



# Southeast Signal

News, Events, and Information from Around the System

## **From the Director** \_\_\_\_\_ **October 2015**

I'd like to start out this month's newsletter by welcoming Todd Schlechte & Maggie Kramer as our two newest staff members here at SELS. I'm very happy to have them join us in our efforts to support the libraries in the SELS area. Please take a look at their introductions later in this issue and get to know them.

Welcoming Todd & Maggie brings to mind the nice thing about bringing new people into an organization. Whether it be an employee, a volunteer, a board member, or whatever role they will have, they usually bring new perspectives. If you are willing to listen to those new perspectives and judge the ideas and observations fairly, you could find some great ideas that will bring your organization closer to your goals.

For example, both Maggie & Todd have already come up with new ways of handling certain things within the office. I could have handed them the office procedure book and said "This is how we do things. Don't do anything differently" and called it good. Instead I gave them the basics and said something to the effect of, "this is how we do things now, let me know if you see things we could change." They took their experiences and strengths and have already pointed out some things that can be done differently while still keeping the quality levels the same.

Listen to your new people. When doing training, differentiate between things that have to be done a certain way because of things like laws or ordinances, and where they can have flexibility in the methods and tools they use. Focus on what is the desired end result.

Scott Childers, Executive Director  
Southeast Library System

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# Introducing Our New Staff...

## Todd Schlechte, Assistant Director



Todd has been a certified librarian for a little over eight years and has enjoyed being able to offer library customers increasingly better services during that time. He is excited about being able to do this in a totally new way, as he joins Southeast Library System's team in supporting a variety of sizes and types of libraries.

Todd received his Master of Library Science Degree from the University of Missouri. He has experience in both small and larger libraries, having worked for Gretna Public Library, Omaha Public Library, and Bellevue University's Freeman-Lozier Library (the last during a two month practicum).

He is a member of the NLA, PLA, and ALA. Todd was the 2015 chair for the NLA Public Library and Trustee Section and the Intellectual Freedom Round Table. Todd believes libraries have an extremely important and strong future role to play within their communities (whether that community be a village, city, a student and faculty body, or the users of a special library).

Todd has been a resident of Nebraska for 20 years (although two of those years were spent in Germany, where he taught English). He also has a strong family heritage in Nebraska.

To relax Todd likes to read up on U.S. and international affairs, speak German while engaged in a family activity, engage in perennial gardening, sit in front of a fire with a good book, or go on a hike.

## Maggie Kramer, Administrative Assistant



Hello, I'm Maggie Kramer, the new administrative assistant at Southeast Library System. I'm also starting my 5th school year working as a part time Librarian at St. Patrick Catholic School in Lincoln. I learned about the Regional Library System when I took classes at Central Community College for my Library and Information Services Certificate. I completed my certificate in August, 2014. Prior to that, I had earned a BA degree in education, from Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas. To work my way through college, I worked at the University Library for 4 years.

On the personal side, my family and I enjoy living in Lincoln. My husband, Kevin and I have two children; a son, Nick and a daughter, Lizzy. Nick attended Southeast Community College and Lizzy is in Junior High.

I started work in September and I'm enjoying my work. I hope to meet as many of you as possible and put names, libraries, and faces all together.

# Calendar



October 23—CASTL Meeting at Central City Public Library

October 25—International Artists Day

October 26—National Mincemeat Day

October 29—National Cat Day

October 31—Halloween

November 1—National Author’s Day, National Family Literacy Day

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!**

November 5—National Doughnut Day

November 6—National Men Make Dinner Day

November 8—National STEM/STEAM Day

November 11—Veteran’s Day

November 14—A Celebration of Nebraska Books

November 18—Mickey Mouse’s Birthday

November 20—CASTL Meeting at Syracuse Public Library

November 21—SELS Friends Private Movie Showing: Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2, see p. 12

November 24—SELS Barnes and Noble Book Fair, see p. 13

December 4—SELS Summer Reading Workshop, Walt branch library. (Mark The Date!)



## Photo of the Month



Diane Vanek, who works for Lincoln City Libraries, created this attention-getting bulletin board at the Gere branch.

# CASTL Wrap-Up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

October 23  
Central City

November 20  
Syracuse

December 10  
Fairmont

January 22  
Milford

February 19  
Beatrice

March 24  
Fairbury

Our August CASTL meeting was hosted by Vicki Perrie and Peggy Lipker at Superior Public Library. We started the day with a discussion about friends and foundation groups. There was a wide variety of configurations represented in the group. There were some with both, some with neither, and some with one or the other. Some had a friends group that a subsidiary of their foundation. One of the biggest factors in choosing what model was the number of people involved. Some communities had problems getting a lot of people to be part of a group – so they chose to have just one. Another factor was if there was a building project of some sort. A foundation would often get setup to support a new building or renovation, but then would sometimes flounder once the project was done.

Some fundraising ideas were shared, often around the theme of doing something with donated goods or services like hosting a meal, holding a silent or consignment auction, or some sort of sale. One library holds a holiday tour of homes during holidays. Some do a sort of gift tree around Christmas, asking for either materials for the libraries, like specific books or DVDs, or for office supplies. There were a few that hold an event that allows local people who usually sell things like candles, makeup, or cooking supplies via “home parties” to have a table in the library during a “vendor fair”.

One thing that was emphasized was that if the library, friends, or foundation did anything that either had a sales price or a suggested donation, they would need to report sales tax. If things were a free-will donation, no sales tax obligation occurred.

Afterwards, we moved to a round robin discussion. Many were finishing up their accreditation obligations. One of the topics that created some discussion was on using city monies to provide food at events. Some had been told this was not allowed while others had no issues with that practice. It seemed to be something at the local level, and even then it was questioned if it was actual ordinance, or just an administrator enforcing a non-existent policy. Another discussion came up with “ban & bar” policies, with a few realizing they did not have anything written down.

## 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>
Nov. 2—Nov. 13	Leadership	September 25—October 23
Nov. 30—Dec. 11	Library Service to Children & Youth	October 23—November 20
Jan. 11—Jan. 12	Communication	December 4—December 31
Jan. 25—February 5	Library Technology	December 18—January 15

# News Around the System

## Osceola Public Library Educates with Display

Picture and story provided by April Stevens



Banned Books Week has become increasingly important over the years as one of the tools librarians use to educate the public about the importance of access to books and information without restriction. April Stevens, director of Osceola Public Library, commented that there was “a lot of interest in the books and also did a lot of educating people about banned and challenged books.”

## Palmyra Public Library Hosts Geocaching Workshop

Provided by Glenda Willnerd



The Palmyra Memorial Library hosted a Geocaching Workshop on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 P.M. at the Palmyra Activities Center. Participants were invited to join the world’s largest treasure hunt!! There are millions of geocaches hidden around the world. Tim, Lucinda, and Nima Faunce (featured in photo) led the workshop. They explained the “ins and outs” of geocaching, the different types of geocaching,

ing, how to play and how to get started. If you would be interested in hosting a geocaching workshop at your library, contact Lucinda Faunce at [mrs.science@sciencereconnect.com](mailto:mrs.science@sciencereconnect.com).

# News Around the System

## Jean Hellwege and Lincoln's Scott Middle School Win TEAMS Award

Photo by Lauren  
Hellman

Jean Hellwege, school librarian at Scott Middle School in Lincoln, has won the 2015 TEAMS award. The TEAMS Award was created to recognize the critical collaboration between teach-



TEAMS Winner Jean Hellwege

ers and media specialists in promoting learning and increasing student achievement. Each of three winning schools receives \$2,500 in cash, Gale products, a one-year subscription to Library Media Connection and the Educator's Professional Bookshelf from Linworth Publishing/Libraries Unlimited.

To teach students about the research process and how to write a research paper, Jean worked with middle school teachers to ignite passion in students through social action research that would help them identify a social issue that resonated with them and answered the question "What can

I do to help?" Using library resources to explore different social issues, the project culminated with the Make A Difference Fair where students presented their research to the community and raised money for their causes. View their project video and find out more award details at <http://solutions.cengage.com/gale/TEAMS/2015/>

## A Rompin' Stompin' Story Hour

By Jessica Votipka,  
photos by Leesa Bartu

The Exeter Public Library rounded up a herd of cowboys and cowgirls Sept. 19 for a rompin' stompin' good story hour. Participants were encouraged to arrive wearing their best cowboy



duds. A set of chaps, a hat, spurs and special rodeo rope were displayed, thanks to a local cowboy. The young cowpokes were amazed at how heavy chaps are, and observed how different a true rodeo rope is than a regular rope.

The book "Are You a Horse?" by Andy Rash was read, with the kids participating in the

storytelling. During the reading, the cowpokes dined on "cow pies" (no-bake cookies, actually). The kids then decorated cardstock horseshoes with markers, and added rope-like jute accents. Once they were completed, a game of horseshoes was played. Exeter has some expert horseshoe players, as many prizes were handed out to the kids.

The cowboys and cowgirls (as well as the librarian) had a blast; the parents had a hard time to get the herd to ride off into the sunset.



# News Around the System

## Busy Month at Hebron Secret Library

*By Terry Olson,  
pictures from  
Stratsny Commu-  
nity Center Face-  
book page and by  
library staff*

October has been a busy month at Hebron Secret Library. The library sponsored an information table at the Women's Health Night featuring health related media and databases on October 13th. Over 200 women attended the event. The library handed out bookmarks with green tea bags attached and pieces of dark chocolate to soothe the soul.

The library hosted a Fall Time Fun Time Story Time on October 17th. Fun was had by all. The kids listened to Fall and Halloween stories, pretended to be monsters, and made sparkly bats. *Monster Needs a Costume* by Paul Czajak and Wendy Grieb was a favorite.

Hebron Secret will also host the Medicare Part D Enrollment Event on October 20th.



# News Around the System

## Let's Tailgate in the Library

By Charlotte  
Baldinger

On September 19 the Huskers may have been playing an away game, but football was in action at Seward Memorial Library. Cheerleaders and football players greeted patrons at our "Tailgate Party." Books and sports do mix and young readers heard new children's books in the story time huddle. There were a variety of football related games and activity stations scattered throughout the building with prizes and treats for everyone. Visitors had an opportunity to create a personalized football card as well as take home autographs from some members of the Seward High School football team. A hot dog lunch was provided. As a bonus the annual Friends of Seward Library Décor Days program was in the lower level for adults to peruse while the younger generation was entertained above. We hope to make this special event a part of our football season next fall.



# Meet Ellie Piersol Local Teen Author

Teens  
& Adults  
are  
Invited!



Teens  
& Adults  
are  
Invited!

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Autographs! Cookies!

Books available for purchase.

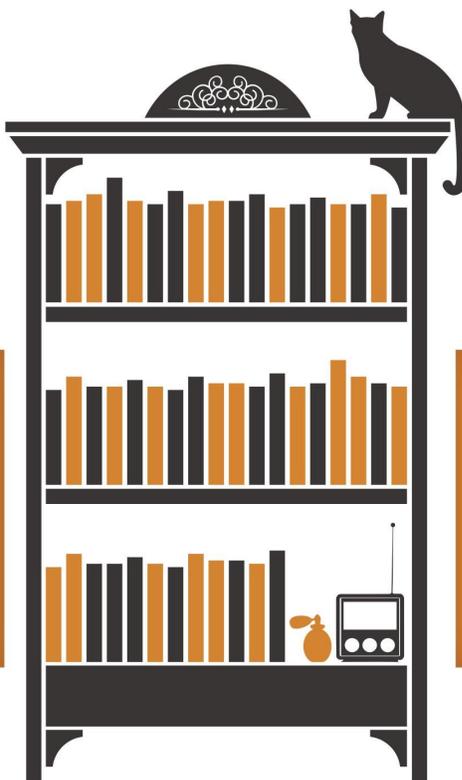
Gere Branch Library  
2400 S. 56  
(402) 441-8560

Sponsored by  
Lincoln City Libraries  
Lincoln, NE  
[www.lincolnlibraries.org](http://www.lincolnlibraries.org)

# *A Celebration of Nebraska Books*



Nov. 14, 2015  
2:30 - 6:30



NEBRASKA  
LIBRARY  
COMMISSION  
1200 N Street  
Lincoln, NE

## ***JOIN US TO CELEBRATE:***

2015 One Book One Nebraska

*Death Zones & Darling Spies: Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting  
by Beverly Deepe Kever*

Nebraska Book Award Winners

2016 One Book One Nebraska Announcement

Jane Geske Award Presentation

Reception and Book Signings

*More Info:*

**[centerforthebook.nebraska.gov](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov)**

**[facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook](https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook)**

# Young Readers Invited to Write to Favorite Authors

Young readers in grades 4-12 are invited to write a personal letter to an author for Letters about Literature (LAL), a national reading and writing promotion program. The letter can be to any author (living or dead) from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic—explaining how that author’s work changed the student’s view of the world. This 23rd annual writing contest for young readers is made possible by a generous grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, with additional support from gifts to the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, which promotes the contest through its affiliate Centers for the Book, state libraries, and other organizations. This reading and writing promotion is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, in partnership the Nebraska Center for the Book and Nebraska Library Commission, and locally supported by Houchen Bindery Ltd. and Chapters Bookstore.

Prizes will be awarded on both the state and national levels. The Nebraska Center for the Book’s panel of judges will select the top letter writers in the state, to be honored in a proclamation-signing ceremony at the state capitol during National Library Week in April 2016. Their winning letters will be placed in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln. Nebraska winners will receive state prizes, and then advance to the national judging.

A panel of national judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select one National Winner per competition level (Level I for grades 4-6, Level II for grades 7-8, and Level III for grades 9-12) to receive a \$1,000 cash award. The judges will also select one National Honor winner on each competition level to receive a \$200 cash award, to be announced in May 2016.

Teachers, librarians, and parents can download free teaching materials on reader response and reflective writing, along with contest details, at [www.read.gov/letters](http://www.read.gov/letters). Nebraska-specific information (including lists of Nebraska winners of past contests) is available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>.

Entry forms are available at [http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL15\\_guide.pdf](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL15_guide.pdf).

**Submissions from Grades 9-12 must be postmarked by December 4, 2015. Submissions from Grades 4-8 must be postmarked by January 11, 2016.**

For more information contact [Mary Jo Ryan](mailto:MaryJo.Ryan@nebraska.gov), 402-471-3434 or [800-307-2665](tel:800-307-2665).

The Nebraska Center for the Book is housed at the Nebraska Library Commission and brings together the state’s readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book, supporting programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. The Nebraska Center for the Book is supported by the Nebraska Library Commission.

# THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY

Part 2

## Private Movie Showing

**Where:** Rivoli Theater, Seward, NE

**When:** Saturday, Nov. 21, 10:00 a.m.  
(doors open at 9:30)

**Who:** SELS Friends & guests

*Reserve your seat by Nov. 18 and SAVE!*

Movie Cost: \$6.00 plus \$1.00 SELS Friends Donation

Price after Nov. 18:

Movie Cost: \$6.00 plus \$5.00 SELS Friends Donation

All admissions will be paid for at the door.

To reserve a seat in advance, email [info@selsfriends.org](mailto:info@selsfriends.org)

Visit [www.selsfriends.org](http://www.selsfriends.org) for information about the SELS Friends.

**There will be door prizes!**

A Fundraiser for the  
Southeast Library System Friends



The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with  
Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, Houchen Bindery Ltd., and Chapters Bookstore presents:

## LETTERS ABOUT LITERATURE

A Library of Congress National Reading and Writing Promotion Program



How did an author's work  
change your view of the  
world or yourself?

Write a letter and tell the author.

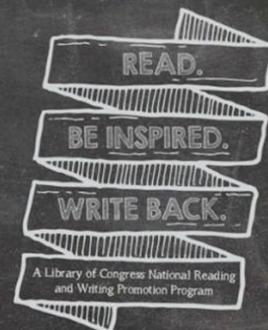
Deadlines for submissions:

Grades 4-6 & Grades 7-8:

January 11, 2016

Grades 9-12:

December 4, 2015



Find out more at [CenterForTheBook.nebraska.gov](http://CenterForTheBook.nebraska.gov)

Questions? Contact Mary Jo Ryan

**SAVE  
THE DATE**

**Southeast Library System's**

# Barnes & Noble Bookfair

**Saturday, November 28  
Barnes & Noble at  
SouthPointe Pavilions in Lincoln  
Benefiting the SELS Friends!**

- Free gift-wrapping from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

*Don't forget that purchases at the coffee shop also count,  
but you do need to remember to tell all cashiers that your purchase(s)  
should benefit the bookfair!*

**Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?**

Visit **BN.COM/bookfairs** to support us online  
from 11/28/15 to 12/3/15  
by entering Bookfair ID 11715687 at checkout.

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases  
will benefit the Southeast Library System Friends.

Please contact us at  
[info@selsfriends.org](mailto:info@selsfriends.org)  
if you have questions about this event.

**Hope to see you there!**



## System Spotlight

### Library Board Meetings

Did you know we are willing to come out and meet the educational needs you have at the Library Board level? We can provide a presentation or workshop that will not only address your board's needs, but count towards Board CE credit.



*"Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change."*

— Stephen Hawking

### Southeast Library System

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

#### **Staff:**

Executive Director—Scott Childers  
Scott.Childers.SELS@gmail.com

Assistant Director—Todd Schlechte  
Todd.Schlechte.SELS@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant—Maggie Kramer  
Maggie.Kramer.SELS@gmail.com

#### **On the Web:**

<http://www.selsne.org/>

#### **Where We Are:**

5730 R St. Suite C-1  
Lincoln, NE 68505

#### **Contact Us:**

Local Phone: 402-467-6188  
Toll Free Phone: 800-288-6063  
Fax: 844-270-7004

#### **Email:**

[selsne@gmail.com](mailto:selsne@gmail.com)