



Southeast Signal

News, Events, and Information from Around the System

From the Director



“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.

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.

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Calendar

January 15, Martin Luther King Day, SELS Office Closed

January 19, CASTL, Auburn Memorial Library, [Resources for Collection Development](#)

January 23, National Pie Day

January 29, National Puzzle Day

February, National Library Lovers Month

National Black History Month

February 2, Groundhog Day

February 9, National Kite Flying Day

February 13, February 13, SELS Workshop via Zoom, 11 am, [“Occupational Wellness in a Service Profession”](#)

February 14, Valentine’s Day

February 23, CASTL, Stromsburg Public Library, [“Puzzled in the Library”](#) and [“Privacy Conundrums”](#) (two topics)



Photos of the Month



The Clarks Public Library celebrated Merry Grinchmas December 22. We read “How the Grinch Lost Christmas”. While reading the story, there was a special delivery made and the Grinch himself popped out of the big present. Everyone was surprised! The library served cookies, hot cocoa, and wassail for all who attended. Everyone got to take home a Dr. Seuss cup, a Grinch sticker and candy cane. It was a fun afternoon with the Grinch! —Provided by Barbee Sweet

CASTL Wrap-up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

January 19th
Auburn Memorial Library
“Resources for Collection Development”

February 23
Stromsburg Public Library
“Puzzled in Your Library” and “Privacy Conundrums”

March 15
Morton-James Public Library, Nebraska City
“Advantages of Over-Drive”

April 19
Sutton Memorial Library

The Southeast Library System hosted the December 15th CASTL at its office. Our topic was "Beyond Cash and Checks." Karen Mier and Joy Stevenson presented on PayPort and Sara Lee on Square. In addition, several other participants added information about how PayPort or Square work in their cities and libraries.

With PayPort, the service is offered through the state, and the only cost to use it is the card swiper for \$130. Some payment categories are set and some are variable. It is easy to edit and tailor. When running a payment, you first add in the transaction or transactions (you can have as many as needed in one payment), then you swipe the card and produce a receipt which can be printed or emailed.

The fee per transaction is .249%, and you can do transactions over the phone, via manual input, and online. The transactions are then deposited with the city treasurer. Karen runs daily reports and enters amounts with library codes into a spreadsheet which is submitted to the treasurer to make sure amounts have been entered correctly. All money that is received is paid to the library's account, minus the .249 percent fee. One city also uses this system for electronic checks.

The other system presented, Square, was very easy for Sara Lee to set up. They use Square as their Point of Sale system for cash, checks, and credit cards (which includes Apple Pay and Google Pay). Square generates digital invoices, so people are normally able to pay for Pinterest and Makerspace classes before they get to the library. Square also allows people to make appointments online who need training on Makerspace equipment.

Square will produce any report needed. Sara does a monthly report. Square will also work with various apps like Venmo.

For all the details, [see the recording and the handouts!](#)

Upcoming Basic Skills Classes

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>
Open	Communication	Available any time
February 5—February 16	Customer Service	January 2—January 26
March 4—March 15	Library Governance	January 29—February 26

News Around the System

Holiday Escape Room

Provided by Sherri Payne

During the holiday lull, Seward Memorial Library spiced things up with an escape room! The escape room had a different twist this year, as contestants were asked to do a bit of role playing in a fantasy world full of magic. Each player was assigned a special character with certain strengths and weaknesses. Together, the team worked to defeat an evil wizard who had turned their village

into stone. Clues and hints along the way led them to a special amulet that would undo the spell and save everyone in the village.

To add a bit of challenge to the game, patrons would lose lives if they followed the wrong path or did not stick to their chosen abilities. Lots of families and friends signed up and enjoyed the challenge. The event was a success!



News Around the System

Cookies and Crafts

Story and pictures by Debbie Aden

The Fairbury Public Library held a "cookies and crafts" event in December after school one day. Kids got to decorate a sugar cookie and select from a variety of crafts they could make. Participants also got to take home a book they could keep.



SELS has the *Great Plains Bison* Book Kit

Great Plains BISON
DISCOVER THE GREAT PLAINS Dan O'Brien

Nebraska Public Media
PBS npr

BOOK CLUB KIT

Seed Warriors

Deb Echo-Hawk (Pawnee)

FEBRUARY 13

11 AM - 12 PM

**Erica Rose will present
via Zoom**



**OCCUPATIONAL
WELLNESS IN A
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PROFESSION**

**[For more information and to
register click here!](#)**

Up Your Readers' Advisory Game with NoveList Plus!



with Susan Knisely

*Save
the
Date!*

**March 27, 11:00
via Zoom**

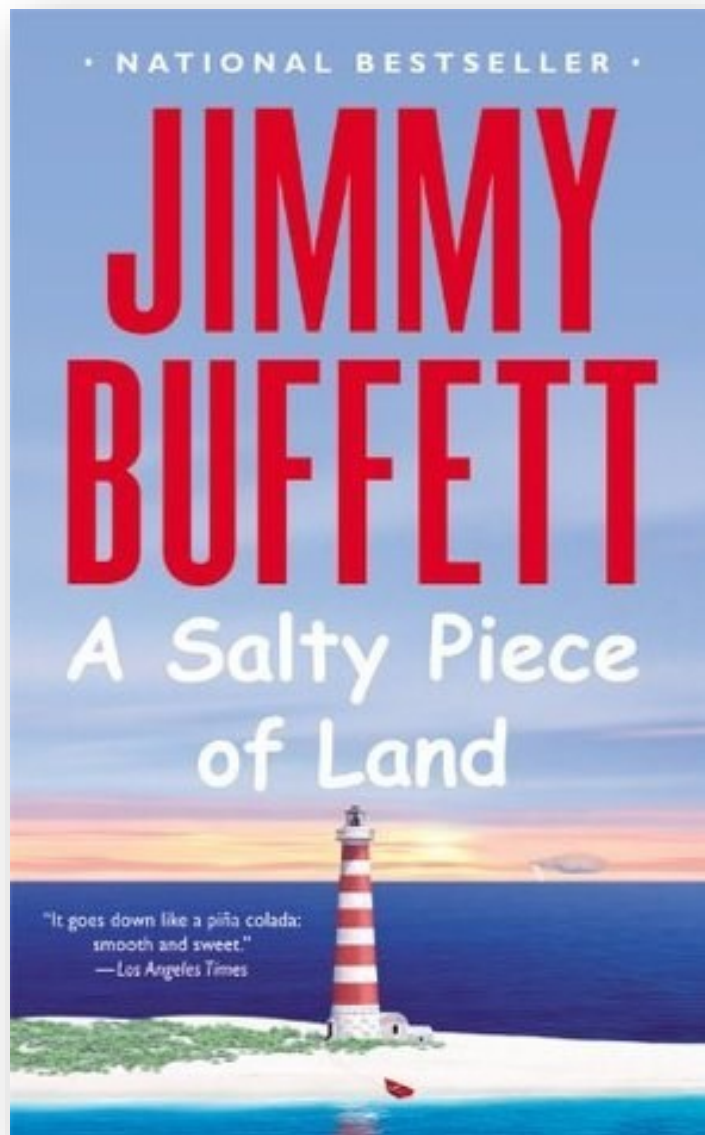
NLC Book Club Spotlight

***A Salty Piece of Land* by Jimmy Buffett**

By MacKenzie Marrow (edited)

Jimmy Buffett, the [Margaritaville](#) singer-songwriter known for his island lifestyle and escapism passed away this last year on September 1st. So, to celebrate a true icon, we are spotlighting one of his many fiction books: *A Salty Piece of Land*. It picks up from Buffett's short story "Take Another Road" featured in the [Tales From Margaritaville](#) collection. *A Salty Piece of Land* [even has its own single](#) to accompany your island-time reading relaxation.

We meet up with cowboy Tully Mars and his trusty steed, Mr. Twain, as they are on the run from a vindictive poodle ranch owner. The pair hightail it out of the mainland and end up on a shrimp boat headed for the Caribbean. Driftless, and surrounded by the cool, pink sands of Cayo Loco, Tully meets old sea captain Cleopatra Highbourne, who has quite the proposal for him: Fix up the abandoned lighthouse and escape everything he is running from.



Interspersed with beautiful Caribbean vistas and colorful characters, *A Salty Piece of Land* is as chill as Buffett's music. The characters Tully encounters are as varied and strange as their names but are just as heartfelt and dear. Sprinkled with Buffett's knowledge of the sea, navigation, and lighthouses, *A Salty Piece of Land* is escapist literature at its finest. Adult Book Clubs and Parrotheads will enjoy the familiar vibes of Buffett's prose and that never-ending chase for freedom, eternal youth, and sunshine.

Fins up!

If you're interested in requesting ***A Salty Piece of Land*** for your book club, you can find the Request Form [here](#). **There are 8 copies available.** (A librarian must request items)

System Spotlight

SELS WEBSITE

Looking for some information about Southeast Library System or its services? Use our website!

When you land on our home page, you will usually see a post about an upcoming event.

You will also see links that you can use to conveniently access names and dates of upcoming events and meetings, short descriptions and pictures of book covers for each of our book kits, as well as current and previous newsletters. We have details on our website about the journal article request service and the SELS scholarships. If you haven't already, check out our website at



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

Southeast Library System

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