



**LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2015-2016**

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### Library Events

The Library Initiative Grant, which is funded by the Lexington Library Memorial Fund and the Lexington Community Foundation, provided a variety of programming for the community of Lexington during the 2015-2016 season. The 2015-2016 season ran from August 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016.

### Adult and Family Programming

- *More than Football: George Flippin's Stromsburg Years with Kathy Nelson* – George Flippin is famous for being the first African American to play football for Nebraska in the 1890's. Kathy Nelson tells how he went on to become a doctor in Stromsburg, had the first automobile in Stromsburg, and is the only black person buried in the Stromsburg cemetery.
- *Winter Tales* – The Lexington Public collaborates with the Kearney Area Storytelling Festival in bringing Kate Copeland to the Library – Kate Copeland is a storyteller, who tells stories with a guitar.



- *Mike & Julie Couch* – Mike and Julie are a Northeast Nebraska based duo, who bring contagious fun and lively country music to their shows.
- *R.P. Smith* – A fourth generation cattleman to raise cattle on the Pine Crest, over the past few years R.P. has been supporting his ranching by entertaining folks throughout the country with his brand of cowboy poetry and country commentary.
- *Jerry Barlow* – Acclaimed Celtic fingerstyle guitarist Jerry Barlow is a virtuoso musician, a warm and accessible performer and a world-class storyteller.
- *Jack & Kitty Norton* – This Emmy award winning acoustic duo specializes in "organic vaudeville folk."
- *Messenger by Moonlight with Stephanie Grace Whitson*



Author/Speaker/Historian – Nebraska author Stephanie Grace Whitson talks about the process of writing her latest novel *Messenger by Moonlight* - A story of the Pony Express. Anne Paxton and her two brothers arrive in St. Joseph, Missouri in the spring of 1861. They've lost everything, but the determination to find something better. Then they see a sign seeking riders for the Pony Express.

- *Riders of the Orphan Train* – Novelist and Humanities Scholar Alison Moore and Singer/Songwriter Phil Lancaster have combined audiovisual elements, historic fiction, and musical ballads into a collaborative performance that brings the Orphan Train movement, a largely unknown chapter in American History, to public awareness. This program was made possible through a collaborative grant from Humanities Nebraska and four Nebraska Libraries.



- *Suzi Parron with Barn Quilts* – Author Suzi Parron takes her audience on a journey along the quilt trail, beginning with the very first Barn Quilt, which stemmed from Donna Sue Groves and her wish to honor her mother’s quilting art.

• *Pat Boilesen: Nebraska’s Daughter* – Pat is a singer, songwriter, honky-tonk piano player and poet. She is a performer of traditional western country and gospel music.

### Children’s Programming including Summer Reading 2016

Besides the wide array of programming for children that was offered during the summer reading program for 2016, two special programs were offered in conjunction with Preschool Storytimes during the school year. In October, Mike McCartney as Indiana Bones performed a variety of folktales and legends for the Early Learning Academy. In



March, the Crane River Theater presented *The Minions* program to over 350 students from the Early Learning Academy and the Kindergarten classes from Lexington Public Schools. Following the *Minions* program, students were shown how to make Minion hats that they were then able to take home with them.

The themes for summer reading 2016:

- For children birth through grade 5 the theme was *On Your Mark, Get Set...READ!*
- For grades 6 through 12 the theme was *Get in the Game – READ*
- For adults the theme was *Exercise Your Mind.*

To jumpstart the summer reading program for children and young adults, the Library held a “Decorate Your Dog” program on May 24, which was followed by the program *Go, Go, Go with Mad Science*. Families were invited to the Library to “decorate” their hotdog with a variety of hotdog toppings. The most popular toppings were ketchup and coleslaw. Chips, a drink and dessert were served by the Friends of the Library. Jim Birkel with *Go,*



*Go, Go with Mad Science* presented a variety of hands-on, interesting experiments that kept the audience engaged and learning about science.

### Library Initiative Programs Dedicated to Summer Reading 2016



- The Hanson Family – Mark Hanson is the world’s fastest 3-ball juggler. (He holds two Guinness records.) Members of the family also performed gravity defying unicycle tricks.
- Actors from Crane River Theater returned in June with the *Wizard of Oz* in their Page to Stage presentation, which is a precursor to the *Wizard of Oz* presentation at Yaney Park during the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The Dawson County Children’s Museum presented a program promoting safety with *Josh the Baby Otter*. The goal of the Josh the Otter Water and Safety Awareness Project is to educate children with a fun and simple message to stay away from water unless accompanied by an adult.
- Award-winning Jeff Quinn entertained children, while encouraging reading with his magical *Ready, Set...READ!*



- *On Your Mark, Get Set, READ!* Magician Keith West and Miss Kitty the Library Lady took library guests on an action packed trip to a place where all secrets are kept... the place where you are only limited by your imagination and your ambition...Your Library!
- Legos Anyone? Curtis Mork, The Legos Man, offered two programs at the Library on July 28. The morning program was Ninja Black Warrior and the afternoon program was Benny’s Spaceship, Spaceship, Spaceship. Children and adults alike had a great time building with the variety of Legos provided by the Lego Man.



- One of the most engaging programs for youth was given by eleven-year-old Gauge Hasbrouch, who spends his free time honing his puzzle solving skills and speed on a Rubik’s cube. Gauge demonstrated different techniques used in solving various cubes. His puzzle solving abilities enabled him to attend the World Cube Competition in Omaha. Gauge’s personal best time for solving a Rubik’s Cube is 18.996 seconds.

The Library offered children and Young Adults the opportunity to sign up for a set reading goal. Ninety-one children signed up for the children’s summer reading program with 65 completing the program. Forty-eight young adults signed up for the young adult program with twelve completing the program. The summer reading program for adults for 2016 had a new look. Adults could read or listen to books and turn in reviews, as they had in the previous years, but they also had the opportunity to



participate with a Reading Bingo card. Options on the card included not only a variety of reading opportunities, but also opportunities to participate in community activities, volunteer, exercise and enjoy nature. Sixty-eight adults participated in the program.

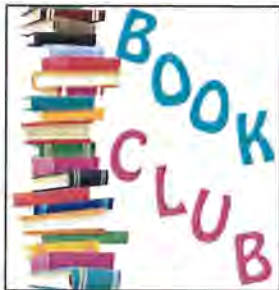
### Library Sponsored Events 10/01/2015 - 09/30/2016

- Preschool Storytime
- Movie Matinee for Adults
- Family Movie Night
- Tales and Travels Memory Project at Brookdale
- 3TLS – Quilters at the Library
- Masquerade on Main Street
- Lights On after School
- Presentation entitled “What You Can Do at Your Library” presented to Lexington Regional Health Center Auxiliary
- Gently Used Book Sale
- Christmas Open House - Coffee, Cider and Cookies
- Hospice Memorial Tree
- Children’s Christmas Tree Trimming Party with a visit from Santa
- Old World Santa Display (Sue Kulhanek Collection)
- Gingerbread House Display (Niki Salomon & children)
- VITA Tax Help
- Migrant Education Fair
- Presentation on the Different Facets of Librarianship
- National Library Week
  - Theme- Libraries Transform
- Stem Night at the Library
- Super Smash Bros. Brawl for Middle Schoolers
- YMCA Healthy Kids Day
- School Open House presentations at Morton, Sandoz and Bryan Elementary Schools
- YMCA Program – Slime
- Back to School Family Movie Night



A highlight of the 2015-2016 year was the celebration of the Library’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the current location on January 10, 2016. The Library actually moved to its current location in December, 2005, but the official celebration of its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January, after the holidays. The festive celebration included a storyboard with pictures depicting what was happening in the world during the dedication year of the current library, as well as storyboards with pictures depicting what was happening during the dedication years of the two previous library locations in Lexington. There were also

storyboards showing the building process of the current building and a storyboard of the events at the Lexington Library during the past 10 years. A final storyboard illustrated the “Unlimited Possibilities” currently found at the Lexington Public Library. Refreshments included a decorated cake, brownies, cookies, mints, nuts, and coffee. Retired Assistant Library Director, Edna Schultz, was on hand to talk about her memories of watching the current library being built and the process of moving the entire library. A steady stream of visitors helped make the day memorable. The Library continued to celebrate the anniversary throughout the year by designating a special activity or program each month during the week of the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.



Two popular groups that continue to meet at the Library are the Monday Afternoon Book Club and the Novel Stitchers. The Monday Afternoon Book Club meets on the first Monday of every month at 2:00 p.m. The group discusses a variety of fiction and non-fiction selections. One advantage of being in a book club is the opportunity for members to read materials they might not otherwise select. Another local book club, the Lexington Literary Guild, now meets at the Library on a regular basis.

The other group that continues to grow is the Novel Stitchers. This group began as a summer reading program in June, 2012, and they're still going strong. The Novel Stitchers meet every Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. to stitch on a favorite project and look over the Library's newest materials. The group includes ladies who crochet, knit, embroidery, quilt, and work needlepoint. The Novel Stitchers donated a beautiful quilt to the Friends of the Library, which was auctioned at silent auction in January, 2016. Over \$300 was raised at the silent auction.



### Friends of the Library



The Friends of the Library has been an active group this year. Kathy Thomsen, Library Director, continues to lead the group and Karen Thompson is the Library's Liaison. The Friends of the Library designated the week of the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month as “brownie week” and sold brownies for 50 cents during that week. During the year they sold over \$1200 in brownies.

The Friends of the Library raised a total of \$1812.80 during GiveBIGlexington in 2015. GBL 2015 funding for the Friends of the Library was designated to go toward the development of the Children's Reading Area.

## Other projects of the Friends of the Library:

- Books on Wheels – Five years ago the Library delivered four items to two people; today the Friends of the Library deliver over 100 items to approximately twenty people.
- The Friends of the Library helped host the Library's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on January 10, 2016.
- A Book for Your Baby Program.
- Discovery Packs – The Friends of the Library continue to help develop and update the Discovery Packs.
- Purchase the Golden Sower Nominees each year.
  - (Nebraska Golden Sower Award Program)
- Provide treats for summer reading and other library events.



## Building Repairs

- Platte Valley Glass replaced the chipped shelves in the front display case.
- City personnel removed the dead trees from the west side of the building.
- Platte Valley Communications replaced the DVR and unusable cameras in the security system. New cameras were purchased to fill all the access points in the system. The new system can be accessed remotely from the Director's Desk, the Director's cell phone, and the Lexington Police Department.
- Rasmussen's Mechanical began replacing the Tyco valves on the heat pumps.
- Fagot Electric replaced the timer for the outside lights.
- Fagot Electric installed LED light bulbs throughout the main part of the Library.
- Oliver Consulting continues to work to improve wireless access with router assessment and the addition of access points.



## Finances



- City of Lexington Library Budget - \$449,490
- Nebraska Library Commission State Aid - \$1,753
- Interlibrary Loan Compensation - \$399
- Erate - \$2,925

## Expenditures

- Personnel and Benefits- \$284,883
- Library Materials including Electronic Formats - \$60,830
- Other Operating Expenses - \$98,187
- Computer Hardware and Software including Electronic Access - \$9,273

## Grants Received:

- Nebraska Library Commission Youth for Excellence Grant
  - \$1000 for afterschool enrichment

## Library Statistics

- Hours open – 3536 hours
- Library Card Holders – 7,535
- Items in the Collection – 87,125
  - Books – 42,244
  - E-books – 22,659
  - Books on CD – 1945
  - Downloadable Audiobooks - 18,233
  - Video – 1,364
  - Magazine/Newspaper Subscriptions – 75
  - Electronic Databases
    - Nebraska Access – 23 databases
    - Subscription Databases
      - OneClickdigital (Downloadable audiobooks)
      - Zinio (Digital Magazines)
  - Miscellaneous Items – 611
- Items checked out including downloads – 46,011
- Library visits – 80,009
- Reference questions – 4,893
- Program attendance
  - 141 Children’s Programs with 4,653 attending
  - 40 Young Adult Programs with 640 attending
  - 102 Adult Programs with 1,326 attending
- Technology
  - 23 public access computers
  - Wi-Fi available throughout the Library
  - Computer Usage – 20,506
  - Wireless Usage – 29,350





## **Staffing Changes**

### **Resignations:**

- **Library Assistant I Eusevia Ellis**
- **Library Assistant I Helen Rodas**

### **New Staff:**

- **Library Assistant I Melinda Garrelts**
- **Library Assistant I Daisy Wagner**