



# Southeast Signal

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

## From the Director



Imagine this scene: You get called to a help do some post disaster cleanup at a house. The roof is gone and it is still raining heavily. You are the last one there so most of the individual tasks have already begun, pumping out water,

poking holes in the ceilings so water drains out instead of pooling across the whole structure, putting tarp over where the roof used to be, etc. Lots of people helping get stuff done trying to save the building from further damage.

Now you come in and ask what you can do to help. No one knows as they all are focused on their own tasks. As you go among the crowd – you ask what you can do to help and no one can tell you. Even the home owners are elbow deep in projects.

So you step back and look around. As you try to find something to do, you get a sense that at first glance this is the proverbial little Dutch boy out of *Hans Brinker*, saving the town by putting his finger in the dike to prevent further damage.

But here's the thing – all of this busy work isn't going to prevent further damage. Water is still streaming down out of light fixtures and ceiling joists. The drywall closest to the ceiling is already bubbling and portions of the ceiling could fall down any minute.

At this point you start asking about getting the irreplaceable stuff out of the house, but no one

changes tasks. Photo albums, important documents, and other one-of-a kind items still sit on the shelves while individuals focus on their individual tasks. No one seems to acknowledge all of this busy work won't delay the inevitable on the replaceable stuff and is now getting in the way of actually doing things that will save the irreplaceable.

What's the lesson to be learned? I think sometimes we see people do similar things within their libraries when things start going downhill. Lots of effort put toward tasks that don't "save" what is worth saving, but no one knowing that it is time to pull back and refocus. This could be literally saving physical aspects of a library, or figuratively looking at the organization as a whole.

I urge you to look at a couple of things. For the physical – look at your emergency plans now before you need them. Who is in charge if something happens, what do you try to save first, where does it go? For the organizational – have someone who pulls back and looks at the big picture occasionally. Sure everybody may be working hard, but is it on things that make a real difference? Do people know why they are being too asked to do things certain ways, or even why they are doing them to begin with?

Disclaimer: While this scenario above is inspired by a true life story, it is not 100% accurate.

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# Calendar

- June 9, National Donald Duck Day
- June 10, National Iced Tea Day
- June 11, National Corn on the Cob Day
- June 14, National Strawberry Shortcake Day
- June 16, Father's Day
- June 17, National Apple Strudel Day
- June 20, National Ice Cream Soda Day
- June 24, Kathryn Lasky's Birthday
- June 26, Pearl S. Buck's Birthday
- June 27, National PTSD Awareness Day
- [June 28, CASTL, Ashland Public Library, "Recognizing Trauma and Available Trauma Resources"](#)
- June 29, National Waffle Iron Day
- July 1, Lisa Scottoline's Birthday
- July 4, Independence Day, SELS Office Closed
- July 6, National Fried Chicken Day



Father's Day

# Photos of the Month



With some remaining memorial funds, Auburn Memorial Library was able to have this beautiful sculpture made. Matthew Placzek of Omaha designed and created the sculpture entitled "Knowledge". The word knowledge is written in English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, and German. —Heather Koenecke

# CASTL Wrap-Up

## Upcoming CASTL Meetings

June 28

Ashland Public Library  
"Trauma and Available Resources"

July 26

Superior Public Library  
"Dealing with Bugs"

August 23

Dvoracek Memorial Library, Wilber  
"Free Programs: Game and Parks and more"

Our May 16th CASTL at Tecumseh Public Library was hosted by Susie Kerner and had the theme "Stress Management."

We viewed and discussed a webinar by Pat Wagner on the topic. Pat noted that "planning is stronger than willpower," so stress is reduced when we plan for circumstances rather than simply reacting.

High stress causes bad chemicals to be pumped into the body and can make one "stupid and forgetful." Stress can also be addictive and cause damage to the body.

The antidote to stress and to promoting a more healthy life is to invest one hour in oneself each day. This should be done in increments of at least 20 minutes. It can help to make an inventory of things that you enjoy and are good for you that you will do in this hour, such as walking, swimming, gardening, spending time with friends, etc. Screen time does not count; TV and computer use fools you into thinking you are being refreshed.

Every workplace should include breaks. There are exercises which can be done for two to three minutes at a time: stretching, foot and ankle twirls, leg lifts and knee raises, and hand, wrist, arm, and shoulder rolls. Snacks should be healthy.

For healing, silence and sleep are necessary. Silence is the only time when stress is removed from the heart. Sleep is the only time when cells are able to repair themselves.

To manage stress successfully, figure out what you are going to do differently, formulate mental responses to triggers, decide how you are going to take care of your body, and manage your environment. To help, find a buddy to hold you accountable and recruit your family to support you.

# Upcoming Basic Skills Courses

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

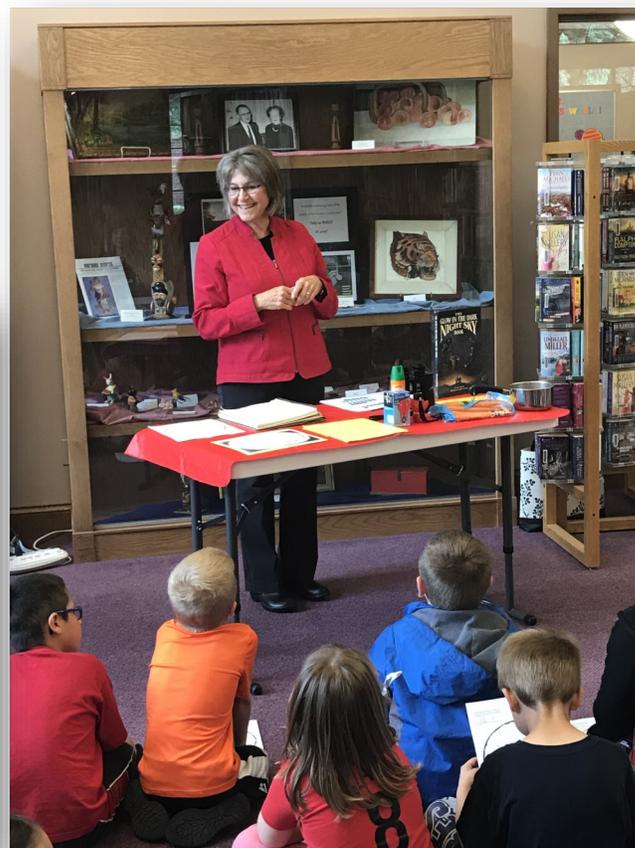
<u>Dates of Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Registration</u>
July 8—July 19	Reference	June 10—June 28
July 29—August 9	Library Policy	July 1—July 19
August 19—August 30	Collection Management	July 22—August 9

# News Around the System

## Backyard Stargazing at Central City Public Library

*By Sara Lee, photos by Sara Lee and Sally Bankson*

Doris Gacke presented a program on May 29, called Backyard Stargazing for 50 children. She showed them the Big Dipper and explained how to find other stars and constellations using the Big Dipper. She talked to the kids about the best way to be able to see stars and how to keep their eyes healthy by eating carrots so they can see the stars better.



## Fairbury Public Library hosts Maker Space Night

*Story and Photos by Linda Dux*

Fairbury Public Library hosted a Maker Space night May 23 featuring the button maker! The awesome Ms. Miller demonstrated the machine, then assisted patrons of all ages to make a pin, a mirror, and a magnet!



# News Around the System

## Jedi Academy Family Program in Hebron

*Provided by Judy Kassebaum*

On May 4th, the Hebron Secret Library hosted a “Jedi Academy” Family Program. Families were invited to test their Jedi skills at the library. Costumes were welcome!



## Good Numbers at Summer Reading in Fairbury

*Story and photos by Linda Dux*

Fairbury Public Library had two groups of children at the Summer Reading Program on the morning of May 24th, for a total of 70!

The winners of the 2 season swim passes to the new pool were Baida Stanton and Kayden Lepant.



# News Around the System

## York College Renovates the Library

*By Ruth Carlock*

A lot of changes are taking place at York College. About 3 years ago we started writing a Title III grant hoping to be able to update Levitt Library. The first year we didn't get a grant. Then we found out last October that we had received a 2.25 million dollar grant over the next 5 years. Brenda Sikes is the Title III Director. Leanna Hawley has been hired to be the Director of the Learning Commons. Leanna has been the co-director of a secondary school library in Memphis, Tennessee. This past semester Brenda and Leanna have started the process of updating. One of the first requirements is the installation of a sprinkler system. To do this we needed to downsize and move our collection. First, each faculty member was asked to come over and choose the materials needed for the classes they taught and these materials were separated from the rest. Next, the faculty and staff were allowed to take any of the remaining materials that they wanted. Then the community was invited to come in for a book sale. For one week they paid \$2 per book, then for a week \$1 per book, then \$5 for a box of books, and finally anything left was free. The books that were left over after this were discarded.

We are in the process now of updating KOHA, our OPAC, and verifying our holdings with OCLC. We would have liked to do a good inventory first, but since they wanted to start right away making renovations to the building, there was no time for that. An inventory will be done as soon as possible.

The classroom walls in the lower level are being torn out and new walls built. This will also help with rewiring the building. The lower level will house the testing lab, all of the remaining print collection, and a processing room.

The entrance to the library on first floor will be where the office space was. The ground will be graded up to make the library handicapped accessible. Everything had to be moved out of the office space including what was in our desks by May 1. Ramona and I have been moved to a room on the third floor of Middlebrook for our office space. The goal this summer is to complete as much construction as possible in order to get the staff back in the building before classes begin in the fall. The previous entrance has been closed off. It is possible to come in a side door to get something from the library, but staff cannot do any work inside the library building at this time. Eventually there will be a new bathroom built on the first floor of the library and movable furniture will be purchased so students can move the furniture however they choose for studying. Laptop computers will be available for students to check out if they don't have their own. Emphasis will be placed on online resources including Flipster rather than print periodicals. The databases we have had in

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the past are being evaluated to see if we need to make some changes or add some new ones. There will be flexible open concept staff work spaces and a welcome desk but no formal office space.

Plans for the second floor of the library include one classroom, a success center and a writing lab. The name of Levitt Library is being changed to the Levitt Academic Resource Center. Dr. Trissa Cox has been hired to be the Director of the Information Commons. She has a doctorate in Information Systems and Information Science. Ramona Ratliff will be the only person with the Master of Arts in Library Science degree. The archives have all been moved from the library into a room in Hulitt and Leo Miller’s job this summer is to put the archives in order.

Along with all of these changes Ruth Carlock is retiring after 30 years working in Levitt Library.

## Summer Reading Kick-off at Clarks Public Library

*By Barbee Sweet*

The Clarks Public Library kicked off the summer reading program with a STEM activity “Fueled for flight.” Kindergarten—fifth grade learned all about the food groups, what food astronauts eat, and how astronauts keep their food from floating away. There was even a taste testing!



# 25TH ANNUAL YOUTH SERVICES RETREAT!

August 29-30

Camp Carol Joy Holling  
Ashland, Nebraska

Register at <http://bit.ly/2019YSR>

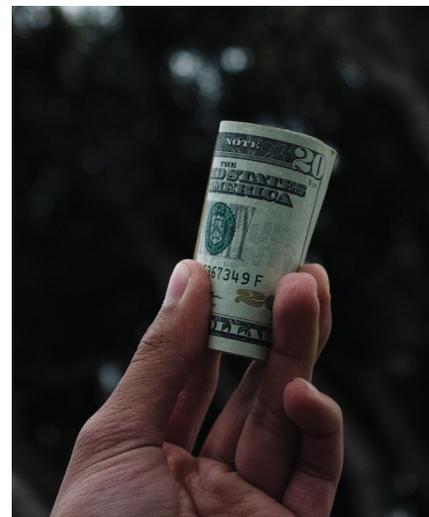


**Sessions:** Recognizing Trauma in Children, Recommended Children's Books for 2018/19, Storytelling: a Personal Touch in this Digital World, Great Tween and Teen Reads, "Booktalking" Resources and Solutions, Copyright for Youth Services, Spice Up Your Programming for Young Children with Spanish Language Experiences, Intellectual Freedom and Youth, YA Literature and the Teen Brain, The Story of the Orphan Grain Train (a storytelling example).

## System Spotlight

# Donations

One way some people choose to make donations is by designating an organization as the recipient of funds through Amazon Smile. If you want to set that up for your library's friends or foundation group, we'd be happy to help.



SELS is also a nonprofit. Donations to SELS go toward services not covered by our grant agreement with the NLC. Scholarships for events and library science classes, costs around the annual Front Porch Award and other special projects come out of donation dollars. We are able to accept donations directly and via Amazon Smile purchases.

## 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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