



Southeast Signal

News, Events, and Information from Around the System

From the Director



I had something else in mind for this month's article, but some recent news made me change plans. Forgive any grammar and typographical issues – but I felt the need

to get this out quickly.

A few days ago, a bill was introduced into both the House and Senate (S. 5064 and H.R. 9056) called the "Right to Read Act". This bill would increase an already in place literacy program's funding with an addition \$100 million, create a new grant for states with a pool of \$500 million in funding, invest in the recruitment, training, and retaining of school librarians across the nation, and reaffirm student's right to read and increase liability protections for school librarians.

The text of the bill should become available to citizens soon (it takes a day or two for the process to happen). ALA and the American Association of School Librarians have both endorsed it already.

It is a little early to know exactly its chances in Congress, but the fact that it did get introduced at a federal level is a good sign that lawmakers

realize that school libraries are important for a child's success in school and for their future. It also recognizes some of the issues that are going on at the state level across the nation to reduce access to materials and minimize the value of school librarians.

In Nebraska, a couple years ago there was a bill in the Unicameral that would remove some protections that school & public librarians currently have. We've also seen some discussion about reducing standards regarding school librarian staffing. Having those protections and standards at a federal level would be a great thing indeed!

Again, forgive the lack of firm details, but I expect we'll hear more in the weeks ahead.

(The ALA/AASL statement can be found at: <https://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2022/10/ala-applauds-new-school-library-legislation-widen-access-students-nationwide>)

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Calendar



October 15, [Nebraska School Librarians Day](#)

October 16-22, [National Friends of the Library Week](#)

October 17, Black Poetry Day

October 24, National Food Day

October 27, [CASTL, Hebron Secrest Library/Hybrid, "Policies and Procedures for Challenges"](#)

October 31, Halloween

November, [International Games Month](#)

[National Picture Book Month](#)

National Native American Heritage Month

November, National STEM/STEAM Day

November 11, Veteran's Day, SELS Office Closed

November 7-13, [Children's Book Week](#)

December 9, [SELS Summer Reading Workshop, Walt Library, Lincoln, 9:30-3:30](#)

Photos of the Month



Reading Buddy Program (using Beanie Babies) at Dvoracek Memorial Library. -Sharon Kastanek

CASTL Wrap-up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

October 27
Hebron Secrest Library
“Policies and Procedures for Challenges”

November 17
Pawnee City Public Library
“Bibliostat Updates and Training”

December
TBD

Our September 30 CASTL was hosted by Becky Baker at Seward Memorial Library, with participation also via Zoom. The topic was "Brainstorming Programming Topics."

Discussion initially centered around escape rooms. When doing an escape room, it is helpful to first decide upon a theme and then create the script. SELS offers Breakout EDU kits and several libraries own them as well. Seward uses those kits every time it has escape rooms, which is during Christmas breaks for kids, and during the summer for kids and adults. Jacquelyn Schranz, a staff member at Seward Memorial Library, designs and sets up their escape rooms and then trains other staff on running them. It's also a great after school program.

The discussion shifted to summer reading. One library is thinking about doing a Summer Learning Program without a theme, which will go beyond reading to include gaming, math and STEM clubs, done in collaboration with other community organizations.

The reasoning behind having a theme was discussed. It gives a common thread to the summer and for some people it provides a focus for planning and purchase of books. A theme is not crucial but can be helpful.

Seward Memorial Library is doing all doing "All Together Now Seward." It's possible to cooperate with whatever institutions are in your town to create programming.

Clarks Library will have a Dr. Seuss theme. For example, when they do *Red Fish, Blue Fish*, they will have a local guy come show them how to use a fishing pole, talk about bait you can use, and then discuss on the different fish people see in Nebraska rivers and ponds.

Adult programs that were discussed included crafting programs, programs with a glow forge, Coffee and Crime with guest speakers, Dad and daughter events, recipe sessions, plant exchanges, history presentations, genealogy workshops, book clubs, teaching life skills, "How to Grill," food dehydration (jerky), tea parties, Wine and Chocolate, Jesse James, spoken poetry, Dan Holz, and various Humanities Nebraska programs. One librarian mentioned that 2 pm works best for them for adult programming.

For more information and ideas, see [the recording](#).

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>
Nov. 7—Nov. 18	Leadership	September 26—October 21
Nov. 28—Dec. 9	Library Services to Children & Teens	October 24—November 18

News Around the System

Monica Tidyman Receives Hometown Hero Award

Photos by Ryan Cooper

On Saturday, September 24, Stromsburg librarian Monica Tidyman was presented with the Modern Woodmen of America 2022 Hometown Hero award for her work in the library. From the presentation: "A Hometown Hero provides outstanding service to the community. Monica was nominated for her dedication to providing access to reading materials, fostering a love of reading, and being a hard worker who does a great job leading the day to day functions of the library. In addition to a fabulous cookie and flowers, Modern Woodmen will also be donating \$100 to the nonprofit of Monica's choice, the Floyd Rogers Diabetic Foundation."



Linda Dux Retires

By Debbie Aden

Linda Dux retired September 30th after almost eight years as the Children's Librarian at the Fairbury Public Library. She will be greatly missed and we wish her the best in her next adventure in life. Linda shared her final thoughts: "A family of six recently moved away from Fairbury. On their last day, they brought me a handmade gift. The cover stated: A truly great librarian is hard to find, difficult to part with, and, impossible to forget. My friends, you have become my family. Truly great family is hard to find, difficult to part with, and impossible to forget. October 1st I shall begin a new era. Retirement is something we all dream of, and prepare for. I truly hope that it is as gratifying as my time here with you, has been."



News Around the System

Beatrice Celebrates Banned Books Week and National Coffee Day

Provided by Martha Pena

Beatrice Public Library celebrated Banned Books Week with a poster explaining Banned Books Week and a “Most Wanted” display. Joanne Neemann and Martha Pena are both wanted for a misdemeanor of trespassing into the imagination and a felony of possession of banned material with intent to distribute. Doug Howe is wanted for a misdemeanor of impersonating a fictional character. Michele Vanover and Sam Lee are both wanted for the misdemeanor of reading under the influence of information, and Jacque Lone Wolf is wanted for the misdemeanor of the obstruction of concentration. On National Coffee Day, a few lucky people received a free cup of coffee.



Toddler Socialization at Exeter Public Library

By Cindy Markowski



We were contacted by the Fillmore County Head Start to have a Socialization time for children ages 0-6 and they came on Wednesday, September 28th to have a session with the toddlers. We had 4 moms and 5 toddlers 0-6. They had play time, washing hands, snack time on the picnic tables outside and they came in for story time. It was so fun to see the toddlers have a great time. We have decided to have this every Wednesday from 10:30 to 12.

News Around the System

Jonis Agee speaks at the Crete Public Library

By Joy Stevenson

Jonis Agee spoke to the Crete community on October 5th regarding *Bones of Paradise: A Novel Examined*. This was a special treat as it was recently announced that the choice for the 2022 One Book One Nebraska is *Bones of Paradise*.

And what a treat she was. Funny, knowledgeable, witty and entertaining were some of the comments from the audience. She comes highly recommended as a speaker. She explained where some of the book's plot and characters came from, as well as her writing process.



NLA and NSLA to be Honored at AFCON Annual Meeting

By Todd Schlechte

The Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska presents the Academic Freedom Award each year at its annual meeting, which is on October 22nd this year from 10 am to noon. This year there are two recipients: the Nebraska School Librarians Association and the Nebraska Library Association. These professional library associations are receiving the awards for their ongoing work supporting and protecting intellectual freedom, and specifically for working to defeat LB1213 in the last legislative session. In addition, the annual meeting will feature keynote speaker Randy Moody addressing the Supreme Court case: "Meyer v. Nebraska: Expanding the Meaning of 'Liberty' in the Fourteenth Amendment." Following the keynote, Mindy Rush Chipman, Legal Director of ACLU Nebraska, and Harrison Rosenthal, litigation fellow at the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE) will elaborate on the legacy of Meyer, focusing especially on parental rights, after which there will be questions from the audience and open discussion. If you are interested in attending this Zoom event, [please register here](#).



News Around the System

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Library

Submitted by Ellen Vorderstrasse, Research Librarian

WHAT IS AHSGR?

Founded in 1968 and incorporated that same year in the state of Colorado, the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) is an international, non-profit educational organization engaged in researching the history of all German Russians from all regions of Russia. In 1973, the AHSGR office was relocated to Lincoln, Nebraska.

The center is between 6th and 7th streets from C to D streets, in the neighborhood known as the South Bottoms, designated by the National Park Service as a Historic District. The South Bottoms and North Bottoms neighborhoods were the principal settlements of Germans from Russia in Lincoln at the turn of the 20th century.

The AHSGR Cultural Heritage Research Center includes the Jake Skinner Headquarters Building, gift shop, historical museum, the Art Flegal Library Archives, the Emma Schwabenland Haynes Library Archives, a German from Russia Pioneer Family Commemorative Statue, and the Amen Family Historical Village, named in honor of the Henry J. Amen Family of Lincoln which includes a summer kitchen, chapel, country store, blacksmith shop, and barn.

The Society publishes folklore and genealogical materials which it distributes to its members. AHSGR volunteers and staff (on both the local chapter and international levels) search for information and research records to translate. We seek to develop a storehouse of knowledge useful to current and future generations alike. In fact, AHSGR is proud to be known as the largest repository of information about Germans from Russia in the Western Hemisphere.

AHSGR library and archives has an extensive collection of German-Russian materials (over 8,000 volumes.) The collection also includes journals, newsletters, and family histories about Germans from Russia. Other materials include maps, surname charts, DVDs, obituaries, and microfilm.



News Around the System

Provided by Deb Burrows

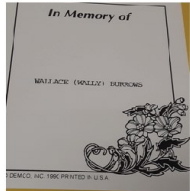
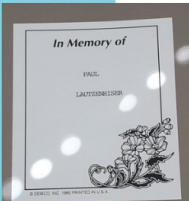
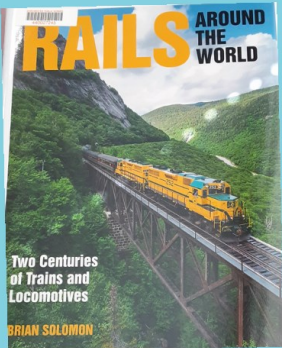
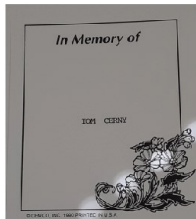
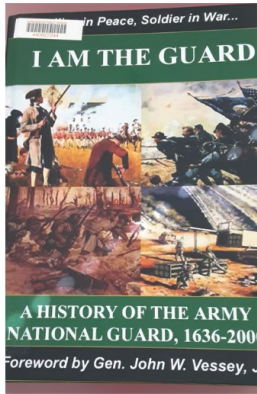
Library Lingerings

Dorchester School Library News October

Donations Help Library

Memorial donations help the library get extra books while honoring a loved-one. This past month three books were added as memorial gifts.

Thank you for your remembrance of Paul Lautzenhiser, Tom Cerny, and Wally Burrows.



News Around the System

Laura Renker Receives NLA's Mad Hatter Youth Service Award

By Joy Stevenson

Crete Public Library's Laura Renker is the recipient of this year's Mad Hatter Youth Service Award, presented by the Nebraska Library Association. She accepted the honor during the 2022 NLA Annual Conference.

Laura has been the Children's Services Librarian at Crete Public Library for the last 20 years and is now transitioning to the library's Outreach Services.

Many Crete library patrons and community members wrote letters of support towards the award submission, all detailing Laura's dedicated efforts, enthusiasm, and genuine care towards children's and youth programming and collections at Crete Public Library.

Carrie Wilsman wrote in support of Laura, "However, the enriching events Laura puts on every year aren't the only reason she deserves this award. What matters most are all the small ways she connects to every family who enters our library. When my three children get to the library, they immediately seek Laura. They've learned that there's a strong chance she'll have a book tucked aside for them that she's sure they'll be interested in (and she's almost always right). They run to her with their questions—fully knowing that she'll have the perfect recommendations for their latest interests".

The Crete Public Library staff and the whole Crete Community are pleased that Laura received the recognition that she certainly deserved.



Free Copy of Oral History Manual Available

Courtesy of Rebecca Bernthal, we have been giving away copies of the *Oral History Manual* (2018, 3rd Edition). We still have a few left and can bring copies to events or deliver them on the way to meetings. Contact Todd at todd.schlechte.sels@gmail.com if you are interested.



News Around the System

Pat Leach Receives Excalibur Award from the Public Library and Trustee Section of the Nebraska Library Association

On October 6th at the 2022 NLA Conference, Pat Leach was honored with the Excalibur Award. People familiar with her and her record didn't exhibit any surprise. As Laurie Yocom of Wilson Public Library (Cozad) wrote in her nomination letter: "Pat has demonstrated an outstanding record of service to her local library and to the library profession as well as to the city of Lincoln and the state of Nebraska.

Pat has been a leader in the Lincoln City Libraries, where she has been the director since 2008 and also served as a branch supervisor. Beginning her work with LCL as a part-time youth services library aid in 1979, Pat took a year off to get her master's degree in library and information science. As Pat moved up in the library's administration, her leadership has been consistent, competent, inclusive, measured, and committed.

Pat helped design Lincoln branch libraries and has been an integral part of moving a new downtown, central library project forward. During COVID-19 conditions, Pat worked with her administrative team and staff to adapt programs and pivot to virtual and out-of-doors presentations. Instead of limiting services, under Pat's leadership, Lincoln City Libraries actually added services.

Pat is passionate about reading and literacy. She has been a member of the Lincoln Literacy Board since 2015 and a longtime member of the Nebraska Center for the Book. In her position as library director, Pat has partnered with many educational and social organizations in Lincoln. Pat has given TEDx talks about the importance of reading and she hosts NET radio's "All About Books," a weekly book review and discussion program. Occasionally, she writes book reviews for the Lincoln Journal Star.

Pat is well-respected across the state for her work with the Nebraska Library Association and as a member of the Public Library and Trustee Section. She has been a mentor to other library directors and staff. Pat has championed the impact and affordability of public libraries for over 40 years.

While her reach is generally within Lincoln, the passionate waves about reading she creates ripple across the state. Pat's social media lists her as Lincoln's most passionate reader; however, Pat Leach is perhaps Nebraska's most passionate reader and definitely worthy of the Excalibur Award."





brings you our

2023 SUMMER READING WORKSHOP

Walt Library, Lincoln
Wednesday, December 9
9:30-3:30

Lunch on your own
Light refreshments provided

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

This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.



System Spotlight

Donations

One way some people choose to make donations is by designating an organization as the recipient of funds through Amazon Smile. If you want to set that up for your library's friends or foundation group, we'd be happy to help.

SELS is also a nonprofit. Donations to SELS go toward services not covered by our grant agreement with the NLC. Scholarships for events and library science classes, costs around the annual Front Porch Award and other special projects come out of donation dollars. We are able to accept donations directly and via Amazon Smile purchases.



Southeast Library System

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

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