



**If You Build It, Will They Come?**

*Article by Tammi Thiem*



I think nearly every librarian has had a failed program. This can be so disappointing! You plan around absolutely everything. You keep track of the events at the school to avoid having the library program on the same night as sports or parent/teacher conferences or music concerts. You keep abreast of other community events to avoid conflicts. You even keep an eye on the weather forecasts. You find the best possible date and time. You plan everything and get it all set up. You spread the word far and wide. You worry if you have enough seating and enough refreshments. You double check and then triple check everything.

No one comes.

Maybe worse yet, one or two come. In this case, you have witnesses to your failure.

What went wrong?!

Likely, nothing went wrong. It is an unfortunate part of life in the library world. The best thing you can do is to not get discouraged. Learn from these experiences. Did you really spread the word far and wide? Is there anyway you can get the word out better? Maybe not, but if so, next time you can try other options. Was there an event in town that you maybe overlooked? If so, it is unlikely that it will be overlooked next time. Was the program really something of interest to the community? Likely so, but this is a great opportunity to step back and evaluate what the community does want and need.

Sometimes you just have to accept that it is a daunting challenge to provide programs for people. These people have busy lives. They have numerous interests outside of the library. They have families. They have careers. They have full lives. Sometimes they have overflowing full lives. They do not realize how hard you worked on planning the program and how much thought you put into everything.

Do not take it personally.

It is far too easy to let the negative experiences dominate your emotions and your memories. This is part of human nature. Have you heard of the 5:1 ratio? This basically means that five positive experiences equal one negative experience. Does this correlate to your own life? If you have five patrons offer positive comments to you throughout the day, can these be erased by one negative comment? If you provide five fabulous programs that are hugely successful, does that one program failure dim them in your energy and in your memories? If so, it is natural.

Keep trying. What you are doing truly does matter. You do positively impact the people in your communities, likely more than you know. Keep doing your best, as there will be successful programs in your future. Librarians are creative and genius rock stars!

As always, if there is anything I can do to help, please feel free to contact me. My email address is [tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com](mailto:tammi.thiem.trls@gmail.com). My phone number is 402-910-7005. I would love to hear from you!



**At the TRAILS Office**

**The Library Trustee: Roles, Responsibility, and Relationships**

*Article by Tammi Thiem*

I have had the pleasure of attending several board meetings at libraries within the Three Rivers Library System. What a great learning opportunity this is for me, as this helps me observe the various ways that library boards operate. It is always interesting to see the dynamic interactions and communication methods between the boards and the library directors and staff. While there are basic requirements for library board meetings, each group is completely unique.

While at these meetings, we take the time to discuss materials from United for Libraries that highlight some of these basic requirements. The materials offer great suggestions for how library boards should operate, and they really spotlight the important roles that library boards have in their community's library.

This discussion is continuing education, worth one CE Credit per attendee. If you would like for me to attend a library board meeting, please let me know. The discussion will, of course, increase the length of the board meeting by about an hour, so plan accordingly with your board members. I look forward to hearing from you all!



**Upcoming TRAILS Events**

**Meet the TRAILS Board**

Crys Bauermeister from Pierce High School  
*Vice President*

Crys Bauermeister is currently the school librarian, language arts, and STEAM instructor at Pierce Jr./Sr. High School. She previously taught English, speech,



drama, and computer classes. In her 22nd year as an educator, she is the yearbook sponsor, academic team sponsor & cheerleading coach.

Currently, Crys is the president of the NSLA (Nebraska School Librarians Association), vice president of the TRLS (Three Rivers Library System) board, Golden Sower reader and committee member, a member of NETA (Nebraska Educational Technology Association), and a member of the NDLA (Nebraska Digital Learning Association). She has been a presenter at NDLA, Summer Tech Institute, NETA, ESU Winter Workshop, & NSLA.

Crys holds a MS in Instructional Technology with a library emphasis and a MS in Curriculum & Instruction.

In addition to her professional life, Crys is the district 2 ALA (American Legion Auxiliary) president, head deacon at her church, and president of her local ALA chapter.

For the past 16 years, Crys has been married to Josh, and they have two children, Ella, age 11 and Luke, age 8. The family lives on an acreage northeast of Pierce.

### Basic Skills Classes

#### Leadership with Holli Duggan

Registration Dates: 27 September 2021 - 22 October 2021  
Class Dates: 1 November 2021 - 12 November 2021

#### Library Services to Children & Teens with Sally Snyder

Registration Dates: 25 October 2021 - 19 November 2021  
Class Dates: 29 November 2021 - 10 December 2021

### Upcoming NCompass Live

#### Letters About Literature

Date: 3 November 2021 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

#### Summer Reading Program 2022: Oceans of Possibilities

Date: 17 November 2021 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

#### Pretty Sweet Tech

Date: 24 November 2021 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am

### ALA's Humanities Grants for Libraries

#### For more grants like this one, check the NLC's Grant Opportunities for Nebraska Libraries.

ALA invites libraries to apply for funding through its [American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries](#) opportunity, a grantmaking program to deliver relief to libraries recovering from the coronavirus pandemic.

With funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, ALA will distribute \$2 million to help anchor libraries as strong humanities institutions as they emerge and rebuild from the coronavirus pandemic. The purpose of this emergency relief program is to assist libraries that have been adversely affected by the pandemic and require support to restore and sustain their core activities.

Up to 200 U.S. libraries of all types (e.g., public, tribal, K-12, academic, special, prison) and representing a broad range of communities will receive \$10,000 through a competitive, peer-reviewed application process. [Register for a free webinar to learn about the application.](#) ALA will accept applications from October 5 to December 2, 2021. [Learn more and apply online.](#)

Selected libraries will receive:

- \$10,000 to support humanities functions of the libraries.
- One print copy of ["Going Virtual: Programs and Insights from a Time of Crisis"](#) by Sarah Ostman for the ALA Public Programs Office (ALA Editions, 2021)
- Online resources and support

The general goals of this ARP opportunity include to help create or preserve jobs; support or maintain general operations; create or sustain humanities programs; and implement new humanities activities or sustain existing activities. Eligible expenses include salary and benefit support for library workers engaged in humanities activities; costs related to in-person or virtual humanities programming, such as book clubs and guest lectures; and marketing and advertising to support library humanities efforts.

### Summer Reading Presenters

If you've already started thinking about Summer Reading and deciding if you want to have an entertainer, check out our [2022 Summer Reading Presenter Flyers](#). This folder will be available all next year for you to peruse and see if anything seems like the right fit for your library.

### Calendar of Events

#### Bibliostat Training

Online  
1 November 2021  
10:00 am

#### SKILLS Meeting

Lied Tekamah Public Library  
4 November 2021  
9:30 am - 11:30 am

#### SKILLS Meeting

Online  
4 November 2021  
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

#### SKILLS Meeting

Online  
4 November 2021  
9:30 am - 11:30 am

#### SKILLS Meeting

Gardner Public Library  
9 November 2021  
9:30 am - 11:30 am

#### SKILLS Meeting

Neligh Public Library  
10 November 2021  
9:30 am - 11:30 am

#### SKILLS Meeting

Greenwood Public Library  
11 November 2021  
9:30 am - 11:30 am

#### SKILLS Meeting

Online  
12 November 2021  
9:00 am - 10:00 am

#### SKILLS Meeting

Online  
17 November 2021  
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

#### Adults Need Play and How Libraries Can Help!

Online  
18 November 2021  
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

#### SKILLS Meeting

Online  
24 November 2021  
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

#### SKILLS Meeting

Online  
30 November 2021  
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

#### Other Duties As Assigned: Plunger Provided

Online  
6 December 2021  
10:00 am - 11:00 am

#### SKILLS Meeting

Online  
8 December 2021  
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

#### SKILLS Meeting

Online  
16 December 2021  
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

#### SKILLS Meeting

Online  
21 December 2021  
9:00 am - 10:00 am

## Library News

### Bellevue University Library's Story Walk

#### Article by Alicia James

With the rising trend of library story walks, Bellevue University Library has decided to do its own take on the premise. Our story walk is made by setting up multiple displays throughout the Library building that all fit with one theme. We set up our first story walk in August and created four separate display sections, labeled as lab stations, to explore the topic of forensic science. This story walk was on display for one full month.

Visitors were able to stop at the stations to learn about different aspects of forensics. The categories included Forensics and Digital Forensics, Crime Scene Investigations, True Crime, and Fictional Forensics and CSI.



Each lab station had books, videos, and audiobooks from the Library's collection. Facts, images, props, infographics, and links to online resources that related to each specialized category were also included at each station.

The Library is planning to create and host three more of these story walk displays over the course of the school year. Future story walks will also coordinate with planned poster exhibitions to create even more in-depth and enticing displays.



### Keene Memorial Library's Mad Hatter

*Article by Laura England-Biggs*



Laura England-Biggs received the 2021 Mad Hatter Youth Service Award at the recent Nebraska Library Association Conference held October 14 in Omaha. The Mad Hatter is awarded by the School, Children and Young People's section of the Association and is traditionally given to a library worker who has made a difference in the lives of children in their area. Laura served as the youth service librarian from January 2012-May 2021; as a newly appointed director, this came as a complete surprise and was very moving.



### Hartington Public Library's Spooky Season

*Article by Tami Anderson*

The Hartington Public Library celebrated "Spooky" month with a homemade photo booth Kids and adults got to enter after they checked out their books.

We had lots of cute costumes entered our doors during our Halloween StoryHour, the kids listened to some great read aloud stories, Miss Kim whipped up some potions for our puking pumpkins, and we made a huge spider web for Mr. Spider. The kids took home a cool haunted house craft, along with a treat.



## Scholarship Experiences

### Nebraska Humanities Presentation

*Article by Katie Hollmann, Verdigre Public Library*

On September 16, 2021, Nebraska Humanities speaker Jeff Barnes presented an excellent program called "Marking Nebraska: How (Mostly) Hidden Monuments Tell the Story of our State" at the Verdigre Public Library.

With photos and storytelling he touched on the topics of pre-statehood, the Lewis & Clark Expedition, the Oregon and California Trails, the oldest college in NE, a curious period of our state capitol being located in Neapolis (Saunders County) and unfortunate but real clashes between the cultures of traders, missionaries, military, settlers and native tribes.

Fascinating tidbits: Nebraska's very first monument installed on a bluff at the juncture of NE-KS-IA was promptly forgotten and lost for fifty years. Once re-discovered it was cheaper to send an artist to sketch the scene than to haul photography equipment to the location.

Easily a third of the monuments documented by Mr. Barnes were funded and placed by the DAR-- Daughters of the American Revolution--whom we truly should appreciate for preserving important moments of Nebraska history. Often the ladies were denied government dollars so they creatively used donated boulders at many sites.

About those reddish Sioux Quartzite boulders, aka "Erratics", which were often donated by farmers who wanted them out of their fields. Nebraska geologic history does not support the presence of these monstrous



rocks. Instead, they were carried to northeast Nebraska by glaciers from the north. In fact the falls of Sioux Falls, South Dakota are comprised of the very same Sioux Quartzite.

A Mr. Meeker who traversed points east in an oxen-pulled covered wagon to advocate for memorializing the Oregon Trail had an enterprising and generous friend named Henry Ford. When the oxen gave out, Mr. Ford created a one-of-a-kind vehicle for Nebraska's Oregon Trail cause: a covered wagon atop a Model T! (See photo.)

A monument in Central City marks where there once was a SINGLE tree in a landscape barren of trees. The only federally-funded monument in our state is by Trenton (Hitchcock County) at Massacre Canyon.

Finally, Chicago refused to let Lincoln, Nebraska produce a copy of its version of a President Abraham Lincoln statue. Consequently, we commissioned Daniel Chester French and Henry Bacon to design a unique statue and pedestal for our state capitol. Their creation was so wonderful Daniel Chester French and Henry Bacon's next assignment was the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The library has three of Jeff Barnes' books available for check-out. They are Extra Innings: The Story of Modisett Ball Park (in Rushville, NE), The Great Plains Guide to Buffalo Bill: Forts, Fights and Other Sites and Cut in Stone, Cast in Bronze: Nebraska's Historical Markers and Monuments.

Thank you to the Three Rivers Library System and Verdigre Library Foundation for funding this most enjoyable Humanities presentation by Jeff Barnes!



## 2021 NLA Conference

*Article by Shelby Janke, Papillion Public Library*

After 20 months of virtual meetings, webinars, and problem-solving, it felt so nice to reconvene with librarians across the state at this year's Nebraska Library Association Conference in Omaha (Oct. 14, 2021). Although the conference was smaller in size than past years (and understandably so), big topics were discussed as libraries all over the country, including right here in Nebraska, are both increasingly vital and increasingly threatened.

A major theme weaving through the online and in-person conference sessions this year was intellectual freedom. Although we just celebrated Banned Books Week in September, Nebraska libraries saw more than their fair share of book challenges this year, including my own public library in the southeast part of the state. Moderator Wyatt Packard of Lincoln City Libraries presented a fabulous overview of this often grey area in his presentation and panel, "Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibility: Striving for Balance." While the First Amendment protects individuals' ideas, library policies exist to protect library staff from patrons' harmful behaviors during intellectual freedom disputes. As someone who is constantly churning the concept of intellectual freedom around in my head, this session was incredibly helpful in determining the very thin line that weaves between freedom of speech and social justice.

The current issues of intellectual freedom in our libraries do not only affect our materials and policies. They affect us, the staff. If you've experienced censorship in our profession — whether by receiving a challenge to a material, display, or program; witnessing self-censorship by colleagues or administration; or finding a "controversial" item hidden somewhere in the library — perhaps you felt defensive, offended, disheartened, irritated, or disappointed. We librarians value the ethic of access to information, and when this value is compromised, it can feel like we carry the weight of the world's information on our shoulders.

This feeling of hopelessness brings me to this year's virtual keynote presentation, "Building a Better Collective Future with Slow Librarianship" by Meredith Farkas. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, libraries were expanding to fill the holes in society through which library users were falling. From mental health safety to drug overdose prevention, reducing recidivism rates to welcoming Americans (back) into society, it's not libraries who do the work — it's library workers. Farkas asserts that these tough, nuanced library services require a lot of a profession that is underfunded, undercompensated, undervalued, and sometimes toxic within individual organizations. Add local intellectual freedom issues onto this workload during a public health crisis and you may find that library workers do want to slow down. Maybe we need to slow down, not only for the sake of our collective mental health, but also to muster the energy to provide meaningful programs and listen deeply to patrons.

So maybe you are experiencing book challenges, budget cuts, or simply burnout. I sense a collective nod, and invite you to remember that you are one pin in a statewide network of information professionals who are feeling the same exact strain that you are. And while it feels like we are holding society together, please know that society will not implode if you take a more gentler approach to your work, your tasks, your colleagues, and your time off. In case you need it, I grant you permission.

## Nebraska Humanities Presentation

*Article by Elizabeth Carlson, Gardner Public Library*

Gardner Public Library was able to host Humanities Nebraska speakers, Kevin and Charlotte Endorf, for a presentation on Grace Snyder due to a humanities scholarship from Three Rivers Library System. The crowd of 26 people enjoyed learning more about a Nebraskan who achieved her goals, even though they seemed impossible at the time.

Participants saw pictures of the beautiful quilts that Grace made, which were all sewn by hand, some with pieces about the size of a nickel! Two of her quilts were designated as among the 100 best quilts in the 20th century. Grace was also inducted into the Quilter's Hall of Fame at age 98.

The presentation was inspirational as Grace was an ordinary Nebraskan, who had three goals, and achieved all three. Grace was the daughter of homesteaders, she made her home in the Sandhills, and she was a ranch wife. It allowed participants to see that anything is possible, if you put your heart and mind to it. Thank you to Three Rivers Library System for the grant that made this presentation possible!

## 2021 NLA Conference

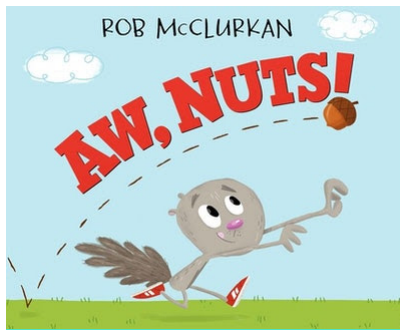
*Article by Dianne Cooper, Howells Public Library*

I was able to attend the 2021 NLA conference in Omaha thanks to the Three Rivers Library System who provided money for the hotel room and my library board that paid the registration fee. This financial help made it possible for me to attend more of the conference.

Wednesday afternoon, I went to the Makerspace discussion at the LaVista Library. This allowed time to see some items included in a makerspace, see them in action and possibly make a small project. The roundtable discussion at the end had good information about the need for good policies and safety for the makerspace area. I enjoy visiting other libraries, so it was great to be able to add this one to my list of visited libraries. Thursday was spent networking with new and old library colleagues as we started the day listening to the keynote speaker Michelle Mras. Sessions attended the rest of the day include new books for children and youth with Sally Snyder and Dana Fontaine, Notable book lists by Pat Leach, and learning about the Library Land project with Adam Zand and Greg Peverill-Conti. There were many other good programs to attend, but these were the ones I thought were most beneficial to my library.

I was excited to attend this year's conference and am looking forward to 2022 in Kearney. Thanks again to everyone who made the conference possible, especially Three Rivers Library System and my library board.

## Review Corner



**Aw Nuts!**  
**By Rob McClurkan**  
 Recommended for preschool through second grade.  
 Submitted by Carol Tramp

I liked this book, it was colorful, it was silly, and fun to read. Poor squirrel, acquiring nuts is such a hassle, but all of his antics just add to the humor. What an adventure, enjoy!

Love writing book reviews? Feel free to pass them along to us to share with the rest of the regional system. Email Chelsea at [trls.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:trls.assistant@gmail.com) submit them or any other article you'd like to share. We're always accepting submissions to our TRaILS Newsletter!

**Library and Information Services**  
 Online Course Offerings  
**Spring 2022**  
**January 10, 2022 – May 5, 2022**  
 Enrollment for Spring Semester 2022 opens  
 Thursday, Nov. 15, 2021

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**LIBR 2100 Reference Resources and Services**  
 Marty Magee, Instructor

- Professional competencies including legal and ethical responsibilities
- Reference interview process
- The Reference collection
- Evaluation and use of digital resources, including databases, and websites

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**LIBR 2150 Managing Collections in Libraries and Information Agencies**  
 Patty Birch, Instructor

- Basics of Collection Management including terminology and models
- 21st Century Libraries
- Selection, Acquisition, Deselection/Weeding
- Intellectual Freedom and Copyright

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**LIBR 2210 Cataloging and Classification**  
 Ruth Carlock, Instructor

- The bibliographic record
- Sears and Library of Congress subject headings
- Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress classification systems
- Machine-Readable Cataloging Record (MARC record)
- Resource Description and Access (RDA) Instructions

Fall 2022	Spring 2023
Libr 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services	Libr 2100 Reference Resources and Services
Libr 2250 Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies	Libr 2150 Managing Collections in Libraries and Information Agencies
Libr 2940 Library Science Capstone Practicum	Libr 2210 Cataloging and Classification

For more information on the Library and Information Services program, see: <https://www.ccnneb.edu/ils/>

For information concerning Admissions or Registration, contact: Dee Johnson [djohnson@cccnneb.edu](mailto:djohnson@cccnneb.edu), 402-562-1418 or Toll Free at 877-222-0780

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