

# LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

## ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017

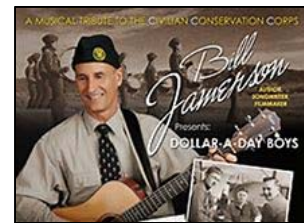


### Library Events

The Library Initiative Grant, which is funded by the Lexington Library Memorial Fund, the Lexington Community Foundation, the Emerson Fund and the Lexington Friends of the Library, provided a variety of programming for the community of Lexington during the 2016-2017 season. The season ran from September 1, 2016, to August 1, 2017. The Library Initiative Grant provided a total of 27 programs during the 2016-2017 season. Twenty-one of the programs were adult and family programs, including the monthly “Booked for Lunch” program. Six of the programs were children’s programs.

### Adult and Family Programming

- *The Civil (ian) Conservation Corps - Dollar-a-Day Boys* by Bill Jamerson - A music and storytelling program about the CCC in Nebraska. Dressed in uniform, Jamerson included reading excerpts from his novel, *Big Shoulders*, telling stories, showing a PBS video clip and performing original songs on his guitar.



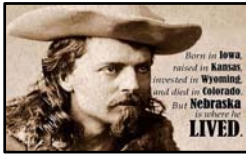
- *Behind the Meaning of Names* with Karen Shoemaker - Karen Shoemaker, author of the 2016 One Book, One Nebraska selection, *The Meaning of Names*, described the incidents in the story as they related to events that occurred in the lives of her own ancestors, who lived in Northeast Nebraska. She also talked about the life on the Nebraska prairie during World War I, especially the life of the German immigrants and the German Americans.



- *Crab Grass Country* - The *Crab Grass Country Band* performed a variety of songs that were country, western and Christmas.
- *A Christmas Carol* with the Hampstead Stage Company - The Hampstead Stage Company’s *A Christmas Carol* was an interactive, educational program. The entire program was presented by two actors, each playing multiple roles from scripts that are original adaptations of the literary classics.
- *Storytelling* with Kim Westkamp - The Library hosted storyteller Kim Westkamp as part of the 2017 Kearney Area Storytelling Festival.



- ***Buffalo Bill's Nebraska with Jeff Barnes*** – Jeff Barnes presented a program about the life of William Cody from his days as an Indian Scout, as a hunting guide for the rich and famous, and as the creator of “Buffalo Bill’s Wild West,” concluding with his enduring legacy in the state, nation, and the world today.



- ***Peter, Job and Chuck*** - This trio performed a variety of popular tunes from the '60s and '70s. The program concluded with Job Vigil performing a violin medley.
- ***Roxanne Redd Music*** - Roxanne Redd from Omaha, accompanied by Cheryl and Dennis Burnside of Lexington on guitar and vocals, performed an array of popular and original songs.
- ***Pioneer Girl: A True Story of Growing Up on the Prairie with Andrea Warren*** - *Pioneer Girl* is the Children’s/ Young Adult’s story of Grace Snyder’s life growing up on the Nebraska prairie in the 1800’s. It is based on Grace Snyder’s book, *No Time on My Hands*.
- ***Jack and Kitty’s Organic Vaudeville and Jug Band Folk*** - Emmy Award Winning vaudevillian songsters, Jack and Kitty, played a wide variety of folk instruments including banjo, guitar, ukulele, washboard, jug, kazoo, harmonica, whizbang, rumba box and more.



## “Booked for Lunch” Programs

- *My Darling Dorothy with Jo Virden* - The first “Booked for Lunch” program was held on October 6, 2016. Attendees enjoyed a soup and salad lunch, while Nebraska author, Jo Virden, talked about her book, *My Darling Dorothy*. Based on authentic letters for the era, (which Virden passed around to be viewed by the audience), *My Darling Dorothy* is a timeless love story of World War II.



- *Unfrozen: Stop Holding Back and Release the Real You with Andrea Wenburg* - Andrea Wenburg talked about the events that led to her writing the book, *Unfrozen*. Throughout the program she encouraged the audience to stop holding back. By releasing her real self, Andrea was able to develop more connected relationships and have extraordinary impact.

- *A Victorian Christmas by Sue McClain* - Sue McClain returned for an extended program that included Victorian fashion, gifts, Christmas trees and decorations. Clothing and artifacts from the Victorian era were displayed and passed around the room for perusal.



- *Musical Hats with Helen Johnson* - Hats were the theme of the January “Booked for Lunch.” Helen Johnson, who has performed at the Nebraska State Fair four consecutive times, displayed a variety of hats worn during World War I, the Roaring Twenties, on Broadway and during World War II. Donning each hat, Johnson offered a musical rendition of songs from that era.



- *Never Alone: A Husband and Wife’s Journey with Depression and Faith with Jeremy Koch* - After multiple near-death experiences from medical failures and suicide attempts, Jeremy allowed himself to see the good in terrifying reality and learned the importance of being open about his mental illness.

- *Four Blue Stars in the Window with Barbara Eymann Mohrman* - Mohrman talked about her family’s experience growing up in Northeast Nebraska during the Great Depression followed by life during World War II, when four members of her family, including her father, joined the service.



- *Historical Markers of Nebraska with Theresa Wadkins* – The May “Booked for Lunch” featured Lexington resident, Theresa Wadkins, who offered an interesting program about the *Historical Markers of Nebraska*. Nebraska has a fascinating history and some of its historical events are commemorated with these markers.

- *The North Platte Canteen with Jim Griffin* – The World War II North Platte Canteen was the focus of the June “Booked for Lunch.” Jim Griffin, Director of the Lincoln County Historical Museum, presented a program and showed photographs related to the North Platte Canteen.



- ***Women Rising 3: Redefining Normal with Wendy Andersen*** - Wendy Andersen, a graduate of Lexington High School and co-author of *Women Rising 3*, presented the July “Booked for Lunch” program. *Women Rising 3: Redefining Normal* focuses on the lessons learned about loving life with a special needs child.
- ***Nebraska’s Sesquicentennial with Crystal Werger*** - Crystal Werger, Director of the Dawson County Historical Museum, presented a program with trivia about the history of Nebraska and the history of Lexington. She even included a quiz to challenge people’s memories!
- ***Folksongs of the First World War with Adam Miller*** - Seventy million military personnel participated in the First World War (1914 - 1918), the so-called “War to End All Wars.” Many of the songs of this war have become part of the English-language oral tradition. Adam Miller, autoharp virtuoso, told the stories and sang the songs from this era at the September “Booked for Lunch.”



### **Children’s Programming including Summer Reading 2017**

The children’s programming that was offered during the 2016-2017 season was presented as part of Summer Reading 2017. Since summer school was in session during the month of June, Lexington Public Schools transported students to the Library for many of the performances.

- ***Adam Fowler Music*** - Adam Fowler presented a musical program that offered opportunities for learning about letters, storybook characters and authors. He included some really cool facts about our wonderful world.
- ***The Little Mermaid with the Crane River Theater*** - The energetic entertainers from the Crane River Theater presented *The Little Mermaid* in a Page to Stage outreach program.
- ***Solar Energy with the Dawson County Children’s Museum*** - The Dawson County Children’s Museum presented an interactive program about solar energy.
- ***Portable Planetarium with the Edgerton Explorit Center*** - Edgerton Explorit Center presented several programs that showcased their Portable Planetarium.
- ***Storytelling and Music with Dino O’Dell*** - Dino O’Dell presented an interactive and educational musical and dance program
- ***Legos with Curtis Mork, The Lego Man*** - Curtis Mork, The Lego Man, entertained children and adults with his extensive Lego collection. Children were able to view some of his more elaborate collections that were on display. Those attending had the opportunity to work with the vast array of Legos provided by Mork to develop their own creations.



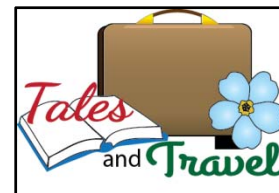




The Summer Reading 2017 theme for all age groups was “Build a Better World.” The Library offered children and young adults the opportunity to sign up for a set reading goal. Seventy-eight children signed up for the summer reading program and 45 completed the program. Seventy-five young adults signed up for the summer reading program with two completing the program. Fifty-five adults signed up for the summer reading program. Adult summer reading prize winners were Bernita Brin and Joyce Rimpley.

**Library Sponsored Events October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017**

- Preschool Storytime
- Family Movie Nights
- Tales and Travel Memories Program
- 3TLS - Quilters at the Library
- Trick or Treat Street
- Lights on after School
- Gently Used Book Sale
- Christmas Open House - Coffee, apple cider and cookies at the Library
- Site for the Hospice Memorial Tree
- Children’s and Family’s Christmas Tree Trimming Party
- Middle School Students Christmas Tree Trimming Party
- Site for the Giving Tree sponsored by Healing Hearts and Families
- Migrant Education Fair
- National Library Week - Theme “Libraries Transform!”
- Stem Wednesdays
- Super Smash Brothers Brawl for Middle School Students
- YMCA Healthy Kids Day
- Take Your Child to the Library Day
- Dawson County Exploration Day
- ESL Library Information Tours
- Movie Madness Monday
- STEM Exploration at the Lexington Middle School
- Family Exploration Night at the Library
  - Nebraska Game and Parks Commission provided aviary and mammal trunks



- Family's Connect Back to School Event
- Provided solar eclipse glasses
- Multiple Choices programming at the Lexington Middle School
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grant participant



### Friends of the Lexington Library



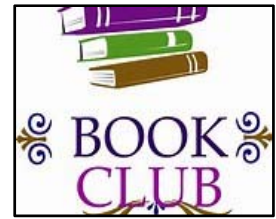
The Friends of the Lexington Library has been an active group this year. Kathy Thomsen, remains the leader the group and Karen Thompson is the Library Liaison. The Friends of the Library continue to sell brownies and other treats one week each month. During the year, The Friends of the Library raised over \$1,400 by selling brownies. The money raised from selling the brownies, along with the monies raised from other fund raising events, was contributed to the Lexington Public Library/Friends of the Library for Give BIG Lexington 2016. Total donations made to the Lexington Public Library/Friends of the Library for Give BIG Lexington 2016 were \$3,455.07. \$609.52 in incentive funds were added to the donated amount for a total of \$4064.59. Funds from Give BIG Lexington were used to update the Benthack and Miller Meeting Rooms. Part of the Give BIG Lexington funding from 2016 was reserved to help purchase 10 new tables for the meeting rooms. The purchase of the tables was the fund raising goal of Give BIG Lexington 2017. The tables have wheels and are easy to manipulate.

### Other Programs of the Friends of the Library

- Books on Wheels - Over 100 items are delivered to approximately 20 shut-ins on a monthly basis.
- Provide treats for summer reading and other library events.
- Help maintain the Library's Discovery Packs.
- Purchase the Golden Sower Nominee books for all categories each year.
  - The Golden Sower Award is Nebraska Children's Book Award Program.
- Sponsor the Silent Auction of the Old World Santa Collection donated by Sue Kulhanek.
- Sponsor the Quilt Raffle of the quilt donated by Plum Creek Quilt Guild.
- Sponsor Java Junction - the Library's coffee bar.
- Sponsor Humanities Nebraska Speaker's Bureau programs at the Library.
- Provide exhibits for the Library's entryway display case.



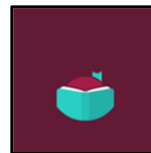
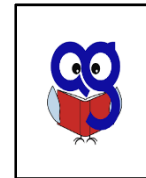
Two popular groups that continue to meet at the Library are the Monday Afternoon Book Club and the Novel Stitchers. The Monday Afternoon Book Club meets the first Monday of each month at 3:00 p.m. The group discusses a variety of fiction and non-fiction selections. One advantage of being in a book club is the opportunity for members to read materials they might not otherwise select. Another local book club, The Lexington Literary Guild meets at the Library on a regular basis.



The other group that continues to grow is the Novel Stitchers group. This group began as a summer reading project in June 2012, and they're still going strong. The Novel Stitchers meet every Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. to stitch a favorite project and look over the Library's newest materials. The group includes ladies who crochet, knit, embroidery, needlepoint and quilt.

### Additional Technology

- Library Mobile app added - Utilizes Auto-Graphics
- The Overdrive app, "Libby" available



### Building Repairs



On Saturday, January 7, 2017, the water pipe leading to the overhead fire sprinkler system in the east entryway cracked and leaked enough water into the ceiling area that water burst through the ceiling tile and began to seep through the building. The fire alarm was activated so the building had to be evacuated. The water flooded the entryway all the way to the Circulation Desk. Staff used push brooms to push the water away from the Circulation Desk and the carpeting. ServiceMaster syphoned the water out of the building and began drying the walls and woodwork. Midwest Sprinkler repaired the pipe and the sprinkler system was restored. The heater in the entryway had malfunctioned and that caused the pipe to freeze. The heaters were repaired. The ceiling tile was saturated so the ceiling tile needed to be replaced. Insulation was installed at the same time. The Library was closed the remainder of Saturday, Sunday and until 3:00 p.m. on Monday.

## Rasmussen Mechanical Services

- Thirteen of the nineteen heat pumps were in alarm on December 16, 2016, due to the condensate in the air makeup unit in the Mechanical Room. Reprogramming the air makeup unit alleviated the problem.
- The motor on the fan of the heat pump that controls the area around the circulation desk was replaced.
- The condenser in the mechanical room began leaking and flooded the mechanical room in July. The unit pulls air directly from outside and with the high temperatures and high humidity that week; the condenser could not handle the humidity saturated air. The condenser was frozen to the extent that even the support beams were full of water and leaking. The technician was able to thaw the unit, but had to leave the unit off overnight to keep it from refreezing. A Rasmussen technician returned the next day and finished cleaning out the unit and resetting it. The air makeup unit in the attic area does not use the same method of air exchange, so it was not affected.
- Platte Valley Communication
  - Repaired the camera that covers the north bench area in front of the Library.
- Platte Valley Glass
  - Inspected the inside handicapped door because it would not close properly. Parts of the door were manufactured in Switzerland and the company that could level the door is in Des Moines. Due to the expense of the repair, the staff will manually close the door when necessary.
  - Repaired glass damaged by vandalism.
- Fagot Electric
  - Repaired the center light in the foyer.
  - Replaced the sprinkler system compressor and accompanying circuit breaker.
  - Replaced the breaker for one of the electrical lines coming into the Library and repaired several banks of lights due to the power outage on March 23.
- Jones Plumbing
  - The hot water heater that heats the water for the kitchen in the Benthack Room and the sinks in the Board Room and the Miller Room was not working properly due to lime buildup. Jones Plumbing cleared the system of the lime buildup.
  - Repaired the urinal handle that caused flooding in the Men's Restroom.





- **ServiceMaster**
  - Cleaned the carpet in the Benthack Margritz Room.
  - Removed water from the carpet in the Computer Lab and dried the wall.
  - Siphoned water that resulted from the broken pipe and dried the wall and carpet.
- **Jakes Sprinklers**
  - Repaired broken sprinkler heads.
  - Adjusted timing device for sprinklers.
- **Oliver Consulting**
  - Continued to improve the wireless access.
  - Offered computer support and monitored the computer hardware and software on an ongoing basis.



## **Financials**

### **Revenue**

- City of Lexington - \$459,125
- Nebraska Library Commission State Aid - \$1,631
- Interlibrary Loan Lender Compensation - \$461
- E-rate - \$2,273
- Grants Received
  - Youth for Excellence Grant - \$750
  - Walmart LEGO Grant - \$1,500

**Total Revenue - \$465,740**



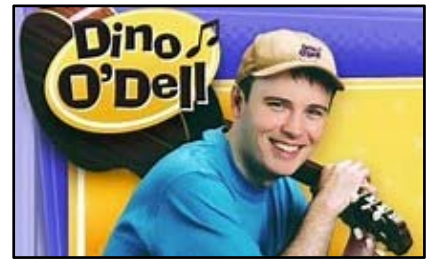
### **Expenditures**

- Personnel and Benefits - \$295,157
- Library Materials Including Electronic Format - \$68,097
- Other Operating Expenses - \$93,041
- Computer Hardware & Software including Electronic Access - \$9,445

**Total Expenditures - \$465,740**

## Library Statistics

- Hours Open - 3,536
- Registered Borrowers - 6,507
- Items in the collection
  - Books - 42,885
  - E-books - 24,506
  - Books on CD - 2,225
  - Downloadable Audio Books
    - Overdrive - 11,906
    - OneClickdigital - 15,213
  - Videos - 1,509
  - Magazine/Newspaper Subscriptions - 66
  - Other Materials - 610
- Total Materials Held - 98,920
  - Electronic Databases
    - Nebraska Access - 25 databases
    - Zinio Magazines - 147 magazines
- Items checked out including downloads - 42,666
- Library Visits - 75,287
- Reference Questions - 4,852
- Program Attendance
  - Children's Programs - 3,277
  - Young Adult Programs - 408
  - Adult Programs - 5,503
- Technology
  - 23 public access computers
  - Wi-Fi available throughout the Library
  - Computer Usage - 20,479
  - Wireless Usage - 29,247



## Staffing Changes

- Resignations
  - Library Assistant I - Daisy Wagner
- New Staff
  - Library Assistant I - Lynne Haines