

PLAIN SPEAKING

CENTRAL PLAINS LIBRARY SYSTEM NEWSLETTER

Educate | Connect | Inspire



Showcase Your Collection

Library patrons can become overwhelmed with the huge array of books that are available at the public library. Displays of books and other materials can help overcome that problem, and they add color and excitement to the space. By browsing through the books on display (i.e. new, seasonal, holiday, or topical) the reader has a limited number to consider.

The main point of taking the time and effort to prepare displays is to draw the patrons' attention to new and interesting material, and, of course, to increase circulation. By featuring books in the stacks and in designated display areas, library staff members ensure getting maximum use of the materials purchased with the library's budget. Changing the displays monthly and keeping them full of fresh-looking books, help to keep the library's patrons interested and coming back.

In order to build a successful display, consider the following elements:

- **Theme.** Use all types of library material as well as objects that relate to the theme you have in mind. Objects include plants, tools, sports equipment, household items, and cultural items.
- **Size.** Vary the sizes of displayed material. Mix small items with large ones. Bring smaller things to the front.
- **Height.** Mix taller items with shorter ones. Use stands or stack your items on top of each other.
- **Space.** Use a table in front of a wall so you can put things on the wall and on the table. Make sure it is not too crowded but not too empty.
- **Colors.** Vary the colors. Mix bright with dull and light with dark. Step back and see if it is visually appealing.

See the article on page 16 for some out-of-the-ordinary display ideas for March.

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Summer Reading Workshops Planned

Join Central Plains Library System for a fun filled day exploring what it means to be "All Together Now" while showing ourselves to be kind, cultivating good friendships & displaying unity in our communities and beyond.

TWO LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

Wednesday, February 1st (Grand Island Public Library)

Tuesday, March 7th (Lexington Public Library)

9:30am - Registration

10am - 3:30pm Workshop

5 CE's per participant

\$10 payable at the door or in advance to the System office

For more details and to get registered, click here:

<https://forms.gle/xGc5TBpwAPEjEUW28>



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

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH \$1,000?

What would you do if you were gifted, received a grant, or hosted a successful book sale that netted \$1000 or less? How could those funds help you make a major impact on your library?

Join us for these special workshops that explore S.T.E.A.M. and Makerspace items to improve your library! Come hear ideas for low-tech and high-tech items that can be added to your library for minimum cost but maximum impact. We will learn from libraries who have had success in using their Makerspaces to the fullest and engaging their communities to get creative!

Two Locations:
Wednesday, February 8th (St. Paul)
Friday, February 17th (North Platte)
*****Limited to 12 participants per location*****

10am - 3pm (lunch provided)

4 CE's per participant

\$10 payable at the door or in advance to the System office



**For more information &
to get registered:**

*click
here!*

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

April Showers Bring May Flowers....

Join CPLS for another exciting Cricut workshop! During our afternoon together we will make felt flowers, work with faux leather & more! Every craft will involve a different material, but they will all be centered around flowers!

Wednesday, April 5th, 2023

1pm - 5pm

Kearney Public Library

4 CE's per participant

\$10 payable at the door or in advance to the System office.

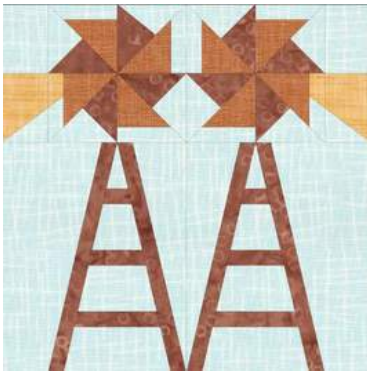
Limit of 12 participants with Cricut experience

REGISTER: <https://forms.gle/yTughySA6SWgNvGf7>

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

SAVE *the* DATES

CPLS Annual Meeting



In July we will be exploring the town of Cozad, NE, for our Annual Meeting location this year. Cozad is known for their rich history especially in the arts! Their outdoor art has expanded to include the 50 States Barn Quilt, Cozad Creates Icons, Rhakenna's Wings, and the Sculpture Garden at Wilson Public Library. You'll enjoy art throughout town as you celebrate Cozad's art spirit. Join us for a fun-filled day, go home with a unique barn quilt creation you have painted, or stay overnight and make a weekend of exploring all the area has to offer!

CPLS to Host First Ever Biennial Conference this Fall!

Join the Central Plains Library System as we host our first ever biennial fall conference! We will host a variety of speakers at the Kearney Public Library on Thursday, October 19th. The all-day conference will include a keynote speaker, lightning rounds, and sessions packed with trick, tips & tools to make your job easier & more rewarding! Mark this date in your calendars now so you don't miss this opportunity!

Big Talk From Small Libraries 2023



Sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission and the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL), this free one-day online conference is aimed at librarians from small libraries; the smaller the better! Each of our speakers is from a small library serving fewer than 10,000 people, and they are from academic, K-12, and public libraries. This event is a great opportunity to learn about the innovative things your colleagues are doing in their small libraries.

Everyone is welcome to register and attend, regardless of how big or small your library. But, if your library serves a few hundred to a few thousand people, this is the day for you!

The full schedule for the 2023 Big Talk From Small Libraries online conference is now available!

You will find all the details on the Schedule page.

Information about our presenters is available on the Speakers page.

If you haven't registered yet, now is the time to jump over to the Registration page and sign up!

You are welcome to watch as an individual or to host a group viewing of the conference. If several staff members from the same library want to attend, you can just register for one seat and have staff members view/listen together via one workstation.

You can also host a viewing party this same way and invite staff from other libraries. For any group viewings, if you know who will be there, you can list your Additional Attendees on your one registration or you can send us a list after the event. Be sure to take all necessary health and safety precautions into account when planning group viewings.



Nebraska Library Association



Nebraska Library Association 2023 Advocacy Day Luncheon

Friday, March 3, 2023 (3/3/23)
Cornhusker Marriott - Lincoln, NE
Meeting Rooms: Arbor I & II

Registration & program information will be forthcoming!

As in years past, there will be a lunch and
recognition of Outstanding Library Volunteers!

We hope you can join us!

ALA Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small & Rural Libraries

The American Library Association invites applications from small and rural libraries for the Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant.

Library workers may apply online for grant funding from November 1, 2022, to February 28, 2023, at ala.org/LTCAccess. Up to 300 libraries will be awarded in this application period, part of ALA's longtime community engagement initiative.

ALA will accept applications from **November 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023**

Chosen libraries will first conduct community input-gathering sessions to assure that their work aligns with local needs. Libraries will be required to identify the primary audience they are hoping to reach (e.g., homebound seniors, children with autism, Deaf community members) and facilitate a community conversation with the impacted populations to guide improvement of the library's services. Grantees will then use the grant funds to create services or improve their facilities based on the needs identified by their audience.

Selected libraries will receive \$10,000 or \$20,000 to support costs related to their community engagement project; virtual training to assist project directors in developing their community engagement, facilitation, and disability service skills; a suite of online resources developed to support local programs; and technical and project support from the ALA Public Programs Office throughout the grant term.

The opportunity is open to libraries serving small and rural communities in the U.S. and U.S. territories. To be eligible, a library must be located in an area that's more than, or equal to, five miles from an urbanized area and with a population of 25,000 or less, in keeping with Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) definitions of small and rural libraries.

[View Grant FAQs](#)

[Apply For A Grant](#)



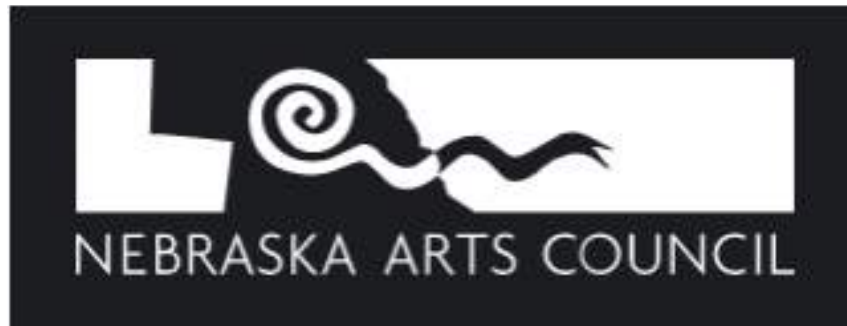
ALA AmericanLibraryAssociation

**A SPECIAL GRANT
OPPORTUNITY FOR
SMALL AND RURAL
LIBRARIES**

ala.org/LTCAccess



Applications open
November 1, 2022
through
February 28, 2023



Creative Aging through the Arts Program

Creative Aging Arts Program (CAAP) grants pay for programs with teaching artists trained in best practices of creative programming with older adult participants. Select teaching artists from NAC's CAAP Artist Cohort, which is listed with [CAAP grant information on the NAC website](#). During CAAP residencies, artists share their expertise through skill-based, sequential arts lessons in a variety of disciplines. Sessions also foster social engagement among participants, ending with a culminating event to showcase participants' work. Sponsor organizations, including non-profits, senior centers, local agencies on aging, and libraries may apply. Grant applications have a rolling deadline - apply at least six weeks ahead.



Many Grant Opportunities Available

There is a tremendous amount of grants available right now! Go to the [Nebraska Library Commission's website](#) to find out more details on each one. These grants are for specific items such as arts, seniors, or accessibility in your library. However, many are available for summer reading programs, teens, graphic novels, equity, financial education, etc. Some grants may require matching funds but not all do so it pays to check out the details. Grant amounts range from \$500 to \$50,000. Discover new opportunities for your library today!

If you have any questions on how to fill out a grant or need help doing so, please don't hesitate to call us at the System office. We would be more than happy to help your library get more funding for programs and improvements!



REGISTRATION FOR PLUM CREEK 2023 BREAKFAST AND BOOKS IS OPEN!

WAKE UP AND COME CELEBRATE LITERACY WITH US! OUR BREAKFAST AND BOOKS EVENT—FOCUSED ON TEACHERS, LIBRARIANS, BOOK WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS AND BOOK LOVERS—WILL CONSIST OF BOOK SALES, BREAKFAST AND KEYNOTE ADDRESSES. AN INCREDIBLE LINEUP OF WELL-KNOWN ILLUSTRATORS ARE JOINING US FOR OUR FIFTH ANNUAL PLUM CREEK LITERACY FESTIVAL BREAKFAST AND BOOKS PROGRAM! BEGIN THE MORNING BY SHOPPING FOR BOOKS BY OUR SPEAKERS; THEN ENJOY A DELICIOUS BREAKFAST, FOLLOWED BY ENGAGING AND DYNAMIC KEYNOTES; AND ROUND OUT THE DAY WITH A FEW SPECIAL GIVEAWAYS AND TIME FOR AUTOGRAPHING.

JOIN US ON **SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH**, FOR A DELICIOUS BREAKFAST BUFFET, KEYNOTES FROM THREE OF TODAY'S MOST PROLIFIC AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS, BOOK SALES/ SIGNINGS, AND MUCH MORE!

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

- **ROBIN PREISS GLASSER, ILLUSTRATOR OF THE BELOVED FANCY NANCY SERIES (NOW A HIT SHOW ON DISNEY JUNIOR!)**
- **MATTHEW FORSYTHE, AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR**
- **NIKKI MCCLURE, AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR (CONNECTING WITH US VIRTUALLY)**

WE ANTICIPATE TICKETS WILL GO FAST WITH SUCH A LINE UP!
REGISTER NOW AT THIS LINK. SEE YOU ON SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH!

DYLAN C. TEUT, PHD
PLUM CREEK LITERACY FESTIVAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY NEBRASKA
800 N. COLUMBIA AVE.
SEWARD, NE 68434

Central Plains Library Board Meeting

January 13, 2023

Zoom Meeting

Call to order and roll call: President, Terri Johnson called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m. via Zoom, Secretary, Terri Eberly took roll call.

Present: Sharon Bohling, Jody Crocker, Jamie Dennis, Sherri Dux-Ideus, Terri Eberly, Janene Hill, Terri Johnson, and James Tidei. **Absent:** Doris Brandon, Stephanie Branham, Lisa Mount, and Kina Stefka. **Others in attendance:** Denise Harders, Christa Porter and Tim Johnson.

Approval of the minutes: Correction to the minutes, book title: changed from “The Lincoln Library” to “The Lincoln Highway”. It was moved by Jamie Dennis and seconded by James Tidei to approve the corrected minutes. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Financial Report: Sherri Dux-Ideus moved to approve the financial report. Jamie Dennis seconded the motion. The financial report was approved as circulated.

Correspondence:

- Thank you from Maggie Berndt, Nebraska Public Media for collaboration on the Nebraska Pollinators Project.
- Thank you from Gail Irwin, Ainsworth Public Library and Laurie Yocom, Wilson Public Library in Cozad for providing funds for the Jonis Agee, Humanities Speaker program
- Thank you from Anne Quigley, Valentine Public Library for the Matt Mason Book Set
- Thank you from Denise Harders and family for the gifts, thoughts and prayers extended to the family following her father’s death.

Directors Report: Denise reported on the activities of the CPLS office.

- Reviewed report on the bulk loan program from McCook Library
- Statistics showed many book kits loaned out, as well as Makerspace equipment.
- Accreditation process complete with one new library in the CPLS being credentialed for the first time. All CPLS libraries due doing this period were accredited.
- Holly Woldt, NLC Technical support, reached out to Denise regarding Digital Equity for Nebraska residents. Holly worked with the Nebraska Libraries during the BTOP grant. Currently, a half million dollars has been set aside for the planning phase of this project. The project is to make access to digital (Internet availability) possible for rural areas with poor internet service. Denise will report what library systems do for communities. Stakeholders: Economic Development, corporations and businesses—very happy to have libraries included in the conversation.

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Central Plains Library Board Meeting

(continued from page 9)

January 13, 2023

Zoom Meeting

- A couple of the southern counties in the CPLS have had an issue with a patron viewing material unsuitable for children on the computers. The material was seen by children which led to the city/police being called to the library. Computers were removed. Another library was contacted to be on the alert for the individual accessing this material on library computers. Denise reminded us that as long as it is not child pornography or sex traffic related, though the material may be offensive, it is not illegal. Tread lightly when involving outside authorities.
- Sheila Carmony is the new librarian at Axtell. The township was dissolved, and the city of Axtell took over management of the library. The downtown facility has added restrooms, put in new flooring, decorative fireplace, furniture and moveable bookshelves. A popular program is called the Pre-School Book Club. They have 28 preschoolers involved in the program.
- Denise has offered the part-time CPLS position to retired librarian, Deb Fairbanks. The flexible schedule works for Deb. Hours will be 10-15 weekly depending on seasonal demand.

Old Business:

- Certificate of Deposits. Denise has a meeting with a financial advisor at Edward D. Jones to discuss and invest \$10,000.00 from the general fund in two CDs with different maturity dates to keep the money available as needed. Terri Eberly will meet with them to be the additional signor on the account for the board.
- CPLS Biennial Conference will be held October 19, 2023, beginning at 10:00 a.m., at the Kearney Public Library. The Conference theme "Tools of the Trade". Four rooms have been reserved for the sessions which will allow for 4 concurrent sessions per hour. We are looking for 20 presenters, each providing about one hour on a topic, a keynote speaker, and three lightning round presenters. This would be equivalent to 6 CEs if an attendee went to each session. At this time, we do not think we will have any repeat sessions. Looking at a take and go lunch. There is a lot of excitement for this conference.

New Business:

- Denise filed the 2023-24 Non-profit Corporation Biennial Report online with the Secretary of State. The cost was \$25.00 plus a \$3.00 handling fee.
- Upcoming workshops were highlighted (see the packet handout)
- CPLS is working with David Marsh on a Humanities Program that can be tied to the summer reading program "All Together Now". He has a musical program with music from around the world. CPLS would offer this to libraries and pay the \$50.00 program fee for each library.

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Central Plains Library Board Meeting
(contined from page 10) **January 13, 2023**
Zoom Meeting

- A System Services Survey will be out in the next few months. Denise has been working on the questionnaire. The survey will be in google form and the link will be sent via email.
- Terri Johnson asked the board to consider options for the annual meeting. Denise recommended Cozad. Several area museums of interest, as well as a Nebraska Arts Council series on art for seniors. One specific is a Eustis resident with a barn quilt presentation. To be discussed further in April.
- Next meeting is April 14, 2023, 10:00, Room 210-211 at CCC Grand Island.

Other Business: Christa Porter presented the NLC report—January 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- LSTA Appropriations. Congressional FY 2023 Omnibus Appropriations bill provides increases for several library programs. IMLS +26.8 million, LSTA +13.5 million, LSTA grant to states +183,000.00 and Innovative Approaches to Literacy +1 million.
- NLC Grants for 2023. Grant awards are in the mail. CE/Training-8 applications funded for \$5,000.; Youth-34 libraries awarded \$31,466.13 (1,466.13 left over from Kreutz-Bennett); Internship grants- 20 libraries awarded \$20,000.; and Library Improvement grants-25 libraries awarded \$60,000.00.
- Public Library Accreditation. 2022 accreditation process complete. 183 accredited libraries in the state. This cycle 27 were re-accredited; 2 new libraries were accredited Stapleton (CPLS) and Sterling; 7 libraries given extension and 2 libraries were not re-accredited.
- E-rate for 2023. “E-Rae: What’s new for 2023?” online workshops were held in November 2022. The recording is available on NLC webpage. Form 470 window closes 2/28 and form 471 window opens 1/18 and closes on 3/28/23. Questions contact Krista.
- 2023 Special Construction Fiber to the Library Recordings available. Year 3 of the E-rate Special Construction State Matching Fund Program, Three online workshops were held and recordings are available on the NLC website
- Big Talk from Small Libraries. The conference will be held February 24, 2023. Schedule and speakers listed on the NLC website.
- Library Commission Personnel News. Andrew Sherman (former director of Sidney Library) has been hired as the IT Infrastructure Support Analyst
- N-Compass Live Schedule and Basic Skills 2023 Schedule available on the NLC website

Adjourn: Sherri Dux-Ideus moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Eberly, Secretary

Meet the Board:

Each newsletter we will feature one or two of the CPLS Board Members so you get to know those who are working behind the scenes in support of our System. This month we are spotlighting one of our newest Board Members.



Me in a nutshell? Well, that is a tough one. I am the Director of C.B. Preston Memorial Library in Orleans, NE. I love my job, not just because I am surrounded by books, but because of the amazing little community within the library. Each of my patrons is unique and fascinating.

So how did I get here? My true love of books and several right time, right place opportunities that gave me the chance I never dreamed was possible.

After being diagnosed with Dyslexia in the second grade, I became obsessed with reading everything I could get my hands on. There was no way I was going to accept being put in the remedial reading group for long.

Even at that young of an age I was determined to do what I set my mind to... even if that meant spending hours and hours slowly, exhaustingly, pouring over books. It was within this struggle that I learned the real secret of books; they can transport you anywhere in the world and into magnificent adventures. Books became my everything: an escape from reality, a path to a better life, a guide, a comfort, and a friend. Reading is an integral part of my life and my soul. I love that I get to pass this joy, excitement, and passion on to my patrons and community.

In the spring of 2019, I was given the wonderful opportunity of becoming the Director of C.B. Preston Memorial Library. I was also the Director in Oxford for 2 years. Did I mention my over-the-top determination to do what I set my mind to?

As for hobbies and interests? If I get any free time, I love to spend time with my friends or loved ones. I enjoy photography, crochet, and of course reading. I still love to read just about anything I get my hands on, but I tend to lean towards mostly fiction books of mysteries, paranormal, or romance.



CPLS SYSTEM NEWS WE CAN ALL USE:

Six CPLS Libraries Receive 5-Year Accreditation

There has recently been an important change in the state's Library Accreditation process. Accreditation now lasts for five years instead of three years. The Central Plains Library System has six libraries officially accredited through December 31, 2027. Three cheers to all of the Library Boards and Directors who can all breathe a sigh of relief that this job won't need to be tackled again for five years.

<u>City</u>	<u>Library Name</u>	<u>Accreditation Level</u>
Alma	Hoesch Memorial Public Library	Silver
Cozad	Wilson Public Library	Silver
Franklin	Franklin Public Library	Silver
Ravenna	Ravenna Public Library	Gold
Saint Paul	St. Paul Public Library	Silver
Stapleton	Logan County Library	Silver

Congratulations to the Library Board and Library Director, Kathy Trimble, of the Logan County Library in Stapleton for attaining accreditation for the first time ever!!

\$20,000 in Internship Grants Awarded to Nebraska Public Libraries

The Nebraska Library Commission recently awarded Nebraska Library Internship Grants totaling \$20,000 to twenty Nebraska public libraries. These internship grants will support public library interns who will contribute to the scope and value of the diverse programs and activities in Nebraska's public libraries. "The internships are a great opportunity for students to get involved in library work. Beyond earning money and gaining valuable work experience, the student is exposed to the broad range of library services and programming. Internships provide an opportunity for the student to view the library as a viable and satisfying career choice. In addition, interns bring a fresh perspective and their own unique talents to the library," said Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner. Student interns will learn about library work as they shadow staff, assist with day-to-day library operations, and implement special projects.

The following **Central Plains Library System** public libraries were awarded 2023 internship grant funding:

Axtell Public Library
Gibbon Public Library
Cordelia B Preston Memorial Library, Orleans
Shelton Public Library
Maltman Memorial Public Library, Wood River

CPLS SYSTEM NEWS WE CAN ALL USE:

Beyond Shamrocks and Leprechauns

Eye Catching Book Displays for March

Armchair Travel—Gather all the books about scenic destinations in the US and around the world. Display with one of the following slogans: Around the World in a Book; Let's Travel; Books Transport You to Far Away Places.

National Quilting Month—Display books about quilting and patchwork projects. Make a sign that says "Piece By Piece." Add a small quilt or fabric swatches.

Pi Day—Children get pretty excited for Pi Day, which is celebrated on March 14 as a nod to the fact that pi equals 3.14. Display books about math concepts including any of the ten "Sir Cumference" books. Even though these books look like picture books, they are actually written for middle grades. You could also celebrate by serving slices of pie.

Quick Reads—Display short story collections, Chicken Soup for Your Soul, and similar series books.

Women's History Month—Make a poster that says "Women You Never Heard Of" and fill the display with lesser-known women's memoirs.

Youth Art Month—Display books about the creative process. This year's theme is "Your Art, Your Voice." Invite a local artist or book illustrator to show children and teens how to create something special of their own.

HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARIES.....



Join us in celebrating work anniversaries with some wonderful librarians in our System!

- Amy Sutherland - January marks 6 years at Sutherland Public Library*
- Sierra Burrows - 1 year on January 3rd at Holdrege Area Public Library*
- January Aldinger - 20 years on January 6th at Holdrege Area Public Library*

CPLS SYSTEM NEWS WE CAN ALL USE:



Stories and photos provided by Judy Hagan, Director at Atkinson Public Library

The Atkinson Public Library has a display featuring photography by Jim Taylor from Stuart. The collection of thirty-two “Golden Oldies” images are on display now through January 28th. The prints were made from 35 mm color slide film and b/w negative film from about 1978 to 2007. The display includes his photograph, Fisherman Unloading their Catch, which was judged grand prize winner in the photography division of the Nebraska State Fair in 1988.

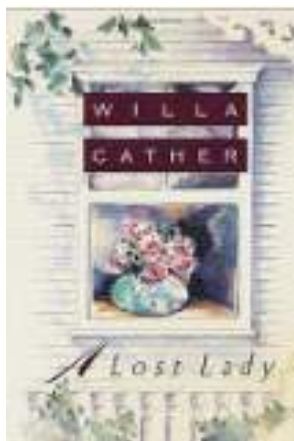
Christmas Crafts for Kids was held at the library! Cute little tree ornaments of Santas, Penguins, Snowmen, and Elves were put together by fifty-three children who stopped in during the week. They also worked on coloring pages, and ate yummy snacks!



On Monday, December 5th, Santa came to the Atkinson Public Library! Amber Shane, from Silver Star Photography, took pictures while he sat and visited with the 358 children and adults that attended! Helpers for the evening were Lee Martischang, Mikelle Stoltenberg, Margaret Linse, Bonnie Lech, and Beth Laible. After pictures, book bags with fun activity packs, candy canes, Santa picture frames, and directions to find and download their pictures were handed out to each child. This event was sponsored by Silver Star Photography, Mitchell Equipment, Atkinson/Holt County Communities for Kids, and the Atkinson Friends of the Library.



NEW BOOK CLUB KITS AT CPLS



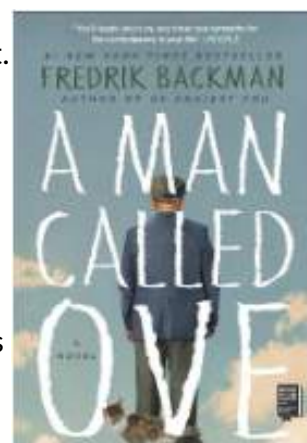
Willa Cather's *A Lost Lady* was first published in 1923. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of publication, CPLS purchased twelve copies for our Book Club Set.

It tells the story of Marian Forrester and her husband, Captain Daniel Forrester who live in the Western town of Sweet Water, along the Transcontinental Railroad. Marian draws her strength from that solid foundation, bringing delight and beauty to her elderly husband, to the small town where they live, to the prairie land itself, and to the young narrator of her story, Neil Herbert. All are bewitched by her brilliance and grace, and all are ultimately betrayed. For Marian longs for "life on any terms," and in fulfilling herself, she loses all she loved and all who loved her. This, Willa Cather's most perfect novel, is not only a portrait of a troubling beauty, but also a haunting evocation of a noble age slipping irrevocably into the past.

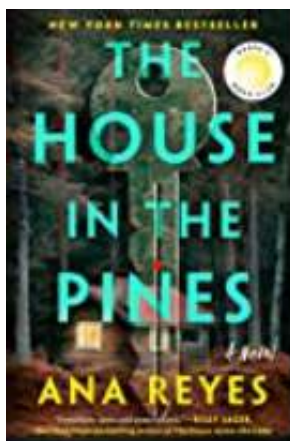
A recent movie release starring Tom Hanks, Mariana Trevino and Rachel Keller has increased interest in a novel titled *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. The System has 10 copies plus an audiobook in our Book Club Set.

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon—the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him "the bitter neighbor from hell." But must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time?

Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents' association to their very foundations.



Reese Witherspoon's Book Club's January 2023 choice has been announced! "This is an absolute, can't-put-it-down thriller...It's truly a wild ride that had me flying through chapter after chapter—which I think is the perfect way to kick off your year of reading." —Reese Witherspoon



The book is *The House of Pines* by Ana Reyes. The Central Plains Library System has 10 copies in our Book Club Set.

Maya was a high school senior when her best friend, Aubrey, mysteriously dropped dead in front of the enigmatic man named Frank whom they'd been spending time with all summer. Seven years later, Maya lives in Boston with a loving boyfriend and is kicking the secret addiction that has allowed her to cope with what happened years ago. But her past comes rushing back when she comes across a recent YouTube video in which a young woman suddenly keels over and dies in a diner while sitting across from none other than Frank. Plunged into the trauma that has defined her life, Maya heads to her Berkshires hometown to relive that fateful summer—the influence Frank once had on her and the obsessive jealousy that nearly destroyed her friendship with Aubrey.

NEW BOOK CLUB KITS AT NLC

CONTRIBUTED BY MACKENZIE MARROW



For 60 days in the winter of 1957-1958, Charles Starkweather and Caril Ann Fugate raced across Nebraska and Wyoming, leaving 11 dead in their wake. As one of America's most infamous and widely-reported killing sprees, Starkweather and Fugate are immortalized through movies, music, and literature. And Liza Ward, the granddaughter of two victims, Lauer and Clara Ward, decided it was time to tell the story from a new perspective. Her 2004 novel *Outside Valentine* is the story of her family and the trauma that has consumed it for generations. But instead of focusing on the notorious Starkweather, this novel takes a step back, concentrating on Caril Ann and those he left behind in a stunning re-telling of what happened that winter.

Outside Valentine is a fictional account of the Starkweather killing spree, following the three narrators simultaneously. One narrator, Caril Ann Fugate, is a disenfranchised

impressionable 14-year-old who finds solace and a desperate love with 19-year-old Charles Starkweather. Their romance soon burns too hot when he takes Caril on a joyride, murdering her family and anyone found in the way of that love. Four years later, the story follows Susan Hurst, who finds herself obsessively reading about the killing spree, envious of the pair's violent love. Desperate for this kind of love and recognition, she lives a lonely life with her emotionally distant parents, all the while harboring a secret obsession for the surviving son of the Bowmans (the fictionalized Lauer and Clara Ward), whom she has never met. The son, Lowell Bowman, is our third narrator, who, 30 years later, is still dealing with the aftermath of the tragedy. Unable to cope, he runs away from his wife and children, both from and to his past.

Outside Valentine is an engaging and lyrical read that isn't quite "true crime" but still has that thrilling air. Because the story takes place over 30 years, the reader follows how Fugate and Starkweather's actions spiral bigger than just themselves. Ward creates an atmosphere that sucks you in so deeply and wholly that you forget where you are. And the stark winter setting makes this a perfect book club selection coming into the colder months. Book club groups, especially those here in Nebraska, will find plenty to discuss in how Ward uses the setting to instill her characters with deep longing and isolation. She does an incredible job of identifying the true loneliness of being a young girl and the dark side of romanticism.

While both were found guilty and Starkweather sentenced to death, Caril Ann Fugate spent 17 years in prison on a murder conviction before she was paroled in 1976. In 2020, with her father's support, Liza Ward advocated for Fugate's pardon, believing her grandparents "would want people to know the truth," and that it is "time to show that young girl's stories are worth being listened to." And she gives young girls that opportunity in *Outside Valentine*.

If you're interested in requesting this book for your book club, you can find the Book Club Kit Request Form [here](#). There are 12 copies available (Items must be requested by a librarian).

AUDIOBOOK COLLECTION

CPLS owns over 1,200 circulating audiobook titles. System member libraries may borrow audiobooks (CD, MP3, and Playaway formats) for a loan period of 90 days.

Here are some new additions:

- Overkill*, by Brown, Sandra
The Grand Design: A Novel of Dorothy Draper, by Callaway, Joy
A Stranger's Game, by Coble, Colleen
The Cartographer's Secret, by Cooper, Tea
The Incredible Winston Browne, by Dietrich, Sean
Meet Me in the Margins, by Ferguson, Melissa
Without a Hitch, by Fogle Paul, Asher
The Boys from Biloxi, by Grisham, John
The Letter from Briarton Park, by Ladd, Sarah E.
The Mozart Code, by McMillan, Rachel
Something Good, by Miller, Vanessa
The Thursday Murder Club, by Osman, Richard
A World of Curiosities, by Penny, Louise
The London House, by Reay, Katherine
Nightwork, by Roberts, Nora
Kaiju Preservation Society, by Scalzi, John
Dreamland, by Sparks, Nicholas
We Were Kings: Guilty or Wrongly Accused: Pick Your Side, by Stevens, Court
The Do-Over, by Turner, Bethany
Twilight at Moorington Cross, by Wilson, Abigail
Black Dog, by Woods, Stuart

Brownstone Book Fund

One hundred fortunate libraries across Nebraska are to be the recipients of 100 books each thanks to the Brownstone Book Fund. The Brownstone Book Fund is a private foundation based in New York City, and it was founded by Diane and Clyde Brownstone in 1997. They select a different state each year for libraries to be gifted these brand-new books from Brodart. It will be exciting to see the community responses to these generous donations.



CPLS HAS SCHOLARSHIP MONEY AVAILABLE!

Many of you may be looking forward to a new year and new opportunities to attend events such as the ALA Annual Conference, the Joint Youth Services Retreat, the ARSL Conference, or other training opportunities that come up during the next year. The System can help! We have money available for you!

CPLS can award up to \$200.00 per event in Nebraska and \$300 for out-of-state events. These funds are available to help cover expenses such as registration, mileage, meals, etc. Only one scholarship per person per fiscal year (July - June). Each Library Agency shall be limited to two scholarships per year.

Name _____

Library _____

Event _____

Date of event _____

Scholarship requested for _____ (meal, room, etc.)

Amount requested _____

Who should the check be made out to _____

Other information: _____

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

Disc Cleaning and Repair

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

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

From **July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023**, each CPLS member library has **10 free disc cleanings available** to them.



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

Fun Things to Celebrate:

FEBRUARY

National Embroidery Month

National Bird Feeding Month

National Black History Month

National Library Lover's Month

Feb 6 - 12 - Freelance Writers Appreciation Week

National Kraut & Frankfurter Week

Feb 27 - Mar 5 - National Invasive Species Week

Feb 3 - Bubble Gum Day

Feb 4 - National Homemade Soup Day

Feb 7 - National Periodic Table Day

Feb 9 - National Pizza Day

Feb 11 - National Inventors' Day

Global Movie Day

Feb 13 - Safer Internet Day U.S.

Feb 17 - National Random Acts of Kindness Day

Feb 20 - National Comfy Day

National Love Your Pet Day

Feb 21 - Paczki Day

Feb 23 - National Dog Biscuit Day

National Chili Day

Feb 26 - National Tell A Fairy Tale Day

National Set A Good Example Day

Feb 27 - National Polar Bear Day

National Retro Day

March

National Craft Month

National Credit Education Month

National Sauce Month

Mar 5 - 11 - Words Matter Week

Mar 5 - 11 - Teen Tech Week

Mar 5 - 11 - Read an E-Book Week

Mar 20 - 26 - National Introverts Week

Mar 20 - 26 - National Button Week

Mar 26 - Apr 1 - National Cleaning Week

Mar 2 - National Read Across America Day

Mar 3 - National I Want You To Be Happy Day

Mar 3 - National Employee Appreciation Day

Mar 5 - National Cheese Doodle Day

Mar 7 - National Be Heard Day

Mar 10 - National Mario Day

Mar 12 - National Plant a Flower Day

Mar 14 - National Pi Day

Mar 16 - Freedom of Information Day
Absolutely Incredible Kid Day

Mar 18 - National Quilting Day

Mar 19 - National Let's Laugh Day

Mar 21 - National 3-D Day

Mar 22 - National Goof Off Day

Mar 25 - Tolkien Reading Day

Mar 30 - National Virtual Vacation Day

Mar 31 - National Crayon Day



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- Feb 1 - "All Together Now!" SRP Workshop - 10am - 3:30pm (Grand Island)
 Feb 3 - Sticker Obsession Workshop - 10am - 3pm (Geneva - SELS)
 Feb 8 - What Would You Do with \$1,000? Workshop - 10am - 3pm (St. Paul)
 Feb 17 - What Would You Do with \$1,000? Workshop - 10am - 3pm (North Platte)
 Feb 24 - Big Talk From Small Libraries 2023 - Online
- Mar 7 - "All Together Now!" SRP Workshop - 10am - 3:30pm (Lexington)
- Apr 5 - April Showers Bring May Flowers Cricut Workshop - 1pm - 5pm (Kearney)
 Apr 14 - CPLS Board Meeting - 10am (CCC - Grand Island)
- ”

BASIC SKILLS CLASSES

CLASS DATES	CLASS	INSTRUCTOR	REGISTRATION DATES
1/2 - 1/31	<u>Communication*</u>	Self-paced	12/1 - 12/30/22
2/6 - 2/17	<u>Customer Service*</u>	Christa Porter	1/3 - 1/28
3/6 - 3/17	<u>Library Governance</u>	Denise Harders	1/30 - 2/28
3/20 - 3/31	Library Technology	Amanda Sweet	2/14 - 3/11
4/1 - 4/30	Introduction to Cataloging(Organization of Materials)*	Self-paced	2/21 - 3/18
4/17 - 4/28	Library Finance	Holli Duggan	3/14 - 4/8

NCompass LIVE PRESENTATIONS

Every Wednesday 10am - 11am (CST)

To view past presentations, [CLICK HERE](#).

- A New Partnership to Provide Tax Preparation Services to Hard-to-Reach Taxpayers
 Feb 1 [Register](#)
- Accessibility Isn't Just for Patrons! Internal Documentation for Everyone
 Feb 8 [Register](#)
- Digital Libraries as Digital Third Place: Virtual Library Programming
 Feb 15 [Register](#)
- Pretty Sweet Tech
 Feb 22 [Register](#)
- 2023 One Book One Nebraska: 'The Mystery of Hunting's End'
 Mar 1 [Register](#)
- Read the Rainbow: Serving the LGBTQ+ Community in Your Library
 Mar 8 [Register](#)

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