

ONE MORE CHAPTER

Literacy, Community, Lifelong Learning

NEW LOCAL HISTORY RESOURCE HUB AT BENNETT MARTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY



L to R: Washington, Zimmer, Cook, McKee, Sergeant, Wieber

The Local History Resource Hub formally opened on Saturday, August 17, with a program that featured a lineup of distinguished speakers. Director of Lincoln City Libraries, Ryan Wieber, welcomed speakers Sändra Washington, Chair of the Lincoln City Council; LeeAnn Sergeant, Public Services Coordinator at LCL; Ed Zimmer, Retired Historic Preservation Planner; Judi Cook from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Genealogical Society; and local historian Jim McKee.

The new Local History section on the second floor of Bennett Martin Public Library now offers extensive resources focused on Nebraska history, especially Lincoln. Attendees were introduced to the available materials, including local newspapers, Lincoln City Directories dating back to 1873, and digitized school yearbooks from Lincoln Public Schools.

The online resources, accessible to the public, include an extensive database of Lincoln Journal Star Collection and Omaha World-Herald Collection, genealogical tools like Ancestry Library Edition and MyHeritage, detailed property records from 1883 to 1962 and more.



Lyle H. used Lincoln City Libraries resources to build his family tree.

"I have worked for several years, sometimes weekly, sometimes more often, collecting information on my family genealogy. I appreciate the assistance I receive when it is needed. The staff is outstanding and very knowledgeable with the Ancestry program. With their help, I have gathered enough data to print books for my children and grandchildren. My family history book is over 950 pages long."





Director's Note

Welcome to One More Chapter. This bimonthly newsletter supplements the Library Lineup by emphasizing and promoting things we know will be of interest to you: special programming, new materials, valuable services, and real stories showing the real impact Lincoln City Libraries provides for Lincoln and Lancaster County residents. You'll always be able to find the most recent edition on the website and at public service desks.

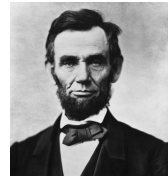
Libraries inspire learning through books, programs and hands-on activities, and our partnerships with arts-centered organizations introduce kids and adults to music, theater and art.

Page-to-Stage, with the Lied Center for Performing Arts, brings a behind the scenes Q & A with performers—and the playwright—from "A House Divided" on September 22 at noon at Bennett Martin Public Library.

Musical Bookworms is a joint effort between LCL and Lincoln Symphony Orchestra where just by checking out music-related books earns you a complimentary ticket to LSO's Sunday, October 27 Family Concert "The Orchestra Moves" at 5:00pm at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

On October 29, 6:30pm at Walt Branch, the Sheldon Museum of Art will present a program featuring their current exhibits and collection highlights. Be sure to visit any branch of the Lincoln City Libraries this fall to keep on learning!

Ryan Wicker



LIED CENTER
FOR PERFORMING ARTS

September 16, Noon-1 p.m.
Bennett Martin Public Library
136 S. 14th St.

Page-to-Stage Collaboration with Lied Center Continues

Join us at the Bennett Martin Public Library, 136 S. 14th St., for questions with the cast, crew and scholars before the performances at the Lied Center!

A House Divided confronts the monumental choices facing Abraham Lincoln that threaten to unravel his family and the country during the height of the Civil War. The play offers a potent reflection on today's political tipping point. Award-winning playwright and novelist Kia Corthron shares: "A House Divided is a meticulously researched work, politically invigorating and deliciously theatrical."



150
YEARS OF
Willa Cather

September 21
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Gere Branch Library
2400 S. 56th St.

Celebrating Willa Cather

Save the date for a celebration of Willa Cather! This reception will feature remarks by Ashley Olson, Executive Director of the National Willa Cather Center, and a talk by Cather scholar Steve Shively on Willa's connection to Lincoln. A dialogue with artist Littleton Alston, creator of the Cather sculpture (recently installed at the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol Building) will precede the reveal of the Library's own Cather statuette that was donated by Lincoln residents Glenda Pierce and Jeff Kirkpatrick. This gift will be on permanent display at the Gere Branch Library.



sheldon

October 29, 6:30 p.m.
Walt Branch Library
6701 S. 14th St.

The Story of Sheldon Museum of Art

How did Lincoln's Sheldon Museum of Art become an internationally significant institution? Through the commitment of community leaders determined to bring the finest American art to the people of Nebraska. Join Sheldon Museum of Art Director, Susan Longhenry, for a colorful presentation exploring the best-loved works from Sheldon's collection and the stories—of artists, collectors, and supporters—behind them.



Lincoln Literacy

THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LINCOLN LITERACY AND LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES

Twice a week, a Lincoln Literacy van stops in front of Bennett Martin Public Library in downtown Lincoln. Students step into the library as newcomers to America—immigrants and refugees from Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, Burma, Ukraine, Sudan and more.

They bring their children and drop them off in a childminding room with two Lincoln Literacy staff members and a Lincoln City Libraries staff member.

While parents learn English and about free library resources, children are treated to educational activities. Staff are passionate in helping children learn English, and about the thousands of books, videos, and music available to utilize.

The students go into different rooms or sit at tables depending on their English level.

English is the only common language between such a diverse group of new Americans. The Beginner teacher is an immigrant herself, from France. Another teacher mastered English at Lincoln Literacy, began work at Lincoln Public Schools, and came back to Lincoln Literacy to teach newcomers.

One student said, "She gives me confidence (to) speak at school and the store. I thank my teacher."

As the van leaves at the end of classes, the four volunteer tutors back up their bags and are already thinking about their lessons for the next class. In the van, students are safely driven back to their homes by a female refugee from Iraq, all the while speaking in their shared language - English.

Article by Bryan Seck, Executive Director, Lincoln Literacy.





Photo courtesy of welcomingInk.org



Welcoming Week Storytimes and Programs

Lincoln City Libraries is thrilled to participate in Welcoming Week, an annual campaign that celebrates communities working to become welcoming places for all, including immigrants. Launched in 2012 by Welcoming America, this initiative underscores the importance of fostering connections and collaboration between immigrants and non-immigrants, promoting a sense of belonging for everyone.

Several storytimes and programs at Lincoln City Libraries during Welcoming Week will feature themes that align with this spirit of inclusivity.

One highlighted program is "Let's Explore Transparent Language." This interactive session will demonstrate how to use **Transparent Language**, an online language-learning resource available through Lincoln City Libraries. With more than 120 language options, ESL and ELL content, and even an American Citizen Test preparation course, this tool is ideal for expanding language skills.

The sessions will be held on:

Sunday, Sept. 15, 4-5 p.m.
Bennett Martin Public Library
136 S. 14th St.

Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2-3 p.m.
Walt Branch Library
6701 S. 14th St.

In addition to these programs, Lincoln City Libraries will host booths at the Latino Festival and Harvest Moon Festival, offering more opportunities for community engagement.

Stay tuned for updates to our Welcoming Week schedule, which will include more themed Storytimes and programs designed to bring our community together in celebration of diversity and inclusion. We look forward to making this Welcoming Week a meaningful experience for all!

