

T R a i L S

Promote Your Library!

by Tammi Thiem



Have you ever heard one of these comments:

- "I wish I had a job where I could just read all day."
- "I didn't know the library did/had/offered that."
- "Why isn't the library quiet like it was back in the day?"
- "Oh, you have ____ here?" (Fill in the blank with computers, movies, puzzles, board games, cake pans, outdoor games, or anything beyond books offered by libraries.)
- "I didn't even realize the town had a library."

It can be frustrating to recognize that all your hard work and efforts often go unnoticed, and many community members have no clue what the library is all about. You do everything you can to promote a program, activity, or service, and many people still do not seem to get the information. Keep trying, do not get discouraged, and don't give up. Word-of-mouth is a great way to promote activities, but it does take a lot of time.

Remember who your target audience is. Some community members do not read physical newspapers or listen to the radio. Some do not use social media. Many are too busy to notice posters or flyers. Try to promote your programs everywhere that is feasible, but obviously put the information where it is most apt to be visible to those you want to be in the know. Do you have a program for elementary children? Maybe the school will distribute that information for you. Do you want teens to hear about an activity you have planned? Maybe the school guidance counselor would have some ideas, or perhaps it could be broadcasted over the morning announcements at school. Maybe the post office, bank, or grocery store bulletin board would be fitting for adult programs, and senior centers may be a good fit for more mature community members.

Sharing information at City Council meetings lets those community leaders know the value of the library, so be prepared to brag about all of the amazing things you do. Statistics are great and can prove the library's use, but remember that stories give additional meaning to those numbers. Comparisons can help highlight the library's value, too. For example, if circulation counts have increased, sharing the percentage of that increase can open peoples' eyes to the impact that the library provides. Sharing educational statistics that go beyond books and reading makes people aware that libraries are so much more than books.

Speaking of statistics, congratulations to those libraries that completed the Public Library Survey that is due February 17th! If you have not yet gotten it done, keep plugging away at it. This information is important for providing statewide and national library statistics. If you need help with the report or with anything else, remember that I am just an email, text, or call away. If I don't have the answers, I will do what I can to help find them.



Basic Skills

(* Required Class)

[Library Governance](#) with Denise Harders

Registration Dates: 30 January 2023 - 28 February 2023

Class Dates: 6 March 2023 - 17 March 2023

[Library Technology](#) with Amanda Sweet

Registration Dates: 14 February 2023 - 11 March 2023

Class Dates: 20 March 2023 - 31 March 2023

[Introduction to Cataloging \(Organization of Materials\)*](#)

Registration Dates: 21 February 2023 - 18 March 2023

Class Dates: 1 April 2023 - 30 April 2023

Upcoming NCompass Live

[Accessibility Isn't Just for Patrons! Internal Documentation for Everyone](#)

Date: 8 February 2023 at 10:00 am - 11:00 am

[Digital Libraries as Digital Third Place: Virtual Library Programming](#)

Date: 15 February 2023 at 10:00 am - 11:00 am

[Pretty Sweet Tech](#)

Date: 22 February 2023 at 10:00 am - 11:00 am

NLC Book Club Spotlight

Book Club Spotlight:

[*Outside Valentine*](#)

Mackenzie Marrow is the librarian in charge of book clubs at the Nebraska Library Commission and wants to share with everyone the hidden gems in the [NLC's Book Club Collection](#). Below is an excerpt, but to read the full details go to [Mackenzie's blog post](#).

Outside Valentine is a fictional account of the Starkweather killing spree, following the three narrators simultaneously. One narrator, Caril Ann Fugate, is a disenfranchised impressionable 14-year-old who finds solace and a desperate love with 19-year-old Charles Starkweather. Their romance soon burns too hot when he takes Caril on a joyride, murdering her family and anyone found in the way of that love. Four years later, the story follows Susan Hurst, who finds herself obsessively reading about the killing spree, envious of the pair's violent love. Desperate for this kind of love and recognition, she lives a lonely life with her emotionally distant parents, all the while harboring a secret obsession for the surviving son of the Bowmans (the fictionalized Lauer and Clara Ward), whom she has never met. The son, Lowell Bowman, is our third narrator, who, 30 years later, is still dealing with the aftermath of the tragedy. Unable to cope, he runs away from his wife and children, both from and to his past.

Calendar of Events

[SKILLS Virtual](#)

Online

1 February 2023
10:00 am - 11:00 am

[SKILLS Meeting](#)

Cedar Rapids Public Library

2 February 2023
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

[SKILLS BONUS](#)

North Bend Public Library

7 February 2023
9:30 am - 11:30 am

[SKILLS Virtual](#)

Online

9 February 2023
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

[Authority Control](#)

Online

13 February 2023

[SKILLS Virtual](#)

Online

14 February 2023
1:00pm - 2:00 pm

[SKILLS Virtual](#)

Online

22 February 2023
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

[Nebraska Golden Sower Virtual Award Party](#)

Online

24 February 2023
10:00 am

[Big Talk From Small Libraries 2023](#)

Online

24 February 2023
8:45 am - 5:00 pm

[NLA 2023 Advocacy Day Luncheon](#)

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln

3 March 2023
9:00 am - 1:30 pm

Library News

Madison Public Library's Noon Year's Eve Party

by Lori Porter

Madison Public Library hosted a Noon Year's Eve Party for the kids. We rang in the new year early with special activities that sparkle, shine, glimmer and glow at the Noon Year's Eve Party, Dec. 31. We celebrated with a countdown and balloon drop, making hats, and snacks.



Lied Pierce Public Library's Winter Festivities

by Dawnn Tucker

The library hosted the Annual Kid's Christmas Shopping Corner. The 1st week only children are allowed to shop. The 2nd week, anyone is able to shop. All proceeds help with the Children's programming.

Meredith Krienert is doing her annual Bake Sale with her proceeds going to her sponsored child in Ethiopia. She makes all the baked Goods. She is a student at the Lutheran school in Pierce.

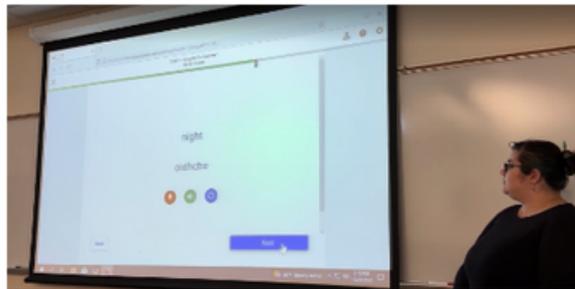


Library News

Bellevue University's Skill Share Workshops

by Alicia James

It can be difficult to learn a new skill if you don't know where to get started. To make it easier to begin, the Bellevue University Library has created a series of Skill Share workshops that are being taught this year. So far two workshop sessions have been completed, language learning and genealogy, with two more sessions set for the spring, gardening and sewing. These workshops are set up as interactive lessons on the subject matter utilizing Library resources. For the language learning workshop, we demonstrated how to use the Mango Languages database by showing how to navigate the site before having the attendees select a language and complete an initial lesson and exercises together. The genealogy workshop showed the basics of starting family research through the Ancestry database. Patrons were able to follow along as Library staff showed how to conduct searches and explained what data they were seeing in the results. We are looking forward to the upcoming two workshops where we will be providing hands-on learning opportunities for growing plants and handy sewing skills.



Madison Public Library's Stocking Tree

by Lori Porter

Larry the Library Elf, Madison Public Library and Madison PEO collected socks and gloves for our local schools during December. We started with collecting just socks, and then the PEO came in and said they were collecting gloves and hats, so we collected both at the library. In January, we delivered socks, gloves and hats to the schools to be handed out to anyone in need.



Scholarship Experiences

2022 ALSC National Institute Conference

by Kate Humphreys

I had the pleasure of attending the ALSC National Institute Conference in Kansas City this year. ALSC is a division of the ALA focusing on service to children. I am a brand new children's librarian at the Bennington Public Library and was eager to learn about the experiences of librarians that have been in the field for awhile.

One of the most useful and insightful programs I attended was a discussion group for small and rural libraries. There was a very vibrant discussion on how to make the library omnipresent in your community and how to ensure the community knows the beneficial resources a library offers. It was great to hear problem-solving solutions from other small libraries!

Another great program I heard came from two librarians in Madison, Wisconsin. This program entitled, "Imagine That! Rethinking Play at the Library" discussed how important it is for children to engage in deep uninterrupted play. This type of child-led play encourages literacy, social emotional learning, and problem solving skills that would greatly benefit a generation of children inheriting a complicated world. The program these librarians spearheaded called, "Playlab", involved simply giving kids tubes, balls, blocks, and other easy to manipulate objects and encouraging parents and staff to give the kids autonomy to play. I will certainly bring this philosophy back to my own library and really appreciated hearing how they accomplished their programming.

I am very thankful to the committee for choosing me for a scholarship for this conference. I learned a lot about how best to execute programs for children in my library and returned with a lot of enthusiasm to try new things out. Thank you!

Nebraska Humanities Scholarship

by Casey Dodds

Two very talented ladies serving Nebraska Humanities spoke and sang about four different women who were historical figures in their own ways. This program was sponsored by the Three Rivers Library System, which our local library (Cedar Rapids Public Library) is a member, and our own public library, along with the NE Humanities. Annie Oakley was known for her sharp-shooting skills, was part of Buffalo Bills Rodeo, and a special friend of Sitting Bull. Clara Brown was born into slavery in 1803. She, her husband, and four children were sold separately to different masters. She became a cook for a wagon train during the gold rush to Colorado, and sponsored wagon trains for colored people. Helga Estby was an early Women's Rights person who was a farmer, instead of a housewife. She rode a bicycle, and walked, from Spokane, WA to NY, then back to Spokane in one year, to the day, to politically call attention to liberated women... in 1869! Mari Sandoz, the NE author, was the fourth individual lauded by our speakers. This was a very interesting program. "Well Behaved Women Seldom Make History!"



Information Station

Library Journal's Star Libraries of 2022

by Tammi Thiem

Every year, Library Journal publishes a list of Star Libraries. In total, Nebraska had 17 Star Libraries for 2022! Below is a list of the Star Libraries in our regional system, so be sure to reach out to them and tell them congratulations!

- Hartington Public Library – 5 Stars
- Neligh Public Library – 5 Stars
- North Bend Public Library – 3 Stars
- Oakland Public Library – 4 Stars
- Plainview Public Library – 5 Stars
- Springfield Memorial Library – 3 Stars
- Gardner Public Library (Wakefield) – 3 Stars
- John A Stahl Library (West Point) – 4 Stars

Congratulations to all the Nebraska libraries!

- Ashland Public Library – 3 Stars
- Atkinson Public Library – 5 Stars
- Central City Public Library – 5 Stars
- Geneva Public Library – 4 Stars
- Ord Township Library – 3 Stars
- Ravenna Public Library – 3 Stars
- Saint Paul Public Library – 5 Stars
- Maltman Memorial Public Library (Wood River) – 3 Stars
- Yutan Public Library – 3 Stars

Employment Resources

by Melissa Cast-Brede, PhD

Students from the University of Nebraska Omaha Undergraduate Library Science program's Fall 2022 Research & Inquiry class curated a list to assist job hunters in navigating employment landscape. Check out the website at <https://sites.google.com/unomaha.edu/employmentresources/home> where you can learn about resumes, career guidance, job sites, interviewing, and library career information. There is also a [printable document](#) of resources to view. These resources are great for anyone currently job hunting or just toying with the idea of a career change, so if one of your patrons mentions it to you, show them this wonderful resource.

Creative Aging Through the Arts

by Tammi Thiem

Creative Aging Arts Program (CAAP) grants pay for programs with teaching artists trained in best practices of creative programming with older adult participants. Select teaching artists from NAC's CAAP Artist Cohort, which is listed with CAAP grant information on the NAC website. During CAAP residencies, artists share their expertise through skill-based, sequential arts lessons in a variety of disciplines. Sessions also foster social engagement among participants, ending with a culminating event to showcase participants' work. Sponsor organizations, including non-profits, senior centers, local agencies on aging, and libraries may apply. Grant applications have a rolling deadline - apply at least six weeks ahead.

Complete information about CAAP can be found here on NAC's website: [Creative Aging through the Arts Program - Nebraska Arts Council](#)

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY
SYSTEM PRESENTS:



Get together virtually with librarians to Share Knowledge, Ideas, Learning, and Library Solutions! You are welcome to join any or all of the meetings for networking and discussions. They will be worth 1 Continuing Education Credits each.

Research has shown that networking with fellow librarians is beneficial professional development that improves professional practice, promotes shared leadership, and helps people remain in the profession. To attend, please use [this Zoom Link](#).

1 February 2023 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

9 February 2023 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

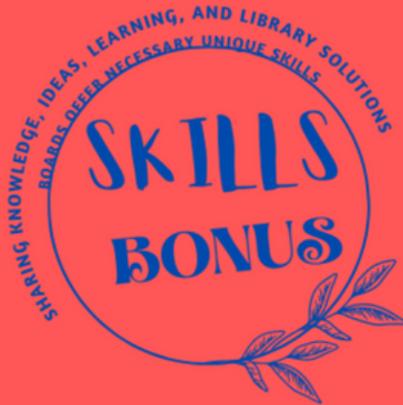
14 February 2023 from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

22 February 2023 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm



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 administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY
SYSTEM PRESENTS:



BOARD MEMBERS
WELCOME &
ENCOURAGED

Topic: Board Procedures

Get together with librarians and board members near you to Share Knowledge, Ideas, Learning, and Library Solutions / Boards Offer Necessary Unique Skills. They will be worth 2 Continuing Education Credits.

How long do your board meetings last?

Are you comfortable following Robert's Rules of Order?

Do your board meetings follow an agenda, or do conversations get sidetracked?

Join us at this SKILLS BONUS meeting for a discussion about board meetings and some suggestions on how to get the most out of those meetings.

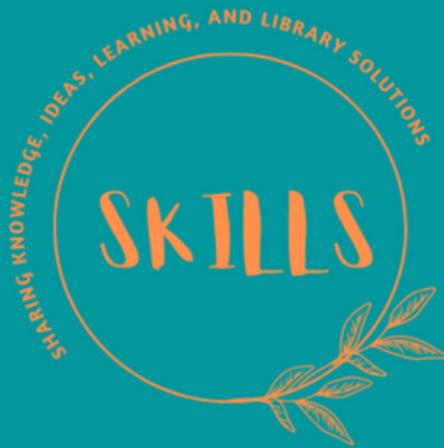
Register at: <https://bit.ly/SKILLSBONUS>

7 February 2023 from 9:30 am - 11:30 am at North Bend Public Library



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 administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

THREE RIVERS LIBRARY
SYSTEM PRESENTS:



This Quarter's Topic: Summer Reading Programs

Get together with librarians near you to Share Knowledge, Ideas, Learning, and Library Solutions! You are welcome to join any or all of the meetings for networking and discussions. They will be worth 3 Continuing Education Credits each. If your plans allow, stick around for lunch afterwards.

Research has shown that networking with fellow librarians is beneficial professional development that improves professional practice, promotes shared leadership, and helps people remain in the profession. Do NOT feel guilty when you leave your library for these meetings because isolation is unproductive.

Register at: <http://bit.ly/SKILLSMeeting>

6 March 2023 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at Stanton Public Library

7 April 2023 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at Valley Public Library

5 May 2023 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm at Ponca Carnegie Library



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 administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Apply for the Nebraska Homeowner Assistance Fund

Funds are available for pandemic-impacted homeowners

Apply at NebraskaHAF.com



Are you or someone you know at risk of losing your home? Help is available now through the Nebraska Homeowner Assistance Fund (NHAFA).

The NHAFA program assists Nebraska homeowners who have experienced or continue to experience financial hardship associated with the COVID-19 pandemic after January 21, 2020.

Qualified homeowners may receive up to \$40,000 in assistance for:

- Past-due mortgage payments
- Future mortgage payments for applicants that have past-due or deferred balances
- Past-due utilities and internet
- Past-due real estate taxes
- Past-due homeowners association dues
- Past-due homeowners or flood insurance
- Clearing liens from a homeowner's property

Funds will be distributed until they run out, and they do not need to be paid back. Income limits apply. Learn more at NebraskaHAF.com.

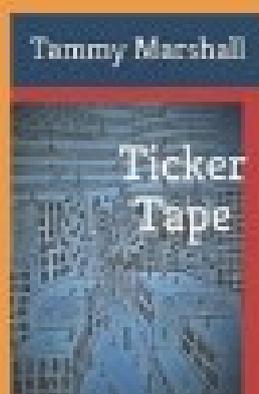
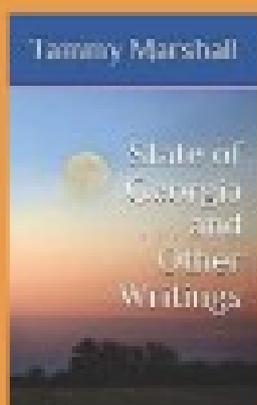
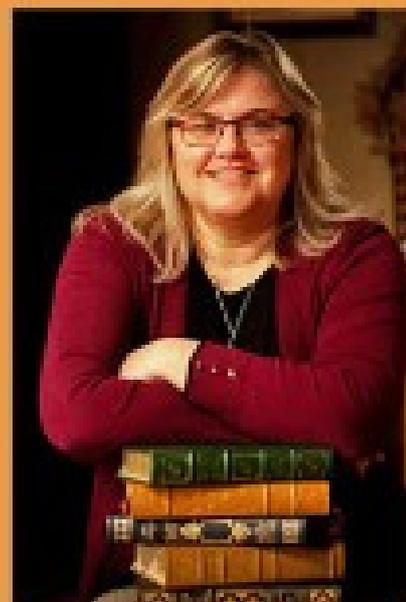
Documents Needed

At this time, the following documentation is required:

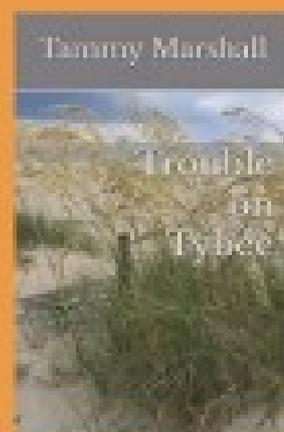
- Valid form of photo identification (such as driver's license)
- Mortgage loan statement (your servicer, loan number and other information)
- Primary residence verification (such as recent utility or phone bill)
- Income verification documentation (such as most recent pay stubs or tax return)
- Other documents to satisfy applicable NHAFA requirements

If you have questions or need assistance completing an over-the-phone application, call 1-844-565-7146.

Tammy Marshall is a
Nebraska author.
Ask her to visit **YOUR**
library soon!



Her newest book,
Trouble on Tybee,
is available now!



Learn more about Tammy at website
tammymarshallauthor.wordpress.com

Contact her at
email tamreader@gmail.com