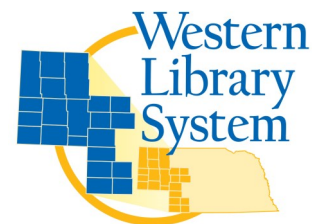


THE WESTERN SUN



Supporting libraries serving our communities

March-April, 2023

SUNdries ~ Libraries around the world

The three-wheeled library is the focus of the March~April Western Sun. Book Bikes will be celebrated in 2023, on April 26th on National Library Outreach Day the Wednesday of National Library Week and from August 6th through the 12th for Book Bike Week. This week of celebration is sponsored by the American Library Association's affiliate Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS).

David Kelsey, 2021 ABOS President, describes book bike services as "Book bikes are a valuable library outreach vehicle that are essential in connecting communities with books and materials from across the United States and around the world. Book Bikes have the unique capability of popping up in neighborhoods and other community gathering places, providing library service to individuals who may never walk through the doors of a library building. Not only do book bikes meet library patrons at their point of need, but book bikes also celebrate and promote health, movement, exercise and getting outdoors."

Book bike programs have experienced high praise and hurdles along the way. They are well-loved by the public. Programs vary from providing items free to requiring check out in the same manner as a brick and mortar library or Bookmobiles.

Information on the history of book bikes is from a research paper for the University of Texas by Katrin A. Abel in May 2015. Citations from "[Public Library Book Bikes: History and How-To](#)" are used with permission from the author. The citations are in italics. Ms. Abel currently works at the Austin Public Library in Texas.

"Book bikes are the latest earth-friendly, human-powered mobile library outposts. They have been rolling through the streets of America since 2008 and are rapidly growing in number and popularity.

Gabriel Levinson is credited with being the founder of the first bike custom-made for books. It was crafted by Haley Tricycles in 2008. Mr. Levinson delivered free books to Chicago Parks every weekend, weather permitting. The Chicago Public Library partnered with Mr. Levinson in 2010 to ensure the program continued.

From those early days in Chicago's parks until 2023, book-bike programs have expanded across the country.

"If Gabriel Levinson is the father of the book bike, the matriarch of the public library book bike is "Librarian on the Move" Karen Greene of the Joel D. Valdez Main Library in Pima County, Arizona."

The Bookbike celebrated ten years of service in 2022. There are three bikes that to neighborhood centers and farmer's markets delivering free books, library cards and information about the library's programs and services. The Pima Library branches welcomes book donations and volunteers to travel with the Bookbikes, (continued on page 3)

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

March 3: Nebraska Legislature Day (pages 15 and 16)

March 8-10: [MPLA/OLA Conference](#), Norman OK

April: [School Library Month](#)

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

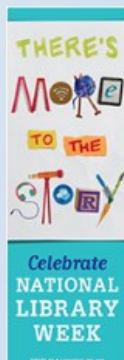
April 15-21: [Money Smart Week](#)

April 21-22: [Nebraska Educational Technology Association \(NETA\) Conference](#), Omaha

April 23-29: [National Library Week](#)

25: Library Workers
26: Outreach
27: Take Action for Libraries (page 17)

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



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

August 1: Western Library System's Annual Meeting, Bayard (page 30)

August 6-12: Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services (ABOS) Book Bike Week

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

September 8: [International Literacy Day](#)

September 20-23: [Association of Rural and Small Libraries](#).(ARSL) Wichita, KS (page 25)

October: [TeenTober](#)—ALA

§tatute Savvy

School staff and librarians are well aware of “Rule 10 “ for district accreditation. The “rule” is a section of the Administrative Code and not a State Statute. Administrative Codes are agency regulations managed by the Nebraska Secretary of State. Still important documents to understand. The official designation is Administrative Code Title 92, Nebraska Department of Education Chapter 10 Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools Rule 10: Here is a Rule 10 checklist for libraries and media centers.

_____ 004.01C Library and Counseling Programs

The school system has written guides, frameworks, or standards for all areas of the curriculum.

The school system also has a written description of the library media and guidance programs.

_____ 006.01.A Library/Media Open and Available

Each school has a library media area(s) which is available to students during the school day.

All library medias resources are properly cataloged, marked and shelved according to a standard classification system.

Each school has at least one set of encyclopedia available in either print or electronic format with copyright dates in the past five years.

_____ 006.01B New Resources

Each elementary school acquires a minimum of 25 new library media resources in print format, exclusive of textbooks and encyclopedia of different titles, per teacher per year, up to 150 titles per year.

The minimum number of new titles in print format is 75 if library media resources are also available through electronic format. Each middle and high school acquires a minimum of 150 titles each year in either print or full text electronic format.

_____ 006.01C Middle School Periodicals

Each middle level school subscribes to at least ten periodicals either in print or in full text electronic format.

_____ 006.01D Secondary School Periodicals

Each secondary school subscribes to at least 25 periodicals in print or full text electronic format.

_____ 007.04A 1/2 FTE Media Endorsed

Each K-12 school system and each secondary school system has a person holding a Nebraska Teaching Certificate with and endorsement appropriate for library science or educational media specialist or meeting Section 007.04B, assigned on at least a one-half time basis to provide library media services to the school system.

_____ 007.04A1 Building Media Staffing or Acquiring

Each school building having an enrollment of from 70 to 249 students has a person holding a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate with an appropriate endorsement for library science of educational media specialist assigned on at least a one-fifth time basis or has a library media paraprofessional assigned on at least a one-half time basis under the supervision of a certified staff member.

The “libraries are not just for books” theme carries out with bicycles, too. MIKe the Bike was unveiled in October, 2022 at the Essex County Library in Ontario, Canada. MIK the Bike is Wi-Fi-enabled and brings access to digital resources, internet, computer class and programming to sites around Essex County. MIKe will begin its routes in the Spring of 2023.



Stephanie Marshall and Manuels Denes with MIKe the Bike. Photo by Dax Melmer/Windsor Star, October 21, 2022

If you are considering a Book Bike for your library, check with libraries who have successfully launched and sustained a program. The staff will provide background for selecting the type of bike, companies to work with and policies and procedures to have in place before you take the library to your residents.

Enjoy these pictures of book bikes. The first picture is of the Hastings Memorial Library book bike. The library, located in Grant, is a member of the Western Library System. The pictures on page four were selected from the ABOS Book Bike Week 2022 Facebook page.





Greenville Public Library, Greenville, Ohio



Waukeet Public Library, Waukeet, Iowa



Books on the Move, L. E. Phillips Member Public Library, Eau Claire, WI



Cedar Fall Public Library, Cedar Falls, IA



Teton County Library, Jackson, WY



Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland, OH

Celebrations and Milestones

Grant Recipients ~ 2023

Internship Grants—\$1000.00 each

Bridgeport Public Library
Hastings Memorial Library

Library Improvement Grants

Bayard Public Library ~ \$4,318.00 ~ Microfilm and newspaper digitization project
Gering Public Library ~ \$3065.00 ~ Owl 3 Conference Camera, Smart TV, laptop, projector
Kimball Public Library ~ \$1050.00 ~ Hydroponic Tower

Celebrating Norma Michelman's Years of Service

In her 39+ years as Library Director of the Nancy Fawcett Memorial Library in Lodgepole, Norma's accomplishments are inspiring. She achieved and maintained accreditation, expanded the collection, and added computers, scanners and other technology. Working with Holly Woldt at the Commission, she connected the library with high-speed fiber optics in 2022. We celebrate and thank Norma for her dedication and advancement of library services to the Lodgepole Community.

Brownstone Family Foundation Book Fund Donation

*"Children who don't have books should have them.
They should be accessible,
because reading is a treasure for your whole lifetime."
Diane Brownstone*

To ensure that children have accessible books, Diane and Clyde R. Brownstone, owners of Gift Box Corporation of American, founded the Brownstone Book Fund in 1997. This private foundation is based in New York City.

Each year, states are chosen to receive children's books. In 2022, Nebraska was one of the selected states. One hundred libraries in the State each received 100 children's books. Of the 100, the proportional number of libraries to receive the books in the Western Library System was fifteen.

The libraries with the lowest annual budgets received the donations. In addition to the new books, the fund processed the books according to each library's cataloging standards. The fifteen libraries started receiving their books in January.



July 9, 1978 ~ February 20, 2023

In Memory of Laura DeVries

Laura DeVries was the South Platte School Librarian in Big Springs. According to her information on the schools website she taught there since 2014. Mrs. DeVries had an education degree with library and business endorsements from Chadron State College and a Master's Degree in Instructional Technology from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

She loved her family and proudly served the students at the South Platte Schools. She also said that she could drive a tractor/grain cart and loved to create on her computer.

All Together Now

Summer Reading Workshop

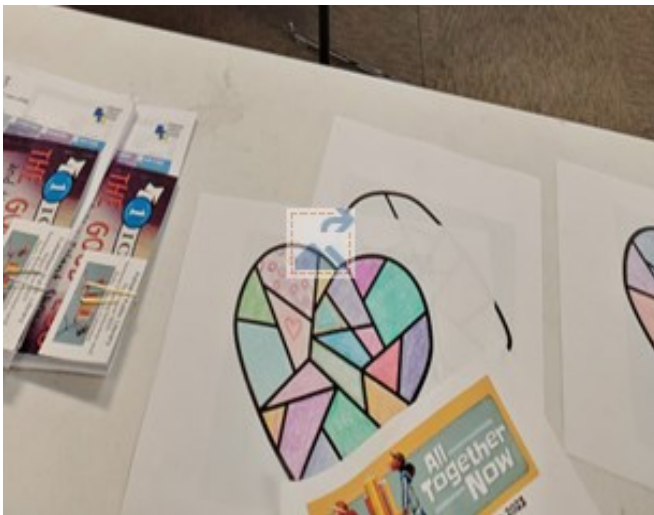
Kindness

Friendship

Unity



These pictures were taken from the February 21, workshop at the Hastings Memorial Library in Grant. We appreciated our hostesses, Robin Quinn, Val Foster and Sarah Pick. We were fortunate to have Amanda Sweet and Sally Snyder from the Nebraska Library Commission. It is always fun and inspiring to hear everyone's ideas. Unfortunately, the winter weather returned and the session in Alliance was cancelled. **It has been rescheduled for March 23 in Alliance. Details will becoming.**



Photos by Logan Allen and Zoom.

Clockwise: Registration table; Val Foster, Jennifer Holthus, Robin Quinn and Sally; Elaine Lake, Brittany Waltman, Val, Jennifer and Sally, the Drone and the Finch: Amanda Sweet

The Summer Reading Committee deserves accolades: Sarah Alfred (chair), Amelia Shada, Cindy Larson, Logan Allen and Sandy Lutz

Grant Opportunities

AARP Community Livability Grants focusing on residents 50+

American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is currently soliciting applications for 2023 funding for quick-action projects that can help your community become more livable for all residents, especially those age 50 and over.

Applications are due by March 15, 2023, 5:00 p.m. ET, and all projects must be completed by November 30, 2023. Applications must be submitted through <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/?cmp=RDRCT-61887811-20200707>, where you will also find full details about the grant program.

These grants are open to the following types of organizations: 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofits; Government entities; Other types of organizations considered on a case-by-case basis. AARP Community Challenge grants may be used to support three project types: **Permanent physical improvements** in the community; **Temporary demonstrations** that lead to long-term change, and **New, innovative programming** pilots or services.

Examples of previously funded Community Challenge Projects include:

Hazen (ND) Public Library: The library basement where there are meeting rooms and where a local arts association rents space was inaccessible and underutilized for community meetings. The library used grant funds to install two chair lifts in the two stairwells to ensure residents can safely attend community meetings at the library.

Avoca (IA) Public Library: The AARP Community Challenge grant funded the city's new "music park" outside of the public library. The location's oversized, weather-proof instruments require neither training nor talent to play. During the summer, Avoca closes its main street for a weekly farmer's market. The instruments provide a stay and play area that encourages people to spend time creating music outdoors and enjoy the downtown.

In 2023, the AARP Community Challenge is accepting applications across **three different grant opportunities, two of which are new this year. Organizations are eligible to apply for more than one grant opportunity and may submit multiple applications.**

1. Flagship Grants

Flagship Grants continue the successful Community Challenge grant program, first launched in 2017. Flagship Grants have ranged from several hundred dollars (\$500) for smaller, short-term activities to tens of thousands of dollars (\$50,000) for larger projects.

These grants offer a broad opportunity for communities to apply for funding across several project categories:

2. NEW! Capacity-Building Microgrants

By combining \$2,500 grants with additional resources — such as webinars, AARP Livable Communities publications, cohort learning opportunities, and/or up to two hours of one-on-one coaching with leading national organizations — this new grant opportunity will benefit residents (especially those age 50 or older) in the following categories:

Walkability: Implement a walk audit to assess and enhance the safety and walkability of a street or neighborhood with support from America Walks (<https://americawalks.org/>). Start or enhance a community garden with support from 880 Cities (<https://www.880cities.org/>), using the new AARP publication Creating Community Gardens for People of All Ages: <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/tool-kits-resources/info-2023/creating-community-gardens.html>

3. NEW! Demonstration Grants

Demonstration Grants are designed to encourage innovative replication of promising local efforts, drawn from previous projects from the Flagship Grants in Housing and Transportation. This new grant opportunity will benefit residents (especially those age 50 and older)

Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award

School librarians are invited to apply for a \$5,000 award recognizing outstanding humanities programming in kindergarten through eighth grade: <https://www.ala.org/tools/programming/jaffarianaward>



Recognizing outstanding humanities programming in K-8 school libraries

Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award

Apply at [ala.org/jaffarian](https://www.ala.org/jaffarian)

ALA American Library Association | AASL American Association of School Librarians

The graphic features a photograph of two children, a girl and a boy, smiling in a library setting. The text is arranged around the photo, with the award name in large green letters and the application link in a blue box at the bottom right.

Nominations for the [2023 Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award](https://www.ala.org/tools/programming/jaffarianaward) will be accepted until May 5, 2023.

Eligibility

U.S. school libraries, public or private, that serve children in any combination of grades K-8 are eligible, provided the library is staffed by a state-certified librarian. Libraries are encouraged to self-nominate. Nominated programs must have taken place during the current school year (2022-23).

The intent of the award is to recognize humanities programs that expand student horizons beyond "basic education." A humanities program can be focused in many subject areas, including but not limited to social studies, poetry, drama, art, music, language arts, foreign language and culture. Programs should focus on broadening perspectives and helping students understand the wider world and their place in it. The humanities program should be initiated and coordinated by the school librarian and exemplify the role of library programming in advancing the overall education goals for the school.

Recent Jaffarian Award-winners have included:

[Empathizing with Teens in Trauma: An Exploration of the Terezin Ghetto/Camp](#), a program where students researched the artwork, poetry and music created by teenagers in the Theresienstadt/Terezin Nazi concentration camp during World War II.

[Teaching the Tulsa Race Massacre with Guided Inquiry Design](#), a program that taught students about how assumptions create conflict in society using the Tulsa Race Massacre as an example. Students then completed research projects on assumptions causing conflict in the world today or in their own experience. Students chose a topic to research further.

[Junior Ambassadors](#), a program that brings a global perspective to students through a book club focused on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

[Poverty and Philanthropy](#), a program where students researched famous philanthropists including how much money they donate, which nonprofit they support, and why.

Named after the late Sara Jaffarian, a school librarian and longtime ALA member, ALA's Jaffarian Award was established in 2006 to recognize and promote excellence in humanities programming in elementary and middle-school libraries

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/>



Modern Library Awards

Want to know how Gale and Ebsco products are rated? Looking for a new scanner?

Library Works publishes an annual list of Modern Library Awards with award winners for products and services. The supplement describes the list as:

“The 2023 Modern Library Awards (MLAs) is proud to announce its review scores from participating companies in this special supplement to Library Products & Services News. The MLAs are an unbiased program recognizing the elite products and services that serve the library industry. Companies provided concise write-ups of their products/services and submitted them for review. These were then sent out to the LibraryWorks readership — librarians in public, academic, K-12, and special libraries — who then submitted their reviews on a 1-10 scoring system. Each judge had to have had experience with the product or service, and each participating company also had to provide four references of library placements to submit their forms. The LibraryWorks staff had no influence on the scoring. Awards were based on the scoring.”

LibraryWorks Inc. gave permission to the Western Sun to post the link to the awards. The production department provide the following link.

https://www.libraryworks.com/files/ugd/86e7f7_fe0a42b32bf240db9c57672ce368a847.pdf

Around the Sun

Bayard Public Library– Becky Henkel

Reprinted courtesy of NSPIRE TODAY! January 2023

Jeff Fielder, Editor

When Becky Henkel took over as the Bayard Public Library Director five and half years ago, her mission was to turn the library into a comfortable and attractive-looking place where both young and older people could enjoy a larger selection of reading material and audio books as well as lots of new programs, activities and equipment. Her ideas and the work she's been putting in have certainly been paying off as the number of people using the library has more than doubled since she arrived. But her mission is far from complete because she's seeking ways to improve the library – and the entire community – even more.



Becky Henkel, Bayard Public Library Director

Before Becky Henkel became the library director at the Bayard Public Library five and a half years ago, she didn't spend hardly any time reading books.

"I just never really took time to read." She said. "I looked at it as more of a chore"

Things are completely different now for Henkel. In fact, it's hard to find her without a book in her hands, even when she is not working at the library. She said would rather read a book than watch TV.

"Whether it's a new book or an older book. I love reading," said the 56-year-old Henkel, who noted that she particularly enjoys reading thrillers and romance books. "I no longer think of reading as a chore; I look at it as more of a privilege to be able to read."

Even when Henkel is busy doing other things at home or even away from home, she still finds ways to indulge in books through audio. "I really enjoy listening to audio books, especially when I'm driving." She said. "If I have to drive a long distance, I would rather listen to an audio book than just listen to the radio. Or if I'm cleaning at home, I'll put in an audio book and enjoy a book that way."

Since Henkel has only had a zest for reading books in recent years, some people might wonder how she got interested in being the library director at a time when she really wasn't into reading. The simple answer, Henkel said, is that she needed a full-time job.

"I was a para-educator at Bayard Public Schools in the special education department, but it wasn't a full-time, year-round job since we had the summers off." She said. "At the time we were a farming family but with the way the farming economy was, I needed to work full-time, and I needed to find a job with benefits for the whole family."

Stepping away from her para educator position wasn't easy for Henkel, who had been working at Bayard Public Schools for about six years. "It was very hard to leave the school," she said. "I loved working with all the kinds and helping them grow. I really enjoyed the class environment.

Therefore, one of the reasons Henkel was attracted to the library director's position was that she knew she would get to continue working around children and being part of their educational growth.

"I've always loved being around kids," said Henkel, who has three kids of her own: Emma Henkel, who's a senior at Bayard High School; Tanner Henkel, 22 who farms in Bayard; and Tyler Wilcox, 36, who works in IT in Texas. "For me, I enjoy being around kids, and I really enjoyed helping them learn, too, during those years I worked at the school. So, when this opportunity came up here at the library, I was really excited about it because I enjoy working with the public, and I thought it would be rewarding to help the kids get interested in books and reading." One of Henkel's top priorities after she became the library director in May 2017 was to build up the library's summer reading program. She's certainly achieved that goal. Before Henkel arrived, she said the summer reading program consisted of just under 20 kids. Now, the eight-week program attracts between 80 and 100.



"We do a lot of awesome activities during the summer for the kids – Like hands-on craft projects and bringing in special acts like magicians – and we give out prizes," Henkel said. "We've come up with a lot of ideas to make it really fun for kids, and all that stuff attracts kids,"

Another reason for the summer reading program's rapid growth is likely due to Henkel's close connection to Bayard Public School. Since she worked there prior to coming to the library, she already had good working relationships with the school staff.

"I bonded with the school and formed a really good relationship with them and the summer school, and that hadn't really happened before," she said.

Our theme this summer is going to be kindness," she said. "One of the things we are going to encourage kids to do are random acts of kindness for people in the community, like at the nursing home. I've already received a Youth for Excellence grant, so the \$700.00 will go toward supplies for those activities."

Something else Henkel has done is create a "Homework Hot Spot". Henkel applied for and was granted a federal government grant that allowed the library to hire a company to install a fiber optic cable, giving students access to high-speed internet to help them complete homework assignments.

The addition was so impactful that Gov. Pete Ricketts came to the Bayard Public Library to help kick off the new Homework Hot Spot.

"That was a really special day," Henkel said. "This place was full of students"

Although residents in Bayard have options to obtain cable, Henkel said that the Bayard Public Library is the only place in town that has fiber optic cable. One of her futures goals is to try to make it so other people in Bayard have the ability to get fiber cable, too, at their residence or business.

In recent years, Henkel has added other programs at the library geared for youth. For example, the library hosts several programs for teens "which is real popular right now." And she also started a Lego club, although that program was paused when covid hit.

The improvements that Henkel has made at the library haven't been done only with kids in mind. When she took over the library director position, her mission was to improve the facility in every way she could and what she's accomplished so far has been quite impressive.

One of the first things she did was get the Bayard Public Library accredited – for the first times since it opened in 1968. Being accredited, Henkel said, is important for several reasons, with the top reason being financially.

“My first big step here was becoming accredited because once you do that, you can apply for grants through the Nebraska Library Commission. Plus, you get state aid that way,” she said.

Once the Bayard Public Library became accredited, it started receiving about \$700.00 a year from the Nebraska Library Commission, money that can be used to purchase books or supplies.

“We have never had that before, so that was pretty huge.” She said. “That’s helped to get more books, and it helped us get supplies for the new activities we’ve offered.”

The accreditation also allowed the Bayard Public Library to receive a library improvement grant, which helped give the building a much needed face-lift.

“When I came here, the library still had the original carpet from when it opened in 1968, so two years ago, we were able to install new carpet, and we also got new LED lighting and new ceiling tiles,” she said. “Also, through the Nebraska Library Commission, I was able to get a grant that allowed us to get “TV’s” and equipment so we could have Zoom room, which is open to the public. It’s a spot where we can have author interviews. We also were able to get new tables and chairs.”

Also, each of the last three years, Henkel has applied for and been granted a \$1,000 summer internship grant. That’s been valuable for Henkel since she’s the only full-time employee at the library.

“I’ve been able to use that \$1000.00 to hire a student to work summer hours for the summer reading program,” she said. “That’s helped me a bunch.”

Thanks to other grants that Henkel has applied for and received, the library has been able to purchase Makerspace equipment, which allows patrons a chance to create things on their own with technology. Some of the equipment at the Bayard library includes a sewing machine, a button-maker, and a Cricut Maker, which cuts hundreds of materials quickly and accurately from the most delicate paper and fabric to mat board and leather.

“The Nebraska Library Commission had a traveling Makerspace program that went to different libraries in the state, and people could go to those libraries and use that equipment for a minimal cost.” Henkel said. “Our library isn’t big enough to house all of that equipment and figure out what would work best for our smaller library. I then applied for a grant from the Nebraska Library Commission three years ago to purchase some equipment. It’s really awesome technology that allows people to create different things, like making T-shirts or STEAM-based art projects, like making jewelry. Anyone can use it, but I’ve really enjoyed incorporating that equipment into our summer reading program.”

Another thing that Henkel has done is implement OverDrive, a digital distributor of eBooks, audiobooks, online magazine and streaming video titles. Patrons who have a library membership card can access any of these items.

“We only pay \$500.00 a year for that, and the Nebraska Library Commission pays the rest,” Henkel said. “The only reason we have that is because we are accredited.”

Henkel also helped start a book club that meets once a month at a library. Henkel has worked with the Nebraska Library Commission to obtain book kits.

“It’s a fun affordable way for us to get about 10 of the same books and some discussion questions,” she said. “The Nebraska Library Commission pays to mail them to us, and we pay to send them back. It’s worked out really well.”

Despite everything she’s done already for the library, Henkel has plans to do even more at the library in the future. One of her next projects is replacing some of the worn-out shelving units with new furniture, including metal shelves.

“Last year I got a grant from the Nebraska Library Commission for improvements, so we’re going to be getting new shelves and other furniture for books and audio books,” she said. “The interesting thing about that is all the furniture is being made by Cornhusker Industries, a state-run facility out of Lincoln in which all the stuff is made and delivered by prison inmates. They don’t even charge for delivery or setup. I’m really excited to be able to get new furniture. It should be here by the end of January or early February.”

Another thing on Henkel’s to-do list is to receive a grant that would allow the Bayard Public Library to convert all of its files from the local newspaper, the Bayard Transcript, into digital copies.

“That’s my next big project so people can find things on a computer instead of having to search through microfilm,” she said.

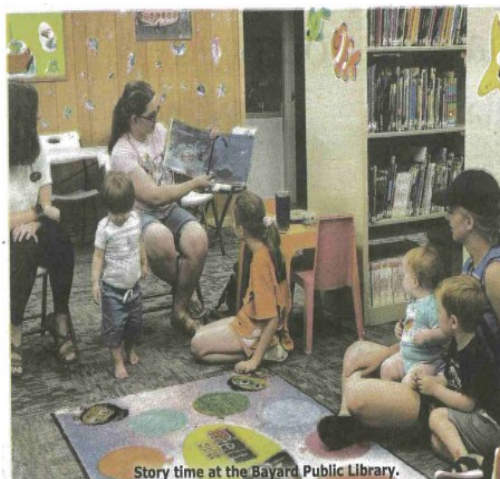
Another idea that Henkel has – which - is probably more of a long-term goal – is to construct a meeting room at the library.

“I think it would be really nice to have a private room where the book club could meet or where we could do a summer reading program or activity, or even for the general public to use for a meeting.” She said. “We don’t have a private meeting room here now, so if people want to meet here, they have to work around people coming in and out to use the library. So, if I could figure out a way to pay for a meeting room to be built here, I think that would be a great addition to the library, and it would be great for the community, too.”

Henkel said she loves making the library as nice and useful as it can be. She even changed the hours of the library to make it more accommodating to people. The library is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“When I first started, I was eager to make the library more inviting, and I wanted to try to attract more people here, too.” she said. “I feel like we’ve been able to do that by the improvements we’ve made to the library as well as all the equipment and programs we’ve added in the last five and a half years.”

Indeed. Since Henkel arrived, the number of people using the Bayard Public Library has more than doubled, she estimates. “It makes me feel good to see so many more people using the library and benefitting from everything we’ve added here,” she said. “I’m very pleased with where things are at right now with the library, but I’m not satisfied. I think there’s still ways to make our library better.”



“It looks so much nicer than it did before. It’s like night and day in here.” She said. “Before Becky came, the library was in desperate need of improvements. I think it was probably on the verge of closing down. But Becky has done an amazing job. It’s a big job, but she does it very well.”

Henkel pointed out that many other people deserve credit for the improvements and additions that have been made at the library in the last five and a half years. She thanked her part-time helpers, and she also lauded the Bayard Public Library Board, whose five members consist of Mandy Douglas, Jeanette Thompson, Linda Safford, Judy White and Rodney Olson.

“We have a very good library board. They’re great to work with,” Henkel said, “They’re willing to accept changes, and they’re vested in kids and our community. That’s what it takes to be able to do this.”

Henkel said she knows people in the Bayard community appreciate the upgrades and additions at the library.

“I always hear people say things like “Oh, it looks so nice in here” or I’m so glad you have what I need.” Henkel said. “I think the community is really excited about the changes that have been made, and they’re proud to call this their library.”

Henkel says nothing makes her happier than seeing kids and adults thoroughly enjoying their time at the library.

“I love seeing people happy when they come here,” she said. “Some people light up like a Christmas tree when they find out we have a new book or a new activity or program that they’re interested in. That’s what drives me – to think of new, fun, creative ideas to get people, both young and old, excited about coming to the library.”

Henkel said she hopes to continue serving as the library director for a long time. “It’s a rewarding job, she said. “I wouldn’t want to be doing anything else.”

Dalton Public Library—Article and Photos by Logan Allen

The Dalton Public Library in Dalton has had a successful year, despite lingering challenges stemming from the COVID-10 pandemic. According to Library Director Charles Powell, visitor numbers are starting to return to pre-pandemic levels, a sure sign that the library is an important resource for the community.

Homeschooling is gaining popularity across the country, and Powell said he's noticed an upward trend in Dalton, as well. "We have a couple of families come in regularly," he said. Public libraries are essential to these families who use the collection and access to technology to bolster their children's education, but the library also helps parents with other resources, like a subscription to *Practical Homeschooling* magazine.

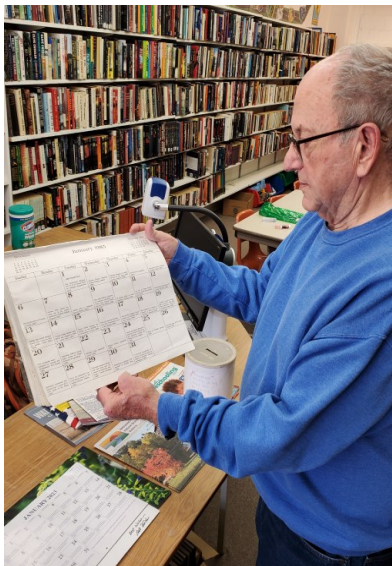
To make the library more accessible, Powell added an Onyx HD digital magnifier to its collection this year. The device features a high-definition camera and monitor to let visitors with poor eyesight see printed materials as well as faraway objects clearly.

Powell has been the library director for 11 years. "It's my ideal job," he said. A lifetime love of books, particularly works by W.E.B. Griffons, Clive Cussler and Tom Clancy, has made a career promoting literacy and learning in the community a natural fit.

The library's book club, in particular, is one of Powell's favorite programs, offering patrons a chance to engage with others, but Powell said they don't limit their discussion to literature. "About 2 hours later, we've got the world's problems solved," he said with a laugh.

Dalton is a close-knit community with a strong sense of history and tradition. Many of its residents are descendants of the original settlers and take pride in their community's heritage. Home to several historic buildings and landmarks that serve as reminders of its past and its place in the region's history, Dalton's library ranks among them.

Housed in an historic building—formerly the home of the Dalton Village Newspaper—the library is an architectural gem of small-town America. Greeting visitors at the entrance, brick and tile of contrasting colors give the space a vintage charm. Inside, you'll find an intimate collection reminiscent of a casual, independent bookstore, and Powell's friendly face to greet you at the circulation desk.



The Dalton Public Library collection contains some unique materials. Holding a local calendar printed in the mid-1980's, Director Charles Powell spoke to the preeminent role libraries play in preserving local history and culture.



You will find The Dalton Public Library at 306 Main Street in Dalton, just east of the Gold Rush Byway.



Library Director Charles Powell was quick to thank The Lied Scottsbluff Library for donating these book towers near the entrance to the library.

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/>

2023 One Book One Nebraska: The Mystery of Hunting's End	March 1
Read the Rainbow: Serving the LGBTQ+ Community In Your Library	March 8
Pretty Sweet Tech:	March 29
Creative Aging Arts Program for Nebraska Libraries	April 19
Pretty Sweet Tech:	April 26

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 15.

Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians

Class Dates	Class	Instructor
1/2 - 1/31	Communication*	Self-paced
2/6 - 2/17	Customer Service*	Christa Porter
3/6 - 3/17	Library Governance	Denise Harders
3/20 - 3/31	Library Technology	Amanda Sweet
4/1 - 4/30	Introduction to Cataloging (Organization of Materials)*	Self-paced
4/17 - 4/28	Library Finance	Holli Duggan
5/8 - 5/19	Intellectual Freedom / Core Values*	Cindy Osborne
6/5 - 6/16	Readers' Advisory	Tammi Thiem
7/3 - 7/14	Reference	Christa Porter
7/24 - 8/4	Library Policy	Holli Duggan
8/14 - 8/25	Collection Management*	Denise Harders
8/28 - 9/8	Programming & Outreach	Christa Porter
9/18 - 9/29	Community & Library*	Sam Shaw
10/16 - 10/27	Management/Supervision	Cindy Osborne
11/6 - 11/17	Leadership	Tammi Thiem
11/27 - 12/8	Library Services to Children & Teens	Sally Snyder

*= Required Class

Advocacy

The Nebraska State Senators are in session. There are significant bills with impact to public and school libraries.

On March 3, members of the Nebraska Library Association's Advocacy Committee and others will be meeting at the Lincoln Cornhusker Hotel. Then they will go to the State Capitol to meet their Senators to speak with them about the value of libraries and provide a library viewpoint on the bills. All the Senators are invited to lunch.

The Advocacy Committee works on behalf of all libraries in Nebraska. On the NLA website the committee is described as: "

The NLA Advocacy Committee provides opportunities for advocates to increase public awareness of the value of libraries and the library profession and plays a key role in formulating policies and standards that affect library service in the state.

Advocacy is a daily opportunity for every library supporter, starting locally and reaching across the nation. By our annual Advocacy Day in Lincoln, you will be ready to effectively inform our state Senators of library-related issues and best solutions.

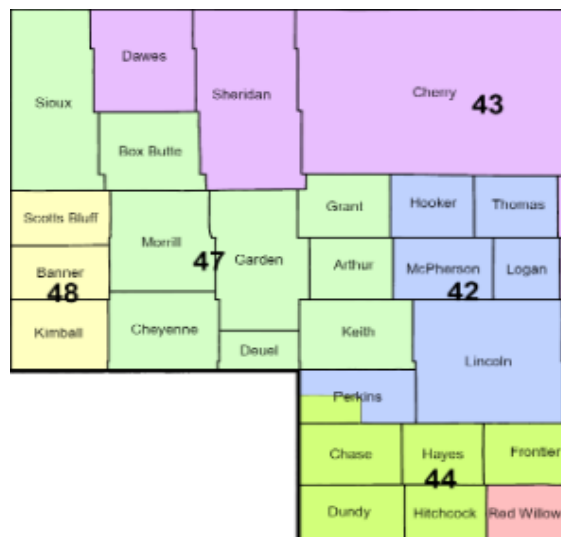
Our committee maintains a powerful tool for you to use when engaging with elected leaders about important library issues. Please check in with our [Advocacy Page](#) often and be ready to take action as needed by our Association

The following chart was prepared by Deb Robertson, Library Director ~ Kilgore Memorial Library, for the Nebraska Library Association's Advocacy Committee

Proposed Legislation	Description	Introduced by	Notes
LB71 Education Committee	Change provisions relating to parental involvement in and access to learning materials in schools Full text at: https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB71.pdf	Sen. Sanders	Hearing scheduled 1-31-23 Co-sponsors: Albrecht, Briesse, Linehan, Murman
LB374 Education Committee	Adopt the Parents' Bill of Rights and Academic Transparency Act Full text at: https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB374.pdf	Sen. Murman	Hearing scheduled 1-31-23 Co-sponsors: Albrecht, Brewer, Clements, Erdman, Lippincott, Moser Name added: DeKay
LB441 Judiciary Committee	Change provisions relating to obscenity Full text at: https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB441.pdf	Sen. Albrecht	
LB635 Education Committee	Provide requirements regarding access to digital and online resources provided for students by school districts, schools, and the Nebraska Library Commission Full text at: https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Intro/LB635.pdf	Sen. Albrecht	

Here are the State Senators for the Western Library System if you would like to contact them regarding these bills or other bills that may be of concern for your libraries and your communities.

- Your State Senator:
- District 42: Mike Jacobson
- District 43: Tom Brewer
- District 44: Teresa Ibach
- District 27: Steve Erdman
- District 48: Brian Harding



Resources for Librarians



National Library Week 2023, April 23-29, will be celebrated with the theme "There's More to the Story."

The American Library Association provides the following information on National Library Week.

"National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.

In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions and musical instruments. Concerned that Americans were reading less, the ALA and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizens organization called the National Book Committee in 1954. The committee's goals were ambitious. They ranged from "encouraging people to read in their increasing leisure time" to "improving incomes and health" and "developing strong and happy family life."

In 1957, the committee developed a plan for National Library Week based on the idea that once people were motivated to read, they would support and use libraries. With the cooperation of ALA and with help from the Advertising Council, the first National Library Week was observed in 1958 with the theme "Wake Up and Read!" The 2023 celebration marks the 65th anniversary of the first event.

Libraries are full of stories in a variety of formats from picture books to large print, audiobooks to ebooks, and more. But there's so much more to the story. Libraries of Things lend items like museum passes, games, musical instruments, and tools. Library programming brings communities together for entertainment, education, and connection through book clubs, storytimes, movie nights, crafting classes, and lectures. Library infrastructure advances communities, providing internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for businesses, job seekers, and entrepreneurs.

National Library Week 2023 will be a great time to tell your library's multi-faceted story

Celebration Days During National Library Week

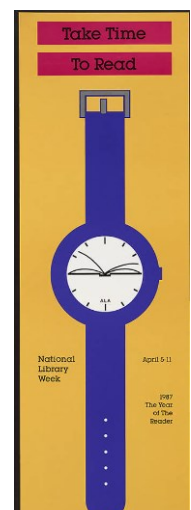
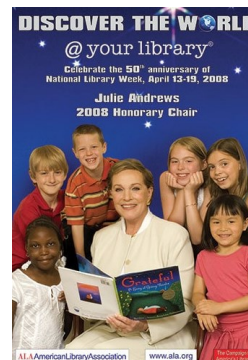
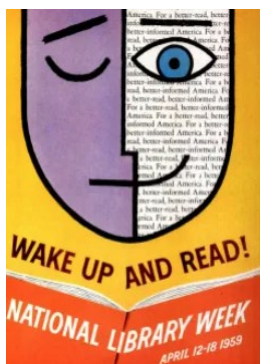
Monday, April 24: State of America's Libraries Report released, including Top Ten Frequently Challenged Books of 2022.

Tuesday, April 25: 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 26: National Library Outreach Day, a day to celebrate library outreach and the dedicated library professionals who are meeting their patrons where they are.

Thursday, April 27: Take Action for Libraries Day, a day to rally advocates to support libraries.

Posters through the years beginning with the first one in 1958, 1967, 2008 and 1987.



April 7 National Walking Day—”put on your walkin’ shoes”

Information from [National Days Today.com](https://www.nationaldays.com)

Why National Walking Day?

This special national holiday is appreciated particularly in the United States and encourages men, women, girls, boys, young and old alike to embrace walking every so often. The day comes on the first Wednesday of every month of April and recognizes the easiest and most natural way to promote good health.

If people can walk for approximately 30 minutes a day, this would go a very long way in enabling better health. Research has revealed that walking is very value-adding to the health of an individual, particularly because of its contributions in preventing diseases such as type 2 diabetes, cancer, and heart conditions among other ailments. This day, calls to everyone, regardless of their gender and age, to get out of the house or car and stretch their legs for some time in the act of walking. Give your heart a chance to achieve some really valuable pumping. Some of the benefits of walking as proposed by clinicians include the fact that it helps burn or break down accumulated fats from the body, with a specific focus on the areas around the heart, thereby sparing the individual from developing heart conditions.

This is a special day and is even sponsored by the American Heart Association, all in the spirit of reminding people concerning the benefits of taking a walk. The day calls you out to put on your sneakers and engage in progressive walking, either to work or to the park.

Interesting facts about National Walking Day:

Some of the most interesting facts about this day include:



- According to fossilized footprints, it is very likely that humans were walking similar to how we do today about 1.5 million years ago.
- The 1700s marked the period during which pedestrianism entered the modern lexicon as a popular sport for betting. The bet involved determining who could walk the longest, fastest, and still keep the proper gait.

- 1965 marked the year when Y. Hatano created a pedometer. This innovation was based on the concept of 10,000 steps a day. The creation is a direct translation of the term manpo-kei.

History of National Walking Day:

The history of this day has been traced to have originated from the American Heart Association. The day was launched in 2007 in an effort to promote healthy living. Since this inauguration, Americans have embraced this tradition, with many people making it their lifestyle to walk to work. Gather friends, family, co-workers and patrons and walk on April 7th and everyday!

Writings about Walking

Enjoy this eclectic compilation of writings about walking. All are in alphabetical order by title, except the famous essay by Henry David Thoreau.

Walking, Henry David Thoreau, 1861

52 Ways to Walk: The Surprising Science of Walking for Wellness and Joy, One Week at a Time, Annabel Streets, 2022

A History of the World in 500 Walks, Sarah Baxter, 2016

A Philosophy of Walking, Frederic Gros, 2015

A Walk Across America, Peter Jenkins, 1979

How to Walk (Mindfulness Essentials, Book 4 of 9) Thich Nhat Hanh: 2015

I'll Push You: A Journey of 500 Miles, Two Best Friends, and One Wheelchair, Patrick Gray and Justin Skeesuck, 2017

In Praise of Paths: Walking Through Time and Nature, Tobjørn Ekelund, 2020

In Praise of Walking: A New Scientific Exploration, Shane O'Mara, 2019

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, Rachel Joyce, 2012

A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail, Bill Bryson, 1988

Walking Home: A Poet's Journey, Simon Armitage, 2012

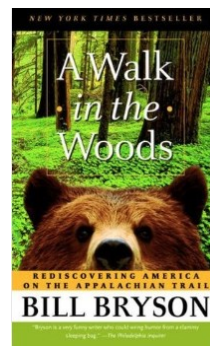
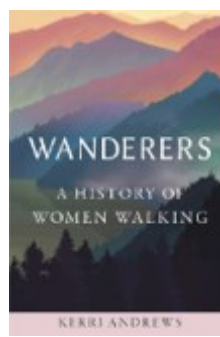
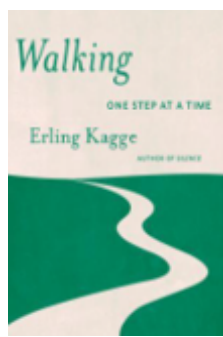
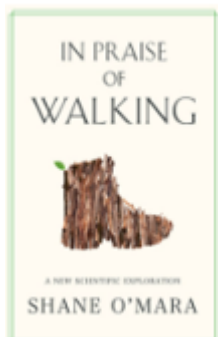
Walking: One Step at a Time, Erling Kagge, 2019

Wanderers: A History of Women Walking, Kerri Andrews, 2021

Wanderlust: A History of Walking, Rebecca Solnit, 2001

We are Pilgrims: Journeys in Search of Ourselves, Victoria Preston, 2021

Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Coast Trail, Cheryl Strayed, 2013



Earth Day ~ April 12, 2023

Invest in our Planet

Nebraska Public Media is supporting Earth Day with the new NOVA documentary *Weathering the Future*.

Here is their press release:

Screening Opportunity: New NOVA documentary *Weathering the Future*

Looking for programming ideas around Earth Day this April? Or wanting to screen a science documentary this summer? NOVA will premiere a new documentary, *Weathering the Future*, on Wednesday, April 12. This film will be available for libraries and community groups to use for free public events!



Weathering the Future examines the dramatic ways in which our weather is changing. From longer, hotter heat waves, to more intense rainstorms, to megafires and multi-year droughts, the U.S. is experiencing the full range of impacts from a changing global climate. At the same time, many on the front lines are fighting back—innovating solutions, marshaling ancient wisdom, and developing visionary ideas. The lessons they are learning today can help all of us adapt in the years ahead, as the planet gets warmer and our weather gets more extreme.

NOVA will be creating a discussion guide and outreach toolkit to help facilitate community events. Excerpts from the film will be available for free community screenings before April 12. The full film will be available for free screenings after the April 12 broadcast premiere.

If you are interested potentially holding an event, please contact Maggie Berndt, community engagement manager at Nebraska Public Media: mberndt@nebraskapublicmedia.org.

She will share your information with the NOVA team so that you can receive the film for screening and the other supplemental materials when they are available.

[Learn more about the film and NOVA's "Climate Across America" campaign.](#)



Organizations offering Earth Day Resources.

Environmental Protection Agency [Student Lesson Plans and Teacher's Guide](#)

[Earth Day.org](#)

EARTHDAY.ORG's mission is to diversify, educate and activate the environmental movement worldwide. Growing out of the first Earth Day in 1970, EARTHDAY.ORG is the world's largest recruiter to the environmental movement, working with more than 150,000 partners in over 192 countries to drive positive action for our planet. This site offers tool kits and fact sheets.

[Teachers Pay Teachers](#) offers creative, educational resources for a nominal fee.

May is



To observe and promote Mental Health Month, the Western Library System is offering an incentive to academic, school and public libraries to support May Mental Health Awareness Month. Prepare a book display or plan other activities and send a short article and picture for publication in the Western Sun. The WLS will provide funding up to \$30.00 for mental health books or materials for your library or school. You will select the item and the System will pay or reimburse you.

ESU 13, Panhandle Partnership, Western Community Health Resources, Chadron Public Library, local mental health professionals and Chadron State College and others partner each year to promote Mental Health Awareness Month. Activities include promotional information and lighting of C-Hill in lime green, which is the symbolic color for the commemoration.



Avon Free Public Library's Display, Avon, Connecticut



THE PANHANDLE OF NEBRASKA RAISING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS #daretobementalhealthaware #greenribbon

HOW YOU CAN RAISE AWARENESS FROM HOME!

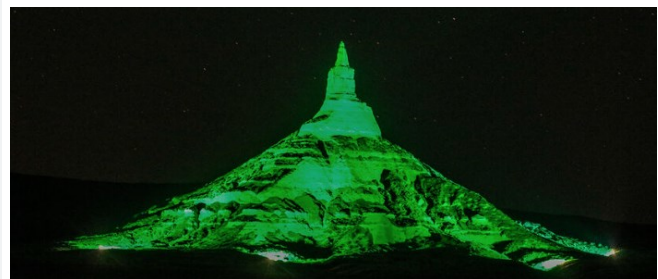
1. WEAR GREEN SATURDAY, MAY 9 FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

2. CREATE CHALK ART MESSAGES PROMOTING MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS!!

3. HAVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND HELP STOP THE STIGMA!

RAISE AWARENESS & SHOW SUPPORT BY UPLOADING PICTURES TO FACEBOOK AND TAGGING @MHAWARENESSNEPANHANDLE

Don't Have A Facebook? We'll Add It For You! Please Email Your Photos! jessica.lecher@panhandlepartnership.com



Chimney Rock National Monument honors the month with green lighting.

For more ideas, check the 2022. [Mental Health Awareness Toolkit](#) ! The 2023 Toolkit will be available the third week of March.

Resources for Librarians

Cuéntame," with Meg Medina ` National Ambassador for Young People's Literature



The Library of Congress and [Every Child a Reader](#) has named Cuban American writer Meg Medina as its new national ambassador for young people's literature. Medina, who writes children's and young adult fiction, is the first Latinx ambassador in the program's history.

"It's a huge honor, but it also comes balanced with this enormous responsibility, My job is to help America's children construct a reading life."

She takes over the ambassador role from young-adult writer Jason Reynolds.

"That's been one of the encouraging things of watching children's literature, the community develop in recent years," Medina says. "We're getting more varied stories that really match who's in the seats in our schools right now."

Medina's middle-grade novel "[Merci Suárez Changes Gears](#)," which won the prestigious Newbery Medal for children's literature in 2019, is part of that wave.

"My books always center on three things: Growing up, culture and family. And how those three things intersect," Medina says. "Sometimes they're beautiful intersections and sometimes they're really bumpy, right?"

Throughout her two-year term as ambassador, Medina will engage with readers across the country with her platform, "Cuéntame," which encourages book discussions beyond the classroom. "¡Cuéntame!: Let's Talk Books," will focus on bringing children and their families and communities together, both inside and outside the classroom, by discussing books. Fittingly, the idea emerged during a conversation with her daughter Sandra. Medina explained, "When Spanish-speaking people meet and they haven't seen each other for a while, it always starts with the gentle expression *cuéntame—how are you? So tell me!*" Literally, she said, "the awkward, clunky direct translation is *story me*. That really seemed to resonate for me with how children think about books and stories and connection. Tell me about books, tell me about what's going on in your library, tell me what your favorite thing was," Medina says. Literally, she said, "the awkward, clunky direct translation is *story me*. That really seemed to resonate for me with how children think about books and stories and connection."

Medina will be touring schools around the country to talk with students in person, as well as maintaining an online presence to interact with students through social media and other platforms. Some activities will be available in both English and Spanish.

"The power of reading is in its ability to help people sort of see themselves in the pages, understand themselves and how they act and feel," Medina says. "It's in helping build empathy for other people."

In addition to her Newbery Award, she won the Pura Belpré Award for [Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass](#) in 2014. The Pura Belpre award was established in 1996 and is presented to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.

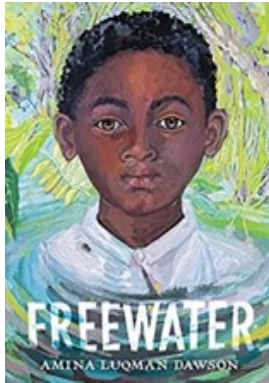
Information from Library of Congress, NPR and Publishers Weekly.

Meg Medina's Bibliography

- ◆ *Tia Isa Wants a Car* (2011)
- ◆ *Tia Isa Quiere Un Carro* (2012)
- ◆ *The Girl Who Could Silence the Wind* (2012)
- ◆ *Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass* (2013)
- ◆ *Mango, Abuela and Me* (2015)
- ◆ *Mango, Abuela Y Yo* (2015)
- ◆ *Burn Baby Burn* (2016)
- ◆ *Yaqui Delgado Quiere Darte Una Paliza* (2016)
- ◆ *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* (2018)
- ◆ *Merci Suárez se pone las pilas* (2020)
- ◆ *Evelyn del Rey is Moving Away* (2020)
- ◆ *Evelyn del Rey se muda* (2020)
- ◆ *Sonia Sotomayor* (2021)
- ◆ *Merci Suárez Can't Dance* (2021)

Youth Media Awards—2023 American Library Association

For the complete list of winners and honor books go to [American Library Associations Youth Media Award Winners](#).



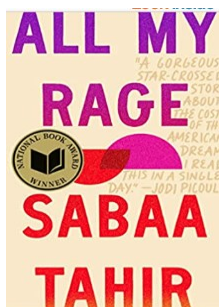
Winner of the **John Newbery Medal** for the most outstanding contribution to children's literature and the **Coretta Scott King (Author) Book Award** recognizing an African American Author and illustrator of outstanding books for children and young adults

Freewater, Amina Luqman-Dawson. Jimmy Patterson/Little, Brown Books for young readers,

This inspiring book, which won two awards is described by the publisher as:

"A lyrical, accessible historical middle-grade novel about two enslaved children's escape from a plantation and the many ways they find freedom.

Deeply inspiring and loosely based on the history of maroon communities in the South, this is a striking tale of survival, adventure, friendship and courage."

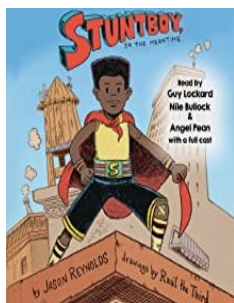


Randolph Caldecott Medal for the most distinguished American picture book for children:

Hot Dog, Doug Salati, author and illustrator, Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House.

Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in literature written for young adults:

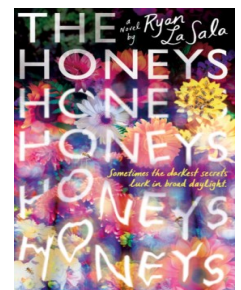
All my rage, Savaa Tahir, Razorbill, imprint of Penguin Young Readers, a division of Random House



Odyssey Award for the best audiobook produced for children and young adults.

Winner for children: **Stuntboy, in the Meantime**, Taryn Beato, narrated by Guy Lockard with a full cast, Simon and Schuster

Young adult winner: **The Honey's**, Melissa Ellard, narrated by Pete Cross, Scholastic Audio



The following three **Pura Belpré Awards** honor Latino/Latina writers and illustrators whose children's and young adult books best portray, affirm and celebrate the Latino cultural experience.



Young Adult Illustration Award : *Where Wonder Grows*, illustrated by Adriana Garcia, Cinco Puntos Press, an imprint of Lee & Low Books, Inc.

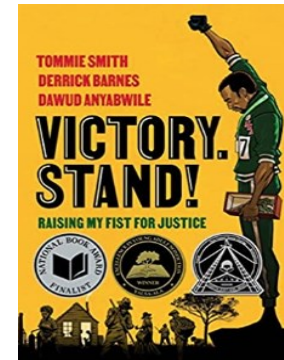
Children's Author Award: *Frizzy*, Claribel A. Ortega, First Second, A Division of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

Young Adult Author Award: *Burn Down, Rise Up*, Vincent Tirado, Sourcebooks Fire, an imprint of Sourcebooks.



YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults:

Victory. Stand!: Raising My Fist for Justice, Tommie Smith and Derrick Barnes, Norton Young Readers, an imprint of W. W. Norton.



Theodor Seuss Geisel Award is given to the most distinguished beginning reader book.
I Did It written and illustrated by Michael Emberley. Holiday House.

Asian/Pacific American Award for Children's Literature, *Maizy Chen's Last Chance*, Lisa Yee, Random House Books for young readers, an imprint of Random House children's books a division of Penguin Random House.

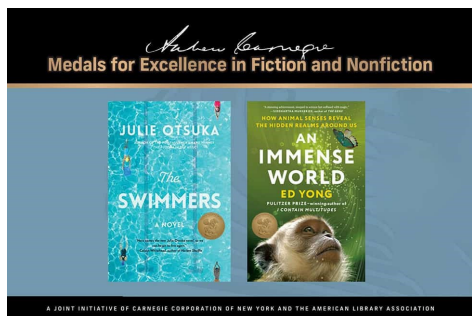


Alex Awards for the ten best adult books that appeal to teen audiences:

- A Lady's Guide to Fortune-Hunting*, Sophie Irwin
- Babel, Or the Necessity of Violence: An Arcane History of the Oxford Translators' Revolution*, R. F. Kuang
- Chef's Kiss*, Jarrett Melendez
- Daughter of the Moon Goddess*, Sue Lynn Tan
- I'm Glad My Mom Died*, Jennette McCurdy
- Solito: A Memoir*, Javier Zamora
- The High Desert: Black, Punk, Nowhere*, James Spooner
- The Kaiju Preservation Society*, John Scalzi
- True Biz*, Sara Nović
- Wash Day Diaries*, Jamila Rowser



Andrew Carnegie Award for Fiction and Nonfiction



The American Library Association (ALA) has selected *The Swimmers* (Knopf) by Julie Otsuka as the winner of the 2023 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction, and *An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us* (Random House) by Ed Yong as the winner of the 2023 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction.



ARSL Conference 2023 ~ Wichita, Kansas ~ September 20-23

On the ARSL website the conference is described as: “the conference for rural and small libraries *. Our conference planners and presenters understand the constraints of shoestring budgets, small spaces, and limited staffing within small and rural libraries, as well as the unique opportunities for innovation and collaboration. Our conference is packed full of information you can take right back to your library—no scaling down required. “

Funding Opportunities!!!!

The Nebraska Library Commission and the Western Library System offer grants and scholarships for you!

Nebraska Library Commission

Continuing Education Grant—applications will be accepted from March for activities after July 2023

The NLC grants for ARSL are unique as the amount is a flat \$500.00 to attend

Western Library System

Complete a paper or online form (page 26). Up to \$300.00 may be awarded.

The money can be used for:

- ARSL membership dues
- Conference Registration
- Travel or food allocation

This scholarship requires a short article (pictures are a nice addition) for the Western Sun.

The ARSL Conference is a wonderful opportunity to meet with like-minded library staff who understand what it is like to operate in a small and/or rural library* Learn new advancements, collaborate with people across the nation and enjoy a time for personal and professional growth and fun.

Contact the WLS office if you are interested in connecting with the Eastern Nebraska libraries to ride together. There may be several options.

*The definition of small and rural is a service area of less than 25,000 people.



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 [Registration Form](#)
 615 S. Beltline Hwy West
 Scottsbluff, NE 69361 Email: wls@westernlibrarysystem.com

Featured Resource from the Nebraska Library Commission

[Government Documents](#)

Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse

In 1972 the State Legislature created the **Nebraska Publications Clearinghouse**, a service of the Nebraska Library Commission. Its purpose is to provide access to and assistance in locating government information for Nebraska citizens, staff of Nebraska libraries and state agencies, and the Nebraska legislature.

[State Documents Program](#) Nebraska state documents are collected to ensure access and preservation for future generations.

[Online State Documents](#) Documents are downloaded or scanned for online access.

[Federal Depository Library Program](#) As a selective depository NLC selects documents supporting the needs of our customers.

[Documents Mailing Lists](#) Tools to facilitate communication among state and federal government information users.

[Publications](#) Annual compilations of state publications, *Guide to Nebraska State Agencies*, *What's Up Doc?*

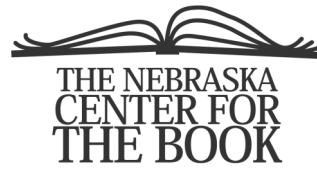
[Resources for Government Information](#)



Nebraska
Library
Commission



and the



One Book One Nebraska ~ 2023

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.

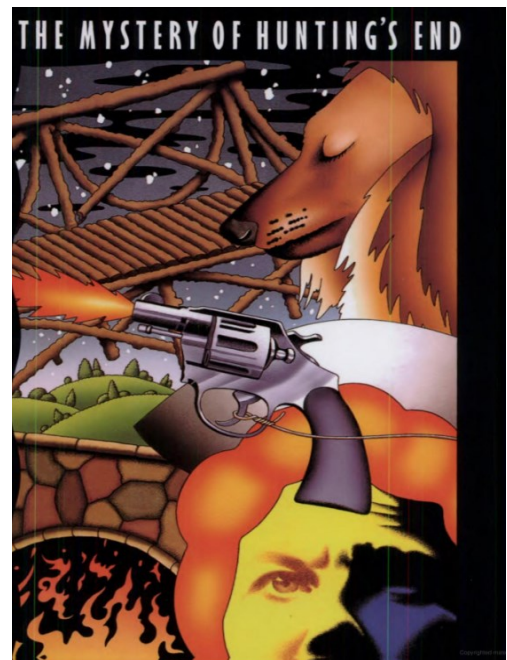
Libraries across Nebraska will join other literary and cultural organizations in planning book discussions, activities, and events that will encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this book. Support materials to assist with local reading/discussion activities are available at <http://onebook.nebraska.gov>.

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>.

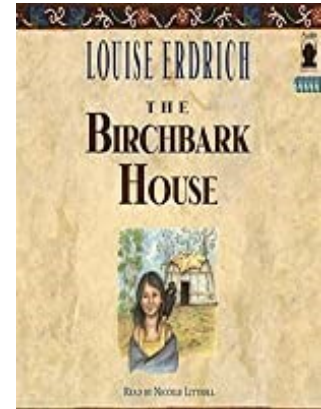
One Book One Nebraska is sponsored by Nebraska Center for the Book, Humanities Nebraska, and Nebraska Library Commission. The Nebraska Center for the Book brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the 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

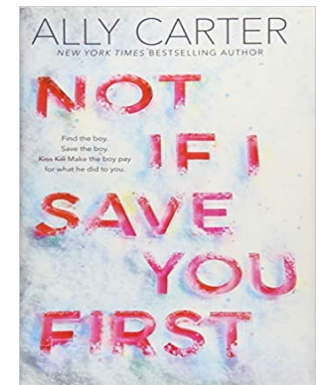
Kids: *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich

Links	Activities
Author Information	Alphabet Soup
Discussion Prompts from Scholastics	Snowball Fight
Book Club Kit	Indigenous Tribes of Nebraska
Sounds of The Birchbark House	Mini Book Review Sheet



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

Links	Activities
Book Website	Mad Libs
Author Information	Headbands Game
Discussion Guide from The Little By Little Home	Snowball Fight
Book Club Kit	Mini Book Review Sheet
	How to Make an Axe Throwing Game from I Like To Make Stuff



Book Club Kits

The Western Library System circulates the following bookkits.

The number of copies varies with each kit. The selections in **bold** are One Book One Nebraska bookkits.

Newer donations to the book club kit collection.

Book Woman of Troublesome Creek—Kim Michelle Richardson (donated by the Hemingford Public Library)

Canyons-Gary Paulsen

Rain Dogs—Sean Doolittle (donated by the Palisade Public Library)

- ◇ **All the Gallant Men: An American Sailor's Firsthand Account of Pearl Harbor**—Donald Stratton
- ◇ Because of the Rabbit—Cynthia Lord
- ◇ **Bones of Paradise**—Jonis Agee
- ◇ **Death Zones and Darling Spies: Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting**—Beverly Deepe Keever
- ◇ Dragon Hoops—Gene Luen Yan
- ◇ Dragon Ops—Mari Mancusi
- ◇ Lion of Mars—Jennifer L. Holm
- ◇ The Line Between—Tosca Lee
- ◇ **The Meaning of Names**—Karen Shoemaker
- ◇ **The Mystery of Hunting's End**—Mignon Eberhart
- ◇ News of the World: A Novel-Paulette Jiles
- ◇ **Oh Pioneers**—Willa Cather
- ◇ **Prairie Forge: The Extraordinary Story of the Nebraska Scrap Metal Drive of World War II**—James J. Kimble
- ◇ Roll with It—Jamie Sumner
- ◇ A Single Light —Tosca Lee
- ◇ Strike Zone—Mike Lupica
- ◇ Twins-Varian Johnson, Shannon Wright
- ◇ Where the Crawdads Sing—Delia Owens (with DVD and audiobook)



Western Library System Board

The Western Library Board (WLS) personifies 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.

Background:

Board Members are elected for three year terms and can serve two consecutive terms. The terms are staggered to ensure continuity and fresh perspectives. The elections are held annually. Each academic, school, public and special member library receives one vote.

The following areas of representation will be on the ballot.

- District B: Banner, Morrill and Scotts Bluff Counties
- District E: Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins Counties
- Public Library Representative: 2 positions
- School Library Representative: 1 position

Timeline for the Nominating and Election Process

The Western Library System’s Policies and Procedures provide the timeline from nominations to installation.

By April 1: *If you are interested in becoming a Board Member and can represent one of the open positions, please contact the WLS office at wls@westernlibrarysystem.com or 308-632-350 with your name, your library or village/ city you reside. Your information will be given to the nominating committee.*

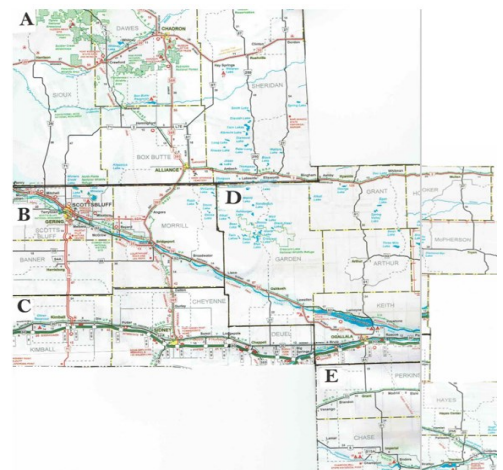
By April 15: The Nominating Committee provides the WLS Office with the slate of nominees.

By May 1: Member libraries vote on the election (One vote per library)

By May 5: Votes compiled and announced.

Annual Meeting: New Board members and Officers are installed.

For more information on exploring the possibility of becoming a Board member, please contact the office or contact one of the active Board Members who are listed on page 31.



SAVE THE DATE ~ 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Trailblazing New Frontiers

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023

9:30: REGISTRATION

10:00: MEETING



UNSPASHED ~ JEFFREY HAMIL

Loren Pospicil, Site Manager of the Chimney Rock National Historic Site and Visitors Center, will be our featured speaker. The Center is located along the historic Oregon Trail and Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail in Morrill County.

TON

The meeting will be held at Bobbi Jo's Branding Iron 587 Main Street in Bayard. 4.1 miles from the Visitor's



Detailed information and registration forms will be available by May 1 to include our school librarians with all the specifics so everyone may join us.

Be thinking about wearing your best pioneer outfit. There will be a contest with prizes.

A photo "op" will be available in front of the Chimney Rock mural (picture above) at Bobbi Jo's.

Pioneer dress is not required to attend or for the picture.

The Annual Meeting Committee is diligently working on making this a memorable Annual Meeting.

Amber Sweetland (chair): Becky Henkel, Cheryl Paul, Logan Allen; Rossella Tesch.

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.

Professional development and business books added in the last year include:

Intellectual Freedom Manual

Nebraska State Government Publications 2022

Public Library Directors

Roberts Rules of Order

Strategic Planning for Libraries

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 Libib.



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.

You make your own repairs. The office offers print and YouTube instructions for this self-service. Call the office for an appointment.



The Eco Autosmart Repair System is a full service machine, not just a buffer. It cleans and repairs your valuable discs. The machine repairs scratched (not cracked) discs. The office will repair your discs for you. Bring your items to the office or mail them to us.

Western Library System Board of Directors

Amber Sweetland, President
Becky Henkel
Beth Falla, Vice President
Cheryl Hamilton
Elaine Lake
Ethan Nelson
Jennifer Holthus
Judy Starke
Rossella Tesch
Sarah Alfred, Secretary
Sharon Schluterbusch

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