

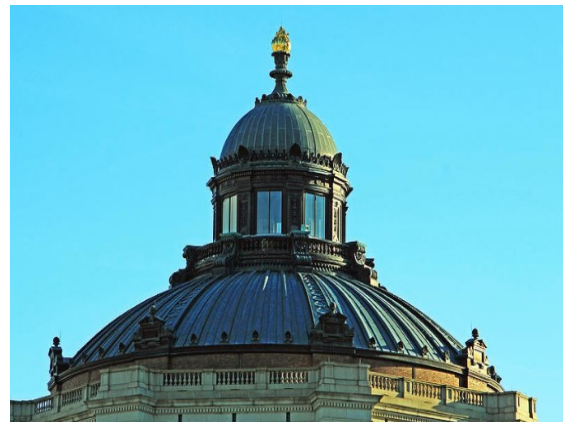
# THE WESTERN SUN

## Trailblazing and Influential Librarians and Institutions

### Library of Congress

[DC List online](#) provides the fun facts on the Library of Congress including:

- ◆ The library was originally located in the capitol building. One hundred years later, the Thomas Jefferson Library became the first separate Library of Congress building. The building is made of granite with a golden torch topping the dome. Franklin Delano Roosevelt described it as a “gingerbread exterior.” The “Flame of Knowledge” was originally copper. Fresh gold leaf was placed on the flame in the 1980’s. In 1996, the original flame was replaced by a reproduction and the original is housed in an archival warehouse in Fort Meade, Maryland.



- ◆ The library was created only for the use of Congress.
- ◆ In 1895 an underground electric conveyer system dubbed ‘rapid transit literacy line’ was completed to send books back and forth from the library to the Capitol. A Washington Post article from September 13, 1895, described the system as: “The tunnel, about 6 feet high and 4 feet wide ran about 1,100 feet. A “car” could travel between the two buildings in two or three minutes. Requests for materials were sent by pneumatic tubes. When the John Adams building was connected to the system, the updated pneumatic tube equipment enabled requests and books to be sent in 28 seconds.
- ◆ The position of the Librarian of Congress requires a presidential appointment.
- ◆ The Library adds more than 10,000 items to its collection each working day. It receives 15,000 items every working day. Half of that number includes foreign language materials. Along with books the library maintains audio, manuscripts, maps, microforms, sheet music, photograph, *selected tweets* and more.
- ◆ To access the library’s resources, you need a [Reader Identification Card](#).
- ◆ The Library of Congress [Surplus Books Program](#) allows tax supported and non-profit educational institutions

(continued on page 4)

# Mark Your Calendar

**March 5:** Western Library System Summer Reading Workshop, Alliance Public Library

**March 12:** Western Library System Board Meeting; 10:00 Riverside Business Plaza and Zoom

**March 14-15 :** Nebraska Education Technology Association Conference, Omaha

**April:** National School Librarian Month

**April 3 –5:** [Public Library Association Conference](#), Columbus, Ohio

**April 7 - 13:** [National Library Week](#)



**May 8-10:** [Mountain Plains Library Association Conference](#), Salt Lake City

**June 10-11:** [Nebraska Future Ready Conference – In-Person and Virtual](#)

**June 27-July 2:** [American Library Association Annual Conference](#), San Diego

**August 29-30:** Nebraska Regional Library Systems Joint Youth Services Retreat, Camp Carol Joy Holling, Ashland

# Policy Power

## Library Professionals and Ethics

All library workers from shelveers to Directors are professionals. This excellent article from [OpenBook Chapter 8: The Making of a Profession: Values, Ethics, and Conducts – Foundations of the Information and Knowledge Professions \(unt.edu\)](#) answers the question. “What is a profession? A profession comprises a group of people governed by a code of ethics and a code of conduct. A profession is characterized by traits of a discipline with a body of knowledge, literature, culture, norms, and practices. Among these traits, the “code of ethics” is one of the most important characteristics that can differentiate a profession from other professions, because the “code of ethics” expresses the core values of a professional that they advocate or believe in.” The article details ethics for librarians.

Often, ethics codes and statements are included with library polices. It illustrates to our Boards, administration, students and the public that library staff stands for values greater than ourselves for the greater good of everybody.

The [American Library Association Code of Ethics](#) is the standard for libraries. The principles of this Code are expressed in broad statements to guide ethical decision making. These statements provide a framework; they cannot and do not dictate conduct to cover particular situations.

- I. We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.
- II. We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources.
- III. We protect each library user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.
- IV. We respect intellectual property rights and advocate balance between the interests of information users and rights holders.
- V. We treat co-workers and other colleagues with respect, fairness, and good faith, and advocate conditions of employment that safeguard the rights and welfare of all employees of our institutions.
- VI. We do not advance private interests at the expense of library users, colleagues, or our employing institutions.
- VII. We distinguish between our personal convictions and professional duties and do not allow our personal beliefs to interfere with fair representation of the aims of our institutions or the provision of access to their information resources.
- VIII. We strive for excellence in the profession by maintaining and enhancing our own knowledge and skills, by encouraging the professional development of co-workers, and by fostering the aspirations of potential members of the profession.
- IX. We affirm the inherent dignity and rights of every person. We work to recognize and dismantle systemic and individual biases; to confront inequity and oppression; to enhance diversity and inclusion; and to advance racial and social justice in our libraries, communities, profession, and associations through awareness, advocacy, education, collaboration, services, and allocation of resources and spaces.

School Librarians, as certified teachers, also follow the Code established by The National Education Association. The NEA Code abides by two principles.

**PRINCIPLE I**

**COMMITMENT TO THE STUDENT**

The educator strives to help each student realize his or her potential as a worthy and effective member of society. The educator therefore works to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the student, the educator--

1. Shall not unreasonably restrain the student from independent action in the pursuit of learning.
2. Shall not unreasonably deny the student's access to varying points of view.
3. Shall not deliberately suppress or distort subject matter relevant to the student's progress.
4. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning or to health and safety.
5. Shall not intentionally expose the student to embarrassment or disparagement.
6. Shall not on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, family, social or cultural background, or sexual orientation, unfairly--
  - a. Exclude any student from participation in any program
  - b. Deny benefits to any student
  - c. Grant any advantage to any student
7. Shall not use professional relationships with students for private advantage.
8. Shall not disclose information about students obtained in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.

**PRINCIPLE II**

**COMMITMENT TO THE PROFESSION**

The education profession is vested by the public with a trust and responsibility requiring the highest ideals of professional service.

In the belief that the quality of the services of the education profession directly influences the nation and its citizens, the educator shall exert every effort to raise professional standards, to promote a climate that encourages the exercise of professional judgment, to achieve conditions that attract persons worthy of the trust to careers in education, and to assist in preventing the practice of the profession by unqualified persons.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the profession, the educator--

1. Shall not in an application for a professional position deliberately make a false statement or fail to disclose a material fact related to competency and qualifications.
2. Shall not misrepresent his/her professional qualifications.
3. Shall not assist any entry into the profession of a person known to be unqualified in respect to character, education, or other relevant attribute.
4. Shall not knowingly make a false statement concerning the qualifications of a candidate for a professional position.
5. Shall not assist a noneducator in the unauthorized practice of teaching.
6. Shall not disclose information about colleagues obtained in the course of professional service unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.
7. Shall not knowingly make false or malicious statements about a colleague.
8. Shall not accept any gratuity, gift, or favor that might impair or appear to influence professional decisions or action.

Thank you library workers for being the professionals you are.

# The Library of Congress: A Timeline

A chronology of key events in the [history of the Library of Congress](#).

## April 24, 1800

Congress enacted the move of the government from Philadelphia to the new capital city of Washington. Five thousand dollars is appropriated for the purchase of books to be housed in the Capitol.

## 1812

The first classified library catalog is published listing 3,076 volumes, 53 maps, charts and plans.

## August 24, 1814

The British captured Washington and burned the Capitol, destroying the Library of Congress.

## January 26, 1815

The purchase of Thomas Jefferson's 6,487 volume personal library to replace the collection.

## December 24, 1851

An accidental fire in the library destroys 35,000 volumes.

## November 1, 1897

The Library of Congress officially open a new separate library building to the public.

## October 28, 1901

The Library begins selling printed catalog cards to libraries around the world.

## March 3, 1931

The library begins providing books for use of adult blind readers.

## January 3, 1939

The Annex building opens to the public.

## August 2, 1946

The Legislative Reference Service becomes a permanent separate Library department and hired specialists in 19 subject areas.

## March 27, 1969

The first computer tapes containing cataloging data, the Machine-Readable Cataloging (MARC) Distribution Service is established.

## June 10, 1980

The third Library of Congress, the James Madison Memorial Library opens to the public.

## January 1, 1981

The filing of cards into the Library's main card catalog stops and the online cataloging officially begins.

## October 13, 1994

The Library launches its National Digital Library program aimed at digitizing primary sources related to the study of American history.

## April 21, 2009

Librarian James H. Billington announces the launch of the World Digital Library, an international collaborate.

## **Library of Congress By the Numbers**

Fiscal Year 2022 (October 2021 to September 2022)

Recorded more than 175.77 million items in its collections, including:

Recorded more than 25.49 million cataloged books in the Library of Congress classification system.

Recorded more than 15.87 million items in the nonclassified print collections more than 134.4 million items in the nonclassified (special) collections, including limited tweets.

Responded to more than 481,000 reference requests from Congress, the public and other federal agencies, including the direct use of Congressional Research Service reports.

Welcomed 370,000 onsite visitors to its Capitol Hill campus and recorded more than 151.6 million visits and 520.3 million page views on the Library's web properties.

Issued more than 484,600 copyright registrations .

Circulated more than 22.3 million copies of braille, audio and large-print items.

Circulated 243,700 physical items for use inside and outside the Library.

### **Nebraska Legislature News**

Bills of great importance to academic, public and school libraries are introduced each legislative year. For those who follow bills have discovered an updated official Nebraska Legislature [website](#) .

Nebraska Legislature Sessions run from January 3 through April 18, 2024. Brandon Metzler, Clerk, and the Legislative Technology Center have been updating the website. Mr. Metzler understood the frustrations of users trying to locate information on the legislative bills quickly and effectively. He even joked that “There are groups out there that do scavenger hunts on our website because of how hard it is to find things.”

Work continues on making the site “user friendly” including a dashboard where individual bills with an overview of each one.

### **Celebrations and Milestones**

#### **Deb Carlson Citizen of the Year ~ Scottsbluff Star Herald ~December 30, 2023**

Before retiring earlier this year, Deb Carlson spent the majority of her professional life at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library as its children’s librarian, devoting countless hours and making many personal sacrifices in order to promote and develop its programming into what it is today.

In addition to her duties as a librarian, Carlson felt it was her calling to serve as an advocate for literacy and the role that libraries play in the community and their lives. To her, every library was more than a collection of books, and she knew that children were often more conscious of that than the adults in their lives.

For her contributions to the community, and particularly for her advocacy work, the Star-Herald has selected Carlson as its Citizen of the Year for 2023.

The library is more than a place to get books and materials, and I think they feel valued and important. They come here because they feel cared for,” Carlson said ahead of her retirement in October. “I really feel like I was put here for a reason, because I genuinely love these kids.”

## New Library Director

Kathrine Rupe is the new Library Director at the Lyman Public Library.



Is this picture?

- \* Staged to make it feel like winter reading?
- \* Timed with the weather to depict a true winter reading challenge?
- \* Artificial Intelligence?

Thank you to Jessica Chamberlain, Library Director of the Norfolk Public Library for allowing us to use this picture.

***NSpire Today featured pieces on librarians in the January and February, 2024 issues.***

The Western Sun greatly appreciates NSpire Today for allowing the reprints. The first article features Richard Landreth from the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library.

See page \_\_\_ for Western Library System Board member and office staff stories.

## A World of Possibilities

By Irene North

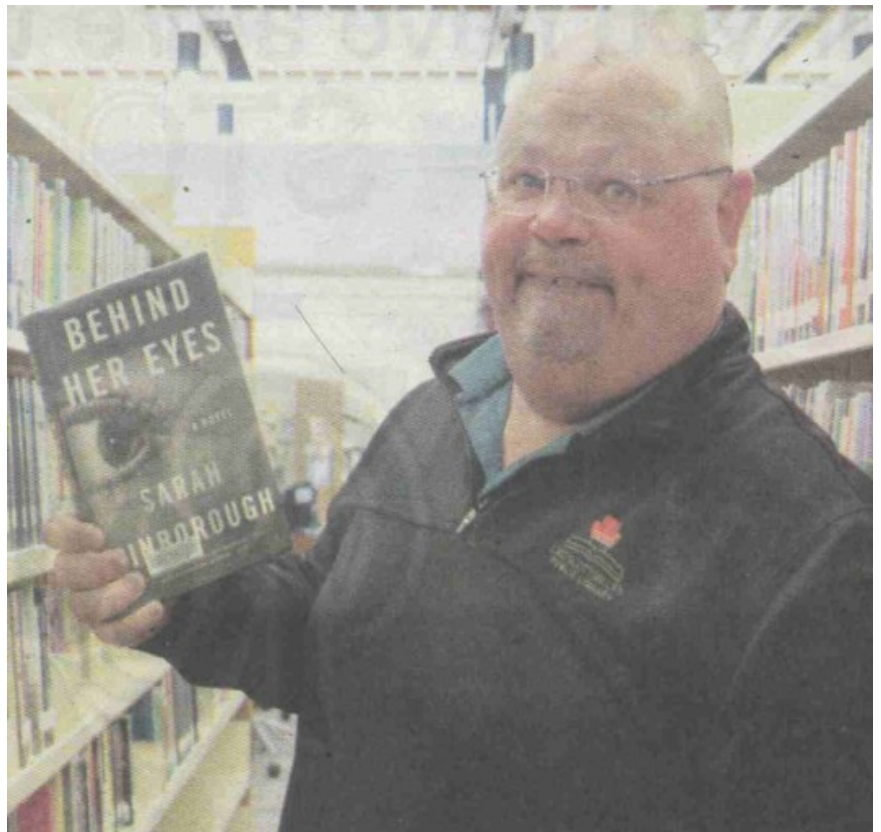
Richard Landreth fell in love with books by happenstance. His joy led to a career in which he taught others the joys of the written word. As the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library Director, he's sharing his enthusiasm with the community.

Richard Landreth loves books. He's spent his life surrounded by them. Strike up a conversation with Landreth and when he talks about a great book, he will find it on the shelf at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library and tell you all the reasons you must read it. His enthusiasm toward the written word is infectious, and you will soon find yourself immersed in a good book.

Landreth's love of books began in Rushville during high school in an unlikely way.

I didn't really work hard in high school, and they didn't expect a lot out of me," he said. "The Librarian needed some help and asked me if I would come to the library."

He went to the library during study hall to shelve books, check out books and do whatever else needed to be done.



"I dusted and dusted," he said. "There was a lot of dusting."

He also went across the street to help the elementary children. He put the books away there, but he also got to interact with the students. Although he enjoyed his time in the library, he attended Chadron State College and then the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to become math teacher. His first teaching position was in Tuba City, Arizona. Three years later he accepted a position in Liberal, Kansas. It was there he decided he wanted something different for his life.

"I knew what I wanted to be," he said. "I went to school and got my library certificate and have been in the library ever since."

Landreth accepted a librarian position in the Gillette, Wyoming, school system and remained in that position for several decades. It was the mid-1990's when he learned that some of the library classes he took for his certification in Kansas, could expire."

"When I moved to Wyoming, I had no intention of getting a master's degree," he said.

He was told his library classes could be used for his master's degree and if he wanted to keep the classes, he needed to get the advanced degree. He did lose a couple of classes, but it's also where he learned to write.

"I didn't learn much at all in high school and college English classes, but I remember reading some Shakespeare and other Medieval books they forced us to read," he said.

He could write before, but didn't do it often because he didn't do it well. It was a task to be completed. Now, he found a joy in it, too.

That's the one thing I can say came out of master's in library science is I know how to write better," he said. The master's in library science is I know how to write better," he said. "The master's was so good for me because I had to practice in Gillette, he worked in two or three libraries at the same time, teaching multiple classes every week. He didn't want to give up being a librarian, but knew he couldn't do it in a public school setting anymore.

"I decided to jump ship, and I went to a public library in Kemmerer, Wyoming for five years." I was burned out of teaching."

In the back of my mind, he always knew going from high school to math teacher wasn't the right path for him. He liked the schools because he had a captive audience who were there to learn. It's more difficult in the public world where you have to reach out to the community and get people to come to you.

"I really had a good time, but burned out, so I always kind of know it wouldn't last," he said.

He had a lot of fun working in the public library. When Covid hit, he was faced with challenges he never thought he would have to meet. It was the hardest part of any job he had ever had before.

"You were having to make health decisions for other people and you had no information about them," he said.

He loved every part of his job in Kemmerer. Eventually, he returned to Nebraska. After 30 years in the position, he decided it was time to retire and come home.

"So, here I am," he said.

Full of smiles and helpfulness, Landreth knew "retiring" was a bit of a misnomer.

"There's no way I'm ever going to retire, he said.

"I'm always going to be doing something."

When the position for library director opened in Scottsbluff, he thought he would apply and see what happened.

"I thought, 'Why not, it's a great opportunity,'" he said. "I didn't expect to get it and then I did."

In some ways, the position at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library is easier than some of my previous positions.

it."



"In Lincoln County [Kemmerer], I was the manager of six libraries and so the workload was cut by more than half," he said. "This is almost retirement, except I still need to learn to take more time off."

You wouldn't think he would have a lighter workload than in the past. He still finds it hard to leave at the end of the day. He will look at the clock and think, "I can get this done in a few minutes." Suddenly, he's still at the library well past closing time. He's learned how to compensate over the years by adjusting his schedule slightly.

"If I know today I won't get out of her when I'm supposed to, I will lollygag a bit in the morning," he said. You have to learn to do that sort of thing."

Landreth's joy of the written word takes many forms. Whether it's reading or writing, he tries to share it with patrons at the library to teach them it's not all about what you're forced to do. There is an entire world waiting for you and it's one you get to choose when you come to the public library.

He loves legal thrillers and recommends John Grisham's "The Testament" to many people.

"It is probably the one everyone should read because I just did not see that coming," he said.

He doesn't elaborate more. He only nods and smiles and points you toward the shelf where you can get the book and find out for yourself. Pick a genre and reading level and Landreth has a recommendation for you. One recent favorite "Behind Her Eyes" by Sarah Pinborough. He stops talking and runs over to the stacks where the book is shelved. He enthusiastically give a synopsis of the book. It's difficult to see anyone who could walk away from his recommendation.

He's seen a lot of changes over the years as well. In the past eight years, there has been an increase in narrative nonfiction, which he has found interesting.

"Narrative nonfiction is really great stuff and fun to read versus when I was growing up," he said. It is just so much better, which helps a lot as well."

He rarely follows the old adage of if you get 50 pages into a book and don't like it, stop reading.

"If I had done that, I never would have read any nonfiction," he said.

He thinks everyone regardless of age should check out kids books by Jule Feifer, especially his "absolute favorite" by Feiffer, "Bark George."

When the book came out, Landreth used it during his story time with kindergarten and Pre-K students. At the time, a lady who volunteered as the library would bring her two year olds some with her. When Landreth began reading, the toddler would come and sit on Landreth's foot. "At the end of the book, the boy stood up and squealed," he said. "You want excited? That boy was excited." The boy sat down again and kept telling Landreth

to read it again. He looked around at the other youth who had been listening as well.

"As clear as they could, they said, 'Yeah, do what he says.'" Landreth said.

His story is one of many successes he's had in connecting people to books. If they connect to a piece of literature, they are more likely to continue to pick up books.

"If we can connect one kid to a book, we've done our job," he said. "Once they've made that connection, they're going to learn because they have that spark."

Making connections doesn't just happen with small children. He also worked in an alternative high school for 17 years. His students had serious needs. They didn't fit into their schools. In life, they were falling through the cracks. Many of the students were not readers, but Landreth found a way to reach them through narrative non-fiction.

"They want truth," he said. "They have no use for fiction and no use for story."

He sparked their interest in reading and the students learned books aren't as painful as they thought. He also knows many people have had an awful experience at the library. He's heard all the stories of how people were treated and never wants one of his patrons to leave or swear off books. It's why he looks at his job as a customer service experience.

"When you have a bad experience, you don't come back for 20 years," he said. "We try to provide the best customer experience we can."

As a library director he also looks to find a balance of books in the community. He is a fervent believer that a library has to reflect the community it is in, but also doesn't like the idea of banning books. He understands as an eclectic reader, he doesn't always like every book out there, but he would never think of banning a book.



“Some of the things I read wouldn’t show up in here,” he said. “I don’t agree with banning them at all, but they are always available through the interlibrary loan if we don’t have them here.”

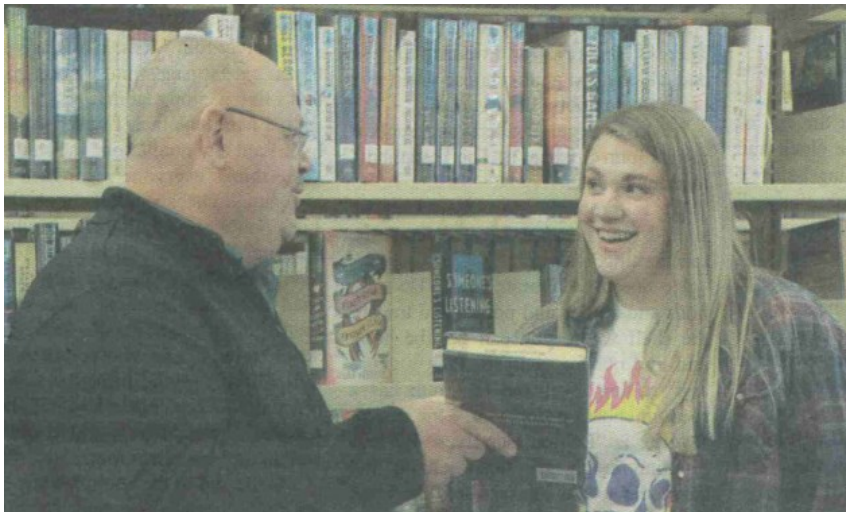
During a library meeting many years ago, a more experienced librarian turned to him and said that if there isn’t something in your library that offends you, you’re doing something wrong.

They’re right because I can walk out into the stacks and find things, but it doesn’t mean I need to push my values over someone who might find great value in something I find offensive,” he said. “There’s a reason an author wrote it.”

There are many reasons an author may write a book, and if it helps a person get through their day, then Landreth wants to help you find the book to spark your passion for reading. He has learned over the years people have passions about a variety of things. It’s why he loves programming. Last fall the adult reading program’s topic was quilting.

“I thought, ‘I don’t know anything about quilting.’” he said. “I know what a quilt is, but I had to pull together a social History of Quilting presentation.”

So he went to his staff and found the research. Landreth has the right people in the right places, so if he doesn’t know something, he can turn to someone who does and they can help set off a spark in someone else. Getting the right reading material to the right person is always a joy for Landreth. “I know I’ve helped you when you ‘kick back’ and ignore the world by reading,” he said.



Richard gives details to Library Technician, Liz Perez about an interesting book. He provided a strong case for why she should read the book.

Please send articles of interest about your library and/or staff.  
Programs, community events, creative projects (professional and personal)  
Readers of the Western Sun truly enjoy these stories!!!!

## Grant Opportunities

[Register](#) to watch the Ncompass Live on “Winning Grants for Your Library Programming” to be presented on March 13th.

### [Creative Aging Through the Arts \(CAAP\)](#)

Celebrating lifelong learning in the arts with older adults. Grants are now available! CAAP grants cover the entire cost of artist residencies including plan time, supplies, artist travel and lodging and a sponsor stipend. No matching funds are required. [Watch the April 19th NCompass Live](#) to learn more.

The Nebraska Library Commissions webpage on grants lists a variety of funding opportunities

The NLC sponsors the Continuing Education and Learning, Internship, Library Improvement and Youth Services grants. Here is the [website link](#) and an [Ncompass Live](#) talking about their grant process presented on September 20, 2023.

The Commission provides links to an [extensive list of grants](#) available to Nebraska libraries.

[Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\)](#). These grants are federally funded and administered by the State for Nebraska applicants.

[USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grants Program](#).

# Resources for Librarians and their Communities

## Youth Book Awards ~ 2023

### **YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults**

*Accountable: The True Story of a Racist Social Media Account and the Teenagers Whose Lives It*

*Changed* by Dashka Slater

### **William C. Morris Award**

*Rez Ball* by Byron Graves

### **Alex Awards**

*Bad Cree: A Novel* by Jessica Johns

*Chain-Gang All-Stars* by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah

*Chlorine* by Jade Song

*Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros

*The Hard Parts: A Memoir of Courage and Triumph* by Oksana Masters

*I Will Greet the Sun Again* by Khashayar J. Khabushani

*Maame* by Jessica George

*Starter Villain* by John Scalzi

*The Talk* by Darrin Bell

*Whalefall: A Novel* by Daniel Kraus

### **Margaret A. Edwards Award**

Neal Shusterman

### **Coretta Scott King Author Award**

*Ibi Zobo* for *Nigeria Jones*

### **Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award**

*Dare Coulter* for *An American Story*

### **Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award**

Jade Adia for *There Goes the Neighborhood*

### **Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award**

Briana Mukodiri Uchendu for *We Could Fly*

### **Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement**

Christopher Paul Curtis

### **Paul Belpre Young Adult Author Award**

Ari Tison for *Saints of the Household*

### **Stonewall Book Award Children**

*Cross My Heart and Never Lie* by Nora Dåsnes

### **Young Adult**

*Only This Beautiful Moment* by Abdi Nazemian

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## **Schneider Family Book Awards**

### **Young Children**

Henry, Like Always by Jenn Bailey, illus. by Mika Song

### **Middle Grade**

*The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn* by Sally J. Pla

### **Teens**

*Forever is Now* by Mariama J. Lockington

Sydney Taylor Book Award

## **Picture Book**

*Two New Years* by Richard Ho, illus. by Lynn Scurfield

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Sydney Taylor Book Award

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### Middle Grade

*The Dubious Pranks of Shaindy Goodman* by Mari Lowe

### Young Adult

*The Blood Years* by Elana K. Arnold

### Body of Work Award

Joni Susman

### Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature

### Picture Book

*The Truth About Dragons* by Julie Leung

### Children's Literature

*Ruby Lost and Found* by Christina Li

### Youth Young Adult Literature

*I'd Rather Burn Than Bloom* by Shannon C.F. Rogers

### American Indian Youth Literature Award

### Picture Book 2 winners

*Forever Cousins* by Laurel Goodluck, illus. by Jonathan Nelson

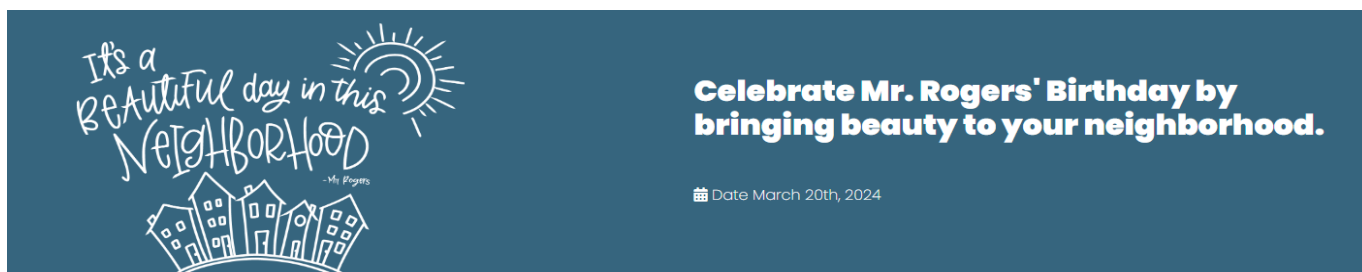
*A Letter for Bob* by Kim Rogers, illus. by Jonathan Nelson

### Middle Grade

*We Still Belong* by Christine Day

### Young Adult

*Rez Ball* by Byron Graves



[Won't You Be My Neighbor Day](#) was started as a way to spread love and kindness in honor of Mr. Rogers birthday. Mr. Rogers left a legacy of helping children and their families believe "It's a Beautiful Day in This Neighborhood".

The Hopeful Neighborhood Project and our partners are inviting you to celebrate by making it a beautiful day in your neighborhood! *Celebrate on March 20, 2024.*

[Download](#) a sign, decorate if you wish, and hang it in your window.

- Do something kind for a neighbor, saying hello to someone new is a great first step.

Make YOUR neighborhood more beautiful in any way you can. For more ideas, check out this [blog](#).

Download a free [activity kit](#)!

## Celebration Days During [National Library Week](#)

National Library Week 2024 will be celebrated Sunday, April 7th through Saturday, April 13th. National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.



### Events during the week:

**Monday, April 8:** Right to Read Day is a National Day of Action in support of the right to read. The State of America's Libraries Report is released, including Top Ten Most Challenged Books of 2023.

**Tuesday, April 9:** National Library Workers Day, a day for everyone to recognize the valuable contributions made by library workers.

**Wednesday, April 10:** National Library Outreach Day, a day the dedicated library professionals who are meeting their patrons where they are.

**Thursday, April 11:** Take Action for Libraries Day, a day to rally advocates to urge members of Congress to protect the freedom to read.

Here are a few programming ideas for National Craft Month.

1. Provide patrons with an idea each day for the 31 days of March. Have them contribute ideas for next year or for any upcoming programs. Choose simple projects and provide a rating of difficulty. You may choose to provide a limited number of supplies for some of the projects.

Examples:

"Doodle or Zentangle a Day"

2. Ask patrons to begin a craft project to work on every day and bring in their finished piece at the end of the month for display or a photo opportunity. Provide a tracking system, such as the free online tracking system Reader's Zone through the Nebraska Library Commission.

Contact the Western Library System if you are interested in Reader's Zone.

3. Sponsor a Craft-a-Long Program!

Examples:

- ◇ Paper Flowers
- ◇ Origami
- ◇ Acrylic or Watercolor Painting
- ◇ Beaded Bracelets
- ◇ Knit/Crochet-a-long
- ◇ Dreamcatchers
- ◇ Card Making

Consider making holiday cards for nursing homes or for Meals on Wheels to deliver along with the food.

4. Create a journal. Since it is National Craft Month, it could be a craft journal to track ideas and patterns during the year. A journal of inspirational quotes is a wonderful keepsake or gift. With a simple notebook, decorate the pages and cover.
5. Spring Nature Projects. Create artwork with items from nature.
6. Reuse, Reduce, Recycle, Crafts. There are several online resources for crafts including this one for children from [mommybites.com](http://mommybites.com). This program could also be used in April in honor of Earth Day, April 22, or Arbor Day.
7. Creative cooking program. Crafting new recipes or food art.



# National Poetry Month

Information and Resources from the [Academy of American Poets](#) that launched National Poetry Month in April 1996. National Poetry Month is a special occasion that celebrates poets' integral role in our culture and that poetry matters. Over the years, it has become the largest literary celebration in the world, with tens of millions of readers, students, K–12 teachers, librarians, booksellers, literary events curators, publishers, families, and—of course—poets, marking poetry's important place in our lives.

Thanks in part to our National Poetry Month partners and sponsors, each April the Academy is able to offer activities, initiatives, and resources so that anyone can join the celebration:

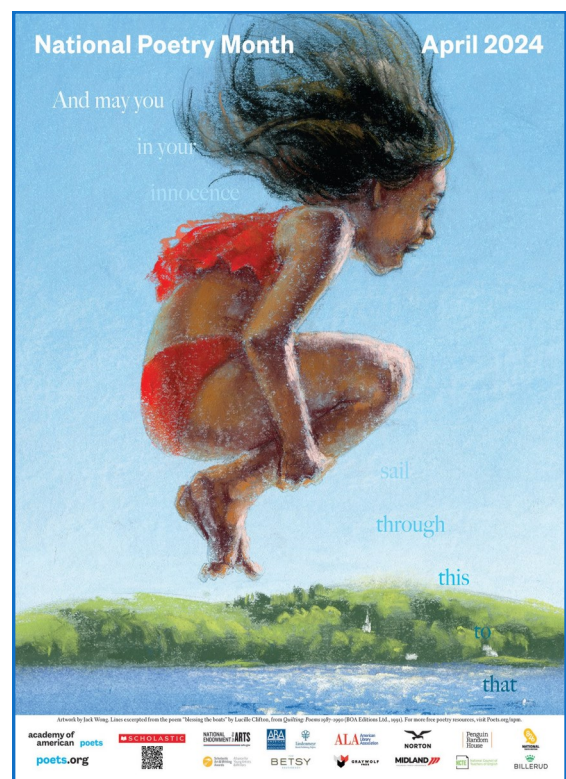
Libraries can participate by:

Download and display the official [National Poetry Month poster](#). The 2024 poster features artwork by award-winning children's author and illustrator Jack Wong, and lines from "blessing the boats" by beloved poet Lucille Clifton.

blessing the boats (at St. Mary's)

may the tide  
that is entering even now  
the lip of our understanding  
carry you out  
beyond the face of fear  
may you kiss  
the wind then turn from it  
certain that it will  
love your back may you  
open your eyes to water  
water waving forever  
and may you in your innocence  
sail through this to that

Lucille Clifton 1936-2010  
From *Quilting: Poems 1987-1990*



The website also features links for:

Learning how to celebrate in the classroom (or at the library)

Finding poetry readings and events on our Poetry Near You calendar, and add your own

Encouraging students in grades five through twelve to participate in the Dear Poet Project

Signing up for Poem-a-Day, curated in April by Cyrus Cassells, and enjoy a free daily poem in your inbox

Following the thousands of celebrations taking place on social media with the official

hashtag **#NationalPoetryMonth** and follow the Academy of American Poets on Twitter and

Instagram @POETSorg

Sharing a **#PocketPoem** on Poem in Your Pocket Day on April 18, 2024

# April is the month to observe Earth Day and Arbor Day!



[Earth Day](#) reminds us to take good care of our earth and its resources.

In spring 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day as a way to bring attention to the environment. In December 1970, Congress authorized the creation of a new federal agency to tackle environmental issues, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



[Arbor Day](#) is dedicated to planting tree as a way to protect and nurture our earth.

Arbor Day has its “roots” in Nebraska. In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed a tree planting holiday called Arbor Day. On April 10 of that year, it is estimated that a million trees were planted. In 1885, Arbor Day was named a state holiday. Nebraska’s Arbor Day is held the last Friday in April.

Today both Earth Day and Arbor Day are commemorated nationally and world-wide. The EPA and Arbor Day Foundation websites linked above provide excellent programming and display resources for libraries.

Jewish Arbor Day, TuBiShevat, or Tu B’Shevat is celebrated on the 15th day of the month of Shevat. In 2025, it will be celebrated from sundown on February 11 and end at sundown February 12. It is also called “New Year of the Trees” or “Birthday of the Trees”

Originally, the day was a designated to plant trees to restore the ecology of ancient Israel and as a symbol of renewed growth and flowering. Today, Tu BiShevat continues to be an opportunity for planting trees

## Growing your own Avocado Tree:

### Supplies:

- Avocado pit
- Toothpicks
- Glass of Water

### Directions:

- Wash your avocado pit
- Carefully stick three toothpicks in it and suspend the broad end of the pit into the water glass so that it is almost submerged.
- Place the glass in a warm spot, not in direct sunlight.
- Add water as needed
- In two to six weeks roots and a stem will begin to sprout
- When the stem is 6 to 7 inches long, cut the stem back several inches
- When the roots thicken and the stem grows new leaves, replant into a pot of soil leaving the top half of the pit exposed.
- Place pot in a sunny place and water it regularly.



## Conferences



The Public Library Association (PLA) invites you to join thousands of public library workers, supporters and vendors from across the country and around the world to celebrate all things public libraries at the PLA 2024 Conference, April 3-5, in the vibrant city of Columbus, Ohio!

This three-day event offers more than 100 thoughtfully curated education sessions, inspiring speakers and authors, engaging networking opportunities, career services, microlearning moments, and a bustling exhibits hall featuring the latest in products, services and innovations. Together let's shape the future of public libraries.

[Check out the PLA Conference Website.](#)



Join members of the Mountain Plains Library Association and the Utah Library Association for the [2024 conference](#) in Salt Lake City.



**PLUM CREEK  
LITERACY FESTIVAL  
BREAKFAST AND BOOKS**

March 23, 2024: 8:00 to 1:00  
Concordia University, Seward  
Janzow Campus Center  
Cattle Conference Room

ALL AGES WELCOME!

Celebrate literacy with us for the 5th annual Breakfast and Books event. The festival is focused on teachers, librarians, book writers, illustrators and booklovers. This event will provide you a boost of inspiration and creative energy to finish the school year strong and provide you an opportunity to interact with some of the best picture book creators in today's field!

[Register here.](#)

### Keynote Speakers

**Daniel Kirk:** "Where Ideas are Born" **Robert & Lisa Papp:** "Telling a Story with Pictures: the art of creating picture books with a special focus on the benefit of Therapy Dogs for young readers." **Hyewon Yum:** "Faces in Picture Books"



## FUTURE READY NEBRASKA CONFERENCE JUNE 10-11, 2024



# ADVANCING EDUCATION IN THE ERA OF AI

Future Ready Conference

June 10- June 11, 2024

8:00 am to 3:30 pm

In-Person:

Nebraska Department of Education | 500 South 84th Street,  
Lincoln, NE 68510

Lunch is provided for in-person participants

Virtual Option Available

### Conference Highlights

- More than 70 Breakout Sessions
- Breakout Session Strands: Administrators, Librarians, Educators, Equity & Wellness, and Canvas
- The Future Ready Conference is a statewide partnership between the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), Educational Service Units (ESU's), and the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council (ESUCC). The Future Ready Framework is Nebraska's PK-12 Digital Learning Plan, and the annual Future Ready Conference is held in conjunction with the framework to equip educators to help prepare students for future success.

Keynote and featured speakers include  
Amanda Bickerstaff, Jaime Donnelly and  
KristenMattson.

[Registration](#)

### Nebraska Educational Technology Association Spring Conference

March 14 & 15 CHI Health Center, Omaha

Isn't just a conference; It's an experience.

For two days, educators come together to connect, learn, and grow. Attendees will enjoy an immersive and engaging atmosphere as they create their own learning journey full of breakout sessions, exhibit hall interactions, hands-on activities, featured speaker talks, networking opportunities, and more. The NETA Spring Conference is where you'll expand your knowledge, refine your skills, and connect with like-minded individuals. We're excited you are joining us! We would love for you to join us too! [Register here](#).



Highlights at the conference includes:

- AI sessions
- Teaching & Learning Sessions
- Student Engagement & Interactive Classrooms
- Computer Science Sessions
- **Library Media Strand**
- Google Sessions
- Technical Strand Sessions Including Cybersecurity
- Leadership Sessions
- eSports

# Semper Disco - Always Learning

## Upcoming *NCompass Live*

Upcoming NCompass Live events: Sessions count for Continuing Education credits.

***NCompass Live* is broadcast live, every Wednesday, from 9am - 10am, Mountain Time.** For more information, to register for NCompass Live, or to listen to recordings of past events, go to: <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/NCompassLive/>

Title	2024 Dates
Winning Grants for Your Library Programs	March 13
Pretty Sweet Tech	March 27
Improving the Quality of Childcare Through STREAM	April 3
Program Planning with a Marketing Mindset	April 10
Pretty Sweet Tech	April 24

## Basic Skills for Nebraska Librarians

One of the requirements for [Public Librarian Certification](#) is training in the basic skills of librarianship. This requirement may be fulfilled by completion of formal education in an institution of higher learning or completion of approved continuing education or certification courses, including the Nebraska Library Basic Skills Training Courses.

Why participate in the Public Librarian Certification program?

- Improves library service throughout the state
- Motivates librarians to acquire, maintain, and develop skills through basic and continuing education
- Provides guidelines for public library boards to use in selecting and retaining personnel

Recognizes public librarians who update their knowledge and skills on a continuing basis to provide better library service for the community

Basic Skills training is presented as a series of online asynchronous courses through *NCampus*. Basic Skills participants are required to complete at least thirteen modules - six requisite modules and seven electives. These must be completed during the provisional (first) three-year certification period.

For each course successfully completed, participants will earn 2 CE credits. These count toward the 45 CE credits that all participants must earn during each three-year recertification period. The courses for 2024 are listed on the next page.

# Basic Skills 2024 Schedule

Class Dates	Class	Registration Dates
open	<u>Communication*</u>	available any time
2/5 - 2/16	<u>Customer Service*</u>	1/3 - 1/29
3/4 - 3/15	<u>Library Governance</u>	1/29 - 2/26
3/18 - 3/29	<u>Library Technology</u>	2/12 - 3/8
4/1 - 4/30	<u>Introduction to Cataloging (Organization of Materials)*</u>	2/19 - 3/15
4/15 - 4/26	<u>Library Finance</u>	3/11 - 4/5
5/6 - 5/17	<u>Intellectual Freedom / Core Values*</u>	4/1 - 4/26
6/3 - 6/14	<u>Readers' Advisory</u>	4/29 - 5/24
7/1 - 7/12	<u>Reference</u>	5/27 - 6/21
7/22 - 8/2	<u>Library Policy</u>	6/17 - 7/12
8/12 - 8/23	<u>Collection Management*</u>	7/8 - 8/2
8/26 - 9/6	<u>Programming &amp; Outreach</u>	7/22 - 8/16
9/16 - 9/27	<u>Community &amp; Library*</u>	8/12 - 9/6
10/14 - 10/25	<u>Management/Supervision</u>	9/9 - 10/4
11/4 - 11/15	<u>Leadership</u>	9/23 - 10/18
12/2 - 12/13	<u>Library Services to Children &amp; Teens</u>	10/21/2011

\*Required Class

## Featured Resource from the Nebraska Library Commission

### Tech Kits Through the Mail.

The Western Sun is featuring this program again as the program continually received new kits. Using the Nebraska Library Commission's [website link](#), check out a Tech kit to explore new technology options. Keep the kit for up to 30 days, mail it back and explore another one.

**New kit resources are being added as they are developed. All kits are available in the "Request Kit" form. Here is a full list for reference:**

- Oculus Quest 2 (up to 12 copies)
- Sphero BOLT Robot (up to 15 copies)
- Zumi Robot (up to 15 copies)
- Databot 2.0 Sensor Pack (up to 15 copies)
- Micro:bit v2 Circuit Kit (up to 15 copies)
- Hummingbird Bit Premium (up to 15 copies)
- Finch 2.0 Robot (up to 15 copies)
- DJI Tello EDU Drone (up to 15 copies)
- Kai's Clan (1 Classroom Pack- 12 robots)
- Green Energy Snap Circuits (up to 15 copies)
- Toniebox & Tonies (up to 6 kits)
- Cue Robot w/ Blaster (up to 15 copies)
- Dash & Dot Wonder Pack (up to 15 copies)
- Merge Cube AR (up to 15 copies)
- Ozobot Bit Robot (up to 8 copies)
- Snap Circuits Extreme (up to 8 copies)
- DSLR Camera Kit (up to 2 copies)
- Google Smart Home Devices (up to 5 copies)

Amanda Sweet, the Technology Innovation Librarian and Christa Porter from the Nebraska Library Commission presented an Ncompass Live on this service. [Watch this program](#) and receive information on the service and continuing education credits!

# Training

# Tuesdays

Third Tuesday of each month  
1:30-2:30 Mountain Time

One Continuing Education Credit  
Free ~ No Registration Required

March and April will feature  
Joyce Mandel

March 19: Effective Communication  
April 16: Goal Setting

Both workshops will be online.  
Zoom Link will be sent one week before the training.

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





# Golden Sower Awards

[The Golden Sower Awards website](#) describes the program with the following background.

On top of the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln, stands a 19,000-pound, bronze statue known as the **Sower**. He stands barefoot and without hat, sowing seeds. He is symbolic of the state of Nebraska as a major agricultural state. He is not merely sowing seeds of grain, but something much greater. He is the symbol of sowing the seeds of agriculture, life, hope and prosperity. The Sower, sculpted by Lee Lawrie, was chosen as the symbol of the Nebraska children's choice literary award for similar reasons.

The award's sponsor, Nebraska Library Association, hopes the program will sow seeds which:

- stimulate children's thinking
- introduce different types of literature
- encourage independent reading
- increase library skills
- foster an appreciation for excellence in writing and illustrating.

Whether student are seeking information or reading for pleasure, quality literature presented through the Nebraska Golden Sower Award program will enrich the lives of Nebraska's children and sow seeds of the future.



Voting for the Golden Sower award is open now through April 15, 2024. Visit the [voting page](#) to submit your selections for this year's award.

The nominee levels have new names! The Little Bluestem (picture book) category is primarily intended for grades K-2; Honeybee category (chapter books) for grades 3-5; and Meadowlark (novel category) for grades 6-8. In 2025-2026, we will be introducing a category intended for high school students. It is up to local adults to decide which books to use and how. As long as a student has read four (4) books in a category, they are eligible

## Little Bluestem (Picture Book) Nominees



- Bathe the Cat** by Alice B. McGinty, illustrated by David Roberts
- Bear is a Bear** by Jonathan Stutzman, illustrated by Dan Santat
- Chester Van Chime Who Forgot How to Rhyme** by Avery Monsen, illustrated by Abby Hanlon
- Chez Bob** by Bob Shea, illustrated by the author
- Knight Owl** by Christopher Denise, illustrated by the author
- Milo Imagines the World** by Matt de la Peña, illustrated by Christian Robinson
- Norman Didn't Do It!: (Yes, He Did)** by Ryan T. Higgins, illustrated by the author
- Not Yeti** by Kelly DiPucchio, illustrated by Claire Keane, illustrated by the author
- Something's Wrong!: A Bear, A Hare, and Some Underwear** by Jory John, illustrated by Erin Kraan
- Time for Bed, Old House** by Janet Costa Bates, illustrated by A.G. Ford

## Honeybee (Chapter Book) Nominees

- Bunnica: The Graphic Novel*** by James Howe and Andrew Donkin  
***Controlled Burn*** by Erin Soderberg Downing  
***Cress Watercress*** by Gregory Maguire, illustrated by David Litchfield  
***Finally Seen*** by Kelly Yang  
***Invisible*** by Christina Diaz Gonzales, illustrated by Gabriela Epstein  
***The Midnight Children*** by Dan Gemeinhart  
***Odder*** by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Charles Santoso  
***A Rover's Story*** by Jasmine Warga  
***Wayward Creatures*** by Dayna Lorentz  
***The Witchlings*** by Claribel A. Ortega

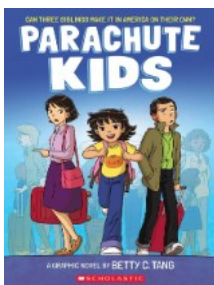


## Meadowlark (Novel) Nominees



- Ain't Burned All the Bright*** by Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Jason Griffin  
***Attack of the Black Rectangles*** by A. S. King  
***Dear Mothman*** by Robin Gow  
***I Must Betray You*** by Ruta Sepetys  
***Lasagna Means I Love You*** by Kate O'Shaughnessy  
***Lines of Courage*** by Jennifer A. Nielsen  
***Miss Quinces*** by Kat Fajardo  
***Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy*** by Angie Thomas  
***Two Degrees*** by Alan Gratz  
***What Happened to Rachel Riley*** by Claire Swinarski

## One Book For Nebraska Kids and Teens ~ 2024



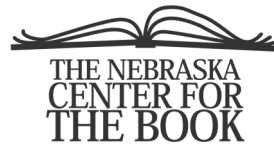
Kids: ***Parachute Kids*** by Betty C. Tang  
 A middle-grade graphic novel that follows Feng-Li and her siblings as they navigate life alone in a new country. After a fun-filled vacation in California. Mom and Dad announce that the family is staying and enroll the children in school. When their parent's visas expire, the children are left in their rental house while their parents return to Taiwan to sort out a legal reentry to the United States.

Teens: ***Between the Lines*** by Nikki Grimes  
 This 2018 companion to Grimes' Bronx Masquerade combines verse and prose to explore the thoughts, feelings and struggles of a diverse class of poets as they prepare for their school poetry slam. In addition to honing their writing skills, they find friendship and support in each other.

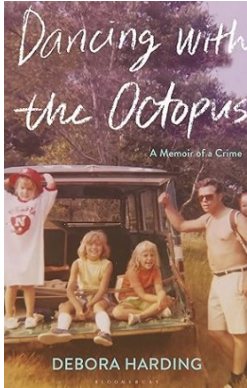




and the



## 2024 One Book One Nebraska *Dancing with the Octopus: A Memoir*



People across Nebraska are encouraged to read the work of a Nebraskan — and then talk about it with their friends and neighbors. *Dancing with the Octopus: A Memoir* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2020) by Debora Harding is the 2024 One Book One Nebraska selection.

For readers of *Educated* and *The Glass Castle*, a harrowing, redemptive and profoundly inspiring memoir of childhood trauma and its long reach into adulthood. One Omaha winter day in November 1978, when Debora Harding was just fourteen, she was abducted at knife point from a church parking lot. She was thrown into a van, assaulted, held for ransom, and then left to die as an ice storm descended over the city. Debora survived. She identified her attacker to the police and then returned to her teenage life in a dysfunctional home where she was expected to simply move on. Denial became the family coping strategy offered by her fun-loving, conflicted father and her cruelly resentful mother. It wasn't until decades later – when beset by the symptoms of PTSD- that Debora undertook a radical project: she met her childhood attacker face-to-face in prison and began to reconsider and reimagine his complex story. This was a quest for the truth that would threaten the lie at the heart of her family and with it the sacred bond that once saved her. Dexterously shifting between the past and present, Debora Harding untangles the incident of her kidnapping and escape from unexpected angles, offering a vivid, intimate portrait of one family's disintegration in the 1970s Midwest. Written with dark humor and the pacing of a thriller, *Dancing with the Octopus* is a literary tour de force and a groundbreaking narrative of reckoning, recovery, and the inexhaustible strength it takes to survive.

Debora Harding spent her childhood in the midwest prairie states of Nebraska and Iowa. At the age of nineteen she dropped out of university to work for Senator Gary Hart's presidential campaign, before relocating to Washington DC to run an environmental non-profit. Fed up with politics, she cycled across America where she met her English husband, author Thomas Harding. She then joined him in the UK and worked at an award-winning video production company that focused on the counter-culture protest movement in Europe. Later, she co-founded the UK's first local television station in Oxford and gave birth to two children, Kadian and Sam. Wanting the children to enjoy the great outdoors, the family moved back to the USA, and Debora trained as a restorative justice mediator and ran an independent bicycle business. She is now a full-time writer and activist, and splits her time between the UK and the US.

Libraries across Nebraska will join other literary and cultural organizations in planning book discussions, activities, and events that will encourage Nebraskans to read and discuss this book. Support materials to assist with local reading/discussion activities will be available after January 1, 2024. Updates and activity listings will be posted on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook page.

2024 will mark the twentieth year of the One Book One Nebraska reading program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book. It encourages Nebraskans across the state to read and discuss one book, chosen from books written by Nebraska authors or that have a Nebraska theme or setting. The Nebraska Center for the Book invites recommendations for One Book One Nebraska book selection year-round .

One Book One Nebraska is sponsored by Nebraska Center for the Book, Humanities Nebraska, and Nebraska Library Commission. The Nebraska Center for the Book 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 housed at and supported by the Nebraska Library Commission.

Bookkits for One Book ~ One Nebraska and One Book for Kids and Teens are available for check out from the Western Library System.

## Western Library System Board Members “In the News”

Amber Sweetland, Board Chair and Kimball Public Library Director was selected by Governor Pillen to serve on the Nebraska State Advisory Council. This Council was established to advise the Commission on statewide library development and planning. In addition, the Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries is used for:

1. Advice and planning on such other matters on which the Commission may seek counsel.
2. Review and evaluation of interlibrary cooperative and resource sharing plans and programs.  
Development, review and evaluation of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Plan, consisting of the Basic State Plan, Annual Program, and Long Range Plan.


**Amber was also one of the Big Talk for Small Libraries presenters on February 23. She Farmer’s Day Fundraising**

[Amber Sweetland](#), Director, Kimball Public Library, Kimball, NE (Population served: 2,500)

Kimball celebrates Farmer’s Day every year as a part of its Founders Day celebrations. Due to the decrease in revenue, libraries have to raise funds as much as possible. Kimball Public Library utilized this occasion to raise funds through various projects to supplement its budget. The events that were organized included a bake sale, a salsa-making contest, Pie a City Guy, a book sale, and a local craft sale.

NSpire Today, January 2024

Sarah was nominated by students  
who use the library!!!!



**Sarah Alfred**  
Morrill Public Library  
Morill

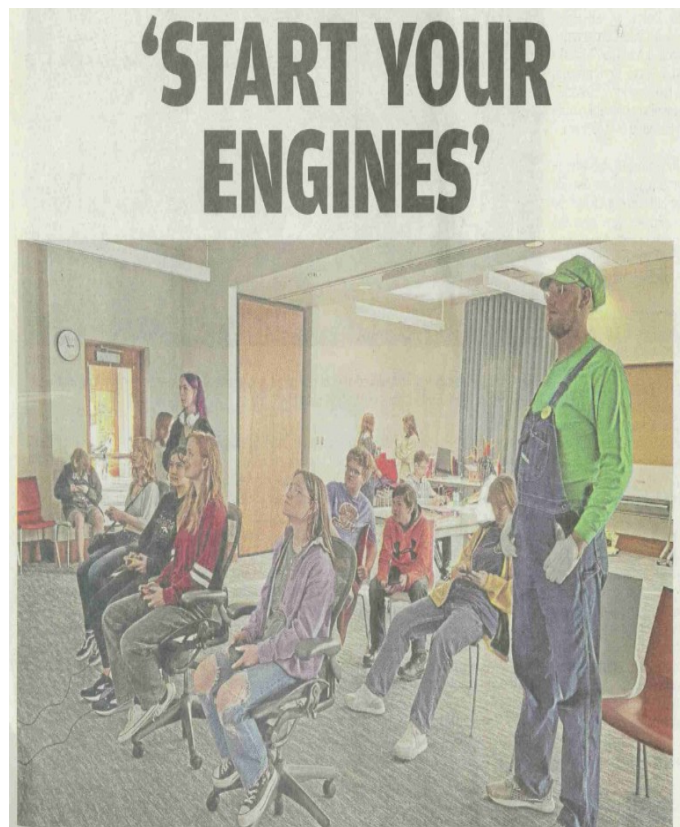
Alfred is the director/librarian at Morrill Public Library. She started working there in 2016. Alfred, who was born and raised in Torrington, moved to Morrill 15 years ago.

Why do you enjoy working at the library? “The kids. I love the after-school program and the summer reading program.”

Why do you recommend people visit the Morrill Public Library? “We are a big part of the community. We’re always here to help people with many resources. We even have a museum downstairs.”

Hobbies/Interests: “I enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, sewing, and crocheting.”

Misc.: “I have a dog named Rusty Lee. He is the most spoiled dog ever!”



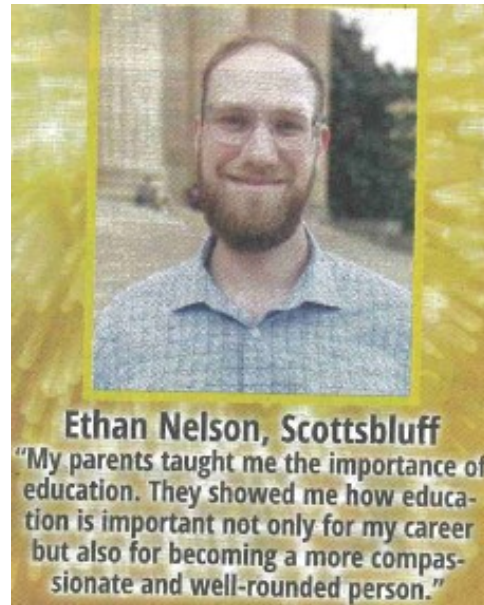
Star Herald, January 6, 2024

Ethan Nelson portrays Luigi at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library at the Mario Kart tournament. More than 20 teens competed at the tournament held January 3, 2024. Ethan assisted Elaine Bleisch, Teen Librarian, at the event.



NSpire Today, January, 2024

Logan Allen, Western Library System Administrative Assistant 's answer to the NSpire Today's question...  
*What do you plan to accomplish in 2024?*



NSpire Today, February, 2024  
Ethan answered the question  
*"What is one thing your parents taught you that still live by today"*

**Nebraska Public Media Family Engagement**  
**Featuring**  
**Exploring Cause and Effect**

**PBS KIDS**

Exploring Cause and Effect with *Work It Out Wombats!* is a family engagement electronic resource kit that helps children and families learn together through critical and computational thinking. This kit supports partners as they plan family engagement events for children ages 3-6 and their parents and caregivers.

This event will reinforce key problem-solving skills through curated, playful activities. Included electronic resources and activities are available in English and Spanish when available. All resources and facilitator support are provided at no cost for early childhood education providers, programs, libraries, and community partners.

Partner with us to plan your family engagement event today!



Pre-event training and support webinar will be held via Zoom on Monday, March 4th at 2:30 p.m. MST/3:30 p.m. CST. Please email [acassner@nebraskapublicmedia.org](mailto:acassner@nebraskapublicmedia.org) to let us know you will be attending.

Please contact Amy Cassner, [acassner@nebraskapublicmedia.org](mailto:acassner@nebraskapublicmedia.org), if you are interested in hosting a family engagement and an electronic resource kit. We encourage you to share this information with anyone who may be interested in family engagement programming.

## Money for You or Your Library from the Western Library System money tree!

All member libraries and staff are eligible.

- Eligible requests include: Dues for library association membership; registrations and travel expenses for conferences, workshops and presenters.
- Up to \$300.00 per person every two years. (More than one person in a library can apply if applying for their own professional development.)
- Up to \$300.00 per library for library events every two years.
- Scholarship recipients will provide a brief article for the Western Library System's Western Sun within a month of completion of the activities.

[Complete this form](#) and send or mail to the Western Library System. The Systems Scholarship/Awards committee will review the application and contact you.



**Send all requests to:** Western Library System  
615 S. Beltline Hwy West  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

Email: [wls@westernlibrarysystem.com](mailto:wls@westernlibrarysystem.com)

### Western Library System Board of Directors

Amber Sweetland, President  
Becky Henkel  
Beth Falla, Vice President  
Cheryl Hamilton  
Elaine Lake  
Ethan Nelson, Secretary  
Jennifer Holthus  
Judy Starke  
Rossella Tesch  
Sarah Alfred  
Sharon Schluterbusch

### Western Library System Office

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615 S. Beltline Highway West  
Scottsbluff, NE 69361  
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Toll Free: 888-879-5303  
<http://libraries.ne.gov/wls/>

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