



# Southeast Signal

*News, Events, and Information from Around the System*

## From the Director



Stay in one library long enough, and you will find yourself in a specific conflict with someone. It could be an administrator at the school, it could be a city council member, perhaps a local

business owner, or maybe a disgruntled patron. Eventually you will be asked the question, “why do we even need a library anyway?”.

Now the gut reaction is usually to blurt out the usual talking points we use when sharing information about the library, but is that the best approach to this particular scenario? I would suggest it isn't always.

As many of us have been taught, sometimes the question asked is not the question that person really has and so we must clarify what is really the questioner's real need. (AKA the reason we do reference interviews).

In this particular case, we have to find out the source of their query. What assumptions are in place from the person asking why libraries still exist? Do they assume everyone has the same level of internet access that they may have from their home? Do they assume that the usage of the library is not as high as it really is? Do they assume that libraries are just

warehouses for books and nothing else goes on in that space?

I have found that a good way to handle this question is to try and ask them to expand on their point of view before going into a speech about all the benefits of the library. Let them talk about the root of their issues with the library existing, so you can focus your reply to answer those doubts.

For your answer to have any chance of changing their mind, you should attempt to set it in their view of how the world works so it has something to cling to and make sense to them. For example, if their concern is money then all the good things we do towards promoting literacy probably won't matter to them, but if we talk about how the money saved by library users tends to go to purchasing other things within the community, then there may be a chance for that to hit home.

Even the act of listening to someone clarify their own position can help improve the level of dialog you'll have with them down the line. This won't work in all cases, but it does help in many so I would suggest you try it. It takes some patience and practice, but it can be very effective.

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# Calendar



February 14, Valentine's Day

February 15, Normal Bridwell's Birthday

February 17, National Random Acts of Kindness Day

February 18, Presidents' Day, SELS Office Closed

February 21, [CASTL, "New Year, New Goals! Setting Manageable Goals." Hruska Memorial Public Library, David City, 10:00-3:00](#)

February 22, [Big Talk from Small Libraries](#)

February 26, National Tell a Fairy Tale Day

February 28, National Chili Day

March 2, Theodor Geisel's Birthday (Dr. Seuss), National Read Across America Day

March 3-9, [Teen Tech Week](#)

March 7, ["Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Youth Services Programming," Ashland Public Library, 9:30-4:00](#)

March 15, Front Porch Award Application Due

March 29, ["Communication Bootcamp with Pat Wagner," Walt Branch Library, 10:00-4:00](#)

# Photo of the Month



Making Gnomes at Fairmont Public Library. More on p. 4.

# CASTL Wrap-Up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

February 21  
 Hruska Memorial  
 Public Library,  
 David City  
 “New Year, New Goals!  
 Setting Manageable  
 Goals”

March 21  
 Pawnee City  
 Public Library  
 “How a Very Small Li-  
 brary Created Programs  
 with Huge Success”

April 25  
 Hebron Secrest Library  
 “Using Free Digital  
 Resources”

The January 24th CASTL was hosted by Fairmont Public Library with the theme "Do we really need teen programming?" The broad consensus was that libraries do need programming for teens, but that at the same time it is really tricky to get participation from teens.

It was mentioned that if we can get teens involved, they are more likely to become future advocates for libraries and they will be better equipped for the employment world, where good reading skills are a necessity.

The group mentioned a number of activities that had been successful in individual libraries. It was stressed that each library's situation is different.

Successful attempts to include teens in library activities were using teen volunteers or local high school sports figures to help with programming events, hosting chess clubs, forming a teen advisory group (not currently used by any librarians in attendance but some saw some potential here), having very simple summer reading clubs (prizes but no programming), and playing book bingo with all ages (including and teens).

Other items mentioned were lego clubs, online book clubs, various passive programming, a poker walk, recommending teen books both to adults and teens (that promotes engagement because it gets families talking to each other about what they are reading), a date with a book, a scavenger hunt that begins and ends at the library, and a Harry Potter party.

Beyond that, it was mentioned that it is important to keep the families of young children involved as the children progress beyond the story time age. The library can provide hints and reminders about the excitement the library will offer to children as they grow older.

# Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

To see the list of upcoming classes, [click here](#). Here's what's coming up next:

<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
March 3—March 15	Library Governance	Feb. 4—Feb. 22
March 18—March 29	Library Technology	Feb. 18—March 1
April 1—April 30	Introduction to Cataloging	March 4—March 22

# News Around the System

## Patrons Get a Chance to be Creative at Fairmont Public Library

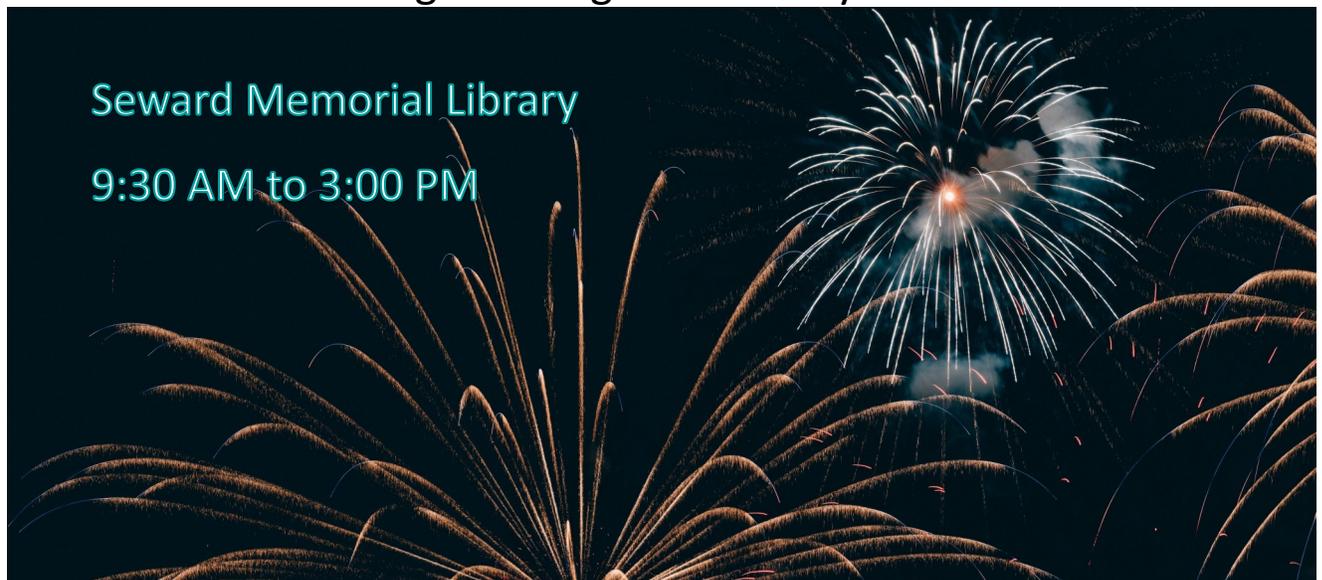
*Story and photos by Wanda Marget*

Recently, patrons created gnomes in a “Gnome Workshop” at Fairmont Public Library. Fun was had by all who attended.

Also, the first Monday night of each month is Quilting or Crafting night. We made credit card holders and plastic bag holders.



Save the Date: SELS Training Extravaganza on May 10!



Seward Memorial Library  
9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

# News Around the System

## Artists in Plain Sight at Beatrice Public Library

Story and photo by Katy Chapman

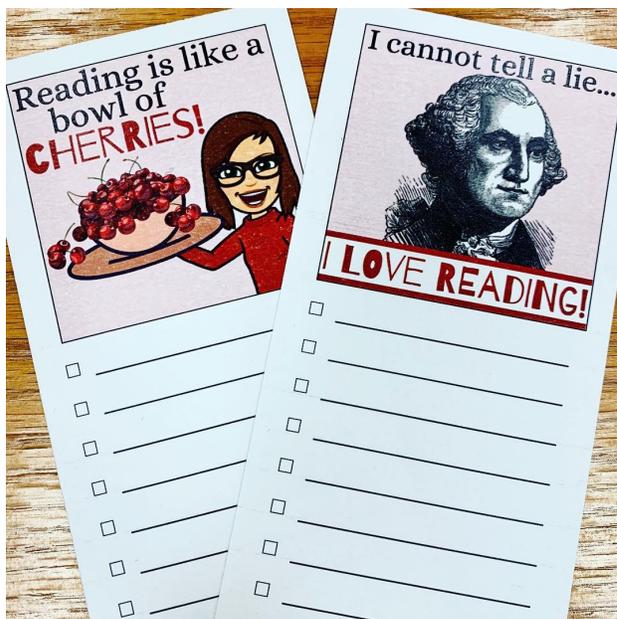
The *Artists in Plain Sight* exhibit at Beatrice Public Library runs from January 19th through March 31st and features works by library staff. Featured artists are Joanne Neemann, Tyler Milke, Katy Chapman, Desiree Decoteau, Jacque Lone Wolf, Dina Ethington, and Sara Latas. A reception for the exhibit was held Sunday, February 10th, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm.



Pictured from left to right are the pieces created by Dina Ethington, Joanne Neemann, and Tyler Milke.

## I Cannot Tell a Lie! I Love Reading!

By Emmy Fiala, K-12 Media Specialist, Aurora MS/HS Media Center



# News Around the System

## Deadline Approaching for Breakout EDU Kit Bulk Purchase

*By Scott Childers, photo by Todd Schlechte*

We've worked out an opportunity to do a bulk purchase on Breakout EDU kits. For those of you who don't know what they are, they are kind of like an "escape room" in a box. You can use them to create an actual escape room at your library, or you make a table top activity using similar concepts. You can find out more about them at: <https://www.breakoutedu.com/>

The price will be \$133.33 per kit (the same as their usual 6 kit purchase), but if we are able to have 20 kits purchased during this offer, then each kit would only cost \$125. The SELS office is purchasing 2 for lending to libraries at this time, so only 18 more kits need to be ordered for the larger discount to kick in!

This price also includes one year of their online platform that include digital activities you can use in conjunction with the physical equipment and a lot of scenarios for a variety of topics.

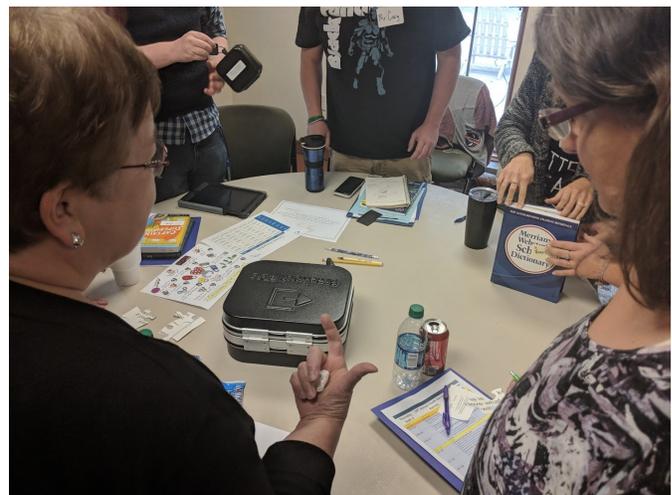
While the kits are marketed as mostly for school age students, you can easily use the tools to create activities for adults, or for multi-generational activities!

How this will work:

- 1) Go to the form by Feb 22 and put in required information.
- 2) Wait until the we know how many people are purchasing to find out the level of discount.
- 3) Payment will be collected by the SELS office, as the company has requested that as part of the discount offer.
- 4) Kits will be delivered to SELS office for distribution. We'll contact you on how best to get the kit to you in a timely fashion.

Sign-up using this form: <https://goo.gl/forms/lmCPUNQkodqL62TH3>

A Breakout EDU kit in use at the Joint Youth Services Retreat.



# Other News

## Nebraska has a New State Poet

*Information provided by the Nebraska Library Commission*

Governor Pete Ricketts announced that Matt Mason of Omaha has been designated as Nebraska's next State Poet. The Nebraska State Poet is selected based on artistic excellence and exemplary professionalism demonstrated by significant publications and special honors, an established history of community service in the advancement of poetry in Nebraska, and the ability to present poetry and interact effectively with a public audience.

Mason is executive director of the Nebraska Writers Collective, through which he has run the Louder Than a Bomb: Great Plains youth poetry festival each year since 2011. He is a former board president of the Nebraska Center for the Book and has served as the Nebraska State Coordinator for Poetry Out Loud, a Poetry Foundation/National Education Association program. He also edits PoetryMenu.com, a listing of every poetry event in the state of Nebraska.



“Poetry and poetry advocacy have been my life's real project, so being honored like this is amazing and humbling,” Mason said. “I hope to get into communities around the state to do readings with authors there. I want to get to the different counties, to the Air Force Base, to different crowds and bring entertaining poetry as well as remind everyone of the poets already there in their communities.”

As Nebraska State Poet, Mason will serve a five-year renewable term as an advocate for poetry, literacy, and literature in Nebraska. His duties will include giving public presentations and readings, leading workshops and discussions, and providing other outreach in schools, libraries, literary festivals, and various venues in rural and urban communities throughout the state.

To learn more about Matt Mason, visit his website at [matt.midverse.com](http://matt.midverse.com) or his official page at the Humanities Nebraska website by [clicking here](#). For information about hosting the state poet with the Nebraska Arts Council's "Presenting the State Poet" grants, visit [artscouncil.nebraska.gov](http://artscouncil.nebraska.gov) or contact the office at (402) 595-2122.



## Southeast Library System Front Porch Award Application

The Front Porch Award is presented to a library (academic, institutional, public or school) that displays ingenuity in creating an atmosphere that welcomes patrons to their facility. This award and \$100 will be presented during National Library Week, April 7-13, 2019. Non-accredited libraries are welcome to apply.

### Enclose the following with your nomination:

Name of Library: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Individual Submitting the Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- In 250 words or less, state why your library deserves this award.
- Information about activities/programs you have developed for your library.
- Two letters of recommendation from any library supporter.
- Any other information that shows your library deserves this award.

Nominations must be submitted to:

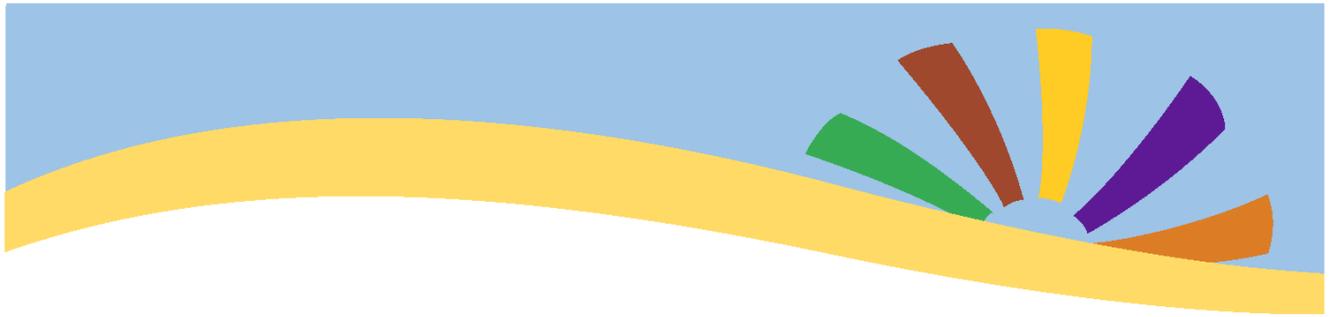
Southeast Library System

5730 R St. Ste. C-1

Lincoln, NE 68505

[selsne@gmail.com](mailto:selsne@gmail.com)

**Application deadline is March 15, 2019**



# Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Youth Services Programming

With Kristy Feden

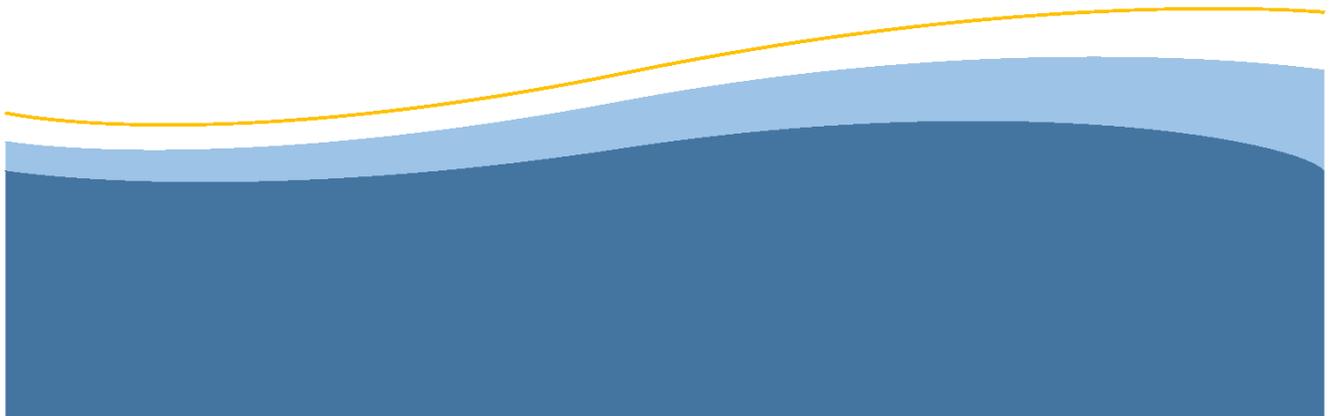
- \* Did you hear Kristy at the Youth Services Retreat and are ready to learn more? Or are you simply interested in learning how to enhance your practices in regard to programming with children, ranging in age from pre-K to teens? Come to this free workshop to be motivated and to discover the power of intentional activities that are grounded developmentally appropriate practices!

**March 7, 9:30 to 4 pm**

**Ashland Public Library**

Register at:

<https://goo.gl/forms/khluEUfVEq2ORRKx2>





## **Communication Bootcamp with Pat Wagner**

**Walt Branch Library, Lincoln**

**Free! 5 CE**

**March 29, 10:00—4:00**

Sharpen the content and delivery of messages to support your library's success and to help further your career. The theme: How to be more influential, regardless of who you are or your position in the library.

**For more information and to register, click on the following link:**

**<http://bit.ly/pwagner>**

*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.*

## System Spotlight

# Library Board Training

Did you know that Scott is willing to come out and help you meet the educational needs you have at the Library Board level? He can provide a presentation or workshop that not only will address your board's needs, but count towards Board CE credit! Scott can talk about Nebraska law in regard to library boards, the role of library director and library board, or other topics tailored to your needs. He will also work with foundations and Friends of the Library groups. Contact us for more information!



## Southeast Library System

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

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

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