



**LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2017-2018**

# LEXINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

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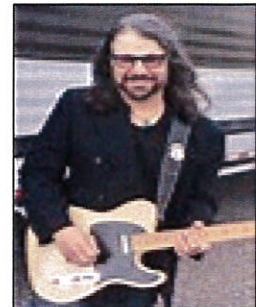
### Library Events

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 2017-2018 season. The season ran from August 1, 2017, to August 31, 2018. The Library Initiative Grant provided a total of 23 programs during the 2017-2018 season. Sixteen of the programs were adult or family programs, including the monthly "Booked for Lunch" program. Seven of the programs were children's programs.

### Adult and Family Programming

- *Music from the Backyard and the Front Porch by Lauren Pelon* - Pelon, who played a variety of instruments, showed the importance of learning our local stories and music. The concert featured the music of America's indigenous peoples, as well as the songs and instruments of America's many immigrants. 
- *Storytelling with Antonio Rocha* - Antonio Rocha presented a storytelling program incorporating mime with storytelling. Originally from Brazil, he now lives in Maine and tells his stories around the world. Rocha seeks to build bridges of understanding across cultures. 
- *Cowboy Poetry with R. P. Smith* - R. P. Smith, a fourth-generation cattle rancher, who wrote his first poem when he sold a cow too cheap, shared his poetry and cowboy commentary. Smith travels the country telling his homespun tales of ranch life.
- *Celtic Music, History and Humor with Jerry Barlow* - Barlow is a virtuoso musician, a warm and accessible performer and a world class storyteller. His repertoire is composed of a synthesis of traditional music from the British Isles and his own original Celtic-inspired compositions.
- *Voices from Ellis Island with Pippa White* - Pippa White calls her One's Company Productions "part theater, part storytelling, part history."   
The Gateway to America, the front door to freedom, the Island of Tears - from 1890 to 1930, Ellis Island was the first experience of life in America for millions of immigrants. Their stories are amusing, frightening, inspiring and true.

- *Classic Country and Gospel Favorites with Julie and Mike Couch* - Julie and Mike perform a variety of classic country and country gospel music along with a little nonsense. “Country music done with class and sass!”
- *America and the Great War: 1914-1918 with David Wells* - The role of America in the “War to End All Wars” is misunderstood. Songs of the period show the changing attitude of the American public from neutrality and anti-war sentiments to entry into the war and the ultimate defeat of Germany. Since the theme for the summer reading program was “Libraries Rock,” Wells incorporated a section of patriotic songs written by Nebraskans from Chadron to Omaha.
- *Music from the ‘60s and ‘70s with Peter, Chuck and Job* - Peter, Chuck and Job are a trio from North Platte, who play ‘60s and ‘70s folk and pop music with the addition of a lot of banter.
- *Shades of Blue with Joey Leone* - Originally from New York, but now residing in Vermont, Leone added an educational component to his program, telling stories about the history of blues music and his own background in the world of music.



## “Booked for Lunch Programs

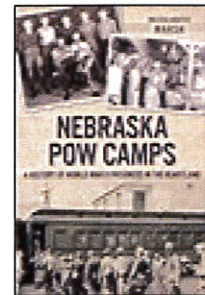
- *Interesting Facts about Nebraska and Lexington* with Crystal Werger - This was a fun program presented for the Nebraska Sesquicentennial that included lots of facts about Nebraska and Lexington along with a quiz.

- *Folksongs of the First World War* with Adam Miller - One of the premier auto harpists in the world, Adam Miller, is a renowned American folksinger and natural-born storyteller. 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.

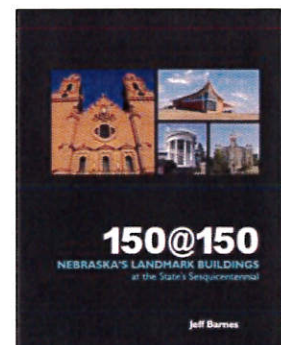


- *Cowgirl Music with the Crab Grass Duo* - Always a favorite, the Crab Grass Duo entertained the “Booked for Lunch” crowd with a variety of country and Christmas classics.

- *Nebraska’s POW Camps: A History of World War II Prisoners in the Heartland* with Melissa Amateis - Amateis discussed the POW base camps in Nebraska during World War II including those at Fort Robinson, Camp Scottsbluff and Camp Atlanta. Many Nebraskans did not view the axis POWs as “evil Nazis.” To them they were ordinary men and very human. And while their stay was not entirely free from conflict, many former captives returned to the Cornhusker State to begin new lives after the cessation of hostilities.



- *150 @ 150: Nebraska’s Landmark Buildings at the State’s Sesquicentennial* with Jeffrey Barnes - the program was based on the book 150 @ 150 that received the Nebraska Book Award for Non-Fiction presented by the Nebraska Center for the Book. With writings and photography by Jeff Barnes, the book highlights Nebraska’s rich architectural history going back from the territory days to the modern structures of today.



- *China* with Karen Thompson - Library Assistant II, Karen Thompson, presented the program, *China*. This presentation was an adaptation from the program originally created for the Tales and Travels Memory Project that Karen presents at AvaMere every other month.

- *Sandhills Cranes at the Rowe Sanctuary* with Don Brockmeier - A photographer, Brockmeier, who is from Eustis, showed amazing photos of an array of wildlife at the Rowe Sanctuary. A guide at the Sanctuary, he also talked about the best ways to view the sandhills crane migration.



- *American Girl Dolls and Their Outfits with C.J. Helvey* – Based on the book, *2017 National Junior Doll: Miss Nebraska*, C. J. Helvey presented an educational and interesting program about Nebraska’s Junior American Girl Dolls and their outfits. Helvey brought a selection of American Girl Dolls dressed in noteworthy outfits. She explained the history of each outfit in story format.



## Children's Programming including Summer Reading 2018

The children's programming offered during the 2017-2018 season was presented as part of Summer Reading 2018. Since summer school was in session during the month of June, Lexington Public Schools transported students to the Library for many of the performances.

- *Reading Takes You Everywhere with Keith West & Miss Kitty, The Library Lady* - Magician Keith West and Miss Kitty presented an exciting and educational magic show for all ages.

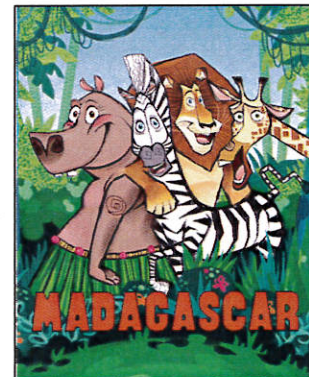


- *The Hanson Family* - The Hanson Family presented a unique



library show that included award-winning juggling and unicycling with a dose of humor. Following the show, there was an opportunity to learn to juggle with Mark Hanson, the world's fastest three-ball juggler.

- *Madagascar with the Crane River Theater* - Crane River Theater has created the Page to Stage program, a series of outreach programs for youth. As part of the Library's summer reading program, cast members from the summer productions travel to area libraries hoping to inspire imaginations and instill a love for the arts. Allowing children the opportunity to see characters jump from the page of their favorite storybook and the words come to life before their very own eyes is truly invaluable. Crane River Theater presented *Madagascar* this year.



- *Rhythm Sticks with the Dawson County Children's Museum* - Children had the opportunity to play a variety of rhythm instruments.
- *Rockin' Puppets with Randy Schwarz* - Randy Schwarz and his puppet crew presented a series of plays that were "rockin'."
- *Kindermusik with Trish Murrish* - Kindermusik is the world's leading provider of music-based education for children from birth through age seven. It uses the power and joy of music-making to help children learn and grow during the years most critical to brain development. Since 1978, Kindermusik has helped millions of children around the world build a strong foundation for a lifetime love of learning.



- ***Steady as a Rock Virtual Field Trip with the University of Nebraska State Museum*** – A virtual field trip (VFT) is a live interactive video conference with the audience and a UNSM Educator based at Morrill Hall in Lincoln. *Steady as a Rock* provided hands-on activities and lots of movement. The room full of budding geologists were taught how a rock forms, changes and gets classified. A rock is not just a rock!



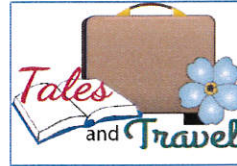
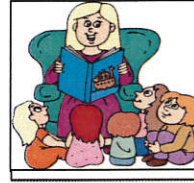
- ***Libraries Rock! Good Vibrations: The Science of Sound with the Edgerton Explorit Center.*** The Edgerton Explorit Center is Nebraska's hands-on science center. This fun program explores the FUNdamentals of sound. The Explorit Center made lots of noise and did lots of experiments to illustrate the tie between vibrations and sound and size with pitch.



Two programs for children held outside of the Summer Reading Time were Family Tree Trimming with Santa and the Super Stole Guacamole program for preschoolers.

## Library Sponsored Events October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018

- Preschool Storytime
- Family Movie Nights
- Tales & Travels Memory Program
  - Christmas in Rome
  - China
  - Cambodia
  - Antarctica
  - Ireland
  - Argentina
- 3TLS - Quilters at the Library
- Trick or Treat Street
- Lights on Afterschool
- Gently Used Book Sale
- Family Science Night
  - Nebraska Game & Parks Commission provided the mammal trunk for Family Science Night. The trunk included skulls, pelts, replica tracks and replica scat along with a curriculum guide, books and numerous educational activities.
- Christmas Open House - Coffee, hot apple cider and cookies.
- Site for the Hospice Memorial Tree
- Prime Time Family Reading Time
- Prime Time Preschool
- Dawson Area Development's Dawson County Exploration Day
- Super Heroes Program
  - Preschool through Grade 5
  - Five-week program and a Super Heroes Party
- LEGO Club
- Migrant Workers Open House
- Week of the Young Child Celebration
- Healthy Kids Day at the Y
- Hosted the program, *Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards Training*, at Dawson County Interagency
- Golden Sower Reader and Selection Committee
- Family's Connect Back to School Event
- Multiple Choices Program at Lexington Middle School
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Grant Participant
- National Library Week





- Library and Information tours for Head Start, ESL and school groups
- STEM Exploration at Lexington Middle School
- Back to School Open Houses
- After School Program Partner



## Friends of the Lexington Library



The members of the Friends of the Library continue to be a busy group of library supporters. Kathy Thomsen remains the leader of the group and Karen Thompson is the Library Liaison. The Friends of the Library sell brownies and other sweet treats one week each month. During the year, the Friends of the Library raised over \$1,600 by selling brownies. The money raised from selling brownies along with the monies raised from other fund-raising events was contributed to Lexington Public Library/Friends of the Library for Give Big Lexington 2017. Total donations made to Lexington Public Library/Friends of the Library for Give Big Lexington were \$5,722.66. \$826.69 in incentive funds were added to the donated amount for a total of \$6,549.35. Funds from Give Big Lexington 2017 were used to purchase 10 new tables for the Benthack Room. Five of the tables are 24” by 72” and five are 24” by 96”. The tables have wheels and are easy to put up, take down and move around the room. A portion of the proceeds from Give Big Lexington 2017 has been allocated to cover the Friends of the Library’s contribution to the Library Initiative Grant.

### Programs Affiliated with the Lexington Friends of the Library

- Books on Wheels Program - The Friends of the Library deliver over 100 items 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 the Nebraska Children’s Choice Book Award Program.
- Sponsor the Treasure Trove Flea Market at the Library.
- Sponsor Java Junction Coffee Bar.
- Sponsor Humanities Nebraska Speaker’s Bureau programs at the Library.
- Provide exhibits for the Library’s entryway display case.
- Sponsor the annual Gently Used Cook Book Sale.
- Held a bake sale on Lexington High School’s homecoming and on election day.
- Promoted the “Change for a Change” jar at the Library for Give Big Lexington.



Two book clubs now meet at the Library on a regular basis. The Monday Afternoon Book Club meets the first Monday of each month at 3:00 p.m. at the Library. Lexington Literary Guild meets at the Library on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Lexington Literary Guild does not meet in June, July, August or December. Both groups discuss a variety of fiction and non-fiction selections. An advantage of being in one of these book clubs is the opportunity it provides for members to read materials they might not otherwise select.



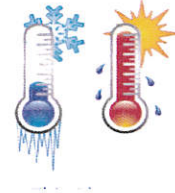
Another group that continues to grow, is the Novel Stitchers. This group began as a summer reading project in June 2012, and they're still going strong. Novel Stitchers meet every Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. to stitch a favorite project, enjoy a cup of coffee or tea along with a snack and look over the Library's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



## Building Repairs

- **Rasmussen Mechanical**

- Rasmussen's performed quarterly maintenance checks with filter changes.
- Rasmussen's adjusted the south air handler that was operating out of sync due to a power outage.
- The compressor in Heat Pump #7 needed to be replaced.
- Heat Pump #11 needed a new control board.
- A new contactor and control board were installed on Heat Pump #13.
- A new motor and a capacitor were installed on the heat pump that controls the foyer.
- The compressor was replaced on the heat pump that controls the area around the circulation desk.
- A valve coil was replaced on Heat Pump #6.
- A contactor was replaced on Heat Pump #11.
- Rasmussen's replaced the thermal valve and repaired a clogged screen on Heat Pump #12.
- On August 8, water began leaking into the area above the ceiling in the Women's Restroom. A heat pump in the attic area was leaking. Rasmussen's shut the pump down and drained out as much water as they could. The unit could not be repaired until it had dried out. A technician from Rasmussen's arrived later, checked and cleaned the unit and leveled the drip tray.



- **Deterdings**

- The fireplace kept shutting down so Deterdings changed out the toggle switch and the wire connectors.

- **Linden Plumbing**

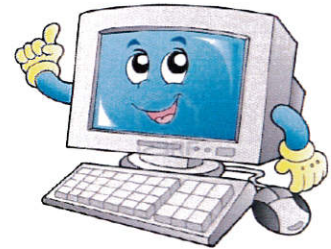
- The toilet in the Family Restroom in the Youth Services area developed a leak.
- On March 17, water was leaking from overhead into the custodian's closet. The leaking was caused by the recirculating hot water pump, which was then replaced.



- Repaired a leak around the toilet in the Women's Restroom.

## Oliver Consulting

- A power outage occurred on December 22. It triggered the alarm system and caused all the computers to go down. Electronic Systems was able to reset the alarm system. All the computers, except the computer that controls the patron computers through Envisionware, came back with a reboot. Oliver Consulting was able to work with the Envisionware technician to reconnect the Envisionware computer. Oliver Consulting also repaired the print function on the circulation desk computers.
- Oliver Consulting installed an external backup drive on the director's computer.
- Oliver Consulting continues to improve and update wireless access at the Library.
- **Platte Valley Glass**
  - Platte Valley Glass adjusted and lubricated the door hydraulics on the public access door on the east side of the Library because it would not lock properly.
  - Platte Valley Glass repaired the outside door across from the Benthack Room.
  - Platte Valley Glass repaired the hydraulic door opener on the handicapped access door.
- **Fagot Refrigeration and Electric**
  - Fagot Electric repaired two faulty ballasts in the Spanish Collection area.
  - Replaced the charging cable to the People Counter because it had malfunctioned.
  - Replaced the ballasts in the light on the south wall of the foyer.
- **Eakes**
  - Replaced the belt on the color printer that is designated to print items from the patron computers.
  - Repaired two of the Library's typewriters.
  - Repaired the bypass tray on the copier.
- **City of Lexington**
  - Installed a television to be used at meetings in the Heritage Room.
  - Reattached the deco lines on the north window along the east side of the building.



- **Electronic Systems**
  - Replaced the batteries in the control panel of the fire alarm system.
- **Jakes Sprinklers**
  - Repaired the broken sprinkler heads.
- **Microfilm Imaging**
  - Repaired the printer connected to the microfilm reader and adjusted the microfilm reader.
  - Adjusted the microfilm reader. Reset the toner and the connected printer.
- **ServiceMaster**
  - Cleaned the carpet in the Benthack Margritz Meeting Room.
  - Spot cleaned the carpet throughout the Library



## **Financials**

### **Revenue**

- City of Lexington - \$477,634
- Nebraska Library Commission State Aid - \$1,621
- Interlibrary Loan Lender Compensation - \$606
- E-Rate - \$2,063

**Total Revenues - \$481,924**



### **Expenditures**

- Personnel and Benefits - \$326,568
- Library Materials including Electronic Format - \$70,208
- Computer Hardware and Software including Electronic Access - \$14,919
- Other Operating Expenses - \$65,939

**Total Expenditures - \$481,924**

## Library Statistics

- Hours Open - 3,407
- Registered Borrowers - 5,589
- Items in the Collection
  - Books - 42,945
  - E-books - 25,822
  - Books on CD - 2,678
  - Downloadable Audio Books
    - Overdrive - 13,784
    - OneClick Digital - 8,149
  - Videos - 1,683
  - Magazine/Newspaper Subscriptions - 59
  - Other Materials - 622
- Total Materials Held - 95,742
  
- Electronic Databases
  - Nebraska Access - 25 databases
  - Zinio Magazines - 184 magazines
- Items checked out including downloads - 48,593
- Library Visits - 70,577
- Reference Questions - 4,528
- Program Attendance
  - Children's Programs - 3,168
    - Early Literacy Programs - 558
  - Young Adult Programs - 264
  - Adult Programs - 4,500
- Technology
  - 23 public access computers
  - Wi-Fi available throughout the Library
  - Computer Usage - 16,573
  - Wireless Usage - 28,153



## Staffing Changes

- Resignations
  - Library Assistant II/Youth Services Librarian - Brenda Schwarz
- New Staff
  - Library Assistant II/Youth Services Librarian - Libby Zitterkopf
    - Promoted from Library Assistant I
  - Library Assistant I - Rose Phillipson