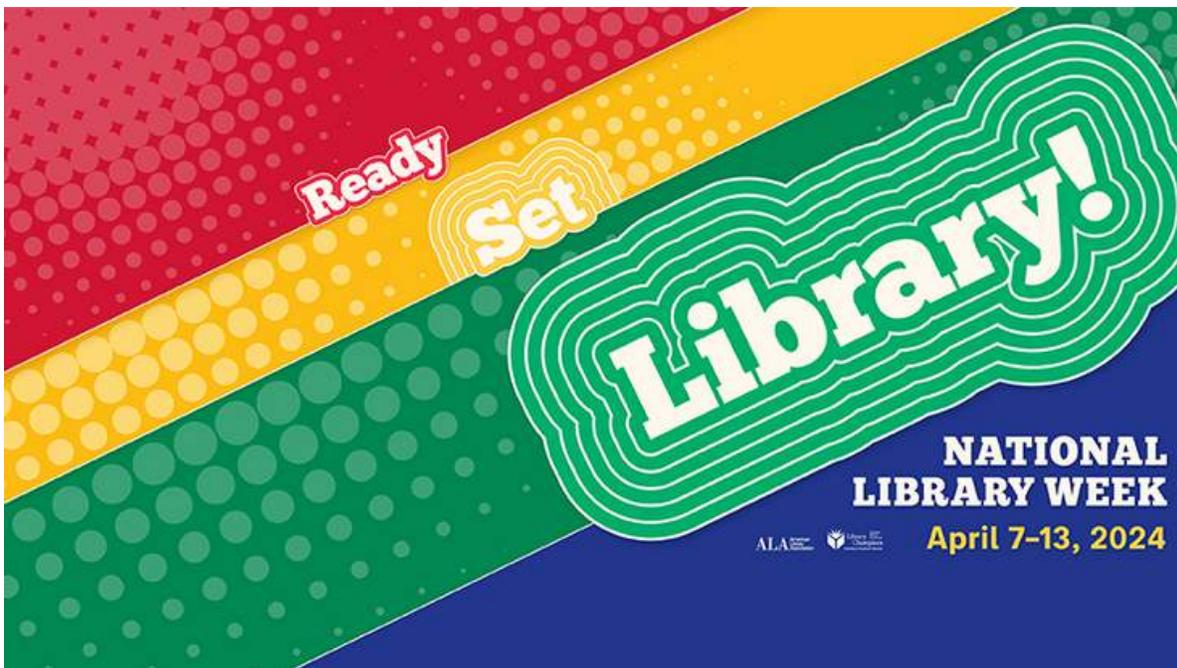
Encourage children's love of reading by making it a social event. Many kids would benefit from a book club, both socially and academically—according to the Department of Education, two-thirds of children in the United States are not proficient readers.



- Establish expectations early  
Setting ground rules early on, such as giving everyone a turn and not talking over anyone, ensures everyone is heard and respects what each other has to say.
- Keep things simple  
Three questions about their favorite characters or the funniest parts of the story should generate plenty of conversation.
- Add an activity related to the book  
A craft promotes creativity giving young readers another method to remember the book's story.
- Ask for help  
Work with volunteers to develop ideas and assemble crafts.
- Don't select books above the group's reading level  
A book club is meant to be fun, so try to find titles everyone can enjoy.
- Keep a schedule  
Meeting on a consistent day every month will help parents make time for the book club.
- Snacks  
No surprise here. Creative snacks will bring them in every time.



<https://lifehacker.com/family/how-to-start-a-book-club-for-your-kids>



[Click here for Free Tools to help celebrate.](#)

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# System Services Spotlight

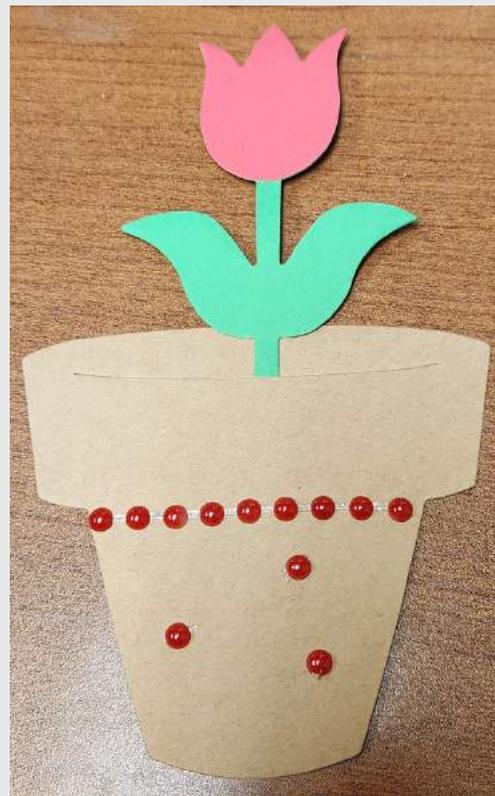
## Deb's Preschool Projects

These craft projects feature shapes made by the System's die cutting equipment. Our intent is to save our CPLS librarians valuable time each month. Place your order for the craft materials before the posted deadline by emailing Deb at [cplsasst@gmail.com](mailto:cplsasst@gmail.com). There is no charge for this service.

Every preschooler loves to make something pretty to give Mom. This month's craft in a variety of colors is perfect for that. The children will use a glue stick to attach the tulip to the stem and the stem to the flowerpot. Then, they can decorate the pot with the provided self-adhesive dots. This craft is 4.5" w x 8" h.

Please let us know how many you need for your class by **April 22nd**.

**This is the last craft we are providing for this preschool year. See you in August with a September activity.**



### **Book Suggestions:**

**Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms** by Julia Rawlinson

**Plants in Spring** by Martha Rustad



## CPLS HAS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE!

Many of you may be looking forward to attending events such as the Youth Services Retreat, the ARSL Annual Conference, the NLA Conference, or other training opportunities that will come up before the end of the year. The System can help! We have money available for you!

CPLS can award up to \$200 per event in Nebraska and \$300 for out-of-state events. These funds are available to help cover expenses such as registration, mileage, meals, etc. Only one scholarship per person per fiscal year (July - June). Each Library Agency shall be limited to two scholarships per year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Library \_\_\_\_\_

Event \_\_\_\_\_

Date of event \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship requested for \_\_\_\_\_ (meal, room, etc.)

Amount requested \_\_\_\_\_

Who should the check be made out to \_\_\_\_\_

Other information \_\_\_\_\_

Send your request to: Central Plains Library System  
2727 W. 2nd Street #233  
Hastings, NE 68901

## Disc Cleaning and Repair

The CPLS Office has the ECO AUTO-SMART Fully Automatic Disc Repair System.

It is not just a buffer, but a full-service machine, to both clean and repair your valuable discs. Save those discs that won't play! As long as they are not cracked, we can fix them.

From July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024, each CPLS member library has unlimited free disc cleanings available to them.



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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Apr 2 -    | Rescheduled Summer Reading Program workshop, Ravenna Public Library, 10-3:30    |
| Apr 5 -    | Deadline for Book Protection and Repair Supplies Order from KAPCO               |
| Apr 7-13 - | National Library Week   |
| Apr 12 -   | CPLS Board Meeting, 11:00 am, Kearney Public Library, North Platte Meeting Room |
| Apr 14-20  | CPLS Week of Weeding  |
| Apr 15 -   | Deadline for Puppet Order   |
| Apr 15 -   | Deadline for voting for 2023-24 Golden Sower winners                            |
| Apr 22 -   | Deadline to request Deb's Preschool Projects - May                              |
| Apr 26 -   | Arbor Day - CPLS Office Closed  |
| May 1 -    | Deadline to order Die Cut Shapes for your Summer Reading Program                |
| May 27 -   | Memorial Day - CPLS Office Closed   |
| June 12 -  | Deadline to order Hot Air Balloon Craft for your Summer Reading Program         |
| June 19 -  | Juneteenth - CPLS Office Closed   |

*The libraries of America are and must ever remain the home of free, inquiring minds. To them, our citizens--of all ages and races, of all creeds and persuasions--must be able to turn with clear confidence that there they can freely seek the whole truth, unvarnished by fashion and uncompromised by expediency.*

~Dwight D. Eisenhower

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## CPLS Office:

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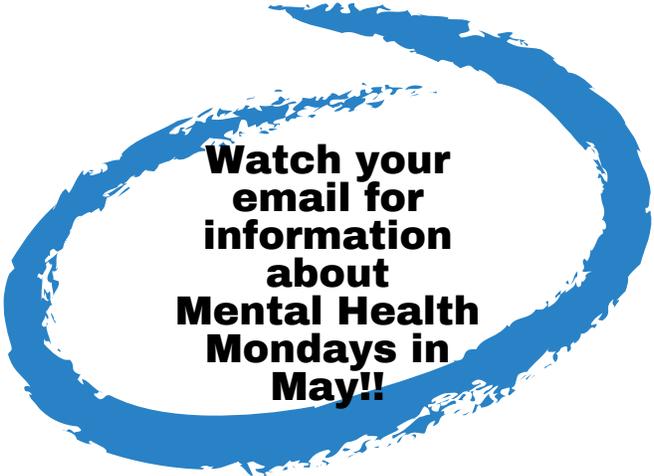
cplsasst@gmail.com

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**Watch your  
email for  
information  
about  
Mental Health  
Mondays in  
May!!**