



# Southeast Signal

News, Events, and Information from Around the System

## From the Director

July 2015

Everybody has a “thing” that they can’t get enough of. For some, it is a sports team. For others it may be a movie franchise. I know of a fellow who has a thing for vintage beer cans. Cigars, video games, snack cakes, ducks, squirrels, movie memorabilia, cars, knitted blankets, road signs, band merchandise, choral sheet music, novelty candies from the 1960s – all of them could possibly be somebody’s “thing”. My high school classmates had interests that ran the gambit from Elvis Presley to Guns ‘N’ Roses and from Mickey Mouse to Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. My grandfather is still passionate about John Deere tractors and my mother decorates her house with images of sunflowers. Perhaps someone you know is all about Charles Dickens, or the biology of freshwater invertebrates, or how each letter of the alphabet was created.

These things aren’t a large part of a person’s identity, but they usually are something that sets them apart than everybody else and makes them unique. They are bound to have certain things catch their eye before other people notice it. Maybe that odd knick-knack at the museum gift store would look great next to their 30 other similarly themed collectibles.

You may remember the “Geek the Library” project that started up a while ago by OCLC with some Gates funding. A handful of Nebraska libraries participated, but the idea was to get the word out the library is a place where you can be who you want to be, to be interested in whatever you want to be interested in, and have a passion for something.

Even if the Geek the Library project wasn’t your cup of tea, libraries still support people of all types looking to fulfill all types of intellectual inquiries and collectible curiosities, so they can enjoy what they enjoy without judgement or harassment.

Always be on the lookout for what people are passionate about. It helps you serve your community in so many ways. It informs your collection development decisions. It could help you gain an “in” with a funder or decision maker to introduce yourself and begin a rapport that will help further talks. You might find a great speaker for a program by listening to that one person talk about his antique clock collection. Listen, learn, and feed those interests!

Scott Childers, Executive Director  
Southeast Library System

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# Calendar



- July 12th**—Henry David Thoreau’s birthday
- July 15th**—CASTL Meeting at the SELS Office, Lincoln
- July 20th**—Space Exploration Day
- July 24th**—Cousins Day
- July 28th**—Milk Chocolate Day
- July 30th**—Paperback Book Day
- July 31st**—J.K. Rowling’s birthday
- August 7th**—Particularly Preposterous Packaging Day
- August 9th**—Book Lovers Day
- August 12th**—Vinyl Record Day
- August 19th**—Photography Day
- August 21st**—CASTL Meeting at Pawnee City Public Library
- August 22nd**—Ray Bradbury’s birthday
- August 24th**—Pluto Demoted Day
- August 27th**—Burger Day

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## Photo of the Month



The Fairbury Public Library enjoyed the last days of the Summer Reading Program making hero costumes and spending time learning about fun science with Mrs. Science. Photo & description by Linda Dux.

# Board Meeting Wrap-Up

We held our latest board meeting on June 30th at Ella Johnson Crandall Memorial Library on the campus of Union College in Lincoln, NE.

- We said thank you to our exiting board members: Dorothy Willis, Barbara Hegr, Sabrina Riley, Rebecca Bernthal, & Ruth Carlock.
- It was decided to hold officer elections electronically. This will take place in the next few weeks.
- Some changes in staffing levels were discussed. An additional staff member will be hired to focus on planning the various educational events put on by the system, like the Training Extravaganza, freeing up Scott's time to travel to more libraries to do more consulting and on-demand training for board members on topics such as board responsibilities, friends and foundations, and strategic planning.
- The budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year was approved with some money being placed in some new areas.
- The new board members will have their orientation on July 20th at 10:00 at the SELS Office. If any current board member would like to attend as a refresher, they are welcome. Just let Scott know so we have enough materials put together.

Full meeting minutes will be made available on the website after their approval at the August board meeting.

## 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>
August 24—Sept. 4	Library Policy	July 17—August 14
Sept. 14—Sept. 25	Programming & Outreach	August 7—Sept. 4
Sept. 28—Oct. 9	The Community & the Library	August 21—Sept. 18



# News Around the System

## Dogs with Super Powers Visit the Clarks Public Library

*By Barbee Sweet* Co-deputy Ben Baker & K-9 unit Deputy Leython of the police K9 division visited the library. They demonstrated how easily the drug dog was able to find the bait that was hidden in the library. This was the largest attendance so far this summer with 55 children eagerly watching.

Moses the therapy dog came to visit. He is from Christ Lutheran Church in Cairo, NE. He has been on Good Morning America, and he helped out after the Boston marathon bombing, the Oklahoma, Missouri school shooting & at Pilger after the tornadoes, just to name a few. He goes to visit the elderly in nursing homes in Grand Island on a regular basis. Moses' super powers are to calm & soothe people in need!

The Nebraska Institute of the Blind came to the library to show the kids that dogs have super powers also! Charlee talked about all the work her seeing eye dog, Java, helps her accomplish on a daily basis. Shaun, who is also blind, showed us his "super powers" using his walking stick that he uses on a regular basis.



Left: Deputy Leython of the K9 division shares what he knows with the kids.  
Right: Moses the therapy dog gets some attention. Both photos by Barbee Sweet.

## Community Heroes Stop by at Central City

*By Sara Lee*

Some of our community heroes came to the library for Summer Reading Program to talk about things like healthy bodies with Dr. Michele Sell and Kendra Jefferson from Litzenberg; fingerprinting, bullying and other topics with Police Chief Mark Hogue; and what is in an emergency unit with EMT Jean Polzkill. We are fortunate to have such wonderful people who gave of their time to come to the library and create more awareness of our community services. The kids loved it. We didn't have time to touch on every community helper because of time but we thank everyone out there who makes our lives better.



Police Chief Mark Hogue stops by the library. Photo by Judy Marco.

## Downton Abbey Fashion Visits Central City

By Sara Lee

Humanities Nebraska speaker Sue McLain presented "A Century of Fashion: Downton Abbey" during an evening program recently at the Central City Public Library. It was very entertaining and informative! She showed beautiful pieces of clothing from her extensive collection.



Sue is the owner of Yesterday's Lady, a vintage fashion museum/store in Beatrice. She has been traveling the Midwest since 1991 sharing her extensive collection of clothing from 1840 through 1980 and teaching groups about the history of fashion. Sue has been collecting fashions since 1985 and they are currently housed in an 1887 historic building in downtown Beatrice.

Participants enjoyed sampling Glazed Cinnamon Scones, English Scones with Devonshire Cream, Raspberry Jam-Filled Petit Fours, Almond Tarts, Mrs. Isobel Crawley's Salmon Tea Sandwiches, Cucumber Sandwiches, iced tea, coffee, and an assortment of hot teas. Be sure to check out the library's green screen Facebook photo album from the event! Participants enjoyed having their photos taken in front of various venues such as a beautiful castle, English drawing room and an English garden. The program was sponsored in part by Humanities Nebraska through the HN Speakers Bureau.

## Hunt for Heroes at Seward Memorial Library

By Charlotte Baldinger

Where are the heroes? If you come to Seward you may find over 50 heroes scattered within the community. Seward Memorial Library is challenging children as well as adults to "Hunt for Heroes Throughout History" during the month of July. Posters displaying famous individuals were placed in a variety of businesses.

Tracking sheets are available for individuals or families to pick up and record their discoveries as they search for heroes. This annual community promotion began in 2007 when everyone was asked to look for "Who Dun It" during the "Get a Clue" summer reading program. Each year the topic for the promotion is related to the summer library theme. Friends of Seward Library donates \$100 cash for the winner in a random drawing from the returned tracking sheets. Local businesses also provide prizes. This popular promotion connects readers and non-readers who partner with the entire community to celebrate our library theme. To find out who will receive the \$100 bill, come to the String Beans concert on July 30 at the Seward Bandshell.

## Children Transform into Superheroes

By Laura Renker

This summer at Crete Public Library Susan made a "phone booth" for children to enter and come out as a superhero! There were super reader outfits and a Batman costume. The actual phone with a cord on it confused some of the patrons. We also explained that Clark Kent went into a phone booth and came out as Superman!





# From the SELS Office

## New Book Kits Available—Reserve Yours Today!

There are several new book kits available for checkout from the SELS office, including young adult and adult fiction titles. For more information on each title, click on the link to visit its Goodreads page.

If you'd like to reserve a book kit, [email the SELS office](#) anytime. Book kits can be used for classes, book clubs, discussion groups, etc., and are usually checked out for six weeks at a time.

[More Happy than Not by Adam Silvera](#) (10 copies, hardcover)

[Mosquitoland by David Arnold](#) (10 copies, hardcover)

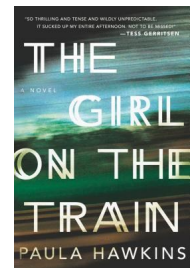
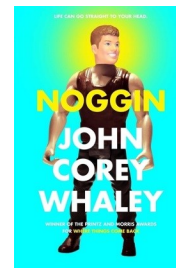
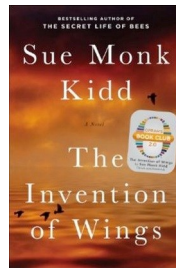
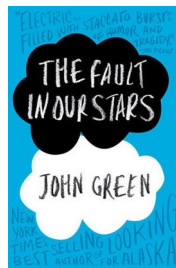
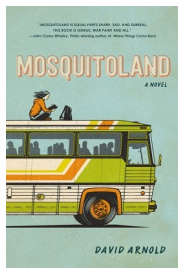
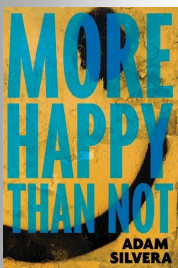
[The Fault in Our Stars by John Green](#) (10 copies, hardcover)

[The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd](#) (10 copies, hardcover)

[Under a Painted Sky by Stacey Lee](#) (10 copies, hardcover)

[Noggin by John Corey Whaley](#) (10 copies, hardcover)

[The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins](#) (10 copies, hardcover)



## Save the Date—The Youth Services Retreat is Coming Up

The 2015 SELS/TRLS Youth Services Retreat will be September 3-4 at Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE. It'll be a great time to get away for a few days, learn a lot from interesting sessions, and meet fellow young adult & children's librarians from around the area! More details to come soon!



## Sign Up for Journal Articles via Email!

Professional journal articles are now available via email for any library in the SELS service area! There are several publications available, and you can enroll to receive an email with the table of contents whenever there's a new issue. From there, simply request the articles you'd like, and we'll get them to you as soon as possible. To enroll in a journal, send an email to [selsne@gmail.com](mailto:selsne@gmail.com) and let us know which ones you'd like to enroll in.

Available publications:

- American Libraries
- Library Journal
- Library Sparks
- Nebraska Municipal Review
- Public Libraries
- School Library Journal
- School Library Monthly
- Strategic Library
- Young Adult Library Services (coming soon!)



*"If a book about failures doesn't sell, is it a success?"*

— Jerry Seinfeld

## Southeast Library System

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