

From the Director

February 2015

“We will leverage our innate resources to create a new paradigm of best practices and quantifiable metric-based outcomes in the pursuit of synergistic endeavors of connective transformative responsiveness.”

The above sentence sounds impressive, but what does it actually mean? To tell you the truth, I’m not sure either, and I wrote the thing.

This overly exaggerated example shows the danger of relying on our professional jargon when talking to people outside of the library profession. What do phrases like “collection development”, “databases”, “intellectual freedom” or “OPAC” really mean to people outside of our field? Simple phrases that we use to communicate with each other are great shorthand for us, but indecipherable to those we serve.

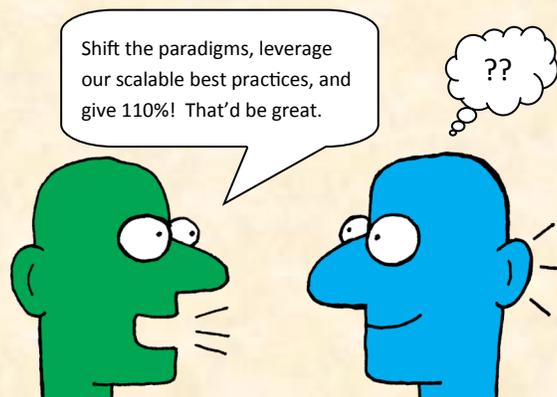
Do you spend a lot of time giving them the background on the phrases, or do you find other terms that have meaning to the patron? Most people don’t have the frame of reference that we do about these things. They don’t work with all the backend stuff on a day-to-day basis or attend conferences to learn about these things. Nor should they have to.

Here’s another example: sometimes when you try to order something as simple as a cheeseburger and a medium soda at certain restaurants you get asked if you really wanted a “McBiggie Single with cheese” and a “Moderate Carboblast”. All this alternative wording creates an artificial barrier between getting the customer what they want and what you can provide.

Leave the jargon for the “effectiveness engineers” and the “continuity consultants” and try to communicate in ways that the individual you are trying to reach will understand. What analogies or metaphors have meaning for that person you are talking with?

I’ll end by quoting the character of Kasper Gutman from the Maltese Falcon with the phrase, “Here’s to plain speaking and clear understanding.”

Scott Childers, Executive Director
Southeast Library System



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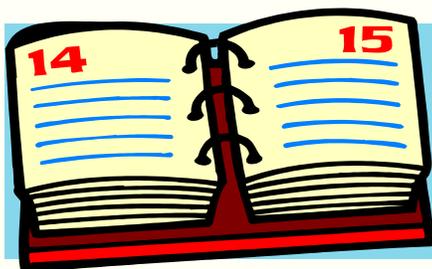
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CALENDAR

February 2015

February 12th—CASTL Meeting at Virgil Biegert Public Library, Shickley

February 13th—Annual Public Survey (Bibliostat/Dollars for Data) Deadline

February 14th—Valentine’s Day

February 16th—Presidents’ Day, SELS Office Closed

February 18th—Drink Wine Day

February 26th—Deadline to file E-Rate Form 470

February 27th—Big Talk from Small Libraries

March 1st—Deadline for SELS Front Porch Award

March 2nd—Dr. Seuss Day

March 8th—Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 10th—NLA Advocacy Day, Day of Awesomeness

March 14th—Pi Day

March 19th—CASTL Meeting at Wahoo Public Library (please note location change)

April 12th-18th—National Library Week

Photo of the Month



Megan Boggs demonstrates how to use the Brother Scan-N-Cut during the Make It and Take It event at Seward Memorial Library. See more on [page 4](#).

CASTL Wrap-Up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

February 12
Shickley

March 19
Wahoo

April 17
Hebron

May 22
Beatrice

June 11
Syracuse

July 15
Lincoln

August 21
Pawnee City

January’s CASTL meeting was held at Alice M. Farr library in Aurora, hosted by Jan Thomsen. We began with the traditional round-robin discussion of what everyone’s been up to lately. Quite a few libraries are preparing for summer reading, and we discussed different hero-themed ideas for programming. There were some questions about what to do with older items, and whether to store, archive, or digitize them. Digitizing items into searchable databases was strongly favored, and items that had to be stored could be given as a collection to a historical society. Some libraries are experiencing overlapping programming, especially with book clubs, since patrons can end up belonging to several book clubs at the same time. There were also brief discussions about dress code—what’s appropriate and what’s not—as well as different databases and whether they would be useful.

After lunch, we reviewed the [Compare Public Libraries website](#) from the IMLS. On this site, you can compare your library’s staff, circulation, revenue, etc. with either a specific group of libraries, or with comparable libraries from across the nation. This can be especially useful when writing a strategic plan—once you compare your library with a few others, it’s clear to see what’s working well for you and which areas could use improvement or additional resources (such as extra staff or a bigger budget). This information can be useful in other situations as well, such as making a case before the city council.

Please note that the locations for the March & April CASTL meetings have switched—the March meeting will be in Wahoo & the April meeting will be in Hebron.

What is CASTL?

CASTL is a monthly meeting where public library directors can get together and learn from one another. Each meeting has a round-robin discussion where everyone can share what’s going on at their library, followed by a training discussion or presentation. There is CE credit available for all attendees! See the schedule on the left for where we’ll be meeting next!

Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

Registration will be open soon for the next set of basic skills courses, offered through the Nebraska Library Commission. To see the full calendar & register for classes, [click here](#). Here’s what’s coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration Open</u>
Feb. 23—March 6	Reference	Jan. 16—Feb. 13
March 9—March 20	Intellectual Freedom	Jan. 30—Feb. 27
March 23—April 3	Readers’ Advisory	Feb. 13—March 13

News Around the System

Make It and Take It ... from the Library

By Charlotte
Baldinger

Patrons at Seward Memorial Library were taking home more than books on wintry nights. Seward Memorial Library hosted three “Make It and Take It” Tuesdays during January. Patrons left the library wearing new accessories after the “Arm and Finger Knitting” evening. The library provided instruction as well as the yarn for this event and a wide range of ages learned a new skill. Old t-shirts were transformed during the “T-Shirt Re-Purposing” night. The library’s Accu-Cut and new Scan-N-Cut machines were featured during the final program. Men, women and children carried home unique Valentine bags and personalized cards after the “Valentine Paper Crafts” event. Seward Memorial Library is enriching the lives of the makers as well as the readers in our community. It was a great way to start the year.



Exploring the Fashion of Downton Abbey at David City

By Kay Schmid

At Noon on “Fat” Tuesday, February 17th, Nebraska Humanities Council speaker Sue McLain will present “A Century of Fashion: Downton Abbey.” Jackie Masek will provide the refreshments and Flower Designs by JF’s Jolene Fictl and Jackie will decorate. There is no charge for this program, but space is limited. Call 402-367-3100 to save a seat.

The Nebraska Humanities Council is providing major funding for this program. The NHC receives support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the NE State Legislature, the NE Cultural Endowment & private donations.



Mark Your Calendars for Big Talk from Small Libraries!



SELS will be having a viewing party for Big Talk from Small Libraries, which will be February 27th from 8:45am—5:00pm at Seward Memorial Library. There will be snacks, and we’ll take care of reporting your CE credit! [Email the SELS office](#) anytime to RSVP.

Accelerated Reader Program Takes Off

By Geneice Smith This year, the South Central Unified District incorporated a district-wide plan for the Accelerated Reader program with additional activities to promote reading and reading growth across the district. We started by having all students K-12 take the STAR test to determine each student's reading proficiency. STARS tests are taken each quarter to monitor progress and set new goals. Goals were then set to challenge the students to read every day. Teachers and administrators monitor the student's progress toward goals. Students are guided with book selection and given comprehension strategies to improve concentration. As reading ability improves, more challenging goals are established.

Everyone is involved with this process, and we have promoted reading with many activities such as read-a-thons and Golden Sower book activities. We even had a "Raiders Read to Succeed" float at homecoming. Our October challenge was "Celebrate 50 Days" in which the students were challenged to each read a nonfiction book and take an AR test over the book. Classes who had 100% participation received a large Eileen's Cookie. We celebrated Teen Read Week with a read-a-thon. We also took pictures of students "Caught Reading a Good Book" and displayed them around the school. Posters of various athletes, actors/actresses reading, as well as reading quotes, were displayed around the schools. Public libraries have also been a great supporter, purchasing popular books to help cover the demand of readers. Thank you to everyone for helping make this program a success!

At the end of each quarter, there is an assembly to celebrate all progress. There was a dance-off including teachers and students. Students who met their goals went on an all-expense-paid trip to Superior to watch the movie "Mockingjay" and "The Polar Express" complete with busses decorated accordingly and a conductor. Other prizes included iTunes cards, portable speakers, fitness tracking bands, roller blades, LEGOs, Husker football and basketball tickets, trips to the iMax and more. This quarter, high school students who meet their goal get to go to a hockey game. Each quarter is going to bring new and exciting celebrations for the students, so encourage your child(ren) to keep reading.

As you can see, the District is committed to a reading program, and it has proven to be effective in motivating students to read and in reading growth. We had a big increase in nonfiction reading during the month of November. There is a very high percentage of students participating and meeting their goals not only at 100%, but some at 200, 300, and even 400% above and beyond their goals. STAR tests show significant student growth. One class has increased as much as 2 grade levels in one quarter. We now see students reading on the busses and at lunch. What an accomplishment!

We have not gone without problems and have had to make adjustments along the way, but the overall atmosphere is positive with positive results! It is a learning experience for all, and we look forward to more learning by all! We also want to thank all our special friends that have helped in our celebrations: Eileen's Cookies—Hastings, Crest Theatre—Superior, Storm Hockey—Grand Island, and Wal-Mart—Hastings.



Love Your Library

Delicious Refreshments!

Door Prizes!



Open House

Kids' Games, Activities & Photo Opps

Try out our NEW Mango Languages learning resource and the NEW AWE After School Edge Computer!

YOU ARE INVITED
To see what's New @ the library!

Friday, February 13
2:00pm-5:00pm

Central City Public Library
1604 15th Ave Central City

See our NEW display case and NEW set of Leading to Reading books!

Get a library card!

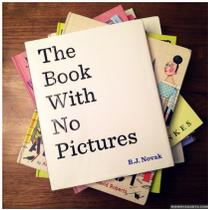
Meet Sherlock the Magnificent cat!

Blind Date With a Book!

Tidbits & Fast Facts!

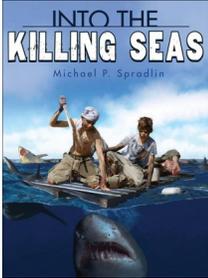
- ➔ The Harvard Public Library is now authorized to proctor exams for UNL, for any patrons or students who need a place to take online exams from UNL.
- ➔ There's still one ring left from the SELS Friends 'Hobbit' movie showing. If you won, please stop by the SELS office sometime with your door prize ring from the movie, & choose a new ring!

SELS Book Reviews



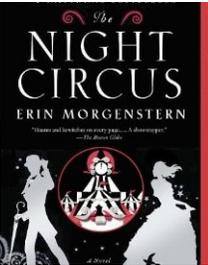
The Book With No Pictures by B.J. Novak
Submitted by Carrie Trutna, Wahoo Public Library

...Because who doesn't want to say "boo boo butt" to a room full of kindergartners? This is one of the best read-alouds I've seen in a while. You can see a video of the author reading his book [here](#).



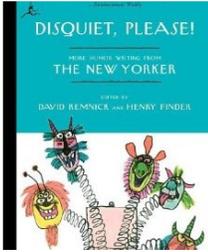
Into the Killing Seas by Michael P. Spradlin
Submitted by Heather Kavan, East Butler Public Schools

This title was recently on our book fair, and I fell in love! Based on a true story from WWII, two young boys stow away on a Navy ship and are bombed by the Japanese! Their story of surviving the unspeakable and sharks along the way will astound many middle school readers and above, in my opinion!



The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern
Submitted by Scott Childers, SELS Executive Director

An award winning book about a magic circus and the romance that sustains it, or is it the other way around? Subtle magic use and charms, interesting characters, and a two competitors of a decade long contest make Night Circus a compelling read. Not for those who expect wizards throwing around magic missiles left and right.



Disquiet, Please! More Humor Writing from The New Yorker by Various Authors
Submitted by Wendy Mackey, SELS Administrative Assistant

This is a great collection of short stories, as well as some opinion pieces, featured in The New Yorker from the 1920s onward. Featuring authors such as Steve Martin & Garrison Keillor, this is a great volume of quick, lighthearted reading.

Puzzle Day is a Hit at Geneva

By Sarah Johnson

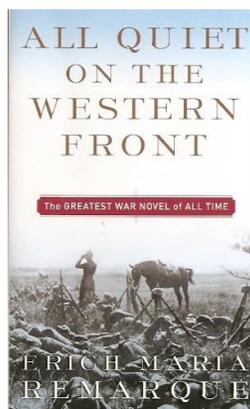
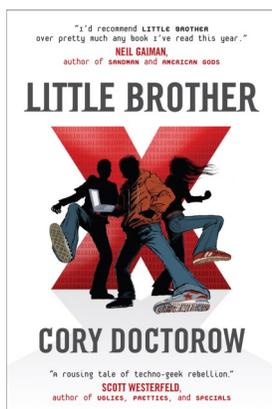
The Geneva Public Library celebrated National Puzzle Day (January 29, 2015) for three weeks, because we were having too much fun! The library displayed brain teaser and riddle books, as well as “Magic Eye”, “I Spy”, and “Where’s Waldo” books. We offered crosswords, number fill-ins, and word finds to complete, wooden brain teaser blocks, and a Rubik’s Cube to test your skills. The main part of the celebration was having puzzles constantly available for patrons to work on in the library. We learned a few things as well. We set out an open puzzle box, but it wasn’t until we put the border together and put a few pieces out, that people stopped by to look at it and put at least one piece in. We also learned that you can find YouTube videos on how to put those wood brain teaser blocks back together (and watch them over and



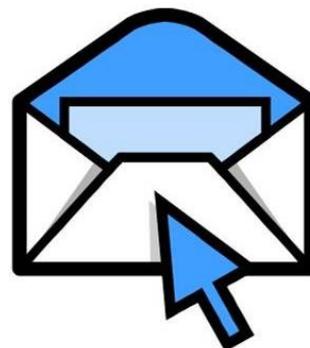
over and over). Kids, parents, senior citizens, and everyone in between took part. We had several parents who would work on the puzzle while their children used a computer or searched for books and movies. We kept our social media followers up to date, taking photos of completed puzzles and encouraging them to stop by. It spurred conversation and camaraderie between different age groups as well, regardless of the puzzle complexity or the size of the pieces. National Puzzle Day is always held on January 29th, so you have plenty of time to decide how you will celebrate @yourlibrary next year.

SELS Book Kit Selections

SELS has a great collection of book discussion kits, including young adult titles like *Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow, and classics like *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque. Check out the [book kit page](#) to see the full catalog, and [email the SELS office](#) if you have any book discussion kit suggestions!



**Don't forget, the
deadline to file
E-Rate form 470
is Thursday,
February 26th!**



Opening Your Doors to Writers

By Becky Breed
and Lucy Adkins

There are writers and aspiring writers in every town and county in Nebraska, but oftentimes they do not know each other. Libraries can work to change that by bringing individuals together through “Opening Your Doors to Writers,” a new outreach program just introduced last month in the SELS newsletter. Whether an individual is a beginner or has been writing for a long time, this program aims to develop writing groups so writers can meet and share in the writing life.

How can we work together to make this happen? This April, the Southeast Library System will provide an in-service to explore an innovative new type of writing group which may be just what your local writers are looking for. Facilitators Lucy Adkins and Becky Breed will discuss generative writing groups and the generative process, a unique approach to writing which enables writers to reach deep within themselves and write to their fullest potential. We are not talking about a critique group (though there is great value in critique groups), but a group which meets for the express purpose of generating new writing—so that after every meeting, each person goes home with a new poem or the beginnings of a short story or essay. It’s an exciting process, it will bring more people into libraries, and we are eager to share this with you.

The five basic elements of the generative process are as below:

1. A writing group.
2. The writing exercise, or prompt.
3. The writing.
4. The “Something That Can’t Be Explained.”
5. Feedback.



The Opening Your Doors to Writers in-service workshops will be held respectively at Syracuse Public Library and Geneva Public Library. Librarians will receive continuing education units for participating, and for those who decide to implement the development of writing groups in their local areas, further support and training will be available. Librarians are asked to participate in the workshop closest to them and what fits their schedules best:

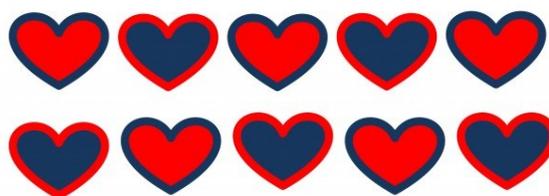
Geneva Public Library, March 30, 1:00 – 3:00

Syracuse Public Library, April (TBD), 1:00 – 3:00

Please [contact the SELS office](#) to register for the workshops.

**Happy Valentine’s Day
from the SELS office!**

We love our member libraries!





Southeast Library System Front Porch Award Application

The Front Porch Award is presented to a library (academic, institutional, public or school) that displays ingenuity in creating an atmosphere that welcomes patrons to their facility. This award and \$100 will be presented during National Library Week, April 12-18, 2015. Non-accredited libraries are welcome to apply.

Enclose the following with your nomination:

Name of Library: _____

Name of Individual Submitting the Application: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

- In 250 words or less, state why your library deserves this award.
- Information about activities/programs you have developed for your library.
- Two letters of recommendation from any library supporter.
- Any other information that shows your library deserves this award.

Nominations must be submitted to:

Southeast Library System

5730 R St. Ste. C-1

Lincoln, NE 68505

selsne@gmail.com

Application deadline is March 1, 2015

Who We Are, What We Do, Why It Matters: Why Nebraska Needs Libraries More Than Ever

Registration Fee:
Only \$30



Presenter: Valerie Gross,
President & CEO of Howard
County Library System,
Maryland

9:30 AM
to
3:00 PM

April 22—Alliance Public Library

April 23—Kearney Public Library

**April 24—Columbus Public
Library**

Learn to describe your work and profession in terms that people understand and value. Explore, discuss, and practice proven techniques to:

- Redefine libraries in a new, innovative way
- Align your library with what the community understands: education
- Incorporate intuitive, value-enhancing words into your everyday lexicon
- Heighten your library's visibility, stature, and funding
- Develop strategies that you can integrate immediately into your work



PLTS Spring Meetings 2015

Major Sponsor: The NLA Public Library and Trustee Section. (We use your NLA dues to make terrific events like this one possible!) **Co-sponsors:** Central Plains Library System, Southeast Library System, Three Rivers Library System, and Western Library System. **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.**



Public Library and Trustee Section 2015 Spring Meetings

Who We Are, What We Do, Why It Matters: Why Nebraska Needs Libraries More Than Ever

**April 22—Alliance Public Library
April 23—Kearney Public Library
April 24—Columbus Public Library**

- 9:30 – 10 am** Coffee & Registration
- 10 am - 12 pm** Part I: Getting It Together
 - The “Libraries = Education” Vision
 - The Power of Language
 - Q&A
- 12 – 1 pm** Lunch on your own
- 1 – 3 pm** Part II: Putting It Together
 - Implementing the Vision
 - Education Innovation
 - Q&A/Wrap-Up
- 3:30-5:30 pm** **Navigating the Law (Kearney only)**
An extra, optional workshop with Richard Miller of the Nebraska Library Commission. Especially geared towards library directors and trustees.

Registrant's Name: _____

Library Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Location: Alliance Kearney Columbus Kearney with additional workshop (add \$5)

Include a **check for \$30** made out to the **NLA Public Library and Trustee Section** with this registration form. Send to Amy Hafer, NLA PLTS Secretary/Treasurer, Hastings Public Library, 517 W 4th St., Hastings, NE 68901.

Registration deadline is April 10. Late or onsite registrations will be \$40.

Questions about registration? Contact Amy Hafer at amy@hastings.lib.ne.us or 402-461-2348, or Todd Schlechte at tschlechte@omahalibrary.org or 402-521-0405.

Co-sponsors: Central Plains Library System, Southeast Library System, Three Rivers Library System, and Western Library System. 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.

Saturday February 14 5:30–8 pm

Friends of
Kilgore Memorial Library

520 Nebraska Avenue York, NE

Present

York

UN  CORKED

Share the evening with your
sweetheart...tasting fine wines
chocolates and more!

\$15

per person
Includes wine
& chocolate tasting
plus souvenir wine glass.

\$20 at the door.
Additional donations will also be accepted.

Kirk's Korner

will present a fine wine collection
as well as whiskey, vodka and
scotch for tasting.


Friends of the Library
YORK, NEBRASKA

Advance tickets only available at Kirk's Korner, Kilgore Memorial Library,
and York Chamber of Commerce. **Must be 21 to attend.**





Nebraska School Librarians' Day: It's All about Literacies!

Saturday, March 21, 2015 at a location near you.

Omaha, UNO Roskens Hall Ideas Room -- Registration at 8:30 AM. Sessions start at 9:00 AM

Kearney: Kearney Public Library -- Registration at 9:00 AM. Sessions start at 9:30 AM

North Platte: North Platte High School-- Registration at 8:30 AM. Sessions start at 9:00 AM

Registration, Coffee and Refreshments

Wrapping Your Head around the Nebraska's Multiple Literacies Standard

Omaha – Courtney Pentland, Omaha Public Schools and Kim Gangwish, Bellevue West High

Kearney – Angie Richeson, UNK

North Platte – Dr. Becky Pasco, UNO

Break and NSLA Door Prizes

Technology and Multiple Literacies

Omaha – Sara Churchill, Arbor Park Intermediate School and Gavin Flint, Bryan High

Kearney – Michael Sauer, Nebraska Library Commission

North Platte – Wendy Loewenstien, UNO

Literature and Literacy Strategies/Books

Omaha – Kim Jones, Elkhorn Ridge Middle School and Annette Luedtke, Belle Ryan Elementary

Kearney – Dr. Carrie Kracl, UNK

North Platte – Tiffany Frost, Papillion La Vista South High

Lunch and short presentation from NSLA

Round Robin Book Reviews for All Grade Levels

Book review sessions will be interactive. **Please bring two books you would like to share**

Omaha Facilitators – Jo O'Garro, Central Park Elementary and Jill Annis, Grandview Middle School

Kearney Facilitators – Angie Richeson and Dr. Sherry Crow, UNK

North Platte Facilitators – Patty Birch, North Platte High School and Mary Reiman, Lincoln Public Schools



Registration

Cost—\$20.00 (includes lunch). Please register by **March 13**.

Make checks payable to **Nebraska School Librarians Association** and mail to:

Kim Gangwish, Executive Secretary
Bellevue West High School
1501 Thurston Ave.
Bellevue, NE 68123

Name _____ School _____

Email _____ Special diet (gluten free, vegetarian, etc.) _____

Phone (cell or home in case of weather) _____

Which site are you attending? _____ Omaha _____ Kearney _____ North Platte

Creating Caring Connections

A Powerful Approach to Building Relationships with Young Children

When: Friday, March 27, 2015
9:00 a.m. to Noon

Where: Sump Memorial Library
222 N Jefferson St, Papillion, 68046

Cost: FREE training!

To best meet the needs of young children’s developing brains, the interactions they have with adults must have four qualities: nurture, engagement, structure and challenge. This session will present an approach to building relationships that supports optimal brain growth and social-emotional Development. Participants will not only know “the what” and “the why” but they will have lots of ideas on “how to” create these kinds of relationships with young children.

There is a \$15 fee for required materials - check or money order to ESU #3 (paid the day of the training)

**Pre-registration by March 20 is required!
To register, contact Cathy McMahon,
cathytmcmahon@gmail.com**



Brought to you by Sump Memorial Library and the Early Childhood Consortium of the Omaha Area (ELC ECCOA). ELC ECCOA is the Early Learning Connection partnership supporting training, technical assistance and consultation for those who work with children birth through age eight in Cass, Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. ELC ECCOA is supported in part by a grant from federal CCDF, and a grant from Part C and Part B, 619 IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) administered by the Nebraska Department of Education.



Southeast Library System

Serving libraries in the counties
of:

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

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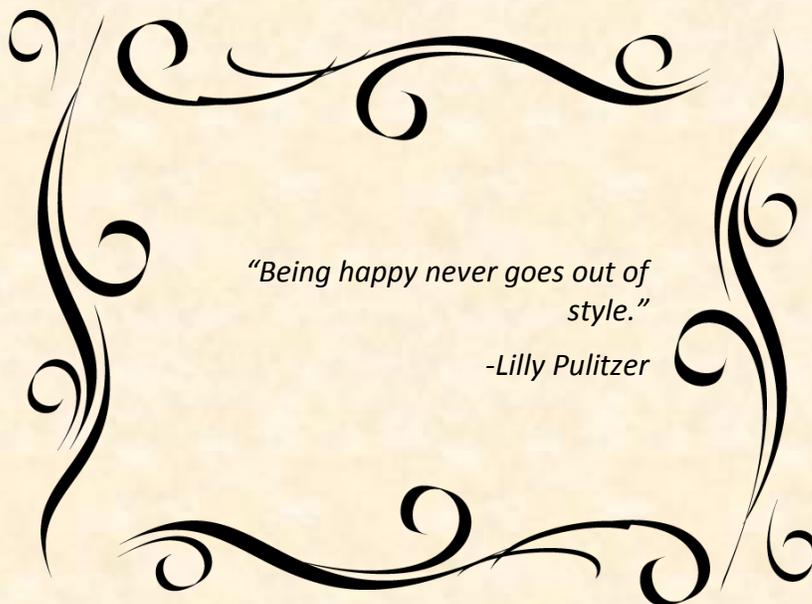
selsne@gmail.com

Website

<http://www.selsne.org>

SoLiS is a publication of the Southeast Library System, and is issued once monthly. We reserve the right to screen and to edit all contributions.

February 2015



"Being happy never goes out of style."

-Lilly Pulitzer