

# PLAIN SPEAKING

*CENTRAL PLAINS LIBRARY SYSTEM NEWSLETTER*

Educate | Connect | Inspire

## Meaningful Making

For the past year, the Central Plains Library System has focused on providing S.T.E.A.M. activity ideas and supplies for our libraries to use with their patrons during our Full STEAM Ahead 2021 initiative. We have distributed over 7,000 individual projects since January 2021. Our wrap-up event will be a workshop in February about S.T.E.A.M. activities for the library's youngest patrons...toddlers and preschoolers. Registration information for Stepping Stones to S.T.E.A.M. is included in this newsletter.

Next year, we are setting our sites on Makerspaces. Being a maker promotes the development of critical skills such as communication, collaboration, creativity, problem-solving, adaptability, perseverance, leadership, and imagination in children and teens. Adults have the opportunity to learn a new skill, pick up an interesting hobby, or maybe even start a new business in the Makerspace.

Sometimes funding agencies question whether or not a makerspace is a good fit for library services. Literacy and making go hand in hand. Library visits and circulation increase as more people are drawn to the library by the makerspace. They are attracted to a book display and check out books related to their projects.

If you don't have a designated room to label as a "Makerspace," consider mobile flexible furniture that will transform your area into a multifunctional space. Your Makerspace can be as high-tech or low-tech as you want. The only requirement is that it inspires your patrons and students to become creators. Meaningful Making can happen anywhere. Will it be loud and messy? Sometimes. Will it be good for the people who use your library? Without a doubt!



## NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming CPLS  
Workshops  
Page 2-5

Youths Invited to Write  
Favorite Authors  
Page 6

CPLS System News  
Pages 8-10

New Book Club Kits  
Page 14

Mark Your Calendars  
Page 15



## **Bibliostat Training**

**Every year, the Nebraska Library Commission participates in a national program of public library data collection called the Public Library Survey. This session will provide an overview of the data collection program, and specifically the data collection tool used in Nebraska, Bibliostat. The survey runs from mid-November to mid-February every year. The survey is required for Nebraska accredited libraries, and unaccredited libraries are eligible for a one-time grant (Dollar\$ for Data) if they complete the survey online via Bibliostat.**

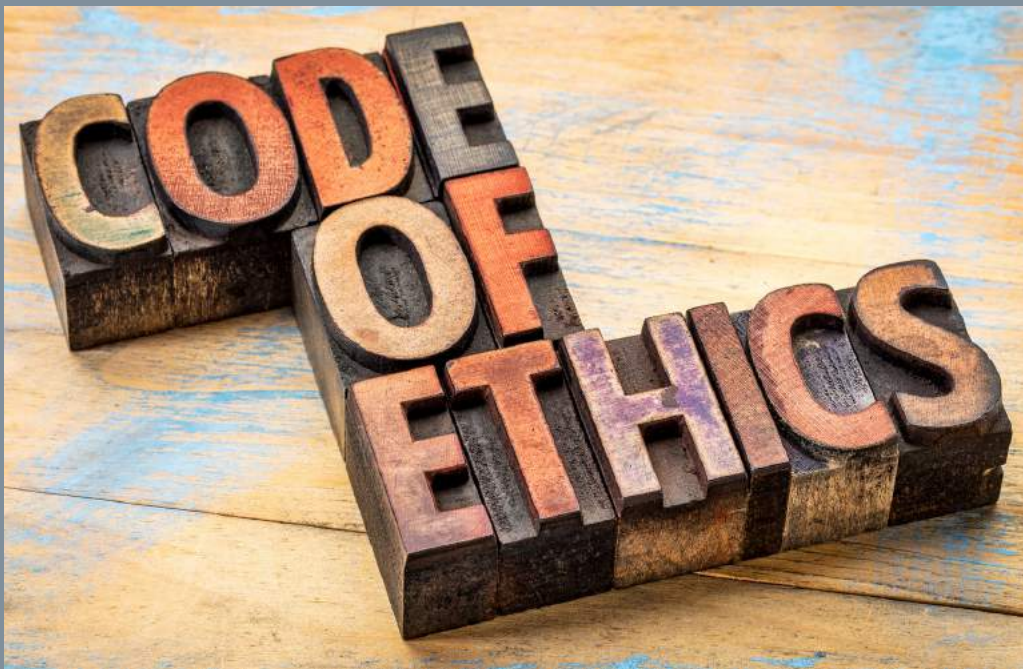
**Join Sam Shaw as he walks you through the changes for this year and helps answer your specific questions.**

**Presenter: Sam Shaw  
(Planning & Data Services Coordinator for NLC)**

**When: Thursday, December 9th 1pm-3pm  
via Zoom Link**

**Register here:  
<https://forms.gle/fgXGn5TRVMLY5NY37>**

This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administrated by the Nebraska Library Commission.



## **Ethics in the Library**

**This Ethics in the Library workshop, presented by Tammi Thiem from the Three Rivers Library System, will give an overview of the Code of Ethics of the American Library Association. There will be some scenarios to discuss together that will highlight how unethical situations may happen in the library. There will be time to share any real-life instances that may have occurred and to analyze any questions together.**

**Presenter: Tammi Thiem  
(Three Rivers Library System)**

**Tuesday, December 14th  
10am-11am  
via Zoom Link**

**Register here:**

**<https://forms.gle/dcj4KFYWxcXobypZA>**

**This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.**



# OCEANS OF POSSIBILITIES Summer Reading 2022



Join us for A WHALE OF A GOOD TIME at the 2022 Summer Reading Program, "Oceans of Possibilities!" Come hear all about the underwater adventures kids can read about from Sally Snyder, hear how Nebraska Game & Parks can help you with your program this summer, and explore all the crafts Jody Crocker has dreamed up for your aquatic quests!

To be able to be socially distant and accomodate everyone, we are offering attendees their choice of attending either virtually or at one of our two in-person locations. Each location will be limited in size so be sure to get registered as soon as possible.



## Wednesday, January 26th (Broken Bow)

*\*\*limit of 25 people*



## Thursday, March 10th (McCook)

*\*\*limit of 40 people*

- Registration begins at 9:30am with workshop running from 10am - 3:30pm.
- Cost is \$10 per person (mailed to the System office or paid at the door).
- Lunch will be provided for in-person attendees.
- 5 CE's will be given to each attendee.



Register Here: <https://forms.gle/NDiGgDNACkx7gFAC8>



This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.



## Stepping Stones to **S.T.E.A.M.**

The library is the perfect place for naturally curious children to explore the world around them.

Preschoolers can lay the foundation for science learning in the K–12 setting and beyond by learning to focus, increasing their vocabulary, and collaborating with others.

Preschool S.T.E.A.M. story times and activities can be simple to prepare and host. Attend this workshop to share what you are already doing with other librarians and learn new strategies to offer S.T.E.A.M. activities to your youngest patrons.

**Thursday, February 10th, 2022**

**1pm – 4pm**

**Wilson Public Library**

**910 Meridian Ave.**

**Cozad, NE 69130**

**3 CE's earned for each participant**

**Register: <https://forms.gle/iHBaUiHqY6vgj9ms7>**

This activity is supported in part with funding from the State of Nebraska and from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the Nebraska Library Commission.



## Young Readers Invited to Write to Favorite Authors

Young readers in grades 4-12 are invited to write a personal letter to an author for the Nebraska Letters about Literature (LAL) contest, a state reading and writing promotion program. The letter can be to any author (living or dead) from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic—explaining how that author’s work changed the student’s view of the world. Submissions must be completed online **November 1-December 31, 2021**. Nebraska Letters About Literature is coordinated and sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Library Commission, with support from Houchen Bindery, Ltd., Humanities Nebraska, and Chapters Bookstore in Seward.

The Nebraska Center for the Book’s panel of judges will select a winner and an honorable mention per competition level (Level I for grades 4-6, Level II for grades 7-8, and Level III for grades 9-12) to be honored in a proclamation–signing ceremony at the state capitol during National Library Week in April 2022. Their winning letters will be placed in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln. Nebraska winners and honorable mentions will receive state prizes.

Teachers, librarians, and parents can download the contest guidelines, free teaching materials, information on the online entry system, and past winning letters on the [Nebraska Center for the Book website](#). A recording of the informational [NCompass Live](#) webinar on November 3rd, discussing this year’s contest, is available online. For more information contact [Nebraska Center for the Book](#).

The Nebraska Center for the Book is housed at the Nebraska Library Commission and 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 supported by the national Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the Nebraska Library Commission.



# The Call for Speakers for **Big Talk From Small Libraries 2022** is now open!

This free one-day online conference is aimed at librarians from small libraries; the smaller the better! We are looking for speakers from small libraries or speakers who directly work with small libraries. Small libraries of all types - public, academic, school, museum, special, etc. - are encouraged to submit a proposal. We're looking for seven 50-minute presentations and four 10-minute "lightning round" presentations.

Do you offer a service or program at your small library that other librarians might like to hear about?

Have you implemented a new (or old) technology, hosted an event, partnered with others in your community, or just done something really cool? The **Big Talk From Small Libraries** online conference gives you the opportunity to share what you've done, while learning what your colleagues in other small libraries are doing. Here are some possible topics to get you thinking:

- \* Unique Libraries
- \* Special Collections
  - \* New buildings
  - \* Fundraising
- \* Improved Workflows
- \* Staff Development
- \* Advocacy Efforts
- \* Community Partnerships
- \* That great thing you're doing at your library!

**Big Talk From Small Libraries 2022** will be held on Friday, February 25, 2022 between 8:45 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (CT) via the GoToWebinar online meeting service. Speakers will be able to present their programs from their own desktops. The schedule will accommodate speakers' time-zones.

Submit your proposal by **Friday, January 14, 2022** at <https://forms.gle/DKUJ8p1vxtGzE7Rn8>  
Speakers from libraries serving fewer than 10,000 people will be preferred, but presentations from libraries with larger service populations will be considered.

More details about the conference can be found at <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/>

This conference is organized and hosted by the Nebraska Library Commission and is co-sponsored by the Association for Rural & Small Libraries.

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# CPLS SYSTEM NEWS

## WE CAN ALL USE:

Stories and photos submitted by Jennifer Einspahr, Director at Arapahoe Public Library.

Yesterday's Lady aka Sue McClain from Beatrice, NE presented a Victorian Christmas. Sue brought a sample of her collection to our library which included dresses and traveling clothes from that time period, a German tabletop Christmas tree made from feathers, period postcards and more! Sue gave a historical background to the Christmas traditions we see today. This presentation was made possible by the Humanities NE, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and in memory of Cal Robinson.



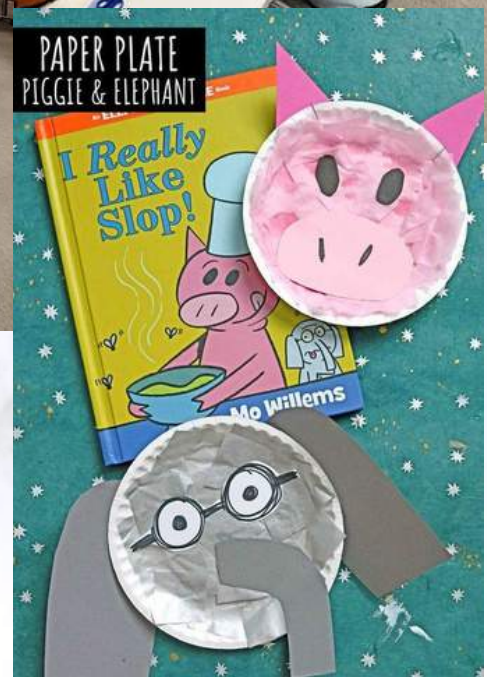
Furnas County Extension Educator, Elena Stout, led the fall session of Mad Science Mondays at our library. Each week, Elena presented a new concept for the group of elementary students. The children get involved with hands-on experiments. Shown above, the group is exploring bio-plastic by using corn based products to create "plastic." Mad Science Mondays will return in March. Arapahoe began the Mad Science Monday program in coordination with the Furnas Co Extension Educators five years ago and are thrilled to see it's continuation with other local libraries.



# Come one, come all to Characters on Parade!

Contributed by Rachel Mueller, Youth Services Library Assistant at Hastings Public Library

What fun we had at Hastings Public Library with our program, 'Characters on Parade.' We had 3 special guests at our program, Elephant & Piggie and Pete the Cat! Characters on Parade was a 60 minute program for families to meet and greet with their favorite book characters and make a craft with them! We made Pete the Cat Headbands and an Elephant & Piggie Paper Plate craft. We also learned the Cool Cat Boogie with Pete! What was really special about this program were the costumes! Costume Specialists ([www.costumespecialists.com](http://www.costumespecialists.com)) based in Ohio rents out professional mascot costumes of favorite characters for just the price of shipping! Each costume was \$140 to ship. I encourage you, if that is out of your programming budget, to look into local sponsorships or grants. We were able to have our local hospital sponsor the event to cover the costs of shipping the 3 characters. The only cost to the library was craft supplies! If you want to know more about the process of requesting a costume, the 'Characters on Parade' program, or requesting local sponsorship feel free to contact me: Rachel Mueller at [rmueller@hastingslibrary.us](mailto:rmueller@hastingslibrary.us)!



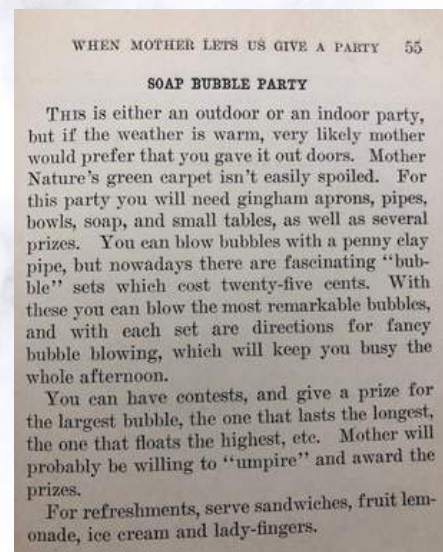
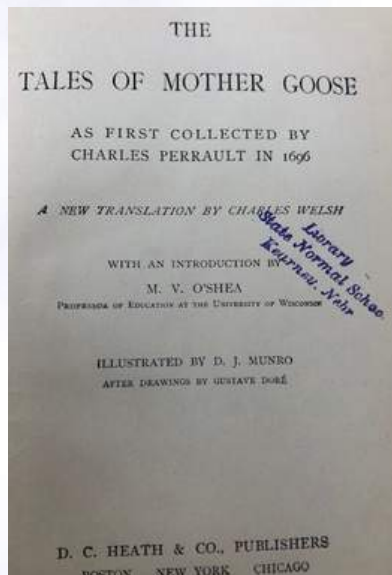
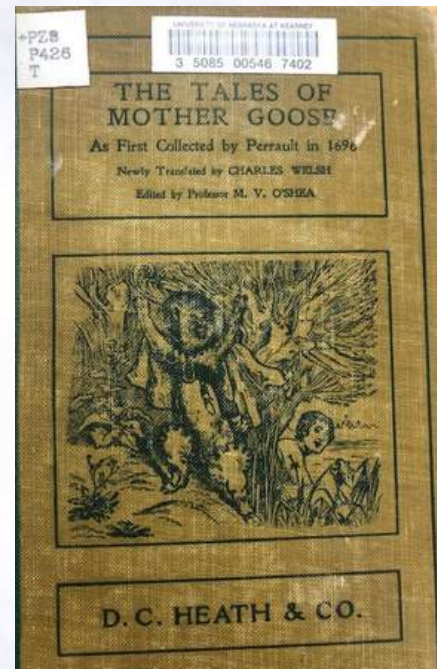
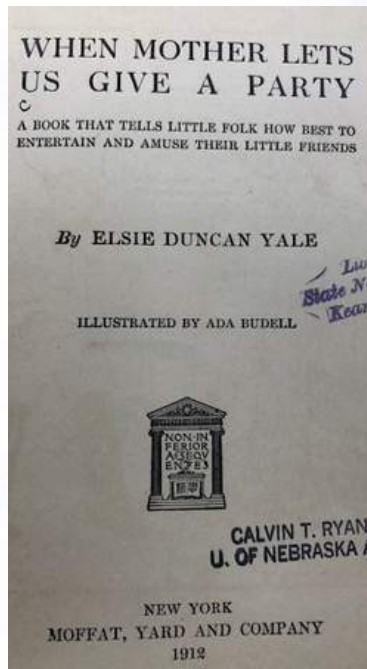
# Why does UNK want discarded juvenile literature?

Contributed by Rochelle Reeves, Calvin T. Ryan Library (UNK)

In 1984, the Nebraska Library Commission established the Nebraska Archive of Children's Books and located it at Calvin T. Ryan Library. As you weed through your juvenile collections, please consider donating them to UNK. So many wonderful treasures are waiting to be cataloged. The purposes of the archive collection are to provide continuing access to:

1. Examples of significant Juvenile books which reflect the customs, social values and history of the times in which they were written.
2. Retrospective works for young people dealing specifically with Nebraska life and history.
3. Books out of print and books for which there is diminished local demand, but which may be of continuing interest to the researcher or scholar.

Treasures in our collection include:



"THE MARQUIS OF CARABAS IS DROWNING!" p. 48.



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Central Plains Library System  
Board Meeting  
Hybrid Meeting  
October 8, 2021  
10:00 a.m.  
Kearney Public Library

**Board Members Present via Zoom:** Janene Hill, Lori Long, Linda Nickel

**Board Members Present in person:** Tony Anderson, Jody Crocker, Jamie Dennis, Sherri Dux-Ideus, Terri Eberly, Terri Johnson, Matthew Williams

**Board Members Absent:** Doris Brandon, Shelley Ruterbories

**Other Attendees via Zoom:** Christa Porter (Nebraska Library Commission)

**Other Attendees in person:** Denise Harders (CPLS Staff), Tim Johnson

**Call to order/Roll Call:** President, Terri Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken.

**Approval of Minutes:** Tony Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2021, meeting. Janene Hill seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as circulated in the meeting packet.

**Financial Reports:** Denise Harders reviewed the financial report. Matt Williams made a motion to approve the financial report. Sherri Dux-Ideus seconded the motion. The financial reports were approved as circulated in the meeting packet.

**Correspondence:** Denise Harders read correspondence received

- Jennifer Einspahr: Thank you for the plant for the open house for the new Arapahoe Library
- Judy Hagan: Thank you for the Board's parting gifts
- Marty Magee: Thank you for speaking to her "Library Foundations" class at CCC
- Lacey Kollath: Student thank you for speaking to the "Library Foundations" class.
- Several emails thanking Denise were also received
- Macey Lackaff: Thank you for scholarships to NLA

**Director's Report:** Denise gave a recap of the report found in the board meeting packets. Highlights: CPLS will continue with the Thursday morning Zoom meetings and will look to host Director only meetings as well after the first of 2022. Denise visited various public libraries delivering MakerSpace equipment. CPLS also hosted a variety of workshops and webinars. In addition, Denise also assisted several libraries with the ARPA grants, the NLA Youth Grants for Excellence and the Library Improvement grant applications. Her goal is to have 100% of the libraries in the CPLS area apply and receive the state ARPA funds.

**Old Business:**

- The 2021-2022 Budget was presented for approval. Discussion was held on the percentage raise given to the staff. After hearing from the NLC on raises for their offices, the board recommended the 2% increase for staff salaries. Terri Eberly made a motion to accept the budget proposal. Tony Anderson seconded the motion. The 2021-2022 budget was approved as presented.
- ARPA Formula Grants Report: 38 out of the 71 libraries in the CPLS area have received funds or have an application in process.

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**Central Plains Library System  
Board Meeting  
(continued)**

**New Business:**

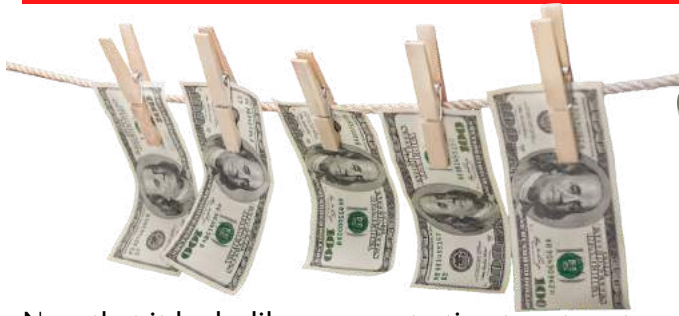
- **Bulk Loan Program:** Seventeen libraries in the system participate in the Bulk Loan Program. (7/Hastings and 10/McCook). Each participating library pays an annual fee of \$50.00 for this service. The CPLS provides financial support to the two lending libraries. It was brought to our attention that the Cozad Library also provides this service to two libraries at no cost. They are not under contract with the CPLS and therefore receive no financial assistance from the system. After discussion, the board decided to continue with contracts for Hastings Public Library and the McCook Library.
- **Financial Compilation by Gary Riggs:** Annual figures and reports presented.
- **Two newly accredited libraries in the CPLS:** Elm Creek Public Library and the Maxine White-Sutherland Public Library received Bronze Accreditation.
- **System ARPA Funds:** Funds received \$12,500. Denise reported that the system purchased Mobile Computer Lab 12 laptop computers, bags, external mouse for each computer, and additional batteries. (\$3267.62) She received suggestions for use of the remaining funds to take under advisement: Summer Reading Performer to travel around the system, Professional Speakers for Education on Library Topics, Adult Book Club Kits. She is open to any ideas. Christa Porter said the CPLS could also make mini-grants available to libraries in the system.
- **Use of social media for board information:** Jamie Dennis inquired about considering Facebook or other social media for staying in touch. She will put together a proposal and bring it to the January 2022 board meeting.

**Other Business:** Christa Porter presented her report via ZOOM and gave a recap of the material included in the board packet. The NLC is open for in-person business following CDC protocols. Highlights

- **ARPA money** available to public libraries meeting criteria (do not need to be accredited) other grant moneys available through application process. The NLC will award Youth in Excellence and Library Improvement grants on October 29, 2021. The NLC internship application process closes on November 5. CE and Training grants application closes on January 14, 2022.
- **ARSL 2021 Conference:** October 20-23 in Reno/Sparks NV. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination required.
- **Internet Librarian Conference:** October 26-28 in Monterey, CA switching to virtual format. Nebraska librarians are still eligible for a discount for a virtual pass using the NLC discount code. See NLC Blog post for details.
- **Library Innovation Studios Project:** 2021 Nebraska Makerspace Conference (final networking event) will be held on November 2 and 3 at the UNL Innovation Campus. The event will be open to others beyond representatives for the 35 project libraries, staff, and project partners. Great conference for any library considering a makerspace. Demonstrations and panel discussions.
- **Basic Skills 2021 Schedule:** See the NLC website for information.

**Adjourn:** Matt moved to adjourn the board meeting. Tony seconded.

Respectfully submitted,  
Terri Eberly, Secretary



## CPLS HAS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE!

Now that it looks like we are starting to return to some sort of "normalcy," many of you may be looking ahead to attending events such as the ALA Annual Conference being held virtually, the NLA Conference in Omaha, or the ARSL Conference in Sparks, NV. The System can help! We have money available for you!

Up to \$200.00 per event in Nebraska and \$300 for out-of-state events is available for registration, mileage, meal, etc. Only one scholarship per person per fiscal year (July - June). Each Library Agency shall be limited to two scholarships per year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Library \_\_\_\_\_

Event \_\_\_\_\_

Date of event \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship requested for \_\_\_\_\_ (meal, room, etc.)

Amount requested \_\_\_\_\_

Other information: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your request to: Central Plains Library System  
2727 W. 2nd Street # 233  
Hastings, NE 68901

## Disc Cleaning and Repair

The System Office has the ECO AUTO-SMART Fully Automatic Disc Repair System.

It is not just a buffer, but a full-service machine, to both clean and repair your valuable discs. Save those discs that won't play! As long as they are not cracked, we can fix them.

From **July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022**, each CPLS member library has 10 free disc cleanings available to them. If you have not taken advantage of this service yet this year, be sure to get your discs turned in before June 30th!



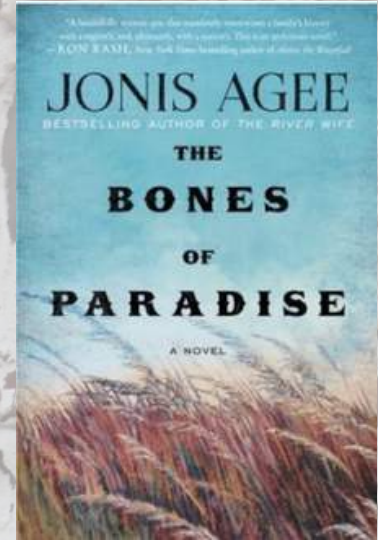
If you have more than 10 discs that need fixing, you may send them to us and we will repair them and send them back with an invoice for .50 cents per disc plus return postage. If you come to the CPLS Office in Hastings and pick up the repaired discs, the charge is .50 cents per disc. A similar service at a retail video outlet costs more than \$5.00 per disc!

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## 2022 One Book One Nebraska Book Kit Now Available!

***The Bones of Paradise: A Novel*** by Jonis Agee is the 2022 One Book One Nebraska selection.

***The Bones of Paradise*** is a multigenerational family saga set in the unforgiving Nebraska Sand Hills in the years following the massacre at Wounded Knee—it is an ambitious tale of history, vengeance, race, guilt, betrayal, family, and belonging, filled with a vivid cast of characters shaped by violence, love, and a desperate loyalty to the land.



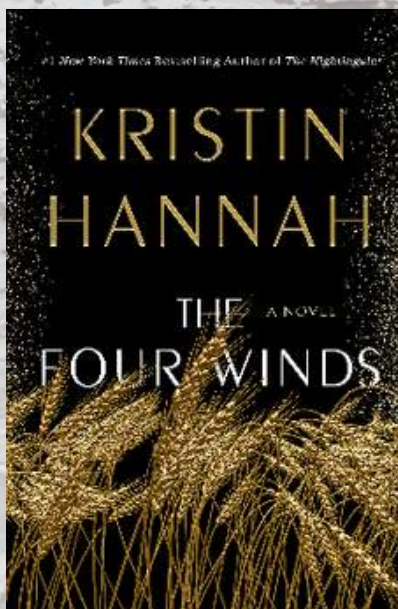
CPLS has a Book Club Kit with 10 copies available now. Support materials to assist with local reading/discussion activities will be available after January 1, 2022 at <http://onebook.nebraska.gov>.



### New Book Club Kit

(12 copies)

***The Four Winds*** by Kristin Hannah



***The Four Winds*** is a rich, sweeping novel that stunningly brings to life the Great Depression and the people who lived through it—the harsh realities that divided us as a nation and the enduring battle between the haves and the have-nots. A testament to hope, resilience, and the strength of the human spirit to survive adversity, ***The Four Winds*** is an indelible portrait of America and the American dream, as seen through the eyes of one indomitable woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- Dec 9 - Bibliostat Workshop with Sam Shaw - Virtual via Zoom - 1pm - 3pm  
Dec 14 - Ethics in the Library with Tammi Thiem - Virtual via Zoom - 10am - 11am  
Dec 31 - **Deadline for submitting ARPA Formula Grants**
- Jan 14 - CPLS Board Meeting - Virtual via Zoom - 11am  
Jan 14 - **Deadline for submitting proposals for Big Talk From Small Libraries**  
Jan 26 - Summer Reading Program "Oceans of Possibilities" - Broken Bow, 10am - 3:30pm
- February 10 - Stepping Stones to S.T.E.A.M. - Wilson Public Library (Cozad) 1pm - 4pm  
Feb 25 - Big Talk From Small Libraries
- Mar 10 - Summer Reading Program "Oceans of Possibilities" - McCook, 10am - 3:30pm
- April 8 - CPLS Board Meeting - TBD - 10am

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## UPCOMING BASIC SKILLS CLASSES

The 2022 schedule is not posted quite yet. However, you can check this link in the coming weeks to see what classes will be offered:

<http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/BasicSkills/NBScalendar.aspx>



## NCompass LIVE PRESENTATIONS

- Dec 1 - Pioneer Consortium: Making Libraries Stronger Together
- Dec 8 - Best New Children's Books of 2021: Super Librarian's Continue on with Youth Services!
- Dec 15 - Libraries Build Pathways to Wellbeing
- Dec 29 - Pretty Sweet Tech
- Jan 5 - Teen Titles of 2021: Books They Will Read
- Jan 19 - If You Build It, Will They Come? - Makerspaces Work In Small, Rural Libraries

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**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Tony Anderson  
Doris Brandon  
Jody Crocker  
Jamie Dennis  
Sherri Dux-Ideus  
Terri Eberly  
Janene Hill  
Terri Johnson  
Lori Long  
Linda Nickel  
Shelley Ruterbories  
Matthew Williams

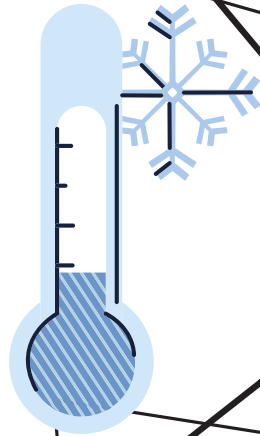
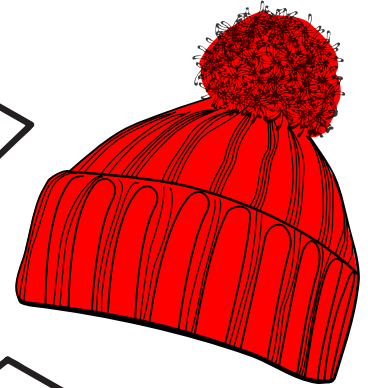
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