

THE WESTERN SUN



Supporting libraries serving our communities

January-February, 2023

SUNdries ~ Libraries around the world

In 2023, the Western Sun will feature articles on libraries around the world, libraries on wheels or hooves, libraries in Nebraska, specialized libraries and architecture in libraries.

This first issue features the Brooklyn Public Library which celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2022. On November 30, 1896, the Brooklyn Common Council passed a resolution to establish Brooklyn Public Library to nurture the “minds of the people and lay the foundation for a better civilization for the future.” The first branch, Bedford Library, opened in a former school building and soon after Andrew Carnegie funded the construction of 21 more branches across the borough. There are now 61 branches serving the borough with several outreach sites. To celebrate; a list of the top 125 most circulated books was compiled.

What are your most circulated books in the past year, 5, 10, 100 years. We would like to know.

Are you surprised by any of the books on the list????

Please let us know if you are celebrating an anniversary in 2023. Send an article with pictures for the Western Sun.

Brooklyn Public Library’s 125 most circulated in 125 years.

1. Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak (1963)
2. The Snowy Day Ezra by Jack Keats (1962)
3. The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss (1957)
4. A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
5. Are You My Mother? by PD Eastman
6. Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë
7. Naruto: Volume 1 by Masashi Kishimoto
8. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
9. To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
10. Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
11. Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
12. Lord of the Flies by William Golding
13. The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
14. Charlotte's Web by E.B. White, illustrated by Garth Williams
15. The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
16. The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
17. The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle
18. Fox in Socks by Dr. Seuss
19. Sam and the Firefly by PD Eastman
20. Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown, illustrated by Clement Hurd
21. Amelia Bedelia by Peggy Parish, illustrated by Fritz Siebel
22. The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
23. Cinderella by Charles Perrault, illustrated by Marcia Brown
24. A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
25. Whistle for Willie by Ezra Jack Keats

Continued on page 3

**Mark Your
Calendar
Important Dates for
Libraries in 2023**

January 27-30: [“LibLearnX: The Library Learning Experience \(LLX\)”](#) New Orleans

January 30: [ALA Youth Media Awards](#)

February 24: Nebraska Library Commission hosted and co-sponsored with ARSL: “Big Talk for Small Libraries “ please see page 17

March 8-12: [MPLA/OLA Conference](#), Norman OK

April: [School Library Month](#)

April 12: [D.E.A.R. Drop Everything and Read](#)

April 15-21: [Money Smart Week](#)

April 23-29: [National Library Week](#)
25: Library Workers
26: Outreach
27: Take Action for Libraries



April 30: [Dia de los ninos Dia de los/Children’s Book Day](#)

June 22-27: [ALA Annual Conference, Chicago](#)

September: [Library Card Sign- Up Month](#)

September 8: [International Literacy Day](#)

October: [TeenTober](#)—ALA

October 15-21: [National Friends of Libraries Week](#)—ALA
United for Libraries
Some of the links still provide 2022 information.

§tatute Savvy

The 2023 issues of the Western Sun will feature sections of the statutes pertaining to libraries. During the years sections will cover aspects of the statutes relevant to public and school libraries. We start this year’s features pointing out two sections. The first one reflects the philosophic role of libraries in Nebraska. The second one states the requirement that requires library boards to make a report to the villages or cities on or before the second Monday in February.

§51-201.02. Legislative findings.

The Legislature finds and declares that public libraries perform services which are vitally important for the maintenance of an educated and democratic society, including, but not limited to, providing information which stimulates thought, awareness, and involvement in issues of public interest and providing avenues for intellectual and cultural growth and enjoyment. The Legislature further finds that an educated and culturally aware society is increasingly important in an economy in which Nebraskans must compete on a global scale. It is the intent of the Legislature that Nebraskans will help lead the nation into the world of the twenty-first century.

§51-213. Library board; annual report; contents.

The library board shall, on or before the second Monday in February in each year, make a report to the city council or village board or to the county or township board of the condition of its trust on the last day of the prior fiscal year. The report shall show all money received and credited or expended; the number of materials held, including books, video and audio materials, software programs, and materials in other formats; the number of periodical subscriptions on record, including newspapers; the number of materials added and the number withdrawn from the collection during the year; the number of materials circulated during the year; and other statistics, information, and suggestions as the library board may deem of general interest or as the city council or village, county, or township board may require. The report shall be verified by affidavit of the proper officers of the library board.

Fun Library Facts

Look for fun library facts throughout this issue courtesy of [Lawnlove.com](#). The survey is based on cities with populations greater than 100,000.

MOST PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- 1 New York, NY
- 2 Chicago, IL
- 3 Houston, TX
- 4 Los Angeles, CA
- 5 Philadelphia, PA

FEWEST PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- 196 Jackson, MS (tie)
- 196 Paradise, NV (tie)
- 196 Spring Valley, NV (tie)
- 196 Sunrise Manor, NV (tie)
- 196 Enterprise, NV (tie)



Brooklyn Public Library's 125 most circulated books in 125 years. (continued from page 1)

26. Bleach by Tite Kubo; English adaptation, Lance Caselman; translation, Joe Yamazaki
27. An Extraordinary Egg by Leo Lionni
28. Hop on Pop by Dr. Seuss
29. One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss
30. Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
31. Come Over to My House by Dr. Seuss, illustrated by Katie Kath
32. The Cat in the Hat Comes Back! by Dr. Seuss
33. I Wish That I Had Duck Feet by Dr. Seuss, illustrated by B. Tobey
34. Marvin K. Mooney Will You Please Go Now! by Dr. Seuss
35. A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
36. One Piece: Volume 1 by Eiichirō Oda
37. 1984 by George Orwell
38. Go, Dog. Go! by PD Eastman
39. Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
40. Dr. Seuss's ABC by Dr. Seuss
41. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling
42. The Best Nest by PD Eastman
44. The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
45. The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
46. Little Red Riding Hood by the Brothers Grimm; retold and illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman
47. Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
48. Put Me in the Zoo by Robert Lopshire
49. Oh, The Thinks You Can Think! by Dr. Seuss
50. Great Day for Up! by Dr. Seuss, Pictures by Quentin Blake.
51. Pokémon Adventures: Volume 1 by Hidenori Kusaka, art by Mato
52. Wacky Wednesday by Dr. Seuss, illustrated by George Booth
53. Bears in the Night by Stan and Jan Berenstain
54. In a People House by Dr. Seuss, illustrated by Roy McKie
55. Peter's Chair by Ezra Jack Keats
43. Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin, Jr.; pictures by Eric Carle
56. I Can Read with My Eyes Shut! by Dr. Seuss
57. Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr. & John Archambault, illustrated by Lois Ehlert
58. The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
59. The Mishnah: A New Translation with Commentary by Yad Avraham
60. The Bears' Picnic by Stan and Jan Berenstain
61. The Foot Book by Dr. Seuss
62. The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
63. Corduroy by Don Freeman
64. Big Dog, Little Dog by PD Eastman
65. Candide by Voltaire
66. Days with Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel
67. Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb by Al Perkins, illustrated by Eric Gurney
68. Babymouse by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm
69. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban by J.K. Rowling
70. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling
71. Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett, illustrated by Ron Barrett
72. Matilda by Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake
73. How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie
74. Ancient Egypt by Judith Crosher
75. The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
76. Amulet: The Stonekeeper by Kazu Kibuishi
77. Goldilocks and the Three Bears by James Marshall
78. Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
79. InuYasha: Volume 1 by Rumiko Takahashi
80. Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie
81. Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers
82. The Prince of Tennis by Takeshi Konomi
83. Oh, the Places You'll Go! by Dr. Seuss
84. The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg
85. Captain Underpants and the Perilous Plot of Professor Poopypants by Dav Pilkey
86. Game of Thrones: A Song of Ice and Fire, Book 1 by George R. R. Martin
87. Fullmetal Alchemist: Vol 1 by Hiromu Arakawa
88. The Stranger by Chris Van Allsburg
89. Are You Ready to Play Outside? by Mo Willems
90. Wonder by R.J. Palacio
91. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth by Jeff Kinney
92. Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them by J.K. Rowling
93. The Giver by Lois Lowry
94. My Friend is Sad by Mo Willems
95. Click, Cack, Moo: Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin
96. Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix by J.K. Rowling
97. Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems
98. The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton
99. Kitten's First Full Moon by Kevin Henkes
100. I Love My New Toy! By Mo Willems
101. I Will Surprise My Friend! By Mo Willems
102. Vampire Knight by Matsuri Hino, English translation, Tomo Kimura
103. Big Dog and Little Dog Getting in Trouble by Dav Pilkey
104. Maus by Art Spiegelman
105. Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince by J.K. Rowling
106. The Berenstain Bears' New Pup by Stan and Jan Berenstain
107. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire by J. K. Rowling
108. The Bell by Sylvia Plath
109. Shark Attack! By Cathy East Dubowski
110. Upstairs Mouse, Downstairs Mole by Wong Herbert Yee
111. Pigs Make Me Sneeze by Mo Willems
112. Dork Diaries: Tales from a Non-So-Fabulous Life by Rachel Renee Russell
113. Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien
114. I am Invited to a Party! By Mo Willems
115. Farm Animals by Cecilia Minden
116. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Lucy by Jeff Kinney
117. Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier
118. Elephants Cannot Dance! By Mo Willems
119. The Time Traveler's Wife by Audrey Niffenegger
120. The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan
121. The Monster at the End of This Book by Jon Stone, illustrated by Michael Smollin
122. Twilight by Stephanie Meyer
123. Abracadabra Magic with Mouse and Mole by Wong Herbert Yee
124. The Woman in White by Wilkie Collins
125. Are You There God? It's Me Margaret by Judy Blume

All Together Now

Summer Reading Workshops

Kindness
Friendship
Unity



Save the dates:

February 21: Location Announced Soon

February 23: Alliance and Virtual

***Sally will be in person
this year!!!

Both sessions will begin with
registration at 9:30.

Program from 10:00-2:30

4.5 Continuing Education Credits



Watch for ***exciting details and registration information*** on the Listserv, Facebook and Website.

Plan to share your program and craft ideas.

This event will be free and lunch provided.

***Sally Snyder is the Coordinator for Children and YA Library Services at the Nebraska Library Commission.

Grant Opportunities



The American Library Association (ALA) invites library workers to apply for the third annual [Peggy Barber Tribute Grant](#), a programming grant named after the transformative ALA leader responsible for the creation of National Library Week and the Celebrity READ series.

The Peggy Barber Tribute Grant is an annual grant that recognizes, promotes, and supports meaningful programs in libraries that have limited and/or no access to budgetary support for programming. This grant aims to help ease budget challenges by annually awarding three libraries \$2,500 to support a proposed program, program series, or programming effort.

Applications for the award will be accepted from December 1, 2022, to February 1, 2023. [Read the grant guidelines and apply online.](#)

Each year, the grant will focus on supporting a specific type of library programming. For the 2022–2023 cycle, libraries are invited to submit applications for a grant to **support programming related to increasing access for groups that are identified as undeserved or new library users in the community**. Some example proposals could include increasing access to library resources for homebound seniors, media literacy focused programming and kits for patrons re-entering society to learn about local resources.

All library types — including public, academic, K-12, tribal, and special libraries — in the U.S. or U.S. territories are eligible. Applicants must have a personal or institutional membership with either the [American Library Association](#) OR the [Association for Rural & Small Libraries](#).

Peggy Barber served as ALA’s associate executive director of communications from 1970 to 2000. In that role, she established ALA’s Public Information Office, Public Programs Office and the ALA Graphics department. After leaving ALA, she was a principal consultant with Library Communication Strategies and served as co-president of Friends of Libraries USA, now known as United for Libraries. She passed away in August 2019.



The American Library Association (ALA) invites library workers to apply for the [Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant](#), an annual award supporting innovative and meaningful community engagement efforts in libraries.

Applications will be accepted between December 1, 2022, and February 1, 2023. View the full award guidelines and apply online at www.ala.org/LTCEG. The Libraries Transform Communities Engagement

Grant recognizes, promotes and supports innovative and meaningful community engagement efforts in libraries. It will provide two grants of \$2,000 for a school, public, academic, tribal, or special library to expand its community engagement efforts.

Libraries are invited to apply by designing and outlining activities for a library-led community engagement project. Community engagement is the process of working collaboratively with community members – be they library patrons, residents, faculty, students, or local organizations – to address issues for the betterment of the community.

Each year, the grant will focus on supporting a community engagement project with a specific theme. For the 2022–2023 cycle, libraries are invited to submit applications **for a community engagement project that focuses on connection and reconnection within your community**. Your project can be a collaboration with an audience that has not frequented your library in the past or an audience that has not used the library recently. Libraries should work collaboratively with community members and at least one partner organization to develop a project that addresses a local issue and builds upon community assets.

Visit the [grant guidelines](#) for more information.

Project activities to be covered by the grant may include developing community engagement programs and services; partnering with a community agency that builds the capacity of the community to address an important concern/issue; or creating a program or event that connects the library to a community-identified aspiration or concern.

ALA announced the creation of the Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant in 2019, raising a total of \$70,000 from 130 individuals. The initiative was made possible by a matching grant from former ALA president and longtime generous supporter Nancy Kranich.

[Last year's grant](#) was won by the Metropolitan College of New York for their Black Maternal Health Initiative and the Sarah Hightower Regional Library System in Georgia for the Coming Home: Essential Resources for Re-Entering Citizens project.

The Libraries Transform Communities Engagement Grant is part of [Libraries Transforming Communities](#) (LTC), ALA's community engagement initiative. Since 2014, LTC has reimagined the role libraries play in supporting communities. Libraries of all types, from across the country, have utilized the free dialogue and deliberation training and resources to lead community and campus forums; take part in anti-violence activities; provide a safe space for residents to come together to discuss challenging topics; and have productive conversations with civic leaders, library trustees and staff.

Library Leaders Wanted

The American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office (PPO) is seeking small and rural library leaders for [Community Connect: Fostering Digital Access](#). Application instructions are below.

Submissions are requested by January 6, 2023.

About the Project

In 2020, American Library Association (ALA) and Capital One Bank launched [Community Connect: Digital Access at Home](#), an initiative that offers grants and resources to help support digital access and financial capability in rural communities nationwide. Building off this work, Community Connect: Fostering Digital Access seeks to help mitigate this demand by providing rural public libraries with resources and support to assist patrons in establishing and sustaining affordable and high-speed home internet connections. The project will create resources and professional development opportunities linked to the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and/or other programs geared to connecting people with low incomes to broadband and devices. It will also incorporate financial and digital literacy resources to assist patrons with building the necessary skills to foster sustainable internet access at home.

Advisor Opportunity

ALA will select six project advisors to participate in this project during a six-month term (February 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023).

As a practitioner-focused initiative, participation and feedback from advisors will be crucial to the success of this project. Advisors will be selected for their experience serving rural communities and developing digital/financial literacy programs.

Advisors must have an individual membership with the [American Library Association](#).

Project advisors will be responsible for:

- Participating in quarterly virtual meetings, beginning February 2023 and ending August 2023;
- Providing written and verbal input on project deliverables;
- Serving as content experts throughout the project to provide direction and input on developed resources;
- Assisting with communication/promotion of project deliverables to their networks by blogging and speaking about the project;
- And serving as presenters and mentors on a national, regional and state level by seeking opportunities to share the work of the project at conferences, meetings and other convenings.
- Advising ALA on any emerging trends or issues rural libraries are seeing in their communities around digital equity throughout the project.
- Estimated time commitment: between 10 and 15 hours over the course of the project.

Honorarium: \$1,000 (To be paid out as follows: \$500 in February 2023, \$500 in August 2023)

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted electronically through our grants system, ALA Apply: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=AMALA>

Learn more about how to use ALA Apply: <https://www.ala.org/tools/programming/apply/how-to-apply>

Reminder: Scholarships for Membership are available from the Western Library System, please see page 14.



Creative Aging Through the Arts (CAAP)

Celebrating lifelong learning in the arts with older adults

Grants are now available! CAAP grants cover the entire cost of artist residencies including plan time, supplies, artist travel and lodging and a sponsor stipend. No matching funds are required. First time applying? THE Nebraska Arts Commission staff is available to help you get started. Creative Aging Arts Program (CAAP) grants pay for programs with teaching artists trained in best practices of creative programming with older adult participants. During CAAP residencies, artists share their expertise through skill-based, sequential arts lessons in a variety of disciplines. Sessions also foster intentional social engagement among participants, ending with a culminating event to showcase participants' work. Sponsor organizations, including senior centers, local agencies on aging, libraries, and nonprofits that work with seniors may apply. Grant applications have a rolling deadline - apply at least six weeks ahead. <https://www.artscouncil.nebraska.gov/apply/creative-aging/>



Teaching Artist Mary Hunt helps with a design at the Lakota Lutheran Center in Scottsbluff.

Around the Sun

Western Nebraska Community College—Cheryl Hamilton

Winter Fun at WNCC

At WNCC we are focused on stress reduction this holiday season with crafts, coloring, sheets and a reading challenge.

In our first week, we had twenty-two ornaments created, fifteen coloring sheet completed and seven participants in our reading challenge.

We are excited to be using our new display shelving!



Lied Scottsbluff Public Library

Article ~ Deb Carlson and Pictures ~ Elaine Bleisch

Special Christmas Storytime

The Lied Scottsbluff Public Library hosted a Christmas storytime for young children and their families on December 3 at the Midwest Theater. This special event was in conjunction with the Very Merry Christmas Market activities held in downtown Scottsbluff throughout the day.

The library's storytime theme was Christmas trees -- Rockin' Reggie, the musical Christmas tree, kicked things off and was followed by a reading of Maple and Willow's Christmas Tree - a picture book by Lori Nichols. Children's librarian, Deb Carlson, read the book as the illustrations were shown on the movie screen. As a finale, the audience sang and danced to "I'm a Dancing Christmas Tree" as they followed the actions on the screen.

All children in attendance received a hardback copy of the featured book courtesy of Scotts Bluff County Keno. The Lied Scottsbluff Library Foundation provided homemade Christmas tree sugar cookies (made by Marci Kanarick) and a Christmas tree brag tag & chain.

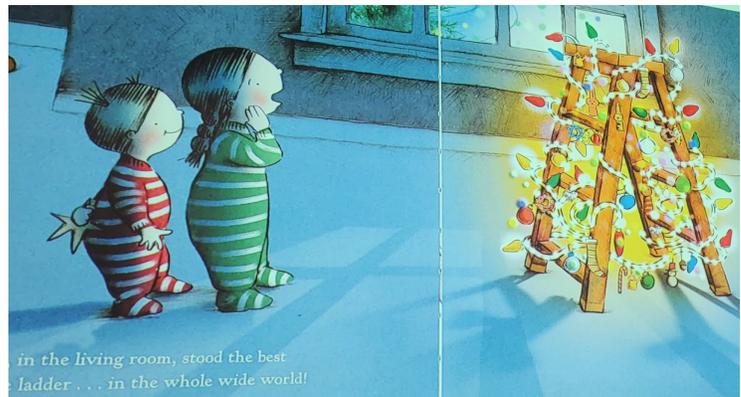
The morning was a huge success with over 260 in attendance. The storytime was the opening event of The Very Merry Christmas Market festivities. Children's librarian Deb Carlson said, "We so appreciate the staff at the Midwest Theater and their cooperation in hosting library programs. Our library has been very fortunate that local businesses support our library and the children in our community."

If any of you have questions or want more information on planning an event like this, please feel free to contact Children's Librarian, Deb Carlson, at 308-630-6284 or dcarlson@scottsbluff.org



Pictures Clockwise: The audience at the Midwest Theater watching the book on the big screen. The last page of the book, showing Maple and Willow's tree. When the book was finished, the screen was raised to reveal a real ladder tree, that was decorated by Krista Baird from the Midwest Theater.

Families and children receiving their very own copies of Maple and Willow's Christmas Tree.



Sidney Public Library ~ Larami Biggs

The Sidney Public Library has acquired quite a few new items this winter. Some of the sections that have recently seen a significant expansion are the early learning readers, graphic novels, juvenile DVDs, and adult DVDs.

The new early learning readers are to help set children on the path to success by Building essential early reading skills. There is also a new collection called Ninja Hacks that empower children by promoting emotional intelligence and growth mindset.

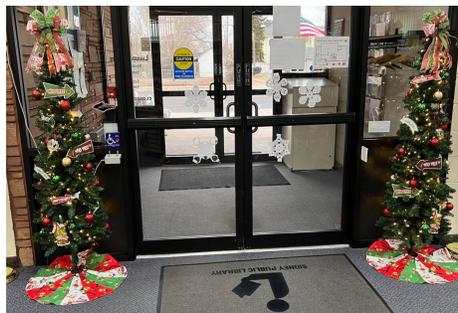


Graphic novels have been a great transition for readers that are beginning to read on their own before they begin to read chapter books.

Juvenile DVDs and adult DVDs are another great form of entertainment the library has to offer. The library is getting popular franchises and new releases.



The Sidney Public Library has also gotten new Christmas décor to decorate the library. The library purchased three new Christmas trees. Two Grinch themed trees frame the front entryway of the library. The third tree is located next to the front desk. The Sidney Public Library decided to invest in new décor due to a broken tree. However, the library repurposed the top of the broken tree and turned it into a mini tree to place on top of the adult monthly display.



The Sidney Public Library has also been busy with numerous programs this winter.



To start off, the Friends of the Sidney Public Library held an ornament decorating contest. The public was welcome to stop at the library between November 28th and December 10th to take part in the Free Ornament Decorating Contest. The rules consisted of the following:

1. Take a wooden ornament home (provided by the Friends of the Library).
2. Decorate it and bring it back to hang on the library's Christmas tree.
3. Voting takes place December 12-17 in-person at the library and online on the Friends of the Sidney Public Library Facebook page.
4. Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 ornaments with the most votes.

A total of 25 ornaments were submitted for voting.

The top three winners were as follows:

1. Sidney Public Library by Evan
2. Crystals by June
3. Fall Nature Reading by Sarah



The Friends of the Sidney Public Library are also sponsoring their second annual Adult Winter Reading Program. Registration began December 5th, and the program will run from December 21-March 20. There will be fun weekly prizes and a \$50 grand prize! Readers are given a list of 10 categories and are eligible for weekly prizes once they've completed at least one category. Readers that complete all ten categories are placed in the grand prize drawing. See page 13 for the categories.

The Sidney Public Library held an Open House on December 15. The Open House will take place during business hours from 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM. Refreshments were served throughout the day including coffee and apple cider. Work by local artists, meet and greets with the Sidney Public Library staff, and live music from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM were part of the event. Refreshments and treats were provided by the Sidney Public Library staff, Sidney Public Library Board Members, and members of the Friends of Sidney Public Library.



The Sidney Public Library held a Merry Grinch-mas Celebration on December 21 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Youth pre-school through 6th grade were welcome to participate in activities related to the story, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." The group started out with a reading of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." An ornament craft then followed with volunteers from the Friends of the Sidney Public Library. The kids then played Pin the Heart on the Grinch. The kids then partook in How the Grinch's Heart Grew Experiment to see how his heart could possibly grow three sizes. Following all of the fun, the kids got to enjoy cupcakes, also known as the Grinch's Snowballs.



The Sidney Public Library is hosting a State Poet Visit with Matt Mason on January 16 from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM. Nebraska State Poet, Matt Mason has run poetry workshops in Botswana, Romania, Nepal, and Belarus for the U.S. State Department and his poetry has appeared in *The New York Times*. Matt received a Pushcart Prize as well as fellowships from the Academy of American Poets and the Nebraska Arts Council. His work can be found on NPR's *Morning Edition*, in *American Life in Poetry*, and in several hundred other publications. Matt's fourth book, *At the Corner of fantasy and Main: Disneyland, Midlife, and Churros*, was released by The Old Mill Press in 2022.



Brrr! As the weather is changing, the Sidney Public Library has issued a **Winter Reading Advisory** effective from December 21 – March 20.

Use this Reading Tracker to track your winter reading. Each time you complete one of the categories below come into the library and fill out a snowflake to be entered into the weekly drawing. Drawings will be held each Wednesday starting December 28th.

Complete all ten reading categories to be eligible to enter the drawing for the Grand Prize \$50 Chamber Gift Card drawing which will be held on Monday, March 20th. All categories must be completed by March 18th to be eligible for the Grand Prize.

1. Snow Day Read a book you wish you'd read in high school. Choose from our Young Adults Collection or read a classic.
2. Build a Snowman Revisit your childhood or read to a child. Choose a book from our children's collection.
3. Be a Snowbird Travel somewhere warm! Read a book with a sunny setting.
4. Grab a Blanket and Cuddle Up Read a romance novel.
5. Heat Up the Oven Stir things up. Check out a cookbook.
6. Tired from Shoveling? Check out or download a magazine.
7. White Out Read a LARGE PRINT book or listen to an audio book.
8. It's Just Snow, Not the End of the World Read a science fiction or post-apocalyptic book.
9. Power's Out, what happened? Read a mystery.
10. Hibernate for the Winter It's your choice. Take whatever book you'd like with you on a long winter's nap.

Event sponsored by:
 Friends
of the Sidney Public Library



December, 2022 for many of the residents in Western Nebraska!

This was posted on the Paxton Public Library Facebook Page by Dianne Jay.



January 15— National Hat Day

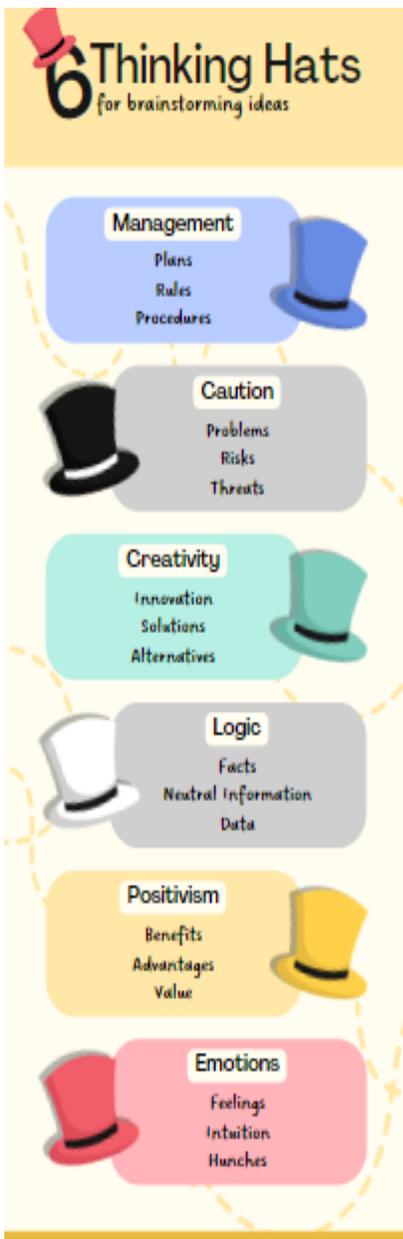
According to NationalDaystoday.com, “we wear hats for numerous reasons. Many hats protect us from elements or harm. Others were worn for ceremonial or religious reasons. Some hats just make us look good or cover up what we think doesn’t. Through the centuries, we’ve given our hats a lot of meaning.”

Our Hats Are Off To You! National Hat Day

Some of the most interesting facts you can learn about the National Hat Day include the following:

- The largest percentage of body heat is lost through the head. This is why people wear hats during the cold season to reduce the amount of heat lost by the body.
- The top hat has a very ancient history. The hat was first created in 1793 by George Dunning.
- The hat has been a fashion sensation that traces back to more than 15000 years ago. This is after rock drawings in Central France were discovered depicting hat wearing.

Wearing many hats is an idiom for having different roles or tasks you perform. This may include parent, partner, community organization roles, school partner, worker, etc., all at the same time! Library Staff in their jobs have simultaneous roles. Another metaphor for hats are the thinking hats.

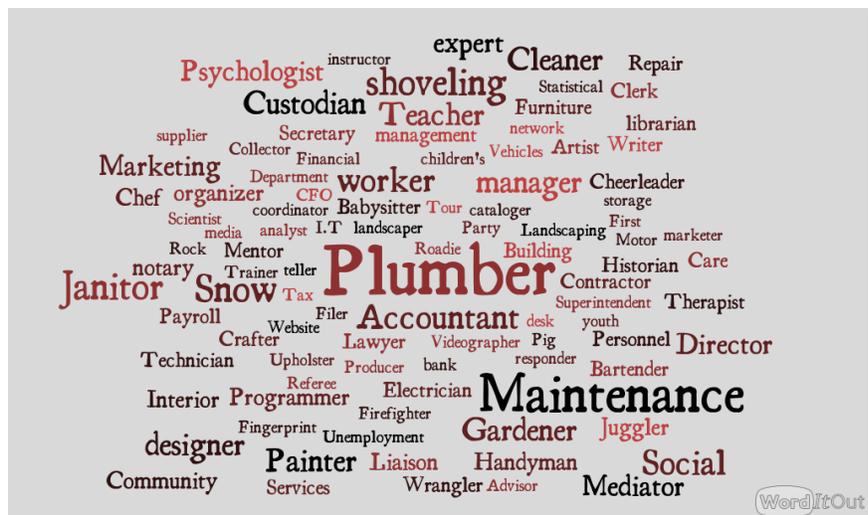


Hats off to Library Staff

Bailee Hutchinson, Library Manager Altus Public Library, Altus Oklahoma posed a question on the Association of Rural and Small Libraries listserv asking people about the different hats they wear as part of their work duties. With the answers, Ms. Hutchinson created this “Word it Out” and gave permission to print it in the Western Sun.

In another forum, school librarians wore hats of builders, harmonizers, protectors, leaders, coaches ringmasters, farmers and optimists. Are all your hats listed?

This is a repeat graphic from the Western Sun, September~October, 2021 issue.





Western Library System Scholarship Application

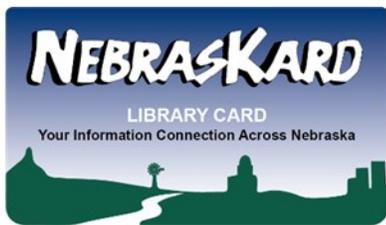
- Up to \$300.00 per event for registration, mileage, meals, etc.
- All member libraries are eligible.
- One scholarship per person every two years.

Name:	
Library/School Agency:	
Phone and Email:	
Event Date:	
Requested Amount:	

Please describe the activity, why you want to attend this activity, and how it will contribute to your professional growth. Be as specific as possible with the date, location, and function of the Activity:

Send all requests to: Western Library System or by [Google Form:](#)
 615 S. Beltline Hwy West
 Scottsbluff, NE 69361 Email: wls@westernlibrarysystem.com

Featured Resource from the Nebraska Library Commission



What is NebrasKard?

NebrasKard is the "brand" name given to Nebraska's reciprocal borrowing program among participating libraries. **The program allows borrowers of participating libraries to borrow materials from other participating libraries, subject to the rules and regulations of those libraries.**

[Read more about the program here.](#)

Which libraries can participate in the NebrasKard program?

- Accredited public libraries
- Unaccredited public libraries may participate as lenders.
- Nebraska post-secondary higher educational libraries.

Is there a NebrasKard fee?

There is no fee unless an accredited public library issues a NebrasKard to a non-resident who has not paid a non-resident fee that is equivalent to the per capita tax support received by that library from local sources. In such cases, a \$15 per person annual fee will be assessed. A public library's primary service area is the governmental jurisdiction (i.e., municipality or county) that provides the majority of the library's revenue.

Western Library System participating libraries:

- Gering Public Library, Gering
- Grant County Library, Hyannis
- Kathleen Lute Public Library, Ogallala



Semper Disco - Always Learning

Upcoming NCompass Live

Upcoming NCompass Live events: Sessions count for CE credits.

NCompass Live is broadcast live, every Wednesday, from 9am - 10am, Mountain Time. For more information, to register for NCompass Live, or to listen to recordings of past events, go to: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/NCompassLive/>

Critical Hit! Tabletop Gaming in the Library	January 4
Best New Teen Reads of 2022	January 11
First Amendment Audits: What You Need to Know	January 18
Pretty Sweet Tech	January 25
Accessibility Isn't Just for Patrons! Internal Documentation for Everyone	February 8
Digital Libraries as Digital Third Place: Virtual Library Programming	February 15
Pretty Sweet Tech	February 22
Read the Rainbow: Serving the LGBTQ+ Community In Your Library	March 8

Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians

One of the requirements for [Public Librarian Certification](#) is training in the basic skills of librarianship. This requirement may be fulfilled by completion of formal education in an institution of higher learning or completion of approved continuing education or certification courses, including the Nebraska Library Basic Skills Training Courses.

Why participate in the Public Librarian Certification program?

- Improves library service throughout the state
- Motivates librarians to acquire, maintain, and develop skills through basic and continuing education
- Provides guidelines for public library boards to use in selecting and retaining personnel

Recognizes public librarians who update their knowledge and skills on a continuing basis to provide better library service for the community

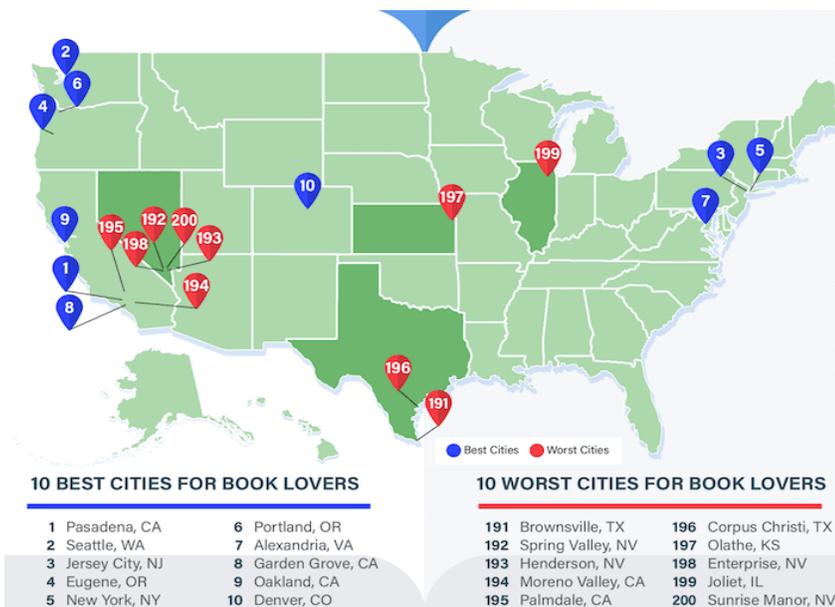
Basic Skills training is presented as a series of online asynchronous courses through *NCampus*. Basic Skills participants are required to complete at least thirteen modules - six requisite modules and seven electives. These must be completed during the provisional (first) three-year certification period.

For each course successfully completed, participants will earn 2 CE credits. These count toward the 45 CE credits that all participants must earn during each three-year recertification period.

The courses for 2023 are listed on page 16

Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians 2023 Schedule

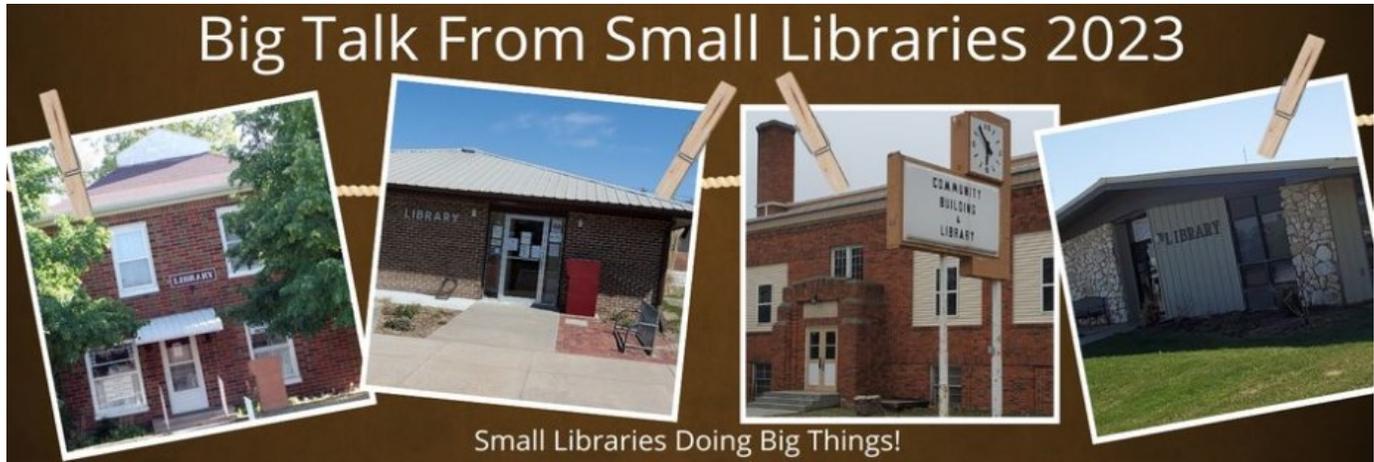
Class Dates	Class	Instructor	Registration Dates
1/2 - 1/31	Communication*	Self-paced	12/1 - 12/30/22
2/7 - 2/18	Customer Service*	Christa Porter	1/3 - 1/28
3/7 - 3/18	Library Governance	Denise Harders	1/31 - 2/28
3/21 - 4/1	Library Technology	Amanda Sweet	2/14 - 3/11
4/1 - 4/30	Introduction to Cataloging	Self-paced	2/21 - 3/18
4/18 - 4/29	Library Finance	Holli Duggan	3/14 - 4/8
5/9 - 5/20	Intellectual Freedom / Core Values*	Holli Duggan	4/4 - 5/2
6/6 - 6/17	Readers' Advisory		5/2 - 5/30
7/4 - 7/15	Reference	Christa Porter	5/30 - 6/24
7/25 - 8/5	Library Policy		6/20 - 7/15
8/15 - 8/26	Collection Management*	Denise Harders	7/11 - 8/5
8/29 - 9/9	Programming & Outreach	Christa Porter	7/25 - 8/19
9/19 - 9/30	Community & Library*	Sam Shaw	8/15 - 9/9
10/17 -	Management/Supervision	Holli Duggan	9/12 - 10/7
11/7 -	Leadership	Holli Duggan	9/26 - 10/21
11/28 -	Library Services to Children & Teens	Sally Snyder	10/24 - 11/18



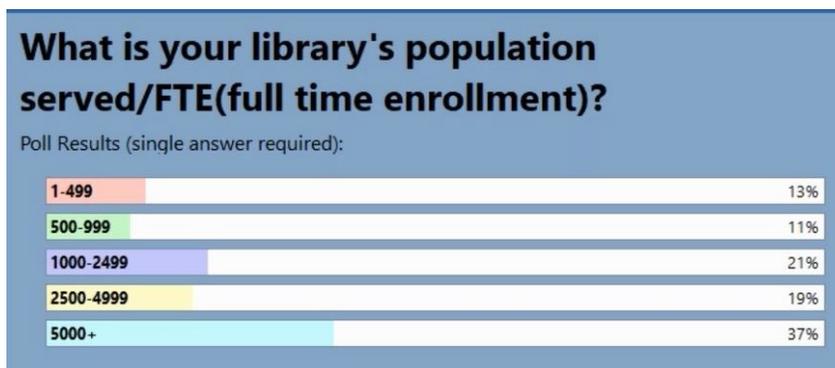
Out of the 200 libraries in this survey with a population greater than 100,000, Lincoln ranks 84th and Omaha 103.

Resources for Librarians

February 23, 2023
7:45 ~ 4:00 Mountain Time
Learn and Earn*



Organized and hosted by Christa Porter at the Nebraska Library Commission and co-sponsored by the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) In 2022, there were log-ins from across the United States and Canada. The graph below indicates the service population of the attendees taken from a poll the morning of last year's Big Talk from Small Libraries.



Using GoToMeeting, the conference will be broadcast online on Friday, February 24, 2023 from 7:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mountain Time. All the sessions will be recorded. Among topics from last year.

- ◆ Generifying the Small School Library
- ◆ Ditching Dewey
- ◆ "We are Left Out!": An Example on How to Engage Virtual and On Campus Students Equally
- ◆ Finding the Gold in the Garbage: Adventures in re-organizing a genealogy room
- ◆ Programming for People With Developmental Disabilities (Sherry Preston, Public Service Librarian from the Gering Public Library presented this session)
- ◆ Small Staff, Big Personalities – Managing Conflict in a Small Library
- ◆ Food in the Library: Reading & Feeding Your Community
- ◆ Stealth in Your Library – Small Changes to Better Serve Marginalized Communities

*Earn Continuing Education Credits

Resources for Librarians

TRAUMA MEETS THE LIBRARY

THE NATURE OF TRAUMA

SOURCES¹

7 in 10 adults experience at least one traumatic event in life, such as:

- Sexual or Intimate partner violence
- Interpersonal violence
- Exposure to or participation in organized violence (war)
- Fear of assault or death or seeing someone else attacked or killed
- Life-threatening events
- Serious medical events
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

SYMPTOMS²

Trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) may manifest as:

- Intrusive memories, flashbacks, nightmares
- Avoiding trauma event-associated triggers
- Anxiety, depression, insomnia
- Anhedonia, altered worldview
- Irritability, hyperarousal, over-reactivity



61% of adults report experiencing at least one ACE before age 18³

EFFECTS⁴

Trauma affects one's...



LIBRARIES & TRAUMA

COMMON BEHAVIORS OF PATRONS WITH TRAUMA

- Difficulty interacting & reading social cues
- Irritability/rudeness & rapid escalation
- Rigidly isolated or inappropriately social
- Using drugs & alcohol
- Distressed by quiet or loud environment
- Upset by unanticipated experiences
- Unsolicited sexual advances/flirting



FACTORS IMPACTING LIBRARY WORKERS

- Personal trauma (at work or elsewhere)
- Secondary/vicarious traumatization
 - Absorbing others' trauma via empathy
 - Risk to staff who lack trauma training
- Burnout
 - Feelings of exhaustion, lower capacities
 - Greater negativity/cynicism about work

SOURCE OF LIBRARY STAFF TRAUMA⁵

In 2022, staff experienced aggressive or violent behavior at their libraries by way of patrons and coworkers at the rates of:



COMMON BEHAVIORS OF STAFF WITH TRAUMA

- Describing feeling burnout or depression
- Decreasing effectiveness at work
- Avoiding work, calling in sick, isolating
- Frequent irritability, hostility toward others
- Lacking creativity, difficulty with focusing
- Exhaustion, difficulty sleeping
- Unhealthy coping mechanisms
 - e.g., overeating, drug/alcohol use
- Poor boundaries

INFORMED SOLUTIONS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE⁶



Safety



Trustworthiness



Peer Support



Collaboration & Mutuality



Empowerment, Voice, Choice



Cultural, Historical,
& Gender Issues

TRAUMA-INFORMED LIBRARIES...

- Understand how widespread trauma is
- Recognize trauma signs and symptoms
- Integrate knowledge of guiding principles of trauma-informed care into practice
- Are sensitive to others' trauma experiences
- Work to reduce the impact of trauma on patrons & staff, resist doing more harm

FOR DETAILS, TRAINING, OR
HELP FACILITATING REFLECTIVE
PRACTICE GROUPS, CONTACT:



www.swinthelibrary.org

[1] APA, 2022 Trauma
[2] APA, 2022 PTSD
[3] CDC, 2022 ACEs

[4] Institute on Trauma and TIC, 2019
[5] Urban Librarians Unite, 2022
[6] SAMHSA, 2020

This poster is available on Beth Wahler's website [here](#). Ms. Wahler courteously granted the Western Sun permission to print this information.

Martin Luther King ~ Day of Service, January 16, 2023

Taking place each year on the third Monday in January, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service (MLK Day) is the only federal holiday that is also designated by Congress as a national day of service – a “day on, not a day off.” Participation in service activities has grown each year as more Americans are encouraged to provide meaningful change in their communities. Whether service meets a tangible need, such as fixing up a school or senior center, builds a sense of community or mutual responsibility. In a pandemic environment, service can take on the form of sending a meal through a meal delivery service, serving as a virtual mentor, or donating money to a charitable cause to help those who lack basic essential items.



No matter the choice, service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions and moves us closer to Dr. King’s vision of a beloved community. It breaks down barriers by bringing people from different backgrounds together and it benefits those who choose to serve. Coretta Scott King said, “The greatest birthday gift my husband could receive is if people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds celebrated the holiday by performing individual acts of kindness through service to others.

As stewards of America's lands and natural resources, the work we do at DOI epitomizes Dr. King’s belief in the power of service, as expressed in his legendary quote, “*We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.*” In keeping with Dr. King’s example, let us embrace the belief that our destiny is shared and accept our obligations to each other, future generations and the American people by strengthening the bonds that hold together the most diverse Nation on earth. Each one of us can help answer his call by pledging to love and serve.”

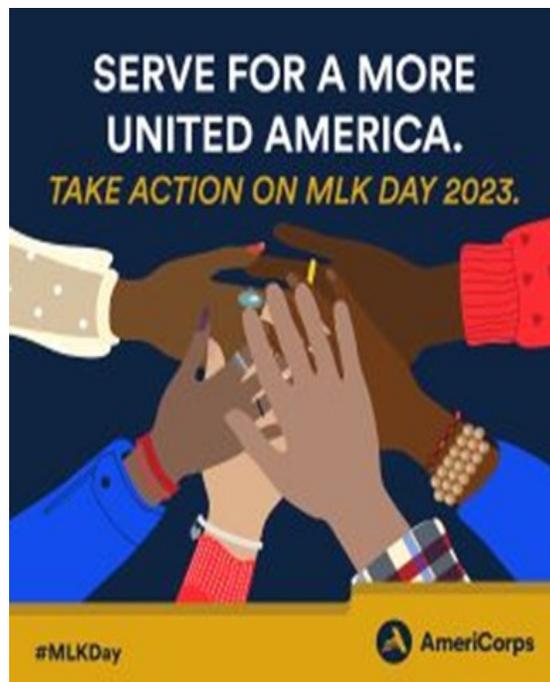
Another active participant is the [Americorps](#).

According to the Americorps website. “The Martin Luther King, Jr., National Day of Service is a defining moment each year when Americans volunteer to improve their communities. During the last quarter-century, the MLK Day of Service has grown, and its impact increased as more Americans embraced the idea that citizenship involves taking an active role in improving communities.

On Monday, Jan. 16, and the days surrounding, AmeriCorps invites you to:

- engage with your community and create constructive action;
- act on Dr. King’s legacy of social justice and equity; and
- recommit by volunteering to serve others. You can clean up a public space, mentor a young person, or help those who are food insecure.

Together, we can strengthen ties to our communities and one other while we address critical issues that divide us.”



Americorps Day of Service Resources:

<https://www.americorps.gov/newsroom/events/mlk-day>

<https://socialpresskit.com/daysofservice>



Points of Light is a global network promoting volunteerism. Their mission statement states that “The solution to each problem that confronts us begins with an individual who says, “I can help”.”

Points of Light resources specifically for the Martin Luther King Day of Service can be found [here](#).

PROJECT IDEAS FOR THE FAMILY

Donate or Volunteer Safely with Food Banks and Pantries - Deliver Meals and Groceries to Vulnerable Seniors - Help out someone you know or contact your local Meals on Wheels to learn ways to volunteer.

Stay in Touch - Check on your neighbors, friends, and family, especially those who are older or maybe alone. A phone call, text, or a conversation through the door could brighten their day.

Pick up Trash in your neighborhood or park.

Write Thank you notes to Police, Fire, First Responders, Government Officials, friends, family members, etc.

Assist elderly neighbors by shoveling walks.



Western Library System Board

The Western Library Board (WLS) ensures that the mission, vision and values of the WLS Regional System. By setting policy and fiduciary responsibilities, the WLS is an effectively managed 501(c)3.

Mission: The Western Library System (WLS) provides the leadership, training and support necessary to enable our member libraries to be essential and valued resources in their communities.

Vision: WLS supports libraries providing services with equal access and opportunity to each resident of the System.

Values: Supports the values of the WLS libraries including and not limited to:

- Access to all reflecting equity, diversity, and inclusion
- Collections that reflect the community and a broad range of topics and viewpoints
- Community Collaboration
- Confidentiality/Privacy
- Education and Life-long learning
- Environmental Responsibility
- Facilities that are well-maintained, clean and welcoming
- Fiduciary Responsibility
- High Quality Professional Customer Service
- Innovation and Creativity
- Intellectual Freedom
- Respect and dignity
- Safety for customers and staff
- Social Media
- Staff development
- Web Content

Board and representation:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Amber Sweetland, President
Kimball Public Library
District C ◇ Becky Henkel
Bayard Public Library
At Large ◇ Beth Falla, Vice-President
Lied Imperial Public Library
District E ◇ Cheryl Hamilton
Western Nebraska Community College
Academic/Special ◇ Elaine Lake
Public Library ◇ Ethan Nelson
Lied Scottsbluff Public Library
District B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Jennifer Holthus
Grant County Library
District D ◇ Judy Starke
Garden County Public Schools
School Representative ◇ Rossella Tesch
Chadron Public Library
District A ◇ Sarah Alfred, Secretary
Morrill Public Library
Public Library ◇ Sharon Schluterbusch
Bridgeport Public Schools
School Representative |
|---|---|

Welcome Logan Allen

Western Library System's Administrative Assistant

We welcome Logan who started working at the Western Library System in late November. Here is his story.

“Why did you move here? I get that question a lot. I’m from Nashville, TN and spent most of the past twelve years in Los Angeles, CA. The quick answer is that I have family here. My partner, Joey Taylor, is from here and his family still lives here, but this isn’t the first time we’ve called Scottsbluff home. Back in 2012, we decided to take a break from the City of Angels. Living costs were too expensive, and we were tired of being crammed into small apartments with roommates. Joey suggested we move to Scottsbluff. I’d never lived in a city with a population less than a million people, and I’ll admit I was apprehensive. Would I fit in? Did I need the bustle of a large city?

Soon after we arrived, Steve Frederick hired me to report for the Star-Herald. It was the perfect job for someone new to the city. Every day was something new. I met business owners, exceptional athletes, educators, doctors, members of the farming community, and so much more. It wasn’t long before I knew the Panhandle better than Middle Tennessee, and Scottsbluff became the hometown I secretly held in my heart.

Other opportunities took us back to California, but we visited Scottsbluff as often as we could, always wondering, in the back of mind, if we would ever move back.

Fast forward a few years to the Spring and Summer of 2020 and the COVID pandemic not only stripped away practically everything good from Los Angeles but made the ugly parts uglier. Our friends left in droves, saying things like, “We can’t afford to start a family here, anyway.”

Family. It isn’t a word that comes up often in Los Angeles. Angelenos use terms like “work family” and “Friendsgiving,” because everyone I knew—practically everyone I met—had left their family behind to move west, to the edge of the country, “one step from oblivion,” the California author Frances Mayes so aptly put it.

We moved back to Scottsbluff in time for Christmas 2021, in search of better, more whole lives closer to family. And in the way Scottsbluff did for us in the past, we found new opportunities. Joey is weeks away from finishing his degree (with honors!), setting his site on a career in education. And I’ve made the transition from residential property management to working for the Gering Public Library, and now (additionally) for the Western Library System.

I cannot say enough about how happy I am to be at the WLS and how much I am looking forward to working with everyone in the system. Learning about the libraries has been a joy, and I can’t wait to learn more—so much so, that earning a Master of Library Science might already be on my mind. “

See you at the Summer Reading Workshop! “



MOST BOOKSTORES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS

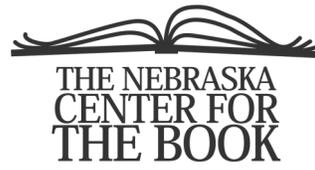
- 1 Jersey City, NJ
- 2 Garden Grove, CA
- 2 Pasadena, CA
- 4 Torrance, CA
- 5 Fullerton, CA

FEWEST BOOKSTORES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS

- 194 Amarillo, TX (tie)
- 194 Sunrise Manor, NV (tie)
- 194 Port St. Lucie, FL (tie)
- 194 Cape Coral, FL (tie)
- 194 Enterprise, NV (tie)
- 194 Kansas City, KS (tie)
- 194 Olathe, KS (tie)



and the



Announced the 2023 One Book One Nebraska selection
The Mystery of Hunting's End by Mignon G. Eberhart

People across Nebraska are encouraged to read the work of a Nebraskan — and then talk about it with their friends and neighbors. *The Mystery of Hunting's End* (Bison Books, 1998) by Mignon Eberhart is the 2023 One Book One Nebraska selection.

The Mystery of Hunting's End is a 1930s chiller, inspired and set in the Sand Hills of Nebraska, where Mignon G. Eberhart lived as a newlywed. Smack in the middle of the rolling desolation is Hunting's End, a weekend lodge owned by the rich Kingery family. To that place socialite Matil Kingery invites a strange collection of guests — the same people who were at the lodge when her father died of “heart failure” exactly five years ago. She intends to find out which one of them murdered him. The selection committee for the 2023 One Book One Nebraska enjoyed the concept of a mystery. This is a book that keeps the reader guessing as to who is behind the murders taking place in a lodge outside of Valentine during a blizzard. Why were these murders committed, are any of the guests staying at the lodge safe, and who is the killer? The book is full of colorful characters, including Nurse Sarah Keate and detective Lance O’Leary. The reader is challenged to find clues that will lead to the discovery of who is the guilty party. Mignon G. Eberhart was born and raised in Lincoln, NE. She had a long and celebrated career, writing a total of 59 novels, earning her the Grand Master Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America. She died at the age of ninety-seven in 1996.

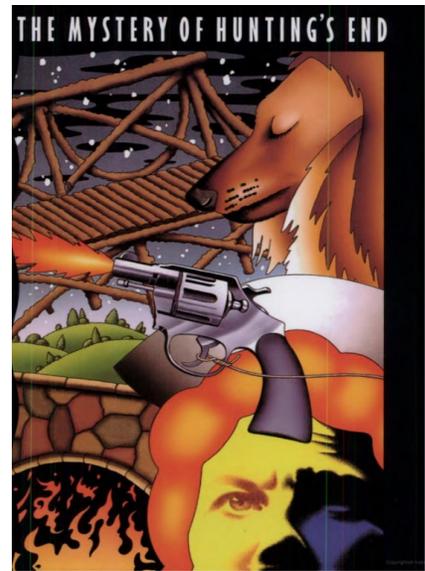
Libraries across Nebraska will join other literary and cultural organizations in planning book discussions, activities, and events that will encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this book. Support materials to assist with local reading/discussion activities will be available after January 1, 2023 at <http://onebook.nebraska.gov>.

Updates and activity listings will be posted on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/onebookonenebraska>.

2023 will mark the nineteenth year of the One Book One Nebraska reading program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book. It encourages Nebraskans across the state to read and discuss one book, chosen from books written by Nebraska authors or that have a Nebraska theme or setting. The Nebraska Center for the Book invites recommendations for One Book One Nebraska book selection year-round at

<http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/obon-nomination.asp>.

One Book One Nebraska is sponsored by Nebraska Center for the Book, Humanities Nebraska, and Nebraska Library Commission. The Nebraska Center for the Book 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 housed at and supported by the Nebraska Library Commission.



One Book For Nebraska Kids and Teens 2023

More information will be forthcoming on the books chosen for Kids and Teens:

Kids: *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich

Teens: *Not If I Save You First* by Ally Carter

Western Library System Resources

Professional Book Collection

The Western Library System is now offering the Golden Sower nominated books from 2021 and 2022 for check out. Here are the bookkits available for checkout. The bookkits are sets of eight or ten.

- ◇ Because of the Rabbit—Cynthia Lord
- ◇ Dragon Hoops—Gene Luen Yan
- ◇ Dragon Ops—Mari Mancusi
- ◇ Lion of Mars—Jennifer L. Holm
- ◇ News of the World: A Novel—Paulette Jiles
- ◇ Roll with It—Jamie Sumner
- ◇ Strike Zone—Mike Lupica
- ◇ Twins—Varian Johnson, Shannon Wright
- ◇ The Line Between—Tosca Lee
- ◇ A Single Light —Tosca Lee
- ◇ Where the Crawdads Sing—Delia Owens (with DVD and audiobook)
- ◇ Selected One Book One Nebraska Bookkits

Contact the WLS offices if you are interested checking out these books or receiving the entire list of books. Coming in 2023 the items will be available to check out using



The Western Library System has a binding repair machine that fixes a variety of types and sizes of books. Take advantage of this useful service to save your valuable books and avoid the cost of replacements. Only .50¢ per book.

Go to <http://www.coverone.net/>

Bring your books into the WLS office to make your own repairs! Call the WLS office for an appointment.

The Eco Autosmart Disc Repair System is a full service machine, not just a buffer. It cleans and repairs your valuable discs. As long as the discs are not cracked we can fix them!



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