



# Southeast Signal

*News, Events, and Information from Around the System*

## From the Director



“The enemy of art is the absence of limitations.” – Orson Welles

Just a few months ago, we reran an article I wrote in October 2016 about going outside of the box when

thinking of new services, programs, or to solve problems and how the limitations we see aren’t always what they seem to be. This month I want to address dealing with boundaries that are real and cannot be ignored.

I want to share an extreme example of successful creativity within limits. In November of 1975, improvisational jazz pianist Keith Jarrett is scheduled to perform in Köln. The concert would take place late at night, Jarrett travelled by car to Köln from Zürich, and the piano delivered for the concert was not the one requested. It was in poor condition and took several hours to get it in tune and even then, the sound was tinny on one end, weak on the other, and the pedals didn’t work.

The only reason he performed was that the recording equipment was already set up. And it is a good thing it was, as The Köln Concert became the best-selling solo album in jazz history, as well as the best-selling jazz piano album in jazz history.

Since we are librarians, there’s a few examples in literature that the author created constraints for themselves for a piece. How about a famous one –

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss only uses 50 different words for the whole story, to win a bet he made for \$50 with an editor.

Librarians also adapted and improvised during the pandemic. The expectation was still the same; to provide information and recreation to the community, it just couldn’t be done the usual way.

We’ve seen that working within limitations can make some interesting things happen. This isn’t doing more with less, this is adaptation. Doing things differently because the situation is different. It creates a different type of focus – thinking less broadly and more deeply.

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# Calendar

January 17, CASTL, Mead and Yutan Public Libraries,  
“Traveling Books & Traveling Librarians”

January 20, Martin Luther King Day (SELS Office Closed)

January 21, Squirrel Appreciation Day

January 28, Data Privacy Day

January 29, National Puzzle Day

February, National Library Lovers Month

Black History Month

February 2, Groundhog Day

February 8, National Kite Flying Day

February 9, National Pizza Day

February 12, [Online Workshop, Discovering Ancestral Roots with MyHeritage Library Edition](#)

February 14, Valentine’s Day

February 20, CASTL, Syracuse Public Library, “Writing Policies”



*February will be*

**NATIONAL  
LIBRARY  
LOVERS  
MONTH**



# Continuing Education

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

January 17  
Mead and Yutan Public Libraries  
"Traveling Books & Traveling Librarians"

February 20  
Syracuse Public Library  
"Writing Policies"

March 20  
Fairmont Public Library  
"Food and Libraries"

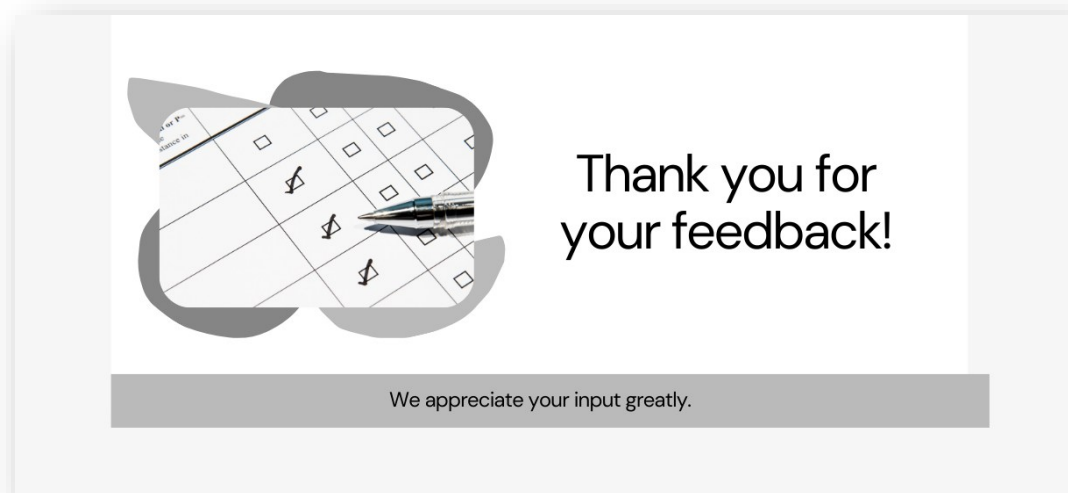
April 25  
Osceola Public Library

## Continuing Education Survey

When we plan continuing education at SELS, we actively try to create offerings that meet your needs. Part of that process is deciding not to pursue ideas that don't meet the needs commonly found in our member libraries. In a world where "small libraries" are often defined as libraries serving anywhere from 10,000 to 100,000 people, many of the ideas in publications and at conferences are not a good fit for our member libraries. Instead, many of the best ideas for topics and workshops come from you.

While some ideas get communicated verbally, via email, or even on an event evaluations, we think it's time to intentionally gather your feedback. So let us know what you would like as far as continuing education and training. Thanks for your time and effort!

[Click here to give your input.](#) The survey will be open until February 14. Thank you!



# Upcoming Basic Skills Classes

To see the list of basic skills classes, [click here](#). Here's what's coming up next:

Dates of Class	Topic	Registration
2/3 - 2/14	<a href="#">Customer Service*</a>	12/22 - 1/24
3/3 - 3/14	<a href="#">Library Governance</a>	1/20 - 2/21
3/17 - 3/28	<a href="#">Library Technology</a>	2/3 - 3/7

# News Around the System

## Presentation about Buffalo Bill in Seward

Provided by Sherri Payne

The Seward Memorial Library is excited to announce that we will be having another Humanities Nebraska presentation in February! Join us on February 9 at 2:00 PM as Jeff Barnes tells the story of William Frederick Cody, better known as Buffalo Bill. Buffalo Bill is one of the best-known figures of the American Old West and made his home in Nebraska. Follow his life from the days he spent as an Indian scout, to being a hunting guide to the rich and finally, as the creator of "Buffalo Bill's Wild West." Humanities Nebraska (HN) presentation is providing major funding for this program. HN receives support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Nebraska State Legislature, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and the D.F. Dillon Foundation.



## The Origin of "Library"—and Libraries Themselves

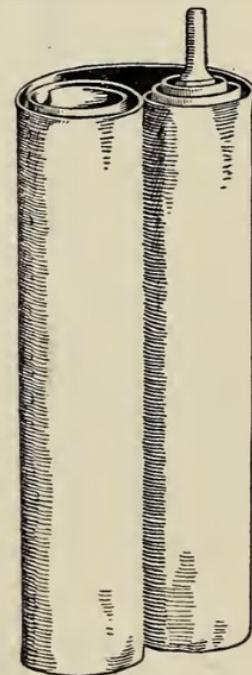
In English, **Library** comes from the **Latin** word **liber**, meaning **book**.

Other European languages mostly use a different root for their word for library. They use the ancient **Greek** word for **book**, which is **βιβλίον (biblḗion)**, and originally meant "scroll." Examples are:

- **Polish:** *biblioteka*
- **Portuguese:** *biblioteca*
- **Russian:** *библиотека (biblioteka)*
- **Spanish:** *biblioteca*
- **Swedish:** *bibliotek*
- **Ukrainian:** *бібліотека (biblioteka)*

A short history of libraries is [here](#). A much more comprehensive history [can be found here](#).

As we know, today's libraries have become much more than buildings housing books!



# News Around the System

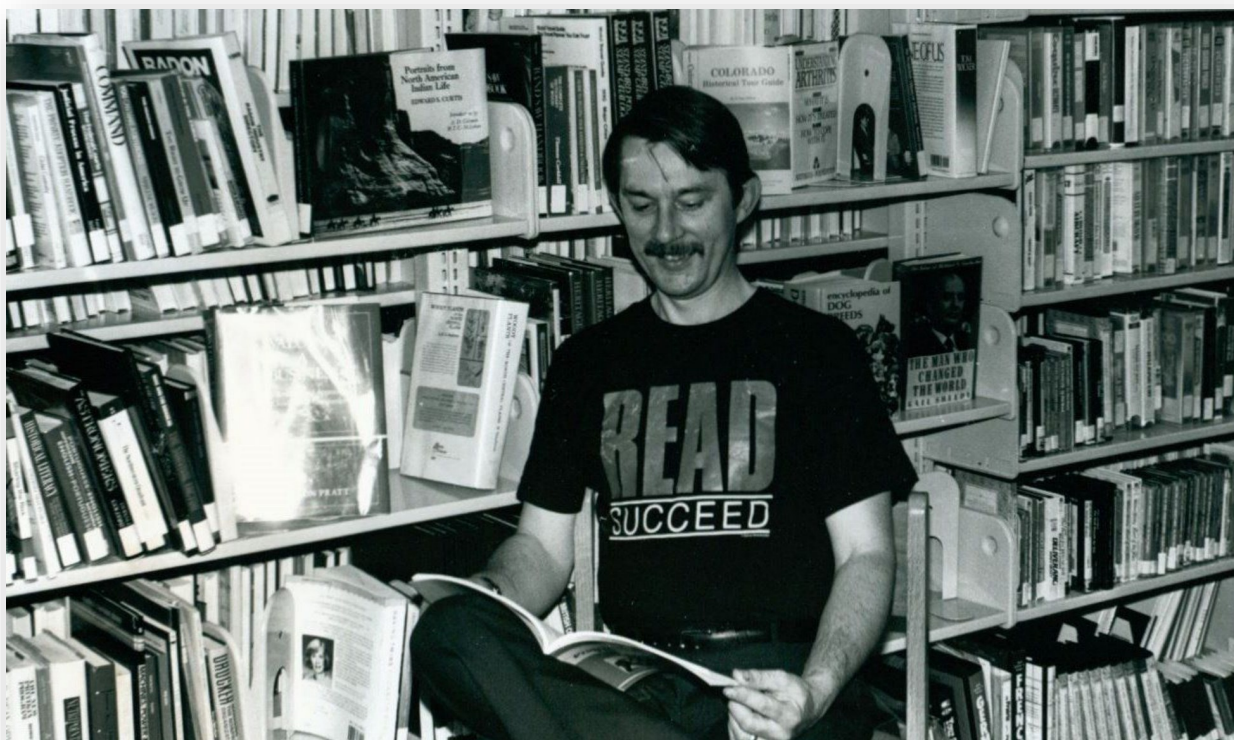
## Community Collaboration and a Local History Presentation in York

Provided by Deb Robertson

York's Kilgore Memorial Library director Deb Robertson wrote an article for the publication *Information Technology and Libraries* entitled "[How Kilgore Memorial Library Fostered County-Wide Collaboration through One Shared Calendar.](#)" She recounts the

development of the "One County, One Calendar" initiative. What began as a simple solution for managing the library's meeting room bookings evolved into a county-wide collaboration aimed at improving communication about local events. By working with the York Chamber of Commerce, the York County Development Corporation, and other county leaders, the library created a shared calendar system that now serves all of York County. It can be accessed via a web browser or as an app on a mobile device. To see it, [click here](#).

Deb was also invited by the museum coordinator, Carrie Remmers, to do a presentation as part of her series on the history of York County. The presentation was held on Sunday, January 12 to a small group of about 20 people willing to brave the freezing temps outside. Stan Schulz was there to offer additional tidbits and answer audience questions Deb could not. Included here is the most fun photo she found while researching for this presentation.



# News Around the System

## NLC Book Club Spotlight: *Know My Name*

Provided by Mackenzie Marrow; edited version of the [blog post](#)

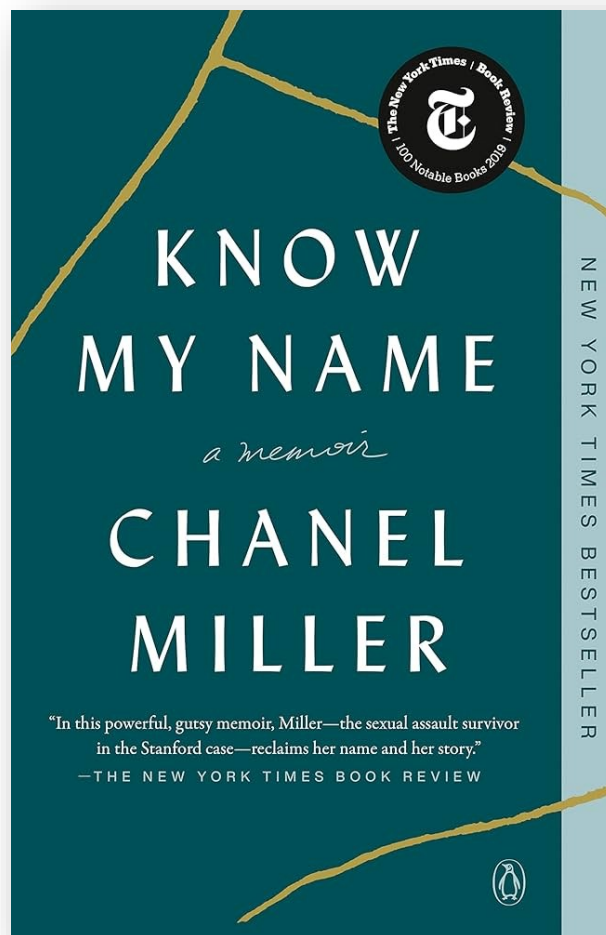
In 2015, Chanel Miller woke up in a hospital bed. Standing over her was a Stanford Dean and a Police Officer - they told her she was found passed out with a man looming over her at a party the night before. Still confused and groggy, Chanel was probed, examined, photographed, and asked if she wanted to press charges without telling her what for. Trying to be helpful... Chanel agreed. What followed was over a year of protracted trial dates and a bloodthirsty media waiting to tear her apart. Her assailant was found guilty on all three felony counts of sexual assault but only served three months in county jail. Any longer, and the judge worried that it could affect the “bright future” in store for the ambitious swimmer Brock Turner. He based the sentencing on a theoretical future and disregarded the real harm caused to another person with a future of her own.

The case of [The People V. Brock Allen Turner](#)

sent shockwaves across the United States and college campuses. Pushback from the sentencing led to California enacting laws to expand protections for victims, the people prevailing where the system had not. Through *Know My Name*, we see the fallout Chanel experiences from agreeing to pursue the case. Feelings of total isolation, threats of violence, and the loss of dignity were thrust upon her by a system crafted against survivors. But her story is also about the love and hope she found in her family, this new community of survivors, and the people working for change.

In *Know My Name*, Miller is smart, funny, and most of all, human. Holding a BA in Literature, Miller has been surrounded her whole life by incredibly intelligent women writers, and it shines in her own writing. Today, she continues to write and create art with her critically acclaimed 2024 Middle-Grade Fiction Book, [Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All](#).

If you're interested in requesting *Know My Name* for your book club, you can find the Request Form [here](#). **There are 8 copies.** (A librarian must request items.)



FEBRUARY 12  
10 – 11 AM

PRESENTED BY:  
ALLANA NOVOTNY

*Discovering  
Ancestral Roots  
with MyHeritage  
Library Edition*



LEARN HOW TO GUIDE LIBRARY  
USERS IN EFFECTIVELY USING THIS  
TOOL FOR GENEALOGY  
RESEARCH!

VIA ZOOM

**Register**  
**here!**

# REIMAGINING YOUR LIBRARY'S WORDPRESS WEBSITE

CRETE PUBLIC LIBRARY

March 14, 9:30 - 12:30



FOR REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION, [CLICK HERE!](#)



# System Spotlight

## Consulting

Whether you have a simple question about library basics, a complicated situation involving Nebraska state law regarding library governance, or something in-between—the SELS staff can help!

You can email us, call us, and even ask Scott to drive to your library to chat with you, your library board, or even city officials. If we don't know the answer, we probably know someone who does.



### Southeast Library System

Butler • Clay • Fillmore • Gage • Hamilton • Jefferson • Johnson • Lancaster • Merrick • Nemaha • Nuckolls •  
Otoe • Pawnee • Polk • Richardson • Saline • Saunders • Seward • Thayer • York

#### Staff:

Executive Director—Scott Childers  
Scott.Childers.SELS@gmail.com  
Direct phone: 531-530-3011

Assistant Director—Todd Schlechte  
Todd.Schlechte.SELS@gmail.com  
Direct phone: 531-530-3010

Administrative Assistant—Catherine Sokol  
Catherine.Sokol.SELS@gmail.com  
402-467-6188

#### Contact Us:

Local Phone: 402-467-6188  
Toll Free Phone: 800-288-6063  
Fax: 844-270-7004

selsne@gmail.com

5730 R St. Suite C-1  
Lincoln, NE 68505

<http://libraries.ne.gov/SELS/>

