



## What Does Fall/Autumn Mean to You?

*Article by Tammi Thiem*

It is already back-to-school time! What do you think of when you think of fall? It is a time for harvest, whether large farms, gardens, orchards, or other fresh produce. Coming soon will be cooler evenings, falling leaves, bon fires, and hoodies. Sports fans will be busy with football and volleyball games. The smells of freshly baked apple and peach pies will fill the air, and pumpkin spice will be available for everything and anything!



For many libraries, the back-to-school time of year signifies after-school reading programs. Some libraries partner with other venues that offer programs to children. Other libraries provide various events to keep children engaged with learning and reading. Still other libraries may not have structured programs available but are gathering places for those latchkey kids who need a safe place to go after school is over for the day. Some may be trying to evolve their policies after the changes that occurred in 2020. Whatever range your library falls in, chances are that life is quite different once school begins.

Fall is the time of year that many conferences take place. Local conferences offer the opportunity to learn from other professionals that you may already know and to meet some that may have not yet crossed your path. These relationships are priceless, as no one but another librarian can quite understand the trials that may accompany that career path. National conferences allow librarians to extend their resources beyond the state line, and these relationships are equally important. There is something exciting about sharing conference experiences with new, long-distance friends! Keep in mind that isolation is not productive, so you should never feel guilty about attending a conference for professional development.

It seems that many library grants are offered during the autumn season. This year is especially lucrative due to the American Relief Plan Act (ARPA). There are the funds available that were earmarked for the legally established libraries. Additionally, the Youth Grants for Excellence and the Library Improvement Grants have extra funding this year. For this year only, those grants will not require any matching funds. There are several other

grants available, so keep your eyes and ears open to these opportunities. Remember that you cannot go wrong when applying for grants. The worst that can happen is that you do not receive the requested funds. However, the trade is that you gain skills in grant-writing. I will be happy to help, even if it is just to be someone to bounce off some ideas! I am super excited to see what benefits are in store for all of your libraries and communities with this extra available funding!

As always, if there is anything I can do to help, please feel free to contact me. My email address is [tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com](mailto:tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com). My phone number is 402-910-7005. I would love to hear from you!

## At the TRaiLS Office

### **In-Person Librarian Meetings are BACK!**

**SKILLS = Sharing Knowledge, Ideas, Learning, and Library Solutions**

*Submitted by: Tammi Thiem*



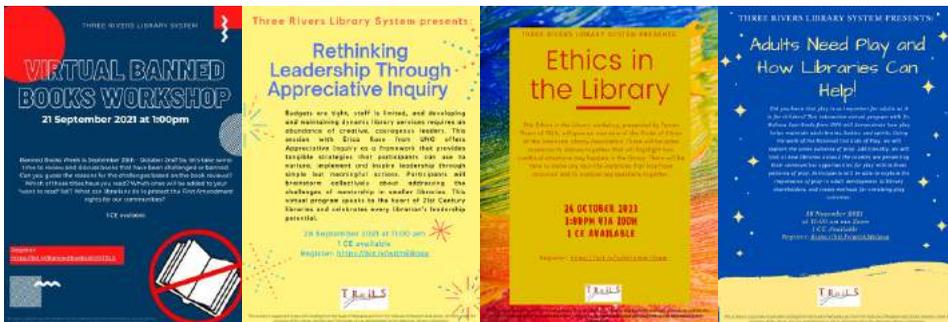
August saw the return of in-person librarian meetings! On August 3rd, five librarians met at the Lied Lincoln Township Library in Wausa. The next meeting was held on August 9th at the

Lied Battle Creek Public Library with nine in attendance. The following week, the meeting was held on August 16th at the Keene Memorial Library in Fremont with four attendees. The final meeting of the month was held at the Bellevue Public Library with five librarians on August 23rd. All four meetings were fabulous, with lots of topics, ideas, and sharing!

These meetings will be held each quarter, one in each of the four regions within the system. This is designed to eliminate long travel for librarians who wish to attend. Apologies to those who still did not attend due to distance being a factor. The locations will rotate, along with the days of the week, in an effort to accommodate everyone's busy schedules.

Virtual Meetings will still take place weekly via Zoom as long as there is interest. Please watch for details of November in-person SKILLS Meetings coming soon!

### [Upcoming TRaILS Events](#)



## **Three Rivers Library System's 2021 Annual Meeting**

*Submitted by: Tammi Thiem*

The annual meeting for the Three Rivers Library System was held at Midland University in Fremont on Friday, August 6th. Five of the nine board members attended the meeting in person; two attended via Zoom; and two were unable to join the meeting on that day. TRaILS Director Tammi Thiem and Library Services Assistant Chelsea Morlan attended the meeting in person. Christa Porter, Library Development Director with the Nebraska Library Commission, joined the meeting through Zoom. There were eight librarians who joined the meeting in person, and two others joined via Zoom. Professional Registered Parliamentarian, Lori Bucholz, also attended the meeting in person for most of the day.

To begin the day, everyone found the Presidential Dining Rooms to register and enjoy some breakfast items. Following the day's schedule, Brooke Zarco from the Blair Public Library and Technology Center presented some fascinating information about Manga and Graphic Novels. This was followed by some great questions and discussion on the topic. Brooke brought along several examples of Manga to allow the attendees to learn more about this style of book firsthand.

The working lunch began with Christa Porter sharing the Nebraska Library Commission Report. Rosa Schmidt was nominated for TRaILS President and accepted; Crys Bauermeister was nominated for TRaILS Vice President and accepted; David Graber agreed

to continue as TRaiLS Treasure; and Megan Tomasiewicz agreed to continue as TRaiLS Secretary. These board members along with board members Karen Drevo, Robert Parsons, Gretchen Long, Mary Jo Mack, and Lisa Macke are all greatly appreciated!

The meeting continued with review of the quarterly financial reports, the fiscal year financial reports, the upcoming fiscal year's budget, and salary reviews. The TRaiLS Director provided her report of relevant events, and the various committees offered reviews of their target areas. The meeting culminated with everyone having an opportunity to share events happening within each library. The annual meeting was adjourned.

For the final presentation, PRP Lori Bucholz shared some information on proper parliamentary procedure in which to conduct board meetings. The librarians followed a script to role play what a bad meeting may look like, and then they used some tips to recreate that meeting in a more successful and professional manner. There was a lot of great information to learn. In order to help provide tips with this, the Three Rivers Library System provided the attendees with copies of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief, 3rd Edition by Henry Martyn Robert, Daniel H. Honemann, and William J. Evans. The 2021 Annual Meeting is in the books as a success! Thank you so much to all those who attended. It was wonderful to see everyone, either in-person or virtually, at this hybrid event.



Also, if you'd like to review past Annual Meeting reports, you can check out the [About Us](#) page on [our website](#).

Or you can always access our [digital handouts folder](#). There we have folders for each Annual Meeting with any digital handouts from events we've held.

## Meet the TRaiLS Board

Rosa Schmidt from Oakland Public Library  
*President*

Hello from Oakland!

Many of you may already know me as I have been the library director for the Oakland Public Library since 1997. Working in a library environment of primarily one staff person I can understand the struggles faced by small libraries! When you have to “do it all” you learn to find the simplest way to complete a task! I am fortunate to have a great assistant who has stuck with me now for over 12 years! Teresa Pille is my right hand and I am thankful for everything that she does to make our library what it is.



I have seen many changes to our library world. I still see a wide disparity between the services that communities have available to them through their public library, most often due to the funding supplied to them from their city budgets. I have always felt that library patrons in a town of less than 1,000 should be able to have access to the same level of service as a town of 10,000 or greater. When financial funding makes this a challenge, we must always remember that we have each other! We are each able to be a resource of knowledge, materials, skills, experience and emotional support! Always remember that you too have something to offer...and that you are not alone.

If I can be a resource for you, my email is [oaklandlibrary68045@gmail.com](mailto:oaklandlibrary68045@gmail.com), phone 402-685-5113 . I look forward to a great year as President of the Three Rivers Library System board.

## Basic Skills Classes

### Management/Supervision with Holli Duggan

Registration Dates: 13 September 2021 - 8 October 2021

Class Dates: 18 October 2021 - 29 October 2021

### Leadership with Holli Duggan

Registration Dates: 27 September 2021 - 22 October 2021

Class Dates: 1 November 2021 - 12 November 2021

### Library Services to Children & Teens with Sally Snyder

Registration Dates: 25 October 2021 - 19 November 2021

Class Dates: 29 November 2021 - 10 December 2021

## Upcoming NCompass Live Shows

### Library School Now - Library Workers Talk about Their Library Science Coursework

Date: 15 September 2021 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

## Calendar of Events

### SKILLS

Online

14 September 2021

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

### Banned Books Workshop

Online

21 September 2021

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

### SKILLS

Online

22 September 2021

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

### Plum Creek Literacy Festival

Concordia University

### ConnectEd Nebraska - Wireless Internet for Students

Date: 22 September 2021 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

### Pretty Sweet Tech - Gadgets & Gizmos Aplenty: Makerspace Edition

Date: 29 September 2021 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

### The Queer Omaha Archives: The First Five Years

Date: 6 October 2021 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

### Pretty Sweet Tech

Date: 27 October 2021 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

### Nebraska Makerspace Conference Save the Date

The Nebraska Library Commission, along with the Nebraska Innovation Studio, Nebraska Extension, and Nebraska Regional Library Systems, have worked with 35 public libraries on a Library Innovation Studios (makerspace) project that is now in its fourth and final year. In a nutshell, our team put together four robust makerspaces (along with instructions and training) and placed them at public libraries for 20 weeks each. After their 20-week hosting periods, many of those libraries went on to purchase makerspace equipment.

As the project approaches its final months, we are planning a two-day makerspace educational and networking event geared towards libraries and other entities that either have a makerspace or would like to learn more about what a makerspace could mean for their communities. As the libraries we worked with go on to develop and enhance their makerspaces, we would like to share information and lessons learned (from our experience and experiences from others that have makerspaces), continue learning about makerspace best practices, and provide a makerspace networking opportunity.

The two-day event will take place November 2nd and 3rd at the Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center and the Nebraska Innovation Studio (both located on Innovation Campus). Day One is designed as a stand-alone event focusing on networking and educational content – that day we can accommodate up to 250 participants. Day Two will be optional—capped at 100 participants—and will be a hands-on day of making, demonstrations, and experiencing a makerspace.

25 September 2021

7:30 am - 5:00 pm

### Rethinking Leadership Through Appreciative Inquiry Workshop

Online

28 September 2021

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

### SKILLS

Online

30 September 2021

9:00 am - 10:00 am

### SKILLS

Online

5 October 2021

10:00 am - 11:00 am

### SKILLS

Online

12 October 2021

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

### NLA Hybrid Conference

13 & 14 October 2021

### SKILLS

Online

20 October 2021

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

### ARSL Conference

Reno/Sparks, Nevada

20 - 23 October 2021

### Ethics in the Library Workshop

Online

26 October 2021

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

### SKILLS

Online

28 October 2021

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

### Adults Need Play and How Libraries Can Help

## Library News

### Lied Pierce Public Library: Recent Projects

*Submitted by: Dawnn Tucker*

Recently, Lied Pierce patrons have had lots of opportunities for arts and crafts. The kids learned about musical instruments, made a keychain with beads, and learned the game Shisima. We still have Shisima games available for pickup in the entryway. It is a fun and easy game.



### Agnes Robinson Waterloo Public Library: Summer Reading Program 2021

*Submitted by: Julie Jorgensen*

Again this year, our Summer Reading Program was adapted to follow safety precautions as we transition back to pre-COVID conditions. Changing our program challenged us to think outside the box to come up with fun activities to engage the public without gathering in our library. We discovered COVID changed our program in positive ways!

Families liked the passive programs. They were able to do it on their own time and the activities were different from our past programs. Included were: a Community Scavenger Hunt; Bike Trail StoryWalk® with a Chalk Walk; Eye Spy in the Library Windows; Read to Your Pets; and weekly Grab and Go Crafts. We created themed Story Time to Go Kits.

Kids tracked their reading on reading logs. Throughout the program, kids earned Reading Bucks and drawing entries for time read, activities participated in (they shared photos on FB), and virtual programs watched. Parents were the “bankers” and rewarded them as they earned Bucks which were included with the Guidebooks given out to over 100 participants at the start. At the end, kids shopped with their Bucks (by appointment) at our prize store.

The most popular event was the Stuffed Animal Sleepover! Kids completed a registration telling about their stuffed pal and before saying goodbye, made an ID bracelet for their pal out of beads, picked out a blanket and had a photo taken with them. That night kids watched a virtual story time of us reading to their pals. The next day when they picked them up, each received a scrapbook with photos of the sleepover, including the after-hour antics of their pals after the librarians were “asleep.”

The positive responses we received, directly and through our survey, tell us our program was a success in spite of, or maybe because of, the virus!



## Lied Pierce Public Library: Summer Reading Program

*Submitted by: Dawnn Tucker*

This summer, the kids heard stories about turtles and then created their own turtle shell.



## Clarkson Public Library: Bike Display

*Submitted by: Debra Nadrchal*



A couple years ago, a large bicycle group was making its way across Nebraska and just happened to be going through Clarkson. The community wanted to make them feel welcome so businesses and residents were encouraged to decorate a bike or trike or even a unicycle so the riders would have something fun to see. They camped at the city park and some even stayed in the B&Bs we have, plus they were given a meal at the city hall. So for my bike I used old paperbacks and used the front and back cover to show off all the titles. Of course, I had to put in a baby or two for the ride!

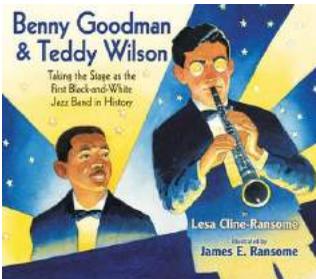
## Review Corner

[Benny Goodman & Teddy Wilson: Taking the Stage as the First Black and White Jazz Band in History](#)

**By Lesa Cline-Ransome**

Recommended for 5th - 6th graders.

*Submitted by: Lara Morrow*



Set up as a time line of the two musicians lives, the book explains their partnership. The two met in Forest Hills, NY and both knew they could be a wonderful musical duo. They would also be the first black and white musical duo in history. This book is written without punctuation and gives a rhythmic flow to the content. The style gives a rhythmic tone to your voice when the story is read. This story was planned out with many hours of thought. It is also a great reference to the development of the musical genre of jazz music. 5th or 6th graders would benefit from reading this book when studying music history.

*Love writing book reviews? Feel free to pass them along to us to share with the rest of the regional system. Email Chelsea at [trls.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:trls.assistant@gmail.com) submit them or any other article you'd like to share. We're always accepting submissions to our TRaILS Newsletter!*

