

From the Director



“I’ve found that common sense ain’t so common.” - Mark Twain

Common sense is often defined that a person will use solid reasoning and judgement based on what

the situation is. Some similar phrases have been uttered by Will Rogers and Voltaire. Historical records point to similar statements being used by English poet Nicholas Amhurst in 1726 and even further back we see Roman poet Juvenal saying something similar around 130 AD.

So why is it that common sense isn’t very common, and hasn’t been for a long, long time? My opinion is there are too many assumptions that rely on the belief that everybody has the same experiences, education, and opinions. With the ever-expanding range of choices for news, popular culture, meeting people, schooling, and everything else – there aren’t that many common experiences between people anymore. It is easy for people to live in well defined bubbles, where their “common sense” is very different than some other peoples.

This also means that we have to be careful on relying on assumptions about a person’s familiarity on how things work when we create policy or programming for our library.

On a similar note, people learn new things all the time. Comic book legend Stan Lee is credited with saying, “Every comic is somebody’s first comic.”

Webcomic xkcd also introduced some math towards this suggesting that for any bit of information that “everybody knows”, about [10,000 people](#) learn it for the first time each day.

Every day is somebody’s first time going into a library. Every day is somebody’s first time using the computer. Every day is somebody’s first time dealing with an overdue notice. Today it may not be at your library, but it might be tomorrow. How we treat that person, young or old, is going to influence their perceptions on libraries. How we write & enforce policies, use displays, select signage are all going to be part of that first impression.

How are you going to help celebrate someone learning something new today? How are you going to celebrate you learning something new today?

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Calendar



February 19, President's Day, SELS Office Closed

February 22, National Chili Day

February 23, [Big Talk From Small Libraries](#)

February 23, CASTL, Stromsburg Public Library, ["Puzzled in the Library"](#) and ["Privacy Conundrums"](#) (two topics)

February 27, National Polar Bear Day

February 28, National Tooth Fairy Day

March, National Women's History Month

National Craft Month

March 10, Daylight Savings Time Starts

May 11, National Napping Day

March 15, [CASTL, Morton-James Public Library, "Advantages of Overdrive"](#)

March 20, [Advocacy Day Preconference](#) (Free)

March 21, [Advocacy Day](#)

Photos of the Month



A scene from Crete Public Library's recent adult craft night! —photo by Jenn Lampila, see p. 4

CASTL Wrap-up

Upcoming CASTL Meetings

February 23
Stromsburg Public Library
“Puzzled in Your Library” and “Privacy Conundrums”

March 15
Morton-James Public Library, Nebraska City
“Advantages of Over-Drive”

April 19
Sutton Memorial Library
“Extreme Customer Service”

For the April 19th CASTL, weather upset our plans to meet in person at Auburn Memorial Library and we switched to Zoom only. In spite of that we had a good discussion of resources for collection development, with librarians sharing their tips and tricks.

Following is a list of many of the items that were mentioned in the course of the morning:

- Baker and Taylor’s emails and Booking Ahead resources.
- Library Journal Reviews
- School Library Journal Reviews
- Booklist Reviews
- Wilson catalogs
- Patron input via written forms, verbal input, or even via Facebook.
- Amazon lists
- Goodreads
- Award winners
- Audiofile
- CenterPointe for Large Print Christian fiction and Cozy mysteries
- Celebrity book club lists
- AARP for titles on medical issues
- Newsletters for leadership and management
- Omaha World Herald Booklist— Sunday edition newspaper
- Ask kids to make requests
- Barnes and Noble
- Looking at what other libraries are buying
- Gumdrop
- Book Page

You can find more information [in the recording and links to resources.](#)

Upcoming Basic Skills Classes

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

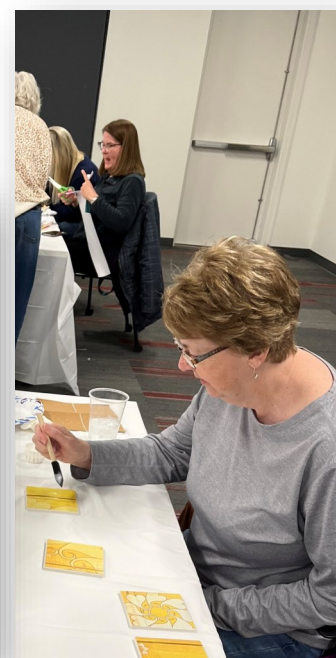
<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
March 4—March 15	Library Governance	Until February 26
March 18—March 29	Library Technology	Until March 8
April 1—April 30	Cataloging/Organization of Materials	February 19—March 15

News Around the System

First Adult Craft Night at Crete Public Library

By Laura Renker, photos by Jenn Lampila (for an additional photo, see p. 2)

Crete Public Library held their first adult craft night on February 7. The library provided all of the supplies for the DIY ceramic tile coasters. We had scrapbook paper, wrapping paper and paints available for their creations. The participants were also welcome to bring their own photos and paper. We had the Cricut available for easy stencils. Everybody had a fun time and the coasters designed were creative and pretty.

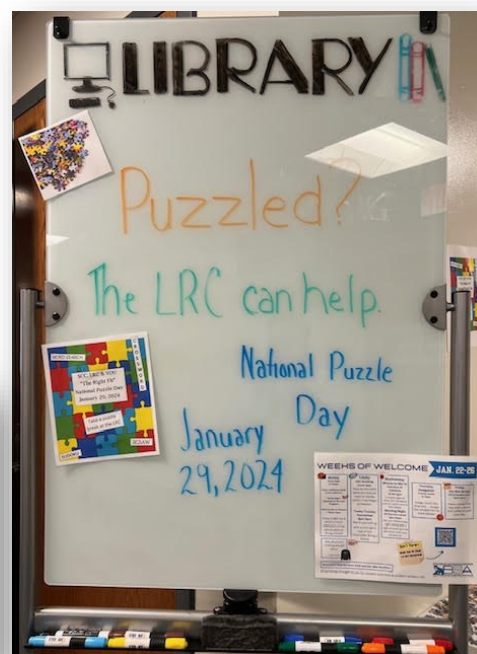


National Puzzle Day at SCC!

Provided by Dianne Cooper

The Library Resource Center on SCC Beatrice campus set out puzzles for National Puzzle Day on January 29, 2024. Students and staff are encouraged to place a piece (or two) in the hallway puzzle as they walk by.

Another puzzle is located inside the library, along with a cat stax puzzle and paper copies of word search, crossword and sudoku for students and staff to take with them.

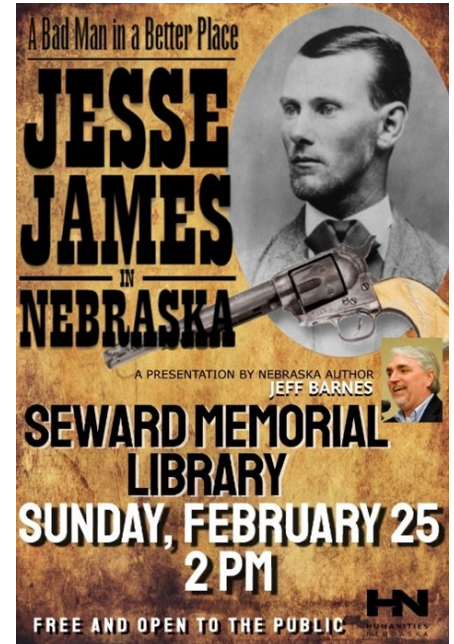


News Around the System

Presentation on Jesse James Coming to Seward Memorial Library

Provided by Sherri Payne

Save the Date! Western history author and lecturer Jeff Barnes brings the life and legend of the notorious Jesse James to the Seward Memorial Library on Sunday, February 25, at 2 p.m. The Humanities Nebraska-sponsored talk is free and open to the public. **“A Bad Man in a Better Place: Jesse James in Nebraska”** covers the outlaw and his family’s several visits to the Cornhusker State, from the 1860s until just before his assassination in 1882. “Jesse James typically isn’t thought of in connection with Nebraska, but he was here,” said Barnes. “Nebraska was where the outlaw could find family and friends. It was where he could plan amazing robberies, make a recovery or an escape, and even sit for his most famous photograph. He wanted to buy a farm here – south of Franklin - and possibly farm and raise his family here.” The 45-minute presentation includes rarely seen images and seldom-heard stories of James, with the opportunity for questions afterward. Humanities Nebraska (HN) provides major funding for this program. HN receives support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Nebraska State Legislature, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and private donations.



Mark Your Calendar!

SELS
TRAINING
EXTRAVAGANZA
MAY 10TH!

Join us for an exciting learning experience!

Seward Memorial Library



Up Your Readers' Advisory Game with NoveList Plus!



with Susan Knisely

More
information and
registration!

**March 27, 11:00
via Zoom**

News From the NLA

NLA Advocacy Day Includes Preconference This Year

The **Advocacy Day Preconference** will be held in the Bennett Martin Auditorim (136 S 14th St, Lincoln). There will be sessions discussing best practices for advocating for your library and gaining more local advocates.

1:00-1:15 PM: Check-in/Welcome by Deb Robertson, Chair of NLA Advocacy Committee

1:15-2:00 PM: Ryan Wieber, Director of Lincoln City Libraries

2:15-3:00 PM: "Understanding What's Really Behind Book Challenges and Bans" - Vicki Wood, retired Coordinator of Youth Services for Lincoln City Libraries

3:15-4:00 PM: "Building Relationships to Grow Advocates and Allies" - Courtney Pentland, President of the American Association of School Librarians and Nebraska School Librarian

4:15-5:00 PM: "Using Communication to Advocate for Nebraska's Libraries" - Jackie Ostrowicki, Assistant Vice President and Director of Marketing, Branding and Digital Media for the University of Nebraska System and Library Board Trustee for Lincoln City Libraries

Advocay Day Details:

9:00-9:30 AM - Check-in/Welcome at the Cornhusker Mariott Hotel

Updates from NLA Leadership (President Tammi Thiem), the Nebraska Library Commission (Rod Wagner) and the NLA Lobbyist (Brent Smoyer). Tips and tools will also be discussed on building relationships with your Senator and advocating for your library.

Lunch will be provided at the Cornhusker Marriott where you will be able to visit with Nebraska State Senators. Outstanding Library Volunteer awards will also be presented.

Head back to the Capitol Building at 1:00 PM for "I Love Nebraska Libraries Storytime" and another opportunity to visit with Senators more directly where you can let them know what their local libraries are doing for the Nebraska communities and the positive impact they have.

For more information and to register, [click here!](#)

Creating Advocates Workshop

March 19, 2024
1pm-5pm



From the NLC

Big Talk From Small Libraries 2024

Big Talk From Small Libraries 2024 will be held on Friday, February 23, 2024 from 8:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Central Time via the GoTo Webinar online meeting service.

This free one-day online conference is tailored for staff from small libraries - the smaller the better! Each of our speakers is from a library serving fewer than 10,000 people, or is directly partnered with a small library and co-presenting with the library.

Topics range from technology to programming to new roles for the library. This event is a great opportunity to learn about the innovative things your colleagues are doing in their small libraries.

Everyone is welcome to register and attend, regardless of how big or small your library. But, if your

library serves a few hundred to a few thousand people, this is the day for you!

Big Talk From Small Libraries is broadcast online using the GoTo Webinar online meeting service. GoTo Webinar works on Windows, Mac, Google Chrome OS, Linux, iOS and Android devices. Please see the [NLC Online Sessions webpage](#) for detailed information about GoTo Webinar, including system requirements and firewall configuration. NOTE: *GoTo Webinar login instructions will be e-mailed to registered attendees the day before the conference.*

Recordings: All sessions are recorded and posted to the [Previous Conferences](#) page as soon as possible after the event. You do not need to register for the conference to access the recordings.

This conference is organized and hosted by Christa Porter of the Nebraska Library Commission and is co-sponsored by the [Association for Rural & Small Libraries](#).



From the NLC

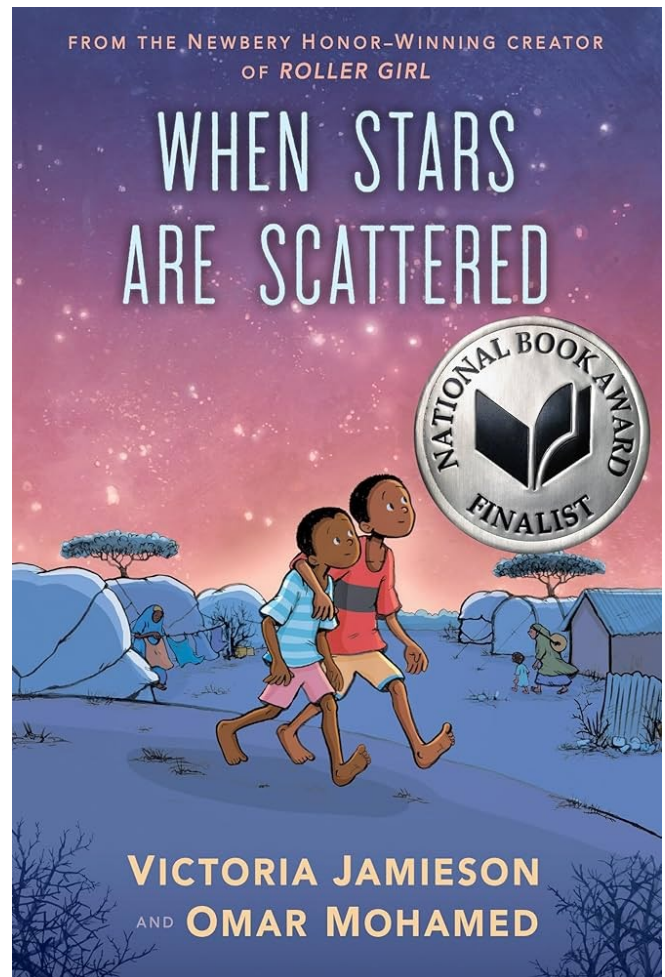
***When the Stars are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed**

By MacKenzie Marrow (edited)

Omar and his brother Hassan have been in the Dadaab refugee camp for seven years! Without their parents, the boys live on their own, watched over by an aging foster mother, Fatuma. Having the responsibility of caring for himself and his nonverbal brother, Omar must daily clean the floorless tent they sleep on, hide any valuables from thieves, and wait. Wait for water, wait for food, wait for his mother to find them, wait for the war to end, and wait to leave the refugee camp. When Omar gets a chance to attend school, he is far behind other children his age, and soon, the pressure of school and chores begins to make him angry and resentful. As he grows and becomes continually frustrated with his situation, he sees how everyone else is stuck just like him—especially the girls, who, like Omar, are burdened with too many responsibilities. With encouragement from his friends and community, Omar grows more confident in his abilities and in Hassan and starts dreaming about a future outside the camp. And one day, Omar’s and Hassan’s names are called for an interview with the UN for a chance to finally leave Dadaab, an exciting and terrifying possibility.

Written for middle grades and up, all will be deeply moved by reading this graphic novel. With wars waging worldwide, it’s hard not to feel overwhelmed and powerless, and listening to stories of those going through these tough times matters. *When Stars are Scattered* is an excellent representation of the day-to-day life in refugee camps. Maybe your Book Club Group wants to learn more about what life is like for refugees, or your students have questions about what is happening to displaced children like them. Since moving to America, Mohamed has dedicated his life to serving his community back in Dadaab and improving the living conditions of refugees, especially young girls through his nonprofit foundation, [Refugee Strong](#).

If you’re interested in requesting ***When Stars are Scattered*** for your book club, you can find the Request Form [here](#). **There are 10 copies available.** (A librarian must request items)



System Spotlight

Journal Article Request Service

You can request articles through us from a variety of professional magazines and journals. If you are interested in receiving articles from a journal, please see the [journal article request service](#) page on our website for a list of available journals, as well as directions on how to enroll in the service.



Southeast Library System

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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/>

