



# Plain Speaking

Central Plains Library System

*Educate Connect Inspire*

Volume 3, Issue 6

December 2018– January 2019

## ***This Blessed Earth***

Chosen as 2019 One Book One Nebraska

People across Nebraska are encouraged to read the work of a fourth-generation Nebraskan —and then talk about it with their friends and neighbors. ***This Blessed Earth: A Year in the Life of an American Family Farm*** by Ted Genoways is the joint 2019 One Book One Nebraska and All Iowa Reads selection.

***This Blessed Earth*** asks the question, is there still a place for the farm in today’s America? The family farm lies at the heart of our national identity, yet its future is in peril. Far from an isolated refuge beyond the reach of global events, the family farm is increasingly at the crossroads of emerging technologies and international detente. Ted Genoways explores this rapidly changing landscape of small, traditional farming operations, mapping as it unfolds day to day.

For forty years, Rick Hammond has raised cattle and crops on his wife’s fifth-generation farm. But as he prepares to hand off the operation to his daughter Meghan and her husband Kyle, their entire way of life is under siege. Confronted by rising corporate ownership, encroaching pipelines, groundwater depletion, climate change, and shifting trade policies, small

farmers are often caught in the middle and fighting just to preserve their way of life. Following the Hammonds from harvest to harvest, ***This Blessed Earth*** is both a history of American agriculture and a portrait of one family’s struggle to hold on to their legacy.

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, 2019 at <http://onebook.nebraska.gov>. Updates and activity listings will be posted on the One Book One Nebraska Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/onebookonenebraska>.

2019 will mark the fifteenth 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.

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

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### Board Members

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MATTHEW WILLIAMS

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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.

**The System Office has a Book Set with 12 copies available for you to borrow. Call or email to reserve this set for your book club.**



**It's that time of the year again! "Holidays?" you may ask. No, silly! It's time to complete the annual statistical survey through Bibliostat Collect!**

Each year the Nebraska Library Commission collects statistical data from all Nebraska public libraries as part of a national survey. Submitting this annual statistical survey is required for accredited public libraries. However, unaccredited public libraries are also encouraged to submit data for this survey and can earn an extra \$200 through the Dollars for Data grant program. Surveys run from mid-November until mid-February.

Have you ever wondered how to make the survey process easier? Do you know how filling out this survey can benefit your library? Could your library use an extra \$200 in the budget perhaps for a new makerspace item? Join us as Sam Shaw from the Nebraska Library Commission answers these questions and more!

**Where:** Holdrege Area Public Library  
**When:** December 18th, 2018 from 10am – 1pm

**Register [here](#) to be part of this informative meeting!**



Full


 SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING  
 ARTS MATHEMATICS

Ahead!

### Three great locations to choose from:

**Atkinson Public Library**      **February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

210 West State St.

Atkinson, NE 68713

**Hastings Public Library**      **February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

314 N. Denver

Hastings, NE 68901

**Wilson Public Library**      **February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

910 Meridian Ave.

Cozad, NE 69130

S.T.E.A.M. is the way of the future! But what is S.T.E.A.M.? It is an educational approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking. Technological innovation is the way to ensure a prosperous future which means that all students having access to high-quality learning opportunities in S.T.E.A.M. subjects is a priority.

Come learn all the fun ways to integrate S.T.E.A.M. into your library programs with this hands-on workshop! You will learn how to put the fun in learning with all the new items the CPLS office has added to their list of equipment. All the items will be available for loan starting March 2019.

The workshop will be held at three different locations. Select which location best suits your schedule. Each workshop will be held from **10am-2:30pm**. Participants will receive **4 CEU's** for attending.



## AGENDA

10am-10:45am – 3D Printing

10:45-11:15am – Blocks Rock!

11:15am-12pm – littleBits

12pm-12:45pm – LUNCH (provided)

12:45pm-1:30pm – Sphero

1:30pm-2:15pm – Bloxels

Please register for the location of your choice:

<https://goo.gl/forms/rFIIDWzN4xZPfGwv1>

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.



Two libraries in the Central Plains Library System have attained Accreditation, for the first time ever, in 2018. **Maltman Memorial Library in Wood River** and **Scotia Public Library & Heritage Center** both received **Silver Level Accreditation**.

**Congratulations** to the Library Boards and staff members who worked so hard for this well-deserved recognition.



Deb Fairbanks, Library Director for Maltman Memorial Library adds the Accreditation sticker to the front door.



The **Holdrege Area Public Library** held their annual **Food 4 Fines** program from October 15-20, 2018. Because of their patrons' generosity, they were able to donate 320 canned goods (well, not everything was a can) to the Phelps County Food Pantry.

Mike Burris, Library Director, said, "In the picture, it only takes up a table, but for the people that need the assistance, it's a lot larger than that. We've all been told that 'man does not live by bread alone,' but

when the bread's missing, it's still a crisis. I think we did pretty good, people. Don't forget to donate more when you can - to whoever you can - throughout the year!"

## ***School Library Journal's Best Books***

The review editors for School Library Journal have considered the starred books of the year and selected 80 titles in seven categories as the very best of 2018. They considered literary excellence, timeliness, timelessness, the collection development needs of librarians, and the appeal to young readers.



The categories are Picture Books; Chapter Books; Middle Grade; Nonfiction; YA; Poetry; and Graphic Novels. You can see a slide show which includes each title and download the complete list by going to <https://www.slj.com/?page=best-books-2018>.

# Central Plains Library Systems

## Summer Reading Workshops

# A UNIVERSE OF STORIES

Date: January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Location: McCook City Library

802 Norris Avenue

McCook, NE 69001

Time: 9:30am - 3:30pm

CEU's Earned: 4.5

(Registration Deadline: January 18<sup>th</sup>)



Date: March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Location: Ravenna Public Library

324 Milan Ave.

Ravenna, NE 68869

Time: 9:30am - 3:30pm

CEU's Earned: 4.5

(Registration Deadline: March 22<sup>nd</sup>)

## AGENDA

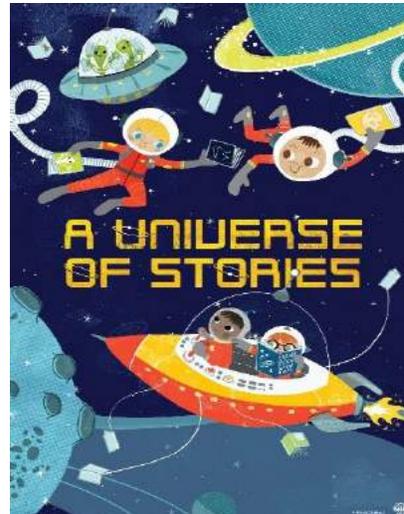
- 9:30-10am Registration & Mingle
- 10-11:30am Book Review by Sally Snyder, NLC
- 11:30-12:15pm CPLS Presents.....
- 12:15-1:30pm LUNCH & Sharing Time  
(lunch is included in your registration fee)
- 1:30-3:30pm Activities & Crafts with Jody Crocker  
(McCook City Library)

Please register online: <https://goo.gl/forms/LucegM89JoVOgeYD3>

\$10 Registration fee may be sent to (or payable at the door on the day of the workshop):

Central Plains Library System  
2727 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite #233  
Hastings, NE 68901

In case of inclement weather, please contact CPLS office to see if the workshop has been rescheduled (800-569-4961 or 402-705-1409).



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.

**Central Plains Library System  
October 12, 2018  
Landmark Center Conference Room  
Hastings, NE 68901**

**Call to Order:/Roll Call:**

**Present:** Tony Anderson, Doris Brandon, Terri Eberly, Judy Hagan, Janene Hill, Jane Hilton, Terri Johnson, Matthew Williams.

**Absent:** Mo Khamouna, Shawna Lindner, Lori Long, Linda Nickel

**Also Present:** Denise Harders, Autumn Carlson, Kay Kloppenborg, and Christa Porter

**Guests:** Tim Johnson and Steve Hagan

**Approval of Minutes:** Matthew Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2018 meeting. Tony Anderson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Financial Report:** Denise Harders reviewed the financial report.

The transactions of the first quarter of the fiscal year were reviewed. The Budget Report indicated 22.9% of the budget was used. There was a question on the credit in the insurance line. Denise explained how the insurance company does a review at year end, and due to Sharon's retirement during the last year, the liability was less than anticipated so the insurance company refunded a portion of the premium. The cutting machine line was also questioned. This was due to the purchase of an additional die cutting machine and dies needed to meet the increasing demand of member libraries. It was also noted that the second quarter funding from the Nebraska Library Commission was included in this report since the Commission had dispersed it before the second quarter started. Terri Johnson made a motion to approve the budget report and Terri Eberly, seconded the motion. The Financial Report was approved.

**Correspondence:** Denise shared the thank you correspondence received from retiring board member Pat Hughes and from Cindee Wagner of the Palisade Public Library.

**Director's Report:** Denise gave the report

Week of Weeding. Denise reported that the Week of Weeding was terrific. The date had been changed from previous year's date. This year there were 16 participants and 2,500 items and equipment weeded.

Bulk Lending – We have two lending libraries once again. They are McCook City Library and Hastings Public Library. Hastings Public had not been a lending library for a couple of years due to their remodeling, which is completed now and they were willing to participate in the program again. Each lending library receives \$50 from each individual borrowing library plus \$1500 in funding from the System.

Scholarships—CPLS has \$3,900.00 available in scholarship money. Libraries are encouraged to apply for scholarships to attend the ARSL conference in Burlington, Vermont next year.

### **Old Business**

The CPLS Board Meeting schedule was accepted.

At the last board meeting the board directed Denise to invest \$10,000 from the checking account in a Certificate of Deposit, to earn some interest. The Certificate of Deposit was attained at Lincoln Federal Savings and Loan for 8 months at 2.25%. The due date is June 2019, the end of our fiscal year.

Makerspace equipment is being well-used. We've had second requests from some libraries for different pieces of the equipment. We have ordered a 3-D printer. This equipment is for the libraries to try to determine if they are interested in buying it for their library.

Autumn Carlson, new CPLS staff member was introduced.

Proposed workshops included having a Make and Take Cricut Workshop in Kearney; STEAM workshops in several locations in February; and a Library Directors' Group that would meet quarterly. We are collaborating with the Western Library System to develop a library logo and marketing workshop for an overnight event next fall.

### **New Business**

The draft of the financial compilation was reviewed.

Autumn Carlson gave an informative demonstration on using the Cricut and the heat press.

### **Other Business**

Employee's maximum P.T.O. accumulation was discussed. Denise's time is calculated in days and the Admin. Assistant's is calculated in hours.

Christa Porter presented the Library Commission Report.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. and lunch was catered by Napoli's.

## **Holiday Shopping Deals in Red Cloud**



If you can visit us here in Red Cloud, be sure to stop by the bookstore at the National Willa Cather Center as part of your holiday shopping. We have a buy one, get one deal on a variety of coffee table books, seasonal items, a sale table, and many Cather-related books, gifts, and hand-embroidered tea towels.

For our friends outside the region, please shop our online store for a variety of books and merchandise. Giving the gift of Cather's literature is not only good for the soul, your purchase also directly supports our mission to promote Cather's legacy through education, preservation, and the arts.

**[Shop Here](#)**



## Library and Information Services

Online Course Offerings

**Spring 2019**

**January 7, 2019 – May 3, 2019**

Enrollment for Spring Semester opens

Monday, Nov. 12, 2018



### ***LIBR 2150 Managing Collections in Libraries and Information Agencies***

*Patty Birch, Instructor*

This course will provide students with an understanding of managing collections in libraries and information agencies, including:

- Basics of Collection Management (terminology, models)
- 21st Century Literacies
- Selection (All resources, for all age levels)
- Acquisition
- Deselection/Weeding
- Intellectual Freedom
- Copyright

*Suggested prerequisite: LIBR 1010 Foundations of Library & Information Services.*

*For information regarding course content, contact the instructor at [pbirch@cccneb.edu](mailto:pbirch@cccneb.edu)*

### ***LIBR 2210 Cataloging and Classification***

*Ruth Carlock, Instructor*

This course will include theories, concepts and activities for cataloging and classifying materials in the 21st Century. It includes the following topics:

- The bibliographic record
- Sears and Library of Congress subject headings
- Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress classification systems
- The MARC record
- Resource Description and Access Instructions

*Suggested prerequisite: LIBR 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services*

*For information regarding this course, contact the instructor at [rcarlock@cccneb.edu](mailto:rcarlock@cccneb.edu)*

<b>Library and Information Services Online Course Offerings 2019</b>		
<b>Spring 2019</b>	<b>Summer 2019</b>	<b>Fall 2019</b>
Libr 2150 Managing Collections in Libraries and Information Agencies	Libr 2100 Reference Resources and Services	Libr 1010 Foundations of Library and Information Services
Libr 2210 Cataloging and Classification		Libr 2250 Leadership and Management in Library and Information Agencies
		Libr 2940 Library Science Capstone Practicum

For more information on the Library and Information Services program, see:

<https://www.cccneb.edu/educational-opportunities/programs/human-services-and-education/library/>

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

# \*Make\*ing Time for Fun Workshop

Have you ever wondered what you can do to take your Makerspace up a notch? Do you wish you could offer more options but just aren't sure what would work in your library? Do you want to implement items that don't cost an arm and a leg? Central Plains Library System will be holding a Makerspace Workshop in December!



**When:** December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 10am - 3pm (Lunch will be provided)

**Where:** Kearney Public Library

**Topics Covered:** Circuit Hacks, Large Games, Programming Ideas, Coding, STEAM and more!

Mark your calendars now! Due to the nature of this workshop, space is limited to only 25 people. To guarantee your spot at this fun-filled workshop, [register here](#). Come ready to learn and get hands-on experience during this unique learning experience!



## CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S LIS CERTIFICATE

Central Community College offers a Library & Information Services (LIS) Certificate that consists of six online courses. This certificate is designed to provide students with a broad overview of the library profession, introduce theories and concepts integral to reference services, and offers studies in basic leadership and management skills. Courses are taught by seasoned librarians that have years of experience in a variety of different types of libraries.

For more information about the program, please visit the website at [www.cccneb.edu/LIS](http://www.cccneb.edu/LIS).

For those who wish to earn UNO's 4-year degree in Library Science, the University of Nebraska in Omaha accepts CCC's 2-year Academic Transfer degree with the LIS certificate courses as 18-credits of electives.



## Audiobook Collection

CPLS owns over 1,000 circulating audiobook titles. System member libraries may borrow audiobooks (CD, MP3, and Playaway formats) for a loan period of 90 days.

*Red Fire* by Brand, Max

*Indestructible* by Bruning, John R.

*The Christmas Secret* by Brunstetter, Wanda E.

*The Total Package* by Evanovich, Stephanie

*The Affliction* by Gutcheon, Beth

*The Kid* by Hansen, Ron

*Claws for Concern* by James, Miranda

*The Mistletoe Murder* by James, P. D.

*Happily Ever after* by Jenkins, Steve

*A Baxter Family Christmas* by Kingsbury, Karen

*Half Moon Bay* by LaPlante, Alice

*Autumn Lover* by Lowell, Elizabeth

*Twelve Days of Christmas* by Macomber, Debbie

*Wishes for Christmas* by Michaels, Fern

*Denim and Lace* by Palmer, Diana

*The Christmas Wish* by Roberts, Nora

*Rescued* by Rosenfelt, David

*Shane* by Schaefer, Jack

*Rainy Day Friends* by Shalvis, Jill

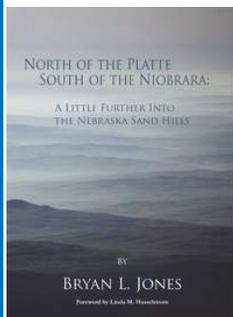
*The Cabin at the End of the World* by Tremblay, Paul

*Echoes of Family* by White, Barbara Claypole



.....  
View the list of titles on our website under Services  
and then call or email the  
System office to borrow or reserve titles.  
.....

## New Sand Hills Book By Nebraska Author



***North of the Platte, South of the Niobrara: A Little Further into the Nebraska Sand Hills*** by Bryan L. Jones has been released by Stephen F. Austin State University Press. The product of 70,000 miles and 370 interviews, *North of the Platte* reviews the accomplishments of UNL researchers who've spent their careers solving the mysteries of the Sand Hills. Jones also provides a rare inside look at Ted Turner's bison operation, visits a one-room school and tracks holistic cattle management practices bringing change to the Sand Hills.

The book also features interviews with aging bull riders, who competed before million-dollar purses and private jets, the personal stories of WWII veterans, navigations of iconic Sand Hills rivers and two beloved Nebraska Poets pondering the metaphorical and metaphysical aspects of the Sand Hills.

Author Bryan Jones was born in Nebraska, grew up in Central City, Neligh, Chappell, Geneva and Columbus. To order ***North of the Platte, South of the Niobrara*** or to schedule an author appearance go to [www.bryanjoneswriter.com](http://www.bryanjoneswriter.com) or call 719-836-3202.

## Try Before You Buy

The Central Plains Library System has some new Makerspace Equipment for you to use at your library. The newest **Cricut** machine, the **Maker**, will be available for one month at a time starting in January. Call to reserve it now. The **EasyPress** is also included.

### Cricut Maker

It handles fabrics, leather, and balsa wood with effortless precision. Cuts sewing patterns in just a few clicks. And places more creative possibilities than ever at your fingertips. Meet Cricut Maker—The ultimate smart cutting machine.



- Cuts the most materials. Cricut Maker cuts hundreds of materials quickly and accurately, from the most delicate fabric and paper to matboard and leather.
- Rotary Blade. With its gliding, rolling action, this blade cuts through virtually any fabric quickly and accurately – without backing material.
- Knife Blade. This extra-deep blade works like an X-ACTO knife to slice through heavier materials like 2.4 mm (3/32") balsa wood and matboard.
- Easy-to-learn Design Space® software.

### Cricut EasyPress



- Lightweight, portable, easy to store.
- The giant, ceramic-coated 9" x 9" heat plate delivers the exact temperature you need.
- The evenly heated plate adheres your iron-on in 60 seconds or less
- The big handle, Safety Base, and auto shutoff feature keep things safe every step of the way.

# CPLS Has Scholarship Money Available

Up to \$200.00 per event for registration, mileage, meal, etc.  
Only one scholarship per person per year.  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

Other information:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

## YA Sweet Treat Book Club

Plan a book club that focuses entirely on reading YA fiction books and making the food that is mentioned in the book. Why not choose a book every month and have each member pick a treat to make and bring to the discussion meeting? Not only will the teens be reading, they will be testing their cooking skills as well.

Here is a link to a Book + Dessert Pairing Guide:

<http://berries.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/SB-Books-And-Desserts-superfin.png>.



As Alice, The Mad Hatter and The March Hare sit and sip some tea, the Hatter tells the story of the night of the dreadful concert with the Queen of Hearts. We think these red jam filled tea biscuits will set the tone for finding out why it's always six o' clock tea time.

**ALICE'S  
ADVENTURES IN  
WONDERLAND**  
Lewis Carroll



**TEA BISCUITS  
WITH JAM**

## CPLS Board Meeting Schedule



January 11  
Telephone Conference Call

April 12  
Location TBA

July 12  
Annual Meeting  
Location TBA

All Board Meetings start at  
10:00 am.

## **‘Check Out’ Creative Things Libraries Circulate**

Everyone expects to be able to check out books and DVDs from their library. But telescopes? Cake pans? Litter clean-up kits? Below are some creative examples of materials being circulated in libraries around the country.

### **Litter Clean-Up Kit**

Contents: Litter grabbers, safety vests, bags and a bucket.

### **CPR Training Kit**

Contents: Each kit comes in a duffel bag with an informational DVD, adult/child manikin, and infant manikin for practicing lifesaving techniques.



### **Arts and Crafts Kit**

Contents: Instructions, books, yarn, paper and tools, such as knitting needles, embroidery hoops and rubber stamps. The idea with the kits is try-it-before-you-buy-it, to see if they like it well enough to buy supplies on their own.

### **Literacy Kits**

Contents: Materials to help with early childhood literacy, such as two to three books, manipulatives or puppets, instructional material for adults and resources about reading levels at various ages.



### **Experience Bags**

Contents: Books, movies, DVDs and/or video games on a theme/location, packaged in a tote to create an “experience.” For example, the “Taste of Italy” Experience Bag includes a cookbook, a book on Italian wine, an opera CD, a food-themed novel and a couple of movies featuring Italian food.

### **Musical Instruments**

Contents: A musical instrument with instructions and supplies. One kit contains a ukulele, two instructional books and an electronic tuner. Another contains a Yamaha acoustic guitar, instructional book and DVD, guitar picks and electronic tuner.



### **Telescopes and Microscopes**

Contents: Patrons can check out a telescope or microscope with supporting items. The telescope comes with an instruction manual, constellation book and star charts. The digital microscopes come with CD and/or flash drive to download software to a home computer.

## Two New Book Club Sets

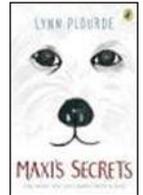


**Slacker** by Gordon Korman – 10 copies

When Cameron gets so caught up in gaming that he almost lets his house burn down, he and his friends invent a fake school club to make it seem like they're doing good deeds instead of slacking. The only problem-some kids think the club is real!

**Maxi's Secrets (or What You Can Learn from a Dog)** by Lynn Plourde – 10 copies

When a BIG, lovable, does-it-her-way dog wiggles her way into the heart of a loudmouth pipsqueak of a boy, wonderful things happen that help him become a bigger, better person. ...



## Cover One Book Repair Service!



The System has a binding repair machine that fixes a variety of types and sizes of books. This machine easily binds up to a 2½" thick book and it has a sliding wall to hold smaller books in place. It will also work with legal size as well as regular 8½ x 11" size items. Repaired books will be ready to use in just 20 minutes! Go to <http://www.coverone.net> and click on the link for Book

Repair Demo on the left-hand side of the page to see it in action.

This machine is perfect to repair books with glued bindings that have "popped" and split into several big chunks, paperbacks that have come out of their covers, and books where individual pages are coming loose.

Mail or bring your books to the System Office.  
We will repair them for \$1 per book plus actual return postage.

## 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, 2018 thru June 30, 2019, each CPLS member library has 10 free disc cleanings.

- 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!

## Young Readers Invited to Write to Favorite Authors



Young readers in grades 4-12 are invited to write a personal letter to an author for the Letters about Literature (LAL) contest, a national reading and writing promotion program. The letter can be to any author (living or dead) from any genre-fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic, explaining how that author's work changed the student's view of the world. The 26th annual reflective writing competition is sponsored by the Library of Congress Center for the Book and presented in association with affiliate State Centers for the Book with funding provided by the

Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Letters About Literature is coordinated and sponsored in Nebraska by the Nebraska Center for the Book and the Nebraska Library Commission, with support from Houchen Bindery, Ltd., Humanities Nebraska, and Chapters Bookstore in Seward.

Prizes will be awarded on both the state and national levels. The Nebraska Center for the Book's panel of judges will select the top letter writers in the state, to be honored in a proclamation-signing ceremony at the state capitol during National Library Week in April 2019. Their winning letters will be placed in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln. Nebraska winners will receive state prizes, and then advance to the national judging.

A panel of national judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select one National Winner per competition level (Level I for grades 4-6, Level II for grades 7-8, and Level III for grades 9-12) to receive a \$2,000 cash award, to be announced in May 2019. The judges will also select one National Honor winner on each competition level to receive a \$500 cash award.

Teachers, librarians, and parents can download free teaching materials on reader response and reflective writing, along with contest details and information on the new online entry system, at [www.read.gov/letters](http://www.read.gov/letters). Nebraska-specific information (including lists of Nebraska winners of past competitions) is available on the Nebraska Center for the Book. Get inspired by listening to Nebraska winners, Ashley Xiques and Sydney Kohl, read and talk about their winning letters to authors that meant something to them in their own lives, on NET Radio's All About Books ([netnebraska.org/basic-page/radio/all-about-books](http://netnebraska.org/basic-page/radio/all-about-books)).

**Submissions must be completed online by December 14, 2018.**

For more information contact Tessa Terry, 402-471-3434 or 800-307-2665.

## NCompass Live Online Weekly Webinars (10am-11am Central)

<a href="#">NCompass Live: Best New Teen Books of 2018: Popular Teen Novels - New Books They Need to Read</a>	December 5
<a href="#">NCompass Live: Summer Reading Program 2019: A Universe of Stories!</a>	December 12
<a href="#">NCompass Live: A Textbook Program is NOT for Us! Re-Imagining Failure Into New Possibilities</a>	December 19
<a href="#">NCompass Live: Graphic Novel Collection and Programming</a>	January 9, 2019

# Central Plains Library System

## Mark Your Calendar

- December 1..... Celebration of Nebraska Books, Nebraska History Museum, Lincoln
- Dec. 3-14.....Basic Skills—Library Services to Children & Teens
- Dec. 7.....“Make”ing Time for Fun Workshop, Kearney Public Library (page 9)
- Dec. 18.....All About the Statistical Survey, Holdrege Public Library (page 2)
- Dec. 24-25.....Christmas Holiday, CPLS Office Closed
- Dec 31-Jan 1....New Year’s Holiday, CPLS Office Closed
- Jan. 1-30.....Basic Skills—Communication (Self-paced)
- Jan. 11.....CPLS Board Meeting, Telephone Conference Call
- Jan. 21.....Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, CPLS Office Closed
- Jan. 25.....Summer Reading Program Workshop, McCook City Library (page 5)
- Feb. 6.....Full STEAM Ahead, Atkinson Public Library (page 3)
- Feb.11-22.....Basic Skills—Customer Service
- Feb. 12.....Full STEAM Ahead, Hastings Public Library (page 3)
- Feb. 18.....Presidents’ Day, CPLS Office Closed
- Feb. 20.....Full STEAM Ahead, Wilson Public Library, Cozad (page 3)
- March 29.....Summer Reading Program Workshop, Ravenna Public Library (page 5)

### 2018 NLA/NSLA Conference Report

*Our library has the most effective search engines yet invented--librarians.*

~William R. Brody

Thanks to a scholarship from CPLS, I attended the NLA/NSLA Conference in Lincoln in early October. I was able to attend a preconference session, **Relevant at Any Size: Strategic Thinking for Small and Rural Libraries**. This session addressed understanding your community, how important customer service and communication are, and budgets. Also discussed were core events and programs, and weird programs. Just remember to make programs personal, and brand your programs.

Sessions during the following two days included ones I usually attend at conference: the two keynote speakers, Summer Reading, books for children and teens, Golden Sower awards, and even some on Maker Spaces in the library. Also, I like to visit the Exhibitors to learn about new products and services. A couple of the sessions I hope to utilize in programming for our library were the ones on Toddler Concept Bags: Learning Early Literacy, STEM Skills on a Small Budget, and Fun, Easy and Inexpensive Teen Nights, as we are trying to attract more pre-teens and teens.

The best part of attending Annual Conference is the networking that goes on. A librarian needs to meet others in the profession that they can share problems and solutions with. Another fun thing was the caricature sketches that we got as we visited outside the Exhibitor hall.

Thank you to Central Plains Library System for helping me attend NLA/NSLA Conference in 2018.

Keri Anderson, Director  
Hoesch Memorial Library  
Alma NE



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