

NEBRASKA LITERARY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

**36th Annual Adult Spelling Bee &  
33rd Literary Heritage Award****Thursday, October 13, 2022****Wilderness Ridge  
1800 Wilderness Woods Pl  
Lincoln, NE 68512****Dinner: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Program Starts: 7:00 PM****Ticket Price, Includes Buffet Dinner:****\$75 Friends/NLHA Members | \$80 Per Person****Speller Registration & Purchase Tickets:****[www.foundationforlcl.org](http://www.foundationforlcl.org)****All proceeds supports the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association &  
Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors****LITERARY HERITAGE  
AWARD WINNER**

Nebraska's own poet and author, Twyla Hansen is the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association's (NLHA) 33rd Annual Literary Heritage Award winner. This award recognizes Ms. Hansen's service to Nebraska's literary community through her writing and her dedication to and promotion of the literary arts throughout Nebraska.



At the state level, Twyla served as Nebraska's State Poet—2013 through 2018. She often traveled around the state sharing her poetic expertise. She has written poetry books, including *How to Live in the Heartland* (1992), *Sanctuary Near Salt Creek* (2001), and a collaboration with Paul Johnsgard, *Prairie Suite: A Celebration* (2006), as well as *Potato Soup* (2003), and a collaboration with Linda Hasselstrom, *Dirt Songs: A Plains Duet* (2011), both of which won Nebraska Book Awards for Poetry. Her most recent title, *Rock – Tree – Bird* (2017), is a 2018 Nebraska Book Award winner and a 2018 WILLA Literary Award winner. Her work has also appeared in periodicals and anthologies over the years.

NLHA was organized in 1982 to provide support to Lincoln City Libraries' Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors in Bennett Martin Public Library. It began sponsoring the Literary Heritage Award in 1988. Twyla has been involved with NLHA as she was the Author Member in 1997–1998 and again in 2019–2020. She has also been part of NLHA's annual Writers Write Workshop, a program for select 8th graders, since its beginning in 1992.

The Award will be given at NLHA's **Annual Adult Spelling BEE on Thursday, October 13, at Wilderness Ridge Country Club**. To purchase tickets, sponsor, or to sign-up to be a speller, visit **[foundationforlcl.org](http://foundationforlcl.org)**. Tickets include a delicious buffet dinner and entrance to the BEE as a speller or cheerleader. The buffet is available 6 to 8 p.m. The Heritage Award and BEE begin at 7 p.m. We look forward to sharing this really fun evening with you!

**2022 SPELLING BEE**

The Nebraska Literary Heritage Association (NLHA) is excited to invite you to the **36th Annual Adult Spelling BEE on Thursday, October 13**, at the **Wilderness Ridge Country Club**. The 33rd Annual Heritage Award will be presented to Twyla Hansen at the start of the BEE, 7 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase on **[foundationforlcl.org](http://foundationforlcl.org)** and include a delicious buffet dinner and the BEE! Dinner is available 6 to 8 p.m. John Baylor, the voice of UNL's championship women's volleyball team, will once again serve as the event emcee. We also invite you to become a letter sponsor! Uppercase and lowercase letter sponsorships are available and both include many sponsor benefits. We hope you will also consider participating as a spelling contestant or sponsor a speller! Start practicing on previous winning words: parallelepiped, samite, chlorella, and even some easy words like embarrass, wattage, and more!

Whether you choose to be a speller or cheerleader, we hope to see you, your friends, and your family at the BEE! Join the fun!! You never know...you could be the next Spelling BEE Champion!

# FRIENDS

of Lincoln City Libraries

## OP-ED: A LIFE LIVED IN LIBRARIES

*By Pat Leach; Originally printed by the Lincoln Journal Star*

At the end of August, I'll retire from Lincoln City Libraries, my employer since 1979. As I head out the proverbial door, I want to point to the three L's behind all that libraries do—learning, literature, and literacy.

My first memory of a public library was in Kearney, Nebraska, in the early 1960s when I was a preschooler. I walked past the mass of card catalogs, their drawer pulls right at my eye level. They seemed intended for a young child to open and discover treasures inside. I was underwhelmed when I realized they were full of index cards that I couldn't read.

As a young adult, I transitioned to full-time employment at Lincoln City Libraries, where I spent at least 90 minutes a day maintaining the card catalog at Bennett Martin Library. We were looking forward, so I also spent two hours a day on a computer, doing retrospective conversion—typing the information from our card files into a database held in Ohio, preparing for the day when library functions would be automated.

What we couldn't see then were the infinite ways that technology would change so many things about how libraries interact with the world.

Fast forward to today, where much of the information we need can be found through our phones. Many library customers use eBooks and downloadable audiobooks and almost never enter an actual library building. Libraries use automation to streamline functions and offer apps that amplify the customer experience.

This evolution creates new roles for libraries. Libraries tout their Maker Spaces where technology is available to the public in a community environment. Libraries also provide computers and internet for members of the public who don't have reliable internet connections at home and offer meeting spaces with distance conferencing capability.

But all that technology means nothing if people don't know how to use it. That is where an old-fashioned library service kicks in—librarians who can help. The staff of Lincoln City Libraries offer one-on-one assistance for all kinds of technology functions—job or benefit applications, citizenship paperwork,

or email set-up. People make appointments to have a library staff person help them set up the apps to use the library's downloadable resources, or even get started with a new cell phone or tablet.

Some of these interactions lead to emotional moments—such as the grandmother opening an email attachment of the ultrasound picture of her first great-grandchild, or a man bringing his wife to the library to meet the people who helped him scan and attach documents for her visa application.

Despite libraries' focus on technology, old-fashioned print books have not disappeared. In fact, according to recent Pew research, print remains the most popular way to read a book. Perhaps counter-intuitively, Pew found a higher percentage of younger people read print books than older people do—and relatively few people report reading digital books only.

And when it comes to print books, one of my favorite sights over the past 40 years has been adults reading aloud to children. The library feels a particular responsibility for children, and has expanded its reach to our youngest citizens through community campaigns to encourage reading aloud. Children who are read aloud to regularly as preschoolers are more likely to succeed in school, and this relates to all kinds of success to follow.

Although so much has changed, so much stays the same. After 40 years of unprecedented technological evolution in public libraries, human interaction, print books, and reading aloud remain bedrocks of what we do.

Looking forward, the library's success will still depend on being firmly embedded in the community. Libraries will still be focused on learning, literacy, and literature. We'll still look to our children as our future—and we'll still feel a responsibility to invest in libraries, as the people before us did.

It's been my joy and honor to serve as Library Director in a community that so clearly values what libraries offer. Although I'm retiring, I plan to spend a great deal of time reading. And given that—I hope to see you soon at the library.



*Thank  
you*

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## HAVE BOOKS WILL TRAVEL!

For many of us who grew up in rural America, bookmobiles were our first connection to libraries. The bookmobile idea is attributed to Mary Titcomb, who in 1905 believed that by going mobile, we could reach more people, make more friends, and share our love of books. Lincoln City Libraries (LCL) has a proud legacy of bookmobile service!

LCL Bookmobile service began in 1975. Over the past several years, bookmobile services have expanded to include books, computers, internet workstations, DVDs, and so much more. An 80-year-old Senior Center patron was encouraged to sign-up for his first Library Card. He checked out books and when he returned them, related that "he didn't even know he liked to read." He's been a weekly patron ever since. Bookmobile visits to daycare sites enable children to participate in the summer reading programs and more. LCL is expanding service by purchasing two vehicles to replace an aging larger vehicle to provide visits to smaller sites and almost double the sites visited.

These are just examples of how vital the Bookmobile service is to ensuring equal access to our libraries, our educational system, technology, and community for each citizen of Lincoln and Lancaster County, especially those who are most in need and most vulnerable.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries' volunteers are responsible for sorting books for the annual Book Sale and the book nooks. We are looking for additional volunteers for work at the following branch libraries: Gere, 56th & Normal; Walt, 6701 S. 14th Street; and Eiseley, 15th & Superior.

All volunteer applicants are required by the city to be approved through their process. Volunteers can work as their personal schedules allow and will be trained to ensure they are comfortable with the job. We like to say that there are no mistakes, as there are differences of opinion whether one book is a murder mystery or just fiction. It's really fun! You'll meet new people and your work is really appreciated!

If you're interested, please call **402-441-0164** or email [foundationforlcl@gmail.com](mailto:foundationforlcl@gmail.com).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **October 6, 2022** Songwriting/Composing Club
- **October 8, 2022** Golden Studio Band
- **October 13, 2022** NHLA 36th Annual Adult Spelling BEE & 33rd Annual Heritage Award
- **November 10, 2022** Songwriting/Composing Club

## THANK YOU, PAT!!

We want to thank Pat Leach for her service to Lincoln City Libraries and our community. We are excited for Pat as she begins this next exciting chapter of her life in retirement, but she will definitely be missed. She began her career in the Children's area and retired as Director of our Libraries. Her leadership has provided growth and stability to meet the increasing needs of our community.

Over her forty-year career, our Libraries changed as technology changed our world. Card catalogs disappeared and computers took their place. The addition of computers also created online options so that Lincoln City Libraries can be utilized worldwide. Makers Space opportunities provided ukuleles and sewing machines for Lincoln's patrons. Pat and her staff served this community well throughout the recent pandemic, changing service options that ensured that patrons were able to access books, movies, and online options, even when the buildings were closed.

In honor of Pat's tremendous impact on our Libraries and our community, the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries has established the Pat Leach Endowment Fund to commemorate Pat for her good work and commitment to our Libraries. Pat has directed the annual proceeds of this fund be contributed to children's programs and services. This is an open fund to provide others to contribute in Pat's honor. This is the gift that keeps on giving! Each year, children living in Lincoln and Lancaster County will have new books and experiences that we can only imagine in today's world.

Thank you for joining me in giving Pat a Standing O for a Job Well-Done! Hopefully, we will still "See her in the Library!"

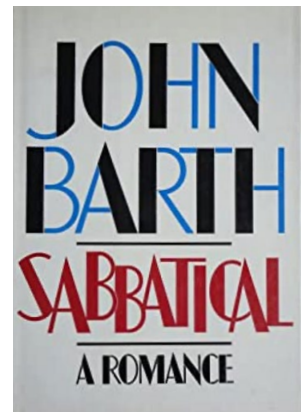
**"Libraries allow children to ask questions about the world and find the answers. And the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open."  
- Laura Bush**



## OVERDUE FINES

As they say, timing is everything! In May, Lincoln City Library staff received a package postmarked from Montana from Charles Adams. Inside was a real surprise—a Lincoln City Library book, a check, and a letter of explanation. If he had only waited a couple of months, he could have saved the \$58 in fines that he generously included with the returned book, as the Library Board eliminated fines on books in August. This is definitely good news for all of us who have a tendency to return items beyond their due date.

Mr. Adams explained in his letter that he had checked out a copy of *Sabbatical: A Romance* when he was in his first year at the University of Nebraska Law School and the book was due on August 29, 1983. He missed it by 14,153 days. Being the responsible library patron, he calculated the daily fine price and sent the check for \$58 along with the book. He came across the book when he and his wife were packing to move and said that "it seemed to be a good time to get it back where it belongs." We should also note that even though library fines were eliminated in 2022 by the Lincoln City Library Board, borrowers are still responsible for books and movies that they borrow. If they are lost, they are required to pay the replacement costs.



We want to thank Mr. Adams for his generosity and for being conscientious. His generous check has been deposited into the Foundation's endowment to ensure that this gift is one that keeps on giving to provide funds to Lincoln City Libraries to purchase new books for the collection. LCL Administrative Assistant, Sarah Dale, said that due to its age, the book will probably not be returned to the collection. We are hoping that it will become part of the annual Book Sale so it goes to a new home and continue to life an adventurous new life.

Mr. Adams grew up in Kearney, graduated with an undergraduate degree in English from the University of Kearney, and moved to Lincoln for law school. Upon graduation, he and his wife moved to Montana where he has practiced worker's compensation law and reared two children.

# Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries

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## POLLEY MUSIC LIBRARY TURNS 40

*By Scott Scholz, Curator*

This September, the Polley Music Library will be turning 40! The Polley is celebrating the anniversary throughout the fall. There is something for everyone and everything for those who love all music!!

On September 8, Mike McCracken, a Slide/steel guitar and dobro player, discussed the history of these uniquely American instruments and how they have been used in American Roots music. He also demonstrated the dobro, a unique guitar-like instrument that is played in the lap with a steel slide

The Polley celebrated this special time with three performances on Sunday, September 18, on the 2nd floor of the Bennett Martin library in the biographies area, next to Polley. The day started with a performance by the Ludus Duo, who demonstrated the possibilities of performing at a distance, a concept that became important in the pandemic era. LNK Music Collective, a group made of composer-performers based in Lincoln, were next on stage. The Bottletops Duo closed out our celebration, combining country, rock, blues and gospel into their own Americana blend.

On September 24, Dr. Stacey Barloes, hosted an interactive Soundscaping event. Inspired by the visual art world, visitors were able to create original soundscapes with a mixture of musical instruments and household materials.

**On Saturday, October 8, the Polley will feature a performance by the Golden Studio Band, who perform many styles of music including traditional and modern Yazidi and Middle Eastern music. This starts at 1 p.m. and will be in the biographies area next to Polley.**

Since March of this year, the Polley Music Library has been hosting a songwriting/composing club that meets once a month in the Bennett Martin auditorium on a Thursday night. If you are a songwriter or composer interested in sharing your work, or perhaps you need help with writer's block or a particular part that doesn't feel quite right, the **Songwriting/Composing Club** is a great way to meet other musicians in the area. Participants can bring an instrument, a recording on their laptop or phone, sheet music, lyrics, or just come to talk about what they're working on. **Upcoming dates are Oct. 6, and Nov. 10, all at 6–7 p.m. in the Bennett Martin auditorium.** Plans are underway to start a "listening club" later in the fall.

In April, the Polley Music Library began a guitar lending program, starting with ten Fender acoustic guitars. Similar to the ukulele lending program, you can borrow a guitar with your library card, and there are lots of guitar method books at the Polley Music Library to help you get started. As of mid-August, the guitars have already circulated to nearly 60 patrons, with another 15 on a waiting list. So far, it's proven to be a very popular program, and we hope to expand it even more next year with some more guitars!