

PLAIN SPEAKING

CENTRAL PLAINS LIBRARY SYSTEM NEWSLETTER

Educate | Connect | Inspire



Dazzle Them with Displays

Your patrons may struggle to find something they want to read in the vast number of books in your collection. Books on display help overcome that problem. The reader has a manageable number of books to look at, and, many times, he or she finds something unexpected.

In order to get the most use out of your materials, and to keep your patrons interested, showing off your library's books, movies, music, and other materials is critical.

I recently found [an article online](#) that will be very helpful to you in preparing displays throughout the year. The author, Virginia Allain, has a lot of experience and great ideas about how to market your collection. Here is a sample of the January display ideas from the article:

- I RESOLVE TO READ MORE (fill this display with non-best sellers that you want some attention for)
- LOSING WEIGHT AND FEELING GREAT (anything for weight loss, including healthy cookbooks, exercising)
- THIS YEAR I WILL LEARN HOW TO... (fill the display with how-to book on hobbies, sports, cooking, all sorts of skills)
- WINTER GETAWAYS (travel books for tropical places)
- WINTER READS (any books with snow in the title or in the cover design)
- BOOKS FROM THE BOTTOM SHELF (Could subtitle this, "Don't miss these." Feature shelf-sitters.) Browsers often overlook books on the bottom shelf, as they don't want to bother bending down.

Displays benefit your readers **and** your circulation statistics. And besides, setting up displays can be fun!

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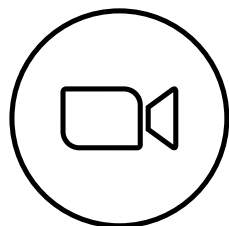
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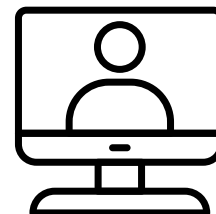
BOARD MEMBERS:

Sharon Bohling
Stephanie Branham
Jody Crocker
Jamie Dennis
Sherri Dux-Ideus
Terri Eberly
Janene Hill
Jane Hilton
Terri Johnson
Lisa Mount
Kina Stefka
James Tidei

Thursday Morning Meetings



Monthly Schedule
Starting December 7



First Thursday - Directors Only

Second Thursday - All Staff & Board Members

Third Thursday - Special Speakers (CEU offered)

Fourth Thursday - No Meeting

These activities are 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.

it's TEEN TIME

EARN 3 CE CREDITS

Use common Makerspace equipment to entertain and intrigue your teen patrons. We are featuring the Button Maker, the Laminator, and the Cricut Joy.

MERRY MAKING IN YOUR MAKERSPACE

DEC. 13
1-4PM

BROKEN BOW PUBLIC LIBRARY
626 SOUTH D STREET

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Central Plains Library System Presents



©2024 CSLP

2024

Summer Reading Workshops

Join us to prepare for an adventurous summer. Hear about summer reading book picks, participate in demonstrations of crafts and activities, and learn about event opportunities!

TWO LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

Tuesday, January 23rd (Lexington Public Library)

Wednesday, March 27th (Ravenna Public Library)

9:30am - Registration

10am - 3:30pm Workshop

5 CEUs per participant

\$10 payable at the door or in advance to the System Office
(Lunch included.)

[Click Here to Register](#)

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

Holdrege Area Public Library
604 East Street



FEBRUARY 29
2024
1 - 4pm

EXPERIENCE SOMETHING NEW

Are you looking for an easy program that engages all ages? Even if crafts aren't your strength, Experience Kits will work for you. These fully loaded boxes allow everyone to try a craft with no pressure to make it perfect. All ages can use the kits and decide if today's project is their next hobby or a one-time experience.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



BASIC SKILLS CLASSES

Watch this website for the 2024 schedule.

<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/NBScalendar.aspx>

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](#).

NCompass Live: Using Creativity to Grow & Develop	Dec 6	Register
NCompass Live: Canvaholic	Dec 13	Register
NCompass Live: SRP 2024: Adventure Begins at Your Library	Dec 20	Register
NCompass Live: Pretty Sweet Tech	Dec 27	Register
NCompass Live: Auditing Library Websites	Jan 17, 2024	Register
NCompass Live: Best New Teen Reads of 2023	Jan 24	Register

Library and Information Services Spring 2024 Online Course Offerings January 16, 2024 – May 9, 2024

Enrollment for Spring Semester 2024 opened Monday, Nov. 20, 2023



LIBR 2100 Reference Resources and Services

Marty Magee, Instructor

- Professional competencies including legal and ethical responsibilities
- Reference interview process
- The Reference collection
- Evaluation and use of digital resources, including databases, and websites

LIBR 2150 Develop and Organize Collections

Patty Birch, Instructor

- Basics of collection management including terminology and models
- Community and collection analysis
- Selection, Acquisition, Deselection/Weeding
- Intellectual Freedom and Copyright
- Cataloging instruction including classification systems, subject headings, MARC records, and RDA

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

For information concerning Admissions or Registration, contact: Dee Johnson djohnson@ccneb.edu

402-562-1418 or Toll Free at 877-222-0780

TECH KITS through the mail



Nebraska
Library
Commission

Check out a Tech Kit!

Kits may be used in classrooms but must be requested by the school librarian.

Oculus Quest 2

Up to 15 copies
Ages 13+



Ozobot Evo

Up to 8 copies
Ages 6+



Databot 2.0 Sensor Pack

Up to 15 copies
Ages 9+



Google Smart Devices

Up to 5 copies
Ages 13+



Snap Circuits Extreme

Up to 10 copies
Ages 8+



Email Amanda Sweet with any questions or requests:

amanda.sweet@nebraska.gov

Hummingbird Bit Premium

Up to 15 copies
Ages 8+



Check Out a Kit: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Tech/kits/kits.aspx>

2023-24 Golden Sower Voting is Now Open

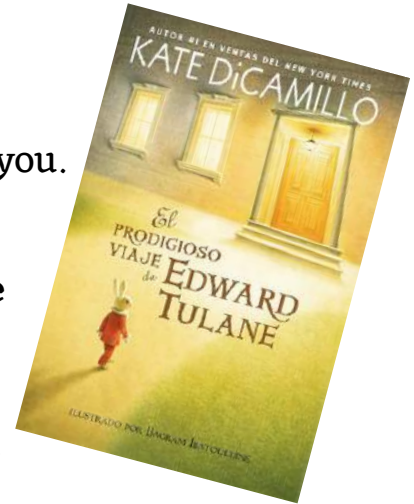
Voting is open November 1st - April 15th



Spanish Books Added to NLC Book Club Kits

The Nebraska Library Commission recently purchased multiple copies of Spanish books for their book club collection. You can request any number of books – 1 to 5 – whatever works best for you.

You can search the keyword Spanish on the book club page to find these: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Ref/Bookclub/>



Once you find a title you are interested in, click on the REQUEST THIS KIT button – and the form will lead you through the necessary information. As always, NLC book club kits must be requested by a librarian.

See the rules for use: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/Ref/Bookclub/rulesforuse.aspx>.



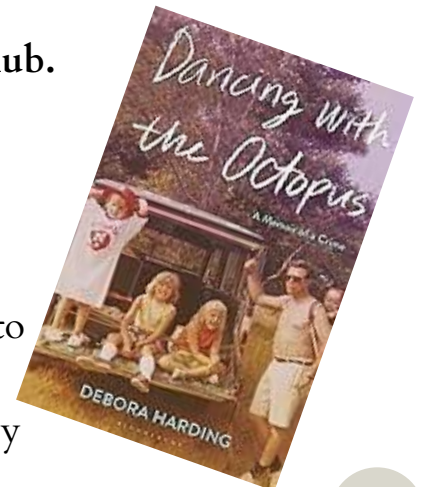
Some of the titles include **Anne Frank Diary; Calling the Doves; Charlie and the Chocolate Factory; Where the Wild Things Are; #12 Captain Underpants; Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane; Are You My Mother?** and more!

ONE BOOK ONE NEBRASKA 2024

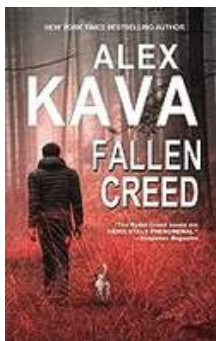
CPLS has 10 copies of this title.

Call or email to reserve the set for your book club.

One Omaha winter day in November 1978, when Debora Harding was just fourteen, she was abducted at knifepoint from a church parking lot. She was thrown into a van, assaulted, held for ransom, and then left to die as an ice storm descended over the city. Debora survived. She identified her attacker to the police and then returned to her teenage life in a dysfunctional home where she was expected to simply move on. Denial became the family coping strategy offered by her fun-loving, conflicted father and her cruelly resentful mother.



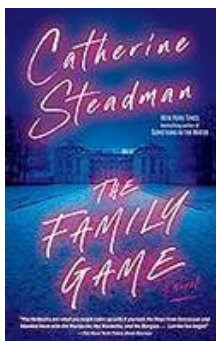
NEW BOOK CLUB KITS AT CPLS



Fallen Creed by Alex Kava — 10 copies

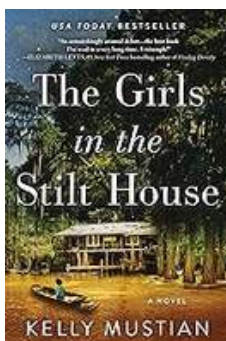
K9 handler, Ryder Creed and his scent dog, Grace, return to Nebraska to join FBI Agent Maggie O'Dell on the same task force that helped rescue his sister Brodie a year ago. But their job is interrupted when a rural Postal carrier finds a black plastic bag discarded in a grassy roadside ditch.

What's inside is shocking to even these seasoned investigators.



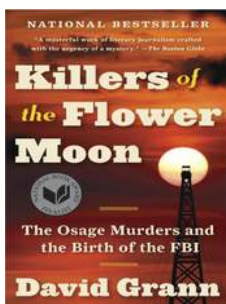
The Family Game by Catherine Steadman — 10 copies

Harriet Reed, a novelist on the brink of literary stardom, is newly engaged to Edward Holbeck, the heir of an extremely powerful family. And even though Edward has long tried to sever ties with them, news of the couple's upcoming marital bliss has the Holbecks inching back into their lives. As Harriet is drawn into their lavish world, the family seems perfectly welcoming. So when Edward's father, Robert, hands Harriet a tape of a book he's been working on, she is desperate to listen. But as she presses play, it's clear that this isn't just a novel. It's a confession.



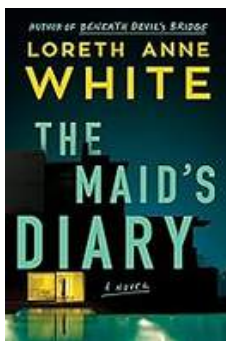
Girls in Stilt House by Kelly Mustian — 10 copies

Ada promised herself she would never go back to the Trace, to her hard life on the swamp and her harsh father. Matilda, daughter of a sharecropper, is from the other side of the Trace. As the two girls are drawn deeper into a dangerous world of bootleggers and moral corruption, they must come to terms with the complexities of their tenuous bond and a hidden past that links them in ways that could cost them their lives.



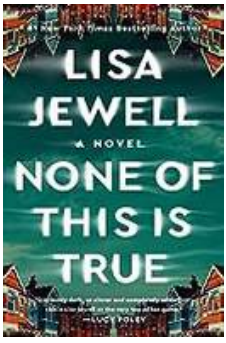
Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann — 10 copies

In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe. Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. As the death toll rose, the newly created FBI took up the case, and the young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to a former Texas Ranger named Tom White to try to unravel the mystery.



The Maid's Diary by Loreth Anne White – 10 copies

Kit Darling is a maid with a snooping problem. She's the "invisible girl," compelled to poke into her wealthy clients' closely guarded lives. It's a harmless hobby until Kit sees something she can't unsee in the home of her brand-new clients: a secret so dark it could destroy the privileged couple expecting their first child. This makes Kit dangerous to the couple. In turn, it makes the couple—who might kill to keep their secret—dangerous to Kit.



***None of This is True* by Lisa Jewell — 10 copies**

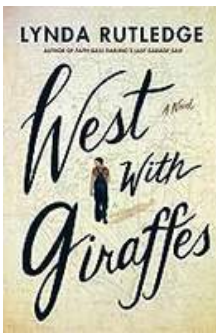
Celebrating her forty-fifth birthday at her local pub, popular podcaster Alix Summer crosses paths with an unassuming woman called Josie Fair. Josie, it turns out, is also celebrating her forty-fifth birthday. They are, in fact, birthday twins. A few days later, Alix and Josie bump into each other again, this time outside Alix’s children’s school. Josie has been listening to Alix’s podcasts and thinks she might be an interesting subject for her series. She is, she tells Alix, on the cusp of great changes in her life. Who is Josie Fair? And what has she done?



***Treasured Grace* by Tracie Peterson — 7 copies**

Donated by Ravenna Public Library

Grace Martindale has known more than her share of hardship. After her parents died, raising her two younger sisters became her responsibility. A hasty marriage to a minister who is heading to the untamed West seemed like an opportunity for a fresh start, but a cholera outbreak along the wagon trail has left Grace a widow in a very precarious position.



***West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge -- 10 copies**

It’s 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California’s first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. Inspired by true events, the tale weaves real-life figures with fictional ones.

BOOK CLUB KITS AT NLC

CONTRIBUTED BY MACKENZIE MARROW

This title is a fantastic and thought-provoking read for closing out Native American Heritage Month. Curated by Arlene Hirschfelder and Beverly R. Singer, Rising Voices: Writings of Young Native Americans is a collection of essays, poems, and stories from the late 1880s to the early 1990s. Hirschfelder speaks of the young authors featured in the collection: “their words bear vivid, often eloquent witness to the realities of their lives over the past hundred years. They have much to tell us”.

Separated into the categories of Identity, Family, Homelands, Ritual and Ceremony, Education, and Harsh Realities. Each section includes writings that exemplify a part of the youth’s life. From gorgeous descriptions of mesas to warm and comforting home lives, there is also the truth of the hardships and poverty Native Americans were forced into, and many still live in today. The young writers’ strong sense of awareness and personal values ring throughout the collection, especially as we move into modern times.

If you’re interested in requesting Rising Voices for your book club, you can find the Request Form [here](#). There are 7 copies available. (A librarian must request items.)

Hirschfelder, Arlene & Singer, Beverly. Rising Voices. HarperPerennial. 1996.

[See Mackenzie’s complete review of this title here.](#)

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:

The List by Adegoke, Yomi

Old God's Time by Barry, Sebastian

Don't Forget to Write by Confino, Sara Goodman

The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece by Hanks, Tom

Magpie Murders by Horowitz, Anthony

The Longmire Defense by Johnson, Criag

Holly by King, Stephen

Bright Young Women by Knoll, Jessica

My Darling Girl by McMahan, Jennifer

Hello Beautiful by Napolitano, Ann

Mother-Daughter Murder Night by Simon, Nina

The Wedding Planner by Steel, Danielle

Nine Lives by Swanson, Peter

Kill Show by Sweren-Becker, Daniel

Main Character Energy by Varon, Jamie

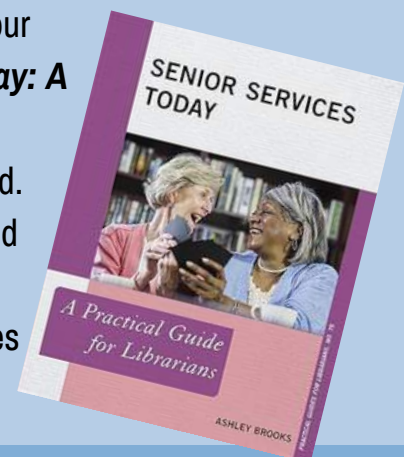
The Maid's Diary by White, Loreth Anne

Professional Library

Did you know that the Central Plains Library System has a Professional Library? If you have a suggestion for a title that might be helpful to you and others, please call or email Denise with your request. The newest title added to this important collection is ***Senior Services Today: A Practical Guide for Librarians***.

Older adults are one of the largest and fastest growing demographics in the world. Public libraries have a duty to serve these individuals with the same level of care and opportunity for participation that is afforded to younger generations. This book

explores older adults' values and needs and describes the many ways libraries can serve them in effective ways.



The Call for Speakers for Big Talk From Small Libraries 2024 is now open!

Submit your proposal by **Friday, December 15, 2023** at <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/call-for-speakers/>

This free one-day online conference is tailored for staff from small libraries; the smaller the better! Small libraries of all types - public, academic, school, museum, special, etc. - are encouraged to submit a proposal. We're looking for seven 50-minute presentations and four 10-minute "lightning round" presentations.

Do you offer a service or program at your small library that other librarians might like to hear about? Have you implemented a new (or old) technology, hosted an event, partnered with others in your community, or just done something really cool? The Big Talk From Small Libraries online conference gives you the opportunity to share what you've done, while learning what your colleagues in other small libraries are doing.

Here are some possible topics to get you thinking:



- * Unique Libraries
- * Special Collections
- * New buildings
- * Fundraising
- * That great thing you're doing at your library!
- * Improved Workflows
- * Staff Development
- * Advocacy Efforts
- * Community Partnerships

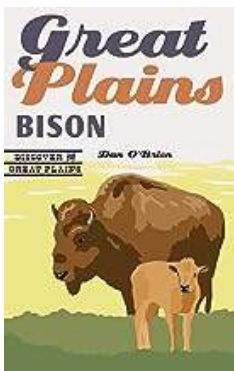


Big Talk From Small Libraries 2024 will be held on **Friday, February 23, 2024**, between 8:45 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (CT) via the GoTo Webinar online meeting service. Speakers will present their programs from their own desktops. The schedule will accommodate speakers' time-zones.

Speakers from libraries serving fewer than 10,000 people will be preferred, but presentations from libraries with larger service populations will be considered. Speakers must be from small libraries or directly partnered with a small library and submitting a proposal to co-present with the library.

This conference sponsored by the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL) and the Nebraska Library Commission.

Another Partnership with Nebraska Public Media



Great Plains Bison by Dan O'Brien — 10 copies

[Nebraska Public Media Book Club Kit](#)

This book traces the history and ecology of this American symbol from the origins of the great herds that once dominated the prairie to its near extinction in the late 19th century and the subsequent efforts to restore the bison population.



**CPLS
Conference News**
We had a full house at the first-ever CPLS Conference at the Kearney Public Library in October. There were lots of giveaways including a mug for everyone! All-day attendees earned 7 CEUs each.

Book Folding Class

Won by Valentine Public Library



Joy--Transforming for SRP

Won by Cozad Middle School



Keynote by Matt and James



October 13, 2023
11:00 a.m.
CPLS Board Meeting/Hybrid
Landmark Center, Hastings

The meeting was called to order by President, Terri Johnson at 11:05 a.m. Secretary, Terri Eberly called the roll.

Present: Stephanie Branham, Sherri Dux-Ideus, Terri Eberly, Lisa Mount, Denise Harders, Christa Porter. Via ZOOM: Jody Crocker, Jamie Dennis, Terri Johnson.

Absent: Sharon Bohling, Janene Hill, Jane Hilton, Kina Stefka, James Tidei.

Approval of the minutes. It was moved by Jamie Dennis and seconded by Lisa Mount to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2023, board meeting as circulated and to approve the minutes from the August 29, 2023, special board meeting as read. The motion carried.

Financial Reports: Denise Harders reviewed the financial reports. It was moved by Terri Eberly and seconded by Jamie Dennis to approve the financial reports as circulated. The motion carried.

Denise Harders reviewed the independent accountant's compilation report prepared by Riggs & Associates, CPAs, P.C.

Correspondence: Denise shared the thank you notes from Amy Kaufman for the scholarship to attend ARSL and Laurie Yocum for having the annual board meeting at Wilson Public Library, Cozad.

Director's Report: Denise reported on the activities of the office. She attended the quarterly meeting with the NLC and system directors in Scottsbluff, attended the Joint Youth Services Retreat in Ashland, and attended ARSL Conference in Wichita, KS. She also met via Zoom with the planning committee for the Youth Services Retreat and with the CPLS board via Zoom regarding personnel and personnel policies. Denise prepared the financial records for review by Gary Riggs, accountant. Book Kits have been in popular demand and Deb has been busy with die cut shapes and preschool Storytime crafts for system libraries.

Old Business:

2023-2024 Final Budget: Denise reviewed changes to the budget for the upcoming year. It was moved by Lisa Mount and seconded by Sherri Dux-Ideus to approve the revised 2023-2024 budget as circulated. The motion carried.

CPLS Personnel Policy: Following the special board meeting in August, changes to the personnel policy to clarify accrual of PTO, approval of overtime, and payment schedule for non-exempt personnel were addressed. After discussion, it was moved by Stephanie Branham and seconded by Sherri Dux-Ideus to approve the CPLS Personnel Policy. The motion carried.

Denise will advertise the part-time staff position. The main job for this position will be Quick Books accounting/data entry. The hours will be 10-20 per week. Jamie, Sherri, and Lisa will give contact information to Denise for instructors in accounting departments for possible candidate referrals.

CPLS Biennial Conference Update: Conference is set for Thursday, October 19, 2023, from 10-5 pm, at the Kearney Public Library. Speakers and sessions are set, a copy of the program booklet was reviewed. A QR code is in the booklet and will be used to access session materials from the presenters, as well as report CEs by attendees. A lot of work has gone into making this conference a success.

New Business:

·The system has put together 15 experience kits for STREAM/passive programming. The kits will be on display at the Conference and are available for checkout to libraries in the system.

·Deb's Preschool Projects. Deb will be featuring monthly preschool crafts and book recommendations for story time.

·Booklist Reader is similar to Book Page. A link will be provided.

·Upcoming workshops.

Other Business: Christa Porter presented the Nebraska Library Commission Report. Highlights:

·Public Library Accreditation for 2023 closed on October 1, 2023. 34 of the 42 libraries have been re-accredited, Sargent Township Library received accreditation for the first time. The remaining 8 libraries have been given extensions.

·NLC Grants for 2024. Grants for CE/Training, internship, library improvement and Youth Grants in Excellence opened on September 15. Deadline for submitting applications is November 17. See the website for details.

·E-Rate: NCompass Live will host workshops, see website for details. A filtering system will be provided to any library by NLC. Check the website and NCompass Live for information on the topic.

·E-Rate Special Fiber Construction Program-NUSF-117. On October 11, the PSC approved the Progression Order on NUSF-117: the program will be extended indefinitely beyond FY 2024 and funding will be available to match 100% of Fiber Special Construction costs.

·Big Talk from Small Libraries 2024: The call for speakers opened on September 12. The deadline to submit proposals is December 15 and the conference will be held on February 23, 2024.

There being no further business, Jamie Dennis moved to adjourn.

Following the meeting board members toured the system offices and the expanded storage and workspace.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Eberly, Secretary



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. There is no charge for this service.

The craft for January is a cardstock mitten (5" h x 4.25" w) with a pom pom cuff that the children will be able to assemble with school glue. Mittens and pom poms will be in assorted colors.

Your kit comes with Winter stickers for each child to use to decorate his or her own mitten.

The deadline for this seasonal craft is December 20, 2023.



Book Suggestions:

The Mitten by Jan Brett
and

The Missing Mitten Mystery by Steven Kellogg



CPLS HAS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE!

Many of you may be looking forward to 2024 and new opportunities to attend events such as the Public Library Association Conference, the Summer Reading Program Workshop, the ALA Annual Conference, or other training opportunities that will come up during the next year. The System can help! We have money available for you!

CPLS can award up to \$200.00 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.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

- Dec 7 - Directors Only Thursday Morning Meeting, Zoom, 10:00 am
- Dec 11 - Deadline for ALA's Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC) Grant
- Dec 13 - Makerspaces Make Teen Time Merry, Broken Bow Public Library, 1-4 pm
- Dec 14 - CPLS Library All Staff Members Thursday Morning Meeting, Zoom, 10:00 am
- Dec 15 - Deadline for Speaker Proposals for Big Talk from Small Libraries
- Dec 25 - Christmas Holiday - CPLS Office Closed
- Jan 1 - New Year's Day - CPLS Office Closed
- Jan 12 - CPLS Board Meeting, 11:00am, Zoom
- Jan 12 - PLA Conference, Columbus, Ohio, Early Bird Discount Ends
- Jan 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - CPLS Office Closed
- Jan 23 - Adventure Begins at Your Library, Lexington Public Library, 9:30 am - 3:30pm
- Feb 19 - President's Day - CPLS Office Closed
- Feb 23 - Big Talk from Small Libraries 2023
- Feb 29 - Experience Something New, Holdrege Area Public Library, 1 - 4pm
- Mar 27 - Adventure Begins at Your Library, Ravenna Public Library, 9:30 am - 3:30pm



*The library's real virtue is that it
preserves error as well as truth
and nonsense as well as sense.*
~Harry Golden

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