



Supporting libraries serving our communities

March - April, 2021

Sundries - Connections Corner 2021

This Western Sun issue discusses libraries connections to AI. In this case, we are talking about Aesthetics Intelligence. This phrase was coined by Pauline Brown author of *Aesthetic Intelligence: How to Boost It and Use It*. The book has been described as creating delight, lifting the human spirit, and rousing the imagination through sensorial experiences. The same principles apply to libraries in person, on the web, and on social media. This article talks about the physical library.

Reading library and retail articles on merchandising provides a broad spectrum of focus areas, however there are some general themes.

- ◆ Know your customers - what are their needs and wants
- ◆ Promote your products - creating new displays - using end panels - facing items forward
- ◆ Declutter - anything from weeding old or unused items to display materials that no longer are effective.
- ◆ First impressions matter - even for our seasoned patrons. The constant is your welcoming presence and high quality customer service.
- ◆ Merchandise as a retailer.
- ◆ Connect with the communities events and popular themes. According to the Anythink Libraries Merchandising Guidelines. "Effective library merchandising takes advantage of happenings in the wider world to help raise awareness of the books and materials in our collections that relate. Holidays, gardening, elections are typical and popular themes for displays that push forward materials that complement activities that are already being promoted in the media and on the calendar. Good merchandising anticipates popular trends and interests and makes the customer's quest for timely library materials a convenient, one-stop browse through a topically themed display."
- ◆ Clear, well-defined updated signage.
- ◆ Flyers and event publicity is current.
- ◆ Some libraries prohibit handmade signs and the use of tape to affix communications and require sign holders. If pins, tacks or staples are used all four corners of the publications are tacked down.

At the Mount Laurel Library in New Jersey, their Trading Spaces: Reinventing the Library Environment using retail-merchandising techniques resulted in converting a Children's room to a Family Room. Before and after pictures can be found on page 10. While there was expense with this transition, there is value in rearranging and repurposing. Even with square footage limitations in our libraries it is always a good practice to daily look at how we are connecting with our patrons, residents and governing officials with fresh eyes. The best definition of Fresh Eyes was found on Google. Fresh Eyes in English means seeing familiar things as if you've never seen them before, i.e. with the same sense of newness and discovery that you presumably experienced the first time you experienced them. October 30, 2014.

National Library Week
White House
Proclamation (excerpts)

April, 8-14, 1984

National Library Week reminds us of our inalienable rights as free explorers in the unbounded universe of the human mind.

All the worlds' treasures of thought, imagination, scholarship, experience and patent investigation are accessible to Americans in our library. The more these treasures are mined, the richer the store becomes. Each generation adds new knowledge, and each reading gives new life to ancient wisdom.

I offer my warmest commendation to the devoted librarians who guard this inexhaustible resource, for making us aware once again of the vast potential for learning our libraries have to offer and of the freedom Americans enjoy to search the limited reaches of human thought.

Ronald Reagan

Mark Your Calendar

Please Note: Due to the Covid-19 directives or at the discretion of the organizers, the following may be cancelled or reformatted.

March 2: Western Library System Virtual Summer Reading Workshop:
10:00-12:30

March 4: Western Library System Summer Reading Workshop: Bridgeport Prairie Winds Community Center:
10:00 - 2:00

March 9: Western Library System Board Meeting :
Riverside Business Plaza,
Scottsbluff @ 10:00

April 4-10: National Library Week

July 20: Western Library System Annual Meeting:
Kathleen Lute City Library,
Ogallala @10:00

September 2: Nebraska Regional Library Systems Virtual Youth Services Retreat

October 20-23:
ARSL Annual Conference
Reno, Nevada

October 13-15: Nebraska Library Association Conference "The World Turned Upside Down - Reinventing Libraries in Changing Times": Omaha

Best of 2020

(Selections from several Best Of and Top Ten Lists)

Children - Picture Books

Fleming, Candace and Rohmann, Eric. *Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera*. Porter/Holiday House

Medina, Meg and Sanchez, Sonia. *Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away*. Candlewick.

Maillard, Kevin Noble and Martinez-Neal. *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story*. Roaring Brook Press.

Morris, Richard T. and Pham LeUyen. *Bear Came Along*. Little Brown

Pumphrey, Jarrett and Jerome. *The Old Truck*. Norton Young Readers

Turk, Evan. *You Are Home: An Ode to the National Parks*. Anteneum

Yang, James. *Stop! Bot! Bot!* Viking, Penguin Young Readers. (Theodore Seuss Geisel Award)

Children

Alexander, Kwame and Nelson, Kadir. *The Undefeated*. Versify. (Caldecott Medal)

Cervantes, Angela. *Lety Out Loud*. Scholastic

Craft, Jerry. *New Kid*. Harper Collins Children's Books (Newbery Medal)

Heidicker, Christian McKay and Wu Junyi. *Scary Stories for Young Foxes*. Henry Holt.

Lord, Cynthia. *Because of the Rabbit*. Scholastic

Sheinkin, Steve and Karman, Bijou. *Born to Fly: The First Women's Air Race across America*. Roaring Brook

Teens

Acevedo, Elizabeth. *With the Fire on High*, HarperTeen

Berry, Julie. *Lovely War*. Viking/Penguin Random House

Mansy, Lauren. *The Memory Thief*. Blink/Harper Collins.

Power, Rory. *Wilder Girls*. Delacourt Press/Penguin Random House

Rowell, Rainbow and Hicks, Faith Erin. *Pumpkinheads*. Macmillan

Adults

De Waal, Frans. *Mama's Last Hug: Animal Emotions and What They Tell Us About Themselves*. W.W. Norton

Fajardo-Anstine, Kali. *Sabrina & Corina: Stories*. One World

Heumann, Judith and Joiner, Kristen. *Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist*. Beacon

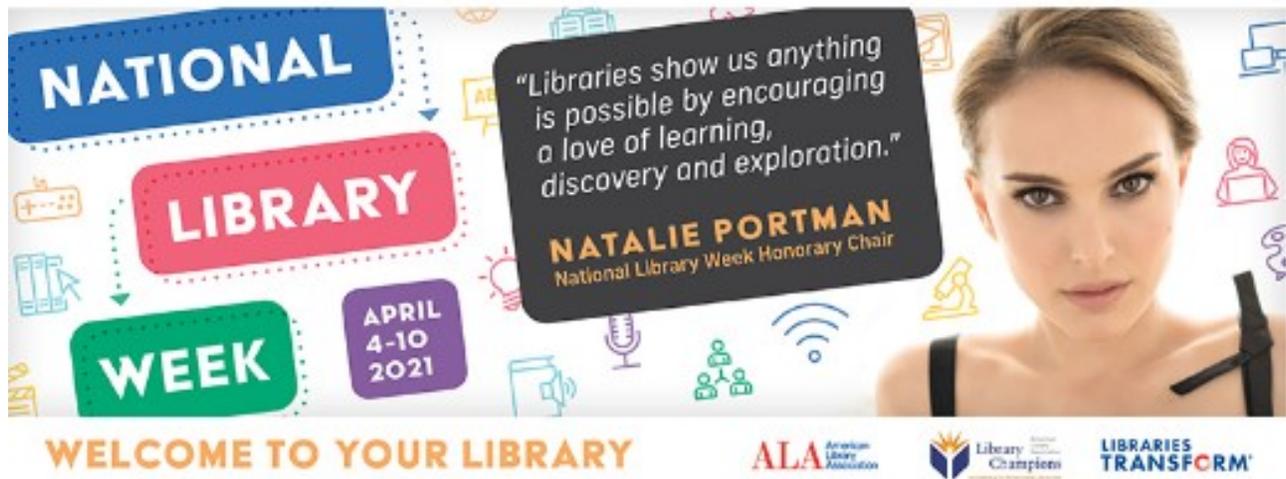
Higginbotham, Adam. *Midnight in Chernobyl: The Untold Story of the World's Greatest Nuclear Disaster*. Simon & Schuster

Miller, Sue. *Monogamy*. Harper

Walter, Jess. *The Cold Millions*. Harper

CONGRATULATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

National Library Week 2021: Welcome to Your Library



The theme for National Library Week (April 4-10, 2021), "Welcome to Your Library," promotes the idea that libraries extend far beyond the four walls of a building – and that everyone is welcome to use their services. During the pandemic, libraries have been going above and beyond to adapt to our changing world by expanding their resources and continuing to meet the needs of their users. Whether people visit in person or virtually, libraries offer opportunities for everyone to explore new worlds and become their best selves through access to technology, multimedia content, and educational programs.

The official proclamation for National Library Week on page 4 reminds us of the importance of libraries and what services you provide to your patrons and residents. You may want to consider sending the Proclamation to officials in your community to share with the citizens. On the resource link above, there is a sample press release to send to your local news outlets or use an abbreviated version on you social media posts.

For more resources go to: <http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek>

Celebrations During National Library Week

- Monday, April 5: State of America's Libraries Report released
- Tuesday, April 6: National Library Workers Day, a day for library staff, users, administrators and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.
- Wednesday, April 7: a day to celebrate our nation's bookmobiles and outreach services, previously National Bookmobile Day.
- Thursday, April 8: Take Action for Libraries Day, a day to rally advocates to support libraries.

National Library Week 2021 Proclamation

WHEREAS, libraries of all types are at the heart of their cities, towns, schools, and campuses, serving their communities;

WHEREAS, libraries are accessible and inclusive places that foster a sense of belonging and community;

WHEREAS, today's libraries and their services extend far beyond the four walls of a building and everyone is welcome to use their resources;

WHEREAS, for people lacking broadband at home, libraries provide access to computers and wi-fi, even checking out internet hotspots and laptops;

WHEREAS, libraries strive to develop and maintain programs and collections that are as diverse as the populations they serve and ensure equity of access for all;

WHEREAS, libraries offer opportunities for everyone to explore new worlds and become their best selves through access to technology, multimedia content, and educational programs;

WHEREAS, in times of crisis, libraries, librarians, and library workers play an invaluable role in supporting their communities both in person and virtually;

WHEREAS, to adapt to our changing world, libraries are expanding their resources and continuing to meet the needs of their patrons;

WHEREAS, libraries are cornerstones of democracy, promoting the free exchange of information and ideas for all;

WHEREAS, libraries have long served as trusted and treasured institutions for all members of the community regardless of race, ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socio-economic status;

WHEREAS, libraries, librarians, and library workers are joining library supporters and advocates across the nation to celebrate National Library Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I [*name, title of official*] proclaim National Library Week, April 4-10, 2021. During this week, I encourage all residents to visit their library online to access resources and services. Because of you, Libraries Transform lives and communities.

NATIONAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DAY - March 16

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-freedom-of-information-day-march-16/>

March 16th recognizes National Freedom of Information Day annually. It also commemorates the birthday of President James Madison. Madison earned the name the Father of the Constitution and as the foremost advocate for openness in government. Additionally, he is hailed as being instrumental in the drafting of the United States Constitution and as the key champion and author of the United States Bill of Rights. Madison held individual rights and freedom of information in high importance.

On March 16, The American Library Association awards the James Madison and Eileen Cooke State and Local Madison awards to individuals and groups who champion, protect and promote public access to government information.

SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH - April

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) celebrates the work of school librarians and their programs. The event started in 1985 as School Library Media Month and changed the name to School Library Month in 2010. School Library Month shares the theme of National Library Week. In 2021, Welcome to your Library celebrates the role librarians and libraries play in motivating and empowering students, faculty, administrators and parents.



D.E.A.R. DROP EVERYTHING AND READ - April 12

According to the ALA Website. <http://www.ala.org/conferenceevents/celebrationweeks>

D.E.A.R. stands for "Drop Everything and Read," a national month-long celebration of reading designed to remind folks of all ages to make reading a priority activity in their lives.

You may remember that Beverly Cleary wrote about D.E.A.R. in *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*. Since then, "Drop Everything and Read" programs have been held nationwide on April 12th in honor of Mrs. Cleary's birthday. We figured, why not "drop" the "day" and celebrate our beloved author, her timeless stories, and the joy of reading for the full month and make reading a priority! D.E.A.R. is sponsored by the National Education Association (NEA); Parent Teacher Association (PTA); ALA's Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC, a division of the American Library Association); Reading Rockets; The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC); the American Press Institute; First Book; HarperCollins Children's Books; Read Kiddo Read; Walden Media and Ramona Quimby.

MONEY SMART WEEK - April 10 - 17 <https://www.moneysmartweek.org/>

Money Smart Week is a national public education program coordinated by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and delivered by a network of supporters that empowers people with the knowledge and skills to make better-informed personal financial decisions around the key financial pillars of saving, spending, borrowing and planning. In 2011, the American Library Association joined in partnership to create the National Money Smart Week@your library initiative

CHILDREN'S Day/Book Day - El día de los niños/El día de los libros - April 30

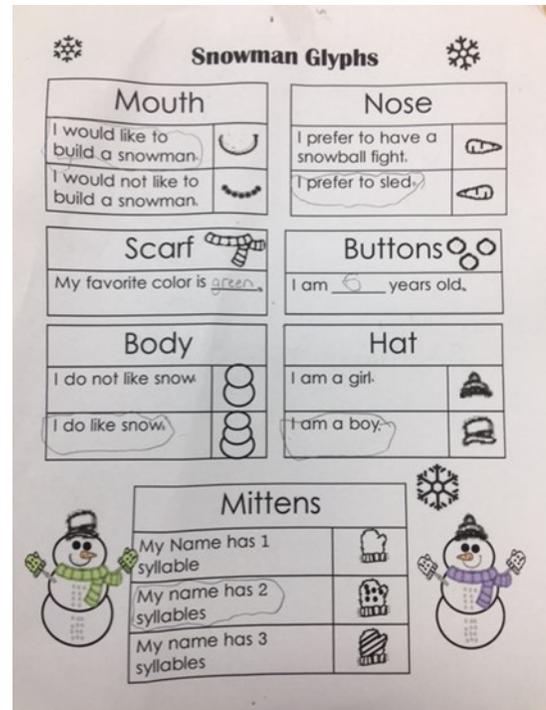
Children's Day/Book Day, also known as El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día), is a celebration of children, families, and reading and held annually on April 30. The celebration emphasizes the importance of advocating literacy for every child regardless of linguistic and cultural background. Through several grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, ALA's Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC, a division of ALA) continues to increase public awareness of the event in libraries throughout the country. ALSC is collaborating on this effort with the Founding Partner of Día, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking (REFORMA). Día is an enhancement of Children's Day, which began in 1925. Children's Day was designated as a day to bring attention to the importance and well-being of children. In 1996, nationally acclaimed children's book author Pat Mora proposed linking the celebration of childhood and children with literacy to found El día de los niños/El día de los libros.



Around the Sun

Oshkosh Public Library, Elaine Lake

We are so lucky to have a Homeschool group that wants to keep all of our patrons happy and encouraged! They do little art projects and stories that we post all around the library. Here is their "glyph" bulletin board. It was a way for our older patrons to learn about the homeschool kids!



Hemingford Public Library, Colleen Garner



The blind date books has been going well with a drawing for chocolates.

The guessing game is for everyone. Each time a patron comes in they have a chance to guess the number of books in our collection. A prize for the top two winners will be announced during National Library Week in April.

We also printed reading record sheets for patrons and have star stickers so they can rate their reading experience.

We will have a St. Patrick's Day guessing game to determine how many coins and candy are in a jar plus library Bingo. We have some take and make crafts lined up for April.

Lied Scottsbluff Public Library, Erin Aschenbrenner

Lied Scottsbluff Public Library (LSPL) had a major facelift in February! During a renovation in 2011 new carpet was installed in the building, but the carpet squares used were defective. Over the past 10 years the squares have been peeling up at the corners, creating tripping hazards for staff and patrons. LSPL closed February 1 through February 22 to replace all the carpet in the building, and it looks lovely! We are more than pleased to be able to provide a safer environment for our guests.

While the library was closed, staff were working hard processing and cataloging new books. During COVID we did not place any book orders because the building was closed, so we placed a large order at the end of last fiscal year. This created some backlog in tech services, and to help them out we cross-trained all the public services staff and had everyone in the building processing! Not to brag, but we got 3,000 new materials out in the 3 weeks we were closed.

The top row shows pictures before the re-carpeting.
Center is during the process.
Bottom row shows the beautiful finished product.



This March at LSPL we are Reading the Rainbow!

Library staff put together an eye-catching display with a fun program to go along with it.

Participating patrons will have a punch card with all the rainbow colors on it, and each time they checkout a book with a solid color cover they get a punch and an entry to win our Pot O'Gold Grand Prize!



Western Library System Board

Meet Board of Director - Jennifer Holthus

Jennifer Holthus is the Library Director at Grant County Library in Hyannis. She provided the following information to the Western Sun.

“I have worked at the library for 7 years. I became the director last spring after Vickie Retzlaff retired. I live in Hyannis with my husband and one son, Jhet, who is a junior in high school. My oldest son Tanner and his wife live in San Jose, CA and my middle son Bo lives in Wheatland, WY. I work three days at the library and the rest of the week I help my husband run our company J and J Trailer Sales. I am filling out Vickie’s term on the WLS board. I enjoy serving as it keeps me informed of how the other libraries in our system are doing. I believe libraries are a very important part of the community, especially in our rural area. We are a great resource of information for the residents of our county. My favorite part of the job is getting to read at our elementary school once a month. The kindergartners always have a smile and a story to tell! “



Featured Resource from the Nebraska Library Commission

Magazines in Overdrive - Susan Knisely

The Commission added 3,258 magazines to the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries collection. Most (2,400) are in English, 182 are in Spanish, and the remaining 858 are in various other languages, including French, Chinese, German, Japanese, and more.

Magazines will show up in response to searches. For example, if you do a keyword search for “knitting,” your results will include a mix of ebooks, audiobooks and magazines that are related in some way to knitting. “Magazines” is now a format, too, so after performing a search, like “knitting,” you can apply the “Magazines” filter in order to limit your results to just the magazines.

To highlight the fact that magazines are now available, I went ahead and created a collection of all the English-language magazines, and a collection of all the Spanish-language magazines, and I placed them on the main page, immediately under the “Latest 500 added” collection. This way, if patrons scroll down the page to see what else is available to browse, they’ll hopefully notice the magazines. We don’t have to, and probably don’t want to, leave these collections here forever, but it seemed like the best way to catch casual browsers’ eyes.

The other way to direct patrons to magazines if they are using the Nebraska OverDrive Libraries website, is to have them click on the “Collections” link at the top of the page, and then they can select a subject-specific magazine collection to view or, if they click on “See all,” they can get a whole page of magazine collections to scroll through.



The Western Library System is Investing in You!

- * Is this the year for you to.....
 - Join a library association? (ALA, ARSL, NLA, NLSA, MPLA, PLA)
 - Attend a workshop?
 - Attend a conference (in-person or virtually) ?
 - Sign up for a library related class?
- * Is budget money tight and monetary assistance is needed to pay for membership, or tuition or mileage?

The Western Library System is here to assist. All you need to do is apply for a scholarship which will be reviewed by the WLS Board's Scholarship Committee for approval. Click on this [link](#) for the details and the online application.

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 Fax: 308-632-3978
615 S. Beltline Hwy West
Scottsbluff, NE 69361 Email: wlsasst@gmail.com

SEMPER DISCO - ALWAYS LEARNING

Upcoming NCompass Live

Upcoming NCompass Live events: Sessions count for Continuing Education 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/>

NCompass Live Webinars	Wednesdays 9am-10am (Mountain)
Nebraska Writers Collective Spring Programs for Young Poets	March 3
Ways to Fill Your Shelves Without Draining Your Budget	March 17
Pretty Smart Tech: How I Turned My Dad's House Into a Smart Home Using Amazon's Alexa	March 31
Pretty Smart Tech:	April 28

Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians

Class Dates	Class	Instructor	Registration Dates
3/8 - 3/19	<u>Library Governance</u>	Denise Harders	2/1 - 3/1
3/22 - 4/2	<u>Library Technology</u>	Holli Duggan	2/15 - 3/12
4/1 - 4/30	<u>Intro to Cataloging</u>	Self-paced	2/22 - 3/19
	Organization of Materials*	Self-paced	2/22 - 3/19
4/19 - 4/30	<u>Library Finance</u>	Holli Duggan	3/15 - 4/9
5/10 - 5/21	<u>Intellectual Freedom/</u>		
	<u>Core Values*</u>	Holli Duggan	4/5 - 5/3
6/7 - 6/18	<u>Readers' Advisory</u>	Sharon Osenga	5/3 - 6/1
7/5 - 7/16	<u>Reference</u>	Christa Porter	5/31 - 6/25
7/26 - 8/6	<u>Library Policy</u>	Sharon Osenga	6/21 - 7/16
8/16 - 8/27	<u>Collection Management*</u>	Denise Harders	7/12 - 8/6
8/30 - 9/10	<u>Programming & Outreach</u>	Christa Porter	7/26 - 8/20
9/20 - 10/1	<u>Community & Library*</u>	Sam Shaw	8/16 - 9/10
10/18 - 10/29	<u>Management/Supervision</u>	Holli Duggan	9/13 - 10/8
11/1 - 11/12	<u>Leadership</u>	Holli Duggan	9/27 - 10/22
11/29 - 12/10	<u>Library Services to</u>		
	<u>Children & Teens</u>	Sally Snyder	0/25 - 11/19

*Required classes for certification

Are you looking for a high-tech career that is fast paced, and involves working with people? As libraries increasingly use new technologies the duties of library and information services (LIS) specialists will expand and evolve accordingly. LIS specialists assist with customizing databases and instruct patrons in how to use computer systems to access data. These specialists work in large libraries as well as in rural areas.

In cooperation with the Nebraska Library Commission, and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), Central Community College (CCC) offers two options for students: a certificate program in Library and Information Services and an Associate of Arts degree which students can complete in as little as two years. The LIBR courses in the certificate program are designed to provide the skills necessary for certification as a public librarian in Nebraska, with an emphasis on rural needs. The AA degree option provides an opportunity for students to transfer to UNO for completion of a baccalaureate degree if they choose.

The Library and Information Services certificate courses and the AA degree are offered entirely online by CCC. Central's advisors can assist students in enrollment for these courses.

The Library and Information Services program will provide information about services requiring technical skills in such vital areas as circulation of materials, acquisition, and processing of all types of materials. The program's courses focus particularly on information resources and management of a small library.

Connections (continued from page 1)



The former Mount Laurel Library's Children's Room

Tall shelving was removed, colorful paint replaced grey walls, books were displayed on slat wall and comfortable seating was added.

Comments from patrons:

When did you buy all those new books? When did you put in the windows? The books and windows were the same. One Mom said. "Now I come into the library and shop the wall."

Resources for the Connecting with Aesthetics Intelligence article

Final Report to South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative from the Mount Laurel Library, August, 2004

Anythink Libraries Merchandising Guidelines.

General Information using search terms: Libraries Aesthetics; Libraries Merchandising; Retail Merchandising. Visual Merchandising.





ALA American Library Association

A SPECIAL GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR SMALL AND RURAL LIBRARIES

Apply January 4 – March 4, 2021

Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC) — an initiative of the American Library Association — seeks to strengthen libraries' role as core community leaders and change-agents. The initiative addresses a critical need within the library field by developing and distributing new tools, resources and support for librarians to engage with their communities in new ways.

LTC helps libraries become more reflective of and connected to their communities and achieve a domino effect of positive results, including stronger relationships with local civic agencies, non-profits, funders and corporations, and greater community investment in civility, collaboration, education, health and well-being. ALA also hopes to shift public discourse away from past themes about libraries in crisis and toward talk of libraries as agents of positive community change.

The American Library Association provides training and grant money. The American Library Association (ALA) invites libraries in small and rural communities to apply for grant funding to help them address issues of concern in their communities.

Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries is part of ALA's longtime commitment to preparing library workers for the expanding role of libraries. The initiative is offered in partnership with the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL). It is supported by a private donor.

Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Focus on Small and Rural Libraries is an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) that seeks to provide community engagement resources and opportunities specific to the needs of library workers serving small and rural communities.

Up to 650 U.S. libraries in small and rural communities will receive \$3,000 each to tackle issues ranging from media literacy to COVID-19 safety to unemployment. The first round of grants has been awarded. The second round will be awarded in the Spring of 2021.

Community engagement is the process of working collaboratively with community members – be they library patrons, residents, faculty, students or partner organizations – to address issues for the betterment of the community.

The goal of these grants is to:

Teach library workers facilitation skills, through the LTC: Facilitation Skills for Small and Rural Libraries asynchronous six-part e-course and facilitation guide, to lead a community conversation. Provide flexible funding to support libraries' community engagement efforts

Eligibility:

*This opportunity is open to any type of library in the U.S. and U.S. territories that serves a small and/or rural community(ies).

*The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) defines a rural community as one that is more than, or equal to, five miles from an urbanized area (defined as a town/city with a population of 25,000 or greater) and small communities to have a population of 25,000 or less.

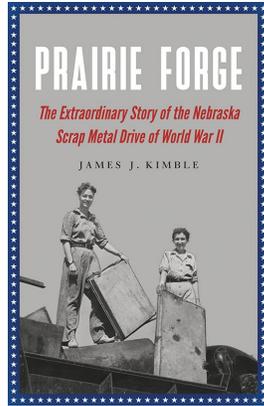
*Non-accredited libraries are allowed to apply.

*Applications must be complete and submitted by March 4, 2021

Comprehensive information on the grant is located at:

<http://www.ala.org/tools/librariestransform/libraries-transforming-communities/focusgrants/faq>

2021 One Book One Nebraska



About the book:

In the wake of Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt called for the largest arms buildup in our nation's history. A shortage of steel, however, quickly slowed the program's momentum, and arms production fell dangerously behind schedule. The country needed scrap metal. Henry Doorly, publisher of the *Omaha World-Herald*, had the solution. *Prairie Forge: The Extraordinary Story of the Nebraska Metal Drive of World War II* tells the story of the great Nebraska scrap drive of 1942 - a campaign that swept the nation and yielded five million tons of scrap metal, literally salvaging the war effort itself. James J. Kimble chronicles Doorly's conception of a fierce competition pitting county against county, business against business and in schools across the state, class against class - inspiring Nebraskans to gather 67,000 tons of scrap metal in only three weeks. This astounding feat provided the template for a national drive. A tale of plowshares turned into arms, *Prairie Forge* gives the first full account of how home became home front for so many civilians.

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 <http://onebook.nebraska.gov>. Updates and activity listings are posted on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/onebookonenebraska>.

Book a Speaker

Host a scholar listed on the [Speakers Bureau](#) of Humanities Nebraska. Apply for a grant from Humanities Nebraska to finance your event. Public programs sponsored by not-for-profit organizations may be eligible for funding assistance from Humanities Nebraska. See <https://humanitiesnebraska.org/speaker-bureau-policies/> for details on their Speaker's Bureau General Public Programs Eligibility requirements and for steps to book a speaker and to access application forms.

Prairie Forge: The Extraordinary Story of the Nebraska Scrap Metal Drive of World War II (Virtual Program Only) by James J. Kimble

Sharpie: Nebraska's Queen of the Air by Diane Bartels

Allied Invasion of Japan by Jack Campbell

Nebraska Spirit: The North Platte Canteen by Charlotte Endorf

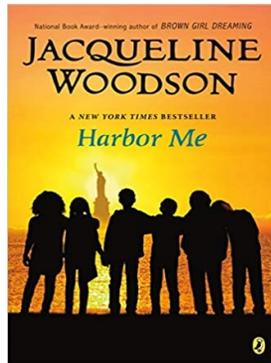
Four Blue Stars in the Window: A Story of WWII by Barbara Eymann Mohrman

Nebraskans Remember World War II by Doug Rung

Discussion Questions

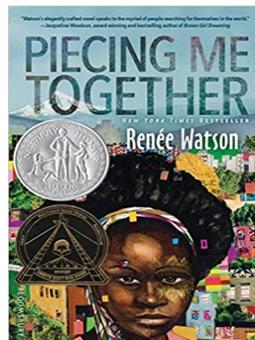
One Book One Nebraska provides thought-promoting discussion questions for book groups and individuals. Examples include: What was the role of the media in the scrap drive efforts? Were there any villains in the story?

2021 One Book For Nebraska Kids



Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson

Six kids are invited to spend the last hours of school on Friday in the ARTT Room (A Room To Talk). Their only assignment is to talk to each other about anything. It starts slowly but before long they are sharing their private concerns and hopes with each other. And all agree to keep to themselves whatever is said on Friday afternoon. Haley's father is in prison, and she has never told anyone until now. Esteban is worried both about his father being deported, and about what that might mean for the rest of his family. Each of them has something they don't want other people to know, but by sharing with their group, they learn more about themselves and their worries, hopes and dreams.



2021 One Book For Nebraska Teens

Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson

Jade (16) loves collage art and photography. She is a scholarship student at a mostly white prestigious private school and lives in what others consider a questionable area of Portland, Ore. She is invited to join the Woman to Woman program and if she stays with it for her last two years of high school she is guaranteed a college scholarship. During her junior year Jade makes friends with Sam (Samantha) who rides the same city bus to school. It isn't long before things begin to chafe her, how her white friend makes excuses for prejudiced behavior and how she feels sometimes like the school, and even her mentor, Maxine (who is black), thinks she needs saving. She finally works on speaking up for herself. When she hears about a black girl at a pool party who was beaten by police, she has trouble dealing with it, but finally finds a positive way to respond (with others) and make a difference.

[The One Book for Nebraska Kids and Teens 2021 page provides discussion guides and activities.](#)

To borrow the book bags from the Commission, contact the Commission Reference Services, 402-471-4016, 800-307-2665 or use this [form](#). Another source for book club kits is the [wiki](#) which lists libraries that share their kits.

Western Library System Resources

Available to Check Out
Blocks Rock
BookKits (check WLS website for list)
Breakout Kits - One Platform - Escape Room
Cricut and Heat Press
Dragon Puppets - 1 red and 1 green (see picture below)
EVO Ozobot
Frog Guiro
Gizmos and Gadgets
LEGO Boost and Book
Makey Makey Classics
Makey Makey STEM Kits (12 projects)
Speaker System with microphone
Star Punch (3 1/4 inches across)
Star Wars Droid and R2-D2

In Office Use
Book Repair System (Self-serve)
Disc Repair System (WLS staff will do this for you)
Embroidery Machine
Laminator (Cool)



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. 308-632-1350, Toll-Free 888-879-5303.



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!

From July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2021, each WLS member library has 10 free disc cleanings. If you have any questions, please call the WLS office.

Western Library System Board of Directors

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 Tammy Howitt Covalt, Vice-President

Western Library System

Cindy Osborne, Director
 cindy.osborne@nebraska.gov
 Cell Phone: 308-637-2060

Jeri Clapper, Administrative Assistant
 wlsasst@gmail.com

615 South Beltline Highway West
 Scottsbluff, NE 69361
 Phone:
 308-632-1350
 Toll Free:
 888-879-5303
 Fax: 308-632-3978