

## From the Director



Last month, we reran an article about library myths. We did get some replies with some other myths about librarians that still float around, so why not do a sequel!

Myth #4 Librarians just sit around all day and read books – Sounds like a wonderful way to pass a day, but there is so much going on that people don't see. I've heard some folks talking about how running a library, especially a solo librarian, is like a duck on a pond. Above the water is calm and gracefully floating while under the water they are paddling furiously if they are trying to get somewhere.

Myth #5 Library collections are all the same or are dictated by the (ALA/NLA/NLC/some other group) – This one seems to be a more recent one to me, but just seems to be the case of people believing the previous myth so someone else must be deciding what books go on the shelves. Most of the material selections are local discussions based on what the patrons ask for in their public library, or what the curriculum or areas of study are for the school or academic libraries.

Myth #6 Librarians have read every book in their collection – I suppose if someone believed myth #4, then this would follow logically from that flawed starting point. Really this would be like saying the cashier at the nearest grocery store has tasted every

single item they stocked on the shelves. While I guess this would be possible, it sure isn't probable in most libraries.

So there you have it, more bits of misunderstanding about libraries that are still out there. What we do about it is up to us. I know many librarians purposely don't talk about what they do or what their libraries offer in fear of being seen as pushy or other negative things.

The fact is that if we don't talk about it, these and the three mentioned last month will continue to be what people believe about our profession. I'm not saying we need to do a full public relations campaign. It works best if it just comes up, bit by bit, as the situations arise. Report to the city council or school board – throw in a little bit about how the materials are selected when you talk about the budget line. Have great turnouts over a successful big program or project, throw in a quick line or two about how hard the people involved worked on it.

Why is it important to talk about myths about librarianship? These myths sometimes stand in the way of the library thriving or in some cases even surviving. The more they linger, the more they get in the way. I'll end by referring to a quote attributed to George Orwell, "Myths which are believed in tend to become true".

### In this Issue:

Page 1—From the Director

Page 2—Calendar

Page 3—CASTL Wrap-up

Pages 4-7—News Around the System

Pages 8-11—Other News and Fliers

Page 12—System Spotlight

# Calendar

- September 16, National Play-doh Day
- September 19, National Talk Like a Pirate Day
- September 23, National Public Lands Day
- September 25, National Comic Book Day
- September 29, [CASTL, Wahoo Public Library, "Library Law"](#)
- October, [TeenTober](#)
  - National Reading Group Month
  - National Book Month
- October 6, World Smile Day
- October 9, Native American Day & Columbus Day, SELS Office Closed
- October 11, National Fossil Day
- October 13, [Two for One Workshop, Ashland Public Library](#)
- October 15-21, [National Friends of the Library Week](#)



# Photo of the Month



Line Dancing at Seward Memorial Library. (More on p. 4)

# CASTL Wrap-up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

September 29  
Wahoo Public Library  
“Library Law”

October 27  
Wymore Public Library  
“Document Retention Policy”

November 16  
Dvoracek Memorial Library, Wilber  
“Bibliostat”

December 15  
Southeast Library System Meeting Room

January 19th  
Auburn Memorial Library  
“Resources for Collection Development”

August’s CASTL, hosted by Vicki Perrie at Superior Public Library, began with a discussion of Sustainable Shelves, a program offered by Baker & Taylor through which they take used books, credit the value to a library’s Baker & Taylor account, and provide free shipping for the books. This used to be an incredible deal for libraries, because they could send not only books that Baker & Taylor would resell, but also those with no resale value and Baker and Taylor would dispose of them via recycling. Now Baker & Taylor will only take the books for which they give credit. Libraries which use B & T as a vendor often still use the program, because they get a credit on future orders.

Another resource that anyone can use is [sellbackyourbook.com](https://sellbackyourbook.com). They even buy CDs and DVDs. After scanning in your items, you get a quote and you print off a free shipping label. York has sold items for anywhere from 6 cents to 20 dollars.

Some libraries also use Better World Books, often as a final option after [sellbackyourbook.com](https://sellbackyourbook.com) and Sustainable Shelves. Once again, books have to be scanned, which is time consuming and it is often necessary to have a volunteer who will do this. However, Better World Books does send boxes and pays for shipping.

Many libraries rely heavily on book sales. As long as books are not priced and it is a free-will donation, there is no need to pay sales tax. Plus, it is a very common experience that book sales bring in more money if payment is simply a free-will donation. Often it is the Friends of the Library or Foundation that receives the money. Sometimes villages or cities are also very good at putting such donations into a special library account, but not always. To get more traffic, book sales may be held in conjunction with city festivals or community-wide garage sales.

Usually when books are donated to the library, a quick check is done to see if any can be added to the collection or could replace worn titles. More possibilities for donated and weeded books include giving large print titles to Good Samaritan and Assisted Living, or providing books to thrift stores or a local hospital. Other libraries use them as prizes, donate them to the NLC for book kits, donate items to a library with a small budget, give paperbacks to a jail, or put out books on a free shelf. Finally, many libraries let teachers have first pick of children’s books and/or allow children to take leftover children’s books home with them. For even more, [see the recording](#).

# 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>
October 16—October 27	Management/Supervision	September 12—October 7
November 6—November 17	Leadership	September 26—October 21

# News Around the System

## Seward Memorial Library Starts Fall with a Bang!

*Provided by Becky Baker*

Seward Memorial Library has a lot of exciting things lined up in the next couple of months!

On Thursday nights, we gear up for line dancing. We turn down the AC in the conference room as the pace picks up when the group learns the steps. Jacki Mason teaches the group how to do the Electric Slide, Pontoon and many other fun dances. We have a variety of age groups show up as well as a variety of ability levels! In the end, it's all just about the fun. At the end of the session, just for giggles, the group does the chicken dance to top off the evening and everyone leaves with a smile!

On September 17 at 3:00 p.m., we look forward to hearing from this year's Arthur Clarke Diversity speaker, Mr. John Harris. In the spring of 1987, John Leonard Harris obtained one of two original copies of a tape featuring a speech given by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on May 23, 1962. The original reel-to-reel recording had been in a box in the basement of the owner for 25 years. No one had heard the recording since the night that it was made. What Mr. Harris heard on that tape changed his life forever as he was propelled directly into the heart of the civil rights movement. It will prove to be an interesting afternoon listening to Mr. Harris and learning about the fascinating tale of his life's pursuit.

In honor of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our new library building, on October 8 at 2:00, New York Times bestselling author Craig Johnson visits our library. Mr. Johnson is best known for his Longmire series. This series is a western mystery story of Sheriff Walt Longmire based in Absaroka County, Wyoming. It was also picked up by Warner Horizon and adapted for television in 2012. We're excited to such a well-known author come to our library!

Our final event commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our building features a panel of Nebraska authors on October 22 at 2:00 p.m. Alex Kava, Tosca Lee, and Lydia Kang will talk about their careers and published works in a moderated discussion.

## Author Tosca Lee speaks at Crete Public Library

*Provided by Joy Stevenson*

Author Tosca Lee visited on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> of September. She spoke about the writing process of her latest book, "The Long March Home," as well as her previous New York Times bestsellers. Thank you to Friends of the Crete Public Library for supporting the program. Everybody enjoyed a taste of the Philippines by eating Lumpia, a Filipino spring roll.



# News Around the System

## Full-time Librarian Sought in Fairmont

The Village of Fairmont Nebraska is accepting applications for a full-time Librarian. High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Drug pre-screening, employment physical and background check required. Interested individual must be a self-starter, attentive to detail, able to multi-task, have excellent oral and written communication skills, and be flexible in job duties and work schedules. Computer skills are essential and must be able to complete the Basic Skills Classes for Public Librarian Certification.



Applications may be found on the Village website at [www.Fairmont-Nebraska.org](http://www.Fairmont-Nebraska.org). Salary based on experience. The Village of Fairmont offers an excellent benefits package.

Applications must arrive at Fairmont Public Library by September 30.

## NEBRASKA CORRECTIONAL CENTER FOR WOMEN LIBRARY

Welcome to the NCCW Library! We are a prison based library offering reading material and Law Library services to our population. We are located on the campus of NCCW in York, NE. We have a wide range of genres including thrillers, suspense, romance, urban fiction, biographies, true crime, fantasy and many more. Our patrons are currently enjoying series books in multiple genres.

NCCW library does its best to keep new books coming in through purchases but we depend on donations primarily.

Our Law Library offers computer access to case studies for reference as well as many reference material books.

Our team in the library does our best to make our prison library feel like a public library. We have open space, neat and tidy shelves and many reading options.

NCCW gladly accepts donations of gently used books. Contact the Librarian at 402-362-8862 or email [caitlyn.mcilvain@nebraska.gov](mailto:caitlyn.mcilvain@nebraska.gov)



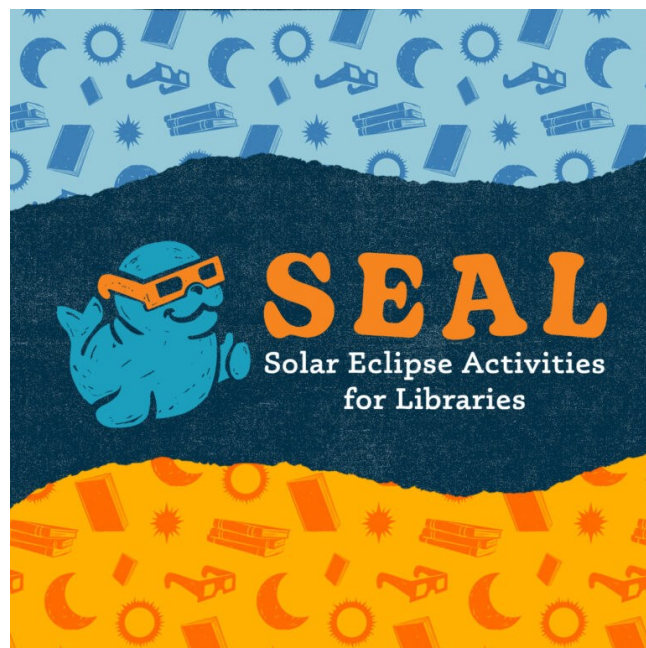
# News Around the System

## Crete selected for *NASA@ My Library* Bilingual Eclipse Opportunities

*Provided by Joy Stevenson*

Crete Public Library has been selected through a competitive application process to participate in NASA@ My Library, an education initiative created to increase and enhance STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) learning opportunities for library patrons throughout the nation, including geographic areas with high Latinx populations. Selected libraries will receive bilingual (Spanish/English) solar science kits that include a telescope, hands-on activities, and culturally relevant resources; access to NASA subject matter experts for programs; and multiple opportunities for training and support.

Crete is one of just 49 libraries nationwide and the only one in Nebraska to be part of this initiative. The first activity planned is to view the 2023 Annular Eclipse on Saturday, 14 October.



## New Self-Paced Basics Skills Course on Communication

*Provided by Holli Duggan*



A new version of the Basic Skills: Communication course is now available!

This course is available as a self-paced online course. You may register and take the course at any time. In this class, we will cover general communication skills, as well as some specialized forms of communications such as advocacy and marketing.

[For information on how to access this course, click here!](https://my.nicheacademy.com/nlc)

# News Around the System

## Nebraska Library Week

In 2023, the Nebraska Library Association is proud to present the first inaugural Nebraska Library Week! This event aims to celebrate and promote public, academic, and special libraries throughout the state of Ne-

braska to the public, government officials, library advocates, and stakeholders, to celebrate and recognize library workers for their contributions to their local communities, and foster



a sense of community between library professionals and library supporters throughout the state of Nebraska.

The theme for our inaugural NLW is **“Connecting Communities”**, in honor of the passing of the broadband legislation earlier this year. The theme emphasizes the various ways in which libraries connect people to each other, to their local communities, and to the global community.

NLW will take place **November 12<sup>th</sup> – November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023** .

To sign up your library to be an official participant in Nebraska Library Week, please have a representative fill out [this](#) form. Libraries that fill out the form will be listed as official participants in promotional materials and be a stop on the Connecting Communities roadmap. Participants will receive a programming guide with suggestions of programming to promote and celebrate their library, in addition to receiving promotion for their library and events through NLA’s social media platforms.

You are also encouraged to design and implement your own unique, original programming to celebrate your community and library staff! You may submit programming using [this](#) form to have your programs listed on our Nebraska Library Week Calendar.

To finish out our week, we will celebrate all our accomplishments at Library Prom in Hastings, NE on November 18<sup>th</sup>! Registration link coming soon.

More information can be found at [https://nebraskalibraries.org/Nebraska\\_Library\\_Week](https://nebraskalibraries.org/Nebraska_Library_Week) or by emailing NLW Chair, Lane Gibson, at [lane.d.gibson@gmail.com](mailto:lane.d.gibson@gmail.com) .

# From the NLC

## Book Club Spotlight: *Crying in H Mart*

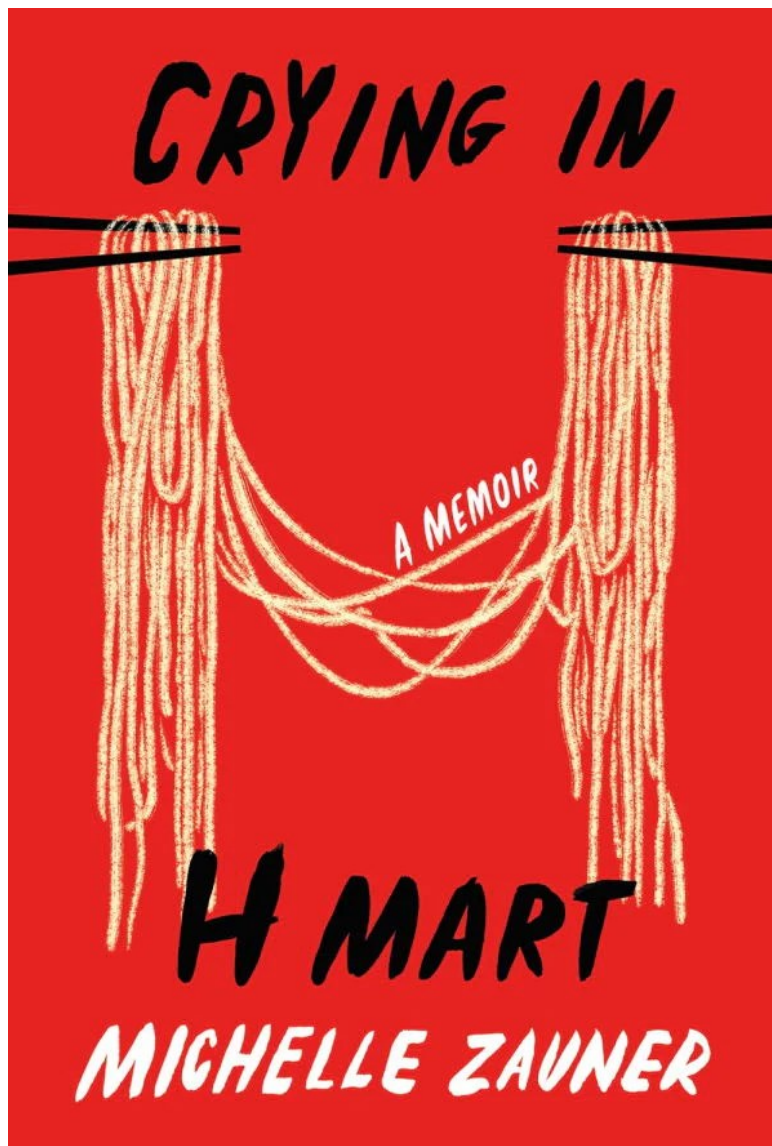
*Provided by MavcKenzie Marrow, edited for length*

Michelle Zauner was always told that 25 would be an important year for her. After all, it is when her mother, Chongmi, met and married Michelle's father, an American living in Korea for work. For Michelle, 25 was the year cancer slowly took her mother's life. As a first-generation Korean-American, Michelle did not have the easiest time growing up. Between facing racism from her peers and pressure from her mother to be the perfect daughter, Michelle poured her heart into creative passions like music and writing. When Chongmi was diagnosed with cancer, Michelle was in a creative and financial rut. Her band at the time wasn't reaching much success, and her day jobs consisted of whatever part-time gigs she could manage. So when the diagnosis came, she dropped everything to attend to her ailing mother, hoping to repair the bond between them and repay her for the unending

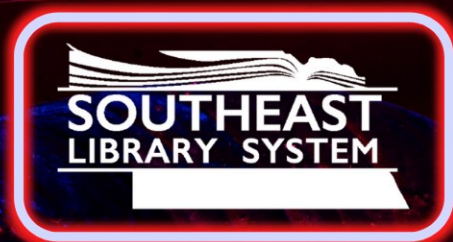
love and care she didn't cherish when she was younger. Throughout the memoir, Zauner attempts to nourish her and her mother's relationship while nourishing their bodies through learning to cook Korean food.

It's not often that a book comes with a built-in soundtrack, and I highly recommend listening to [Psychopomp](#) for a whole reading experience. The album, named after entities that are said to shepherd souls to the afterlife, revolves around Zauner's mother and her final days, featuring Chongmi on the album cover and her voice in the title song comforting Michelle.

If you're interested in requesting *Crying in H Mart* for your book club, you can find the Request Form [here](#). **There are 5 copies available.** (A librarian must request items)







# 2 FOR 1 WORKSHOP

ASHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

OCTOBER 13  
10-3

LUNCH INCLUDED  
4 CE

SESSIONS WILL BE "PITCH DECKS FOR LIBRARIANS: HOW TO GET YOUR IDEAS ACROSS BETTER" AND "BYSTANDER INTERVENTION TRAINING." FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, [CLICK HERE!](#)

# 2023 Fall RAN Workshop

**FRIDAY  
NOV. 3**

Seward Memorial Library  
233 South 5th Street, Seward, Nebraska



## The String Beans - LIVE!

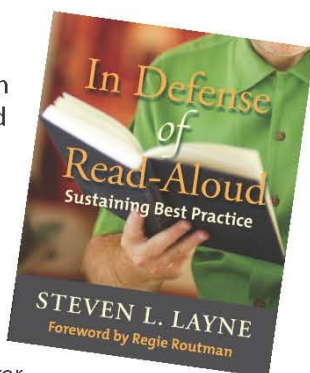
The String Beans, Nebraska's most popular children's music band, have entertained families since 2004 with catchy tunes, clever lyrics and onstage antics. Curt Bright, Randy Bright, and Daniel Christian will share their experiences writing songs and performing for the child in each of us. After all, singing is really just reading aloud stories that rhyme and are set to music. The band will perform a few songs live, answer your questions, test your knowledge of Nebraska trivia, and maybe even give out stickers!



## Stephen Layne - via Zoom

*In Defense of Read-Aloud*

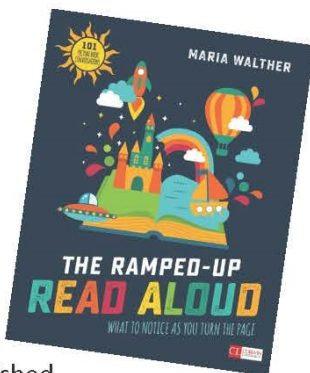
Author and University Scholar Dr. Steven Layne is passionate about reading aloud to kids of all ages. In this energizing keynote address, he provides teachers and librarians with strong research-based rationale for reading aloud throughout the grades as well as providing information on maximizing instruction. Guaranteed: loads of practical information and a lot of laughter.



## Maria Walther - via Zoom

*Ramp Up Your Read Alouds: Connect, Converse, and Extend*

Join Maria for an inspiring virtual learning session designed for librarians, teachers, and caregivers. Peek into the inner workings of an interactive read aloud. Discover a consistent read-aloud structure that will increase engagement, joy, and language comprehension. Leave with kid-friendly ideas and a list of recently-published picture books that your readers will love!



## AGENDA

**8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.**

Registration, Refreshments, Welcome

**8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

Special Announcement

**9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.**

Breakout Session 1

**10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.**

The String Beans

**11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

Steven Layne Keynote

**11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.**

Lunch & Book Sales



Advance & Online registrations include lunch sponsored by Runza Restaurants!

**1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.**

Maria Walther Keynote

**2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.**

Breakout Session 2

**2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Closing, Evaluations, Book Sales

## Advance and

### Online registration - \$35

Must be postmarked or submitted by October 29. Please fill out the registration form and mail with your check or visit [www.readaloudnebraska.org](http://www.readaloudnebraska.org) to register and pay online.

### Onsite registration - \$40

Registrations received after October 29 will not include lunch.

## Breakout Session 1 9:00–9:45

### a Making Literature Come Alive

*Cody Talarico, Fine Arts Education Specialist at the Nebraska Department of Education*

Looking to spice up your classroom read a-louds? Do you want your kids to be more involved in your classroom literature? Come and explore a few strategies you can use to make your stories come alive through rhythmic speech, movements, special sound effects and more! Let's see how we can get our kids involved and make literature come alive.

### b Picture Book Read Alouds

*Carla Ketner, PhD., Chapters Books & Gifts*

Reading aloud is the single most important activity leading to language development, and that's only one of the reasons to share great books with children. Carla will share high-quality, engaging new picture books to read aloud.

### c Read Aloud in Your Community

*Ali Bousquet, Lincoln City Libraries Librarian*

Reading aloud is the single most important activity parents can do to prepare their children for reading and learning. Learn how your library can promote reading aloud in your community. Get ideas for how to get started, make connections, and spread the word.

## Breakout Session 2 2:00–2:45

### a Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

*Jessica Chamberlain, Norfolk Public Library Director*

*Mark Claussen, School Psychologist and President of Read Aloud Norfolk*

Learn about the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and how the program can increase reading aloud in your community. Hear how Norfolk got the program started in their community and how you can too!

### b Early Chapter Book Read Alouds

*Sally Snyder, Nebraska Library Commission*

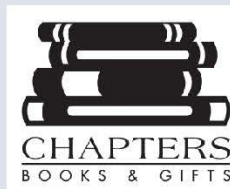
Sally will present good read aloud choices of early chapter books for beginning readers and chapter books for older elementary school age children. These fiction titles will keep kids reading and listening.

### c Updates from NLA

Representatives from the Nebraska Library Association Intellectual Freedom Round Table and the Golden Sower Award Committee will share news and information.

Questions? [info@readaloudnebraska.org](mailto:info@readaloudnebraska.org)

Books by the keynote speakers as well as many of the titles that will be reviewed during the sessions will be for sale by Chapters Books & Gifts!



Register online at [www.readaloudnebraska.org](http://www.readaloudnebraska.org) or mail this registration with your check (sorry, no purchase orders are accepted) to:  
Read Aloud Nebraska, 233 South 5th Street, Seward, NE 68434

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

School or Library \_\_\_\_\_

Check this box if your school or library would like to receive a box of free books to give to children in need!

Circle which breakout sessions you want to attend:

Breakout 1:    a    b    c                      Breakout 2:    a    b    c

# System Spotlight

## New “Policy Examples” Page on SELS Website



Photo by [Scott Graham](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Are you looking for ideas to help you as you revise or create a policy? SELS now has a page on its website with [examples of policies](#). Feel free to use anything you find here. There is no plagiarism when creating policy with the help of ideas and language from other libraries! Also, we would love to add more examples to the page, so please let us know if you feel you might have a policy we could link to.

### Southeast Library System

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

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

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