



# NLA

Nebraska Library Association

Educate ● Advocate ● Innovate

## NLA Executive Board

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*Executive Director*

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## SO LONG, LEGISLATIVE SESSION

by Shelby Brodersen, Communications Chair

The eventful 108th session of the Nebraska Legislature has officially adjourned, but not without first making [headlines](#).

In January, we released our [legislative report card](#) that listed the bills we monitored throughout the six-month session. The proposed legislation pertaining to Nebraska libraries and library workers largely dealt with intellectual freedom, censorship of information, and expanding broadband Internet access to rural Nebraskans.

In good news, with bipartisan support, Nebraska's legislative body voted to instate the [Nebraska Broadband Office](#), which allocates broadband ARPA funds to rural areas, builds telecommunications structures, and improves and maintains broadband access across the state, particularly in unserved and underserved communities. We know that Internet access is crucial to conducting business, education, and social connectedness in the 21st century, and we applaud the passage of the [Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act](#).

On the defense, however, several bills (LBs [71](#), [374](#), [441](#), and [635](#)) strove to undermine all Nebraskans' right to intellectual freedom, including that of students. NLA stands for information access for Nebraskans of all ages, and supports the educators who provide reading materials, resources, and research databases so youth develop important literacy skills. While these bills stalled in 2023, the legislature will likely reintroduce these topics next session, and NLA is prepared to continue to advocate for the right to read.

# LIBRARIANS & libations



A Nebraska Library Association happy hour

JULY

Tour of  
Downtown Omaha  
Public Library **13**

6 p.m.: Downtown Omaha library  
tour, 1401 Jones St.

7 p.m.: Happy Hour at The Mill  
3105 Leavenworth St., Omaha

Tour the brand new downtown  
branch of the Omaha Public  
Library, followed by coffee  
and cocktails at The Mill on  
Leavenworth.

JULY

Librarians &  
Libations Happy  
Hour in Lincoln **15**

5:30-7 p.m.: Happy Hour at  
The Mill @ Innovation Campus  
2021 Transformation Dr. #1350

Get together with area  
librarians to network over  
coffee, craft beer, or cocktails!  
The Mill Coffee & Bistro is  
located at Innovation Campus.

To host a Librarians & Libations Happy Hour in your region, or for any questions, contact [nlacommunications@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlacommunications@nebraskalibraries.org).

# ADVOCACY ALERT: CENSORSHIP IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

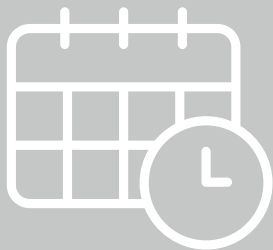
by Wyatt Packard, Chair of the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska

In April, the Plattsmouth Community Schools Board of Education announced the review of 51 books and removed a dozen from library shelves, making them inaccessible to students.

The school board also introduced a revision to Policy 6300 Selection and Review of Instructional and Media Materials that removes the selection requirement that libraries follow the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights, adds that the school board can remove materials they consider "obscene, excessively vulgar, or harmful to minors," and establishes that school libraries may have "mature content" sections that students can only access with written parental permission. The removal of books prompted dozens of students to protest and the high school librarian to resign.

NLA's Intellectual Freedom Round Table and the Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska wrote to Plattsmouth Community Schools superintendent Dr. Richard Hasty and the school board to oppose these actions.

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?



Whether you're passionate about **upholding intellectual freedom**, or are **facing challenges** are your library and need support, the NLA Advocacy Committee welcomes any and all members to attend their

weekly meetings. The Committee meets each **Thursday at 4 p.m.** via Zoom. Questions? Contact [nlaadvocacy@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaadvocacy@nebraskalibraries.org).

# LOVE YOUR LIBRARY?



Libraries are at the heart of Nebraska's communities. Each day, Nebraska librarians help citizens across the state access the materials and information they need to help improve their quality of life.

Do you love your local library? **Please consider signing up as a Nebraska library advocate.** You will be notified of opportunities to make your voice heard and stand up for Nebraska libraries.

Nebraska needs libraries, and Nebraska's libraries need you. Thank you!



# SAVE THE DATES:

## *NLA Leadership Training Camp*

Have you ever wanted to get more involved with NLA? Would you like to get more information about the various ways to do that? Then the NLA Leadership Training Camp is for you! Coming in August, this series of three online sessions will allow you to hear from NLA leaders about what their positions involve. There will also be plenty of time for Q&A. If you can't make the live sessions, recordings will be available.

Thursday

**8/10**

11am - 12pm

### **SESSION 1: ELECTED NLA POSITIONS**

*President, President-Elect, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, Mountain Plains Library Association Representative, American Library Association Councilor*

Thursday

**8/17**

11am - 12pm

### **SESSION 2: SECTIONS AND ROUND TABLE LEADERS**

*College & University; Intellectual Freedom; New Members; Public Library & Trustee; School, Children's, & Young People; Technical Services*

Thursday

**8/24**

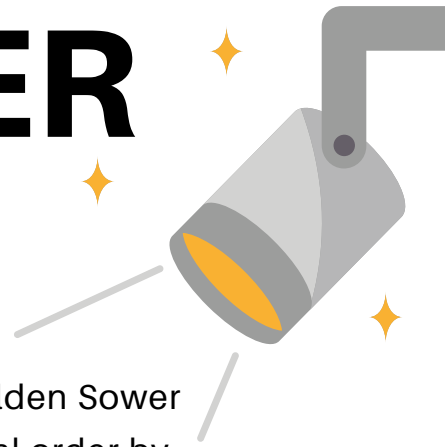
11am - 12pm

### **SESSION 3: COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

*Advocacy; Auditing; By-Laws & Handbook; Communications; Elections; Finance; Professional Development; Scholarships & Awards*

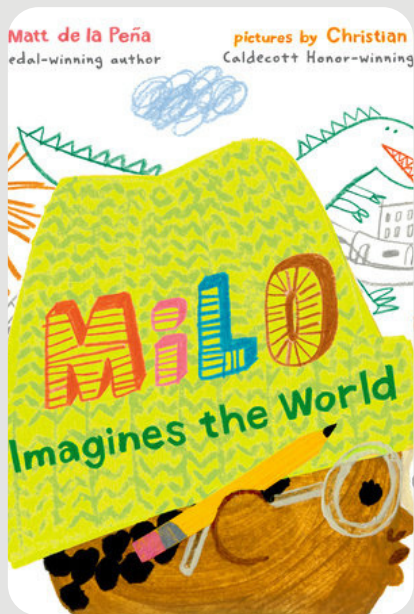
Stay tuned for registration information for the NLA Leadership Training Camp. Questions? Contact Emily Nimsakont at [nlapastpresident@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlapastpresident@nebraskalibraries.org).

# GOLDEN SOWER SPOTLIGHT



Each month, all year long, we'll spotlight a 2023-2024 Nebraska Golden Sower nominee from each category in the NLA e-newsletter! In alphabetical order by title, we'll share a synopsis of the Picture Books, Chapter Books, and Novels that Nebraska's young readers will enjoy during the 2023-24 school year.

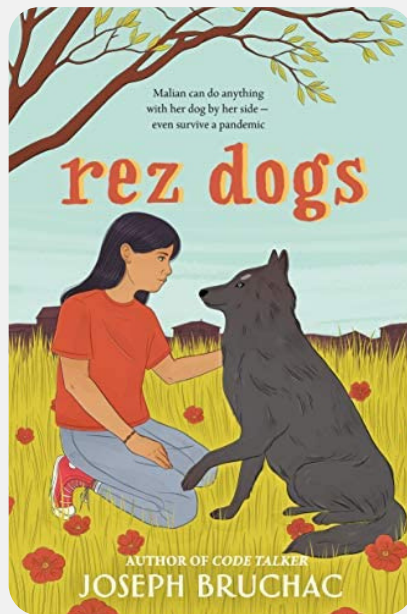
## Picture Book



**Milo Imagines the World**  
by Matt de la Peña  
and Christian Robinson

On a long subway ride with his sister, Milo studies the faces of his fellow riders and makes pictures of their lives.

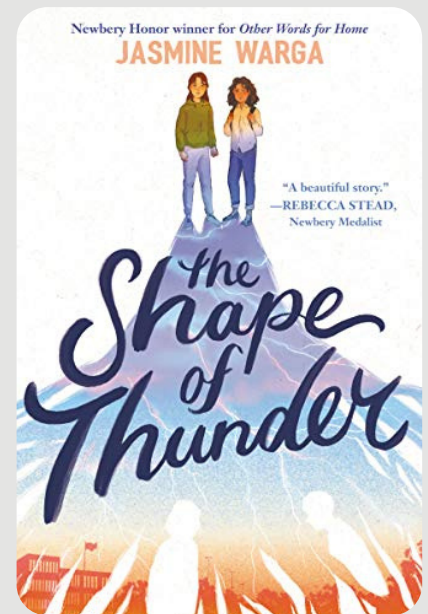
## Chapter Book



**Rez Dogs**  
by Joseph Bruchac

When the pandemic hits while Malian is visiting her grandparents on the reservation, she quarantines there, away from her normal life, befriending the neighbors and a local dog named Malsum.

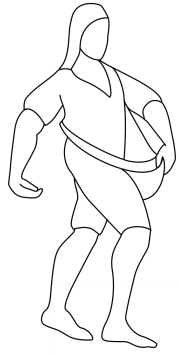
## Novel



**The Shape of Thunder**  
by Jasmine Warga

Despite living next door to each other, best friends Cora and Quinn haven't spoken in a year, and exist in separate worlds of grief after a school shooting. Can they turn back time together?

NEBRASKA



GOLDEN SOWER AWARD

# GOLDEN SOWER ANNOUNCEMENTS



**SATURDAY, JULY 29<sup>TH</sup> 2023**

**9 AM - 4:15 PM**

## FEATURING

**Alice B. McGinty**



2024 Golden Sower Award Nominee for *Bathe the Cat*

**Dusti Bowling**



2024 Golden Sower Award Nominee for *Across the Desert*

**Makiia Lucier**



2024 Golden Sower Award Nominee for *Year of the Reaper*

## PRINTABLE READING LEVEL BOOKMARKS

In the next pages of this newsletter, you will find printable bookmarks for the three Nebraska Golden Sower Award reading levels. We recommend printing each level's bookmarks on three different colors of cardstock, so your student readers can delineate which bookmark color includes books in their desired reading level!



# Golden

2023-24 nominees



# Sower

Little Bluestem category

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sponsored by the Nebraska Library Association • [www.goldensower.org](http://www.goldensower.org)

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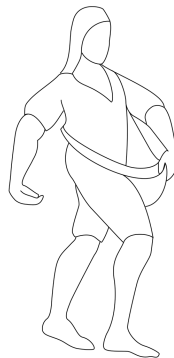
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2023-24 nominees



# Sower

Little Bluestem category

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*Bathe the Cat* Alice B. McGinty

*Bear is a Bear*

Jonathan Stutzman

*Chester Van Chime Who Forgot*

*How to Rhyme* Avery Monsen

*Chez Bob* Bob Shea

*Knight Owl* Christopher Denise

*Milo Imagines the World*

Matt de la Peña

*Norman Didn't Do It! (Yes, He*

*Did)* Ryan T. Higgins

*Not Yet!* Kelly DiPucchio

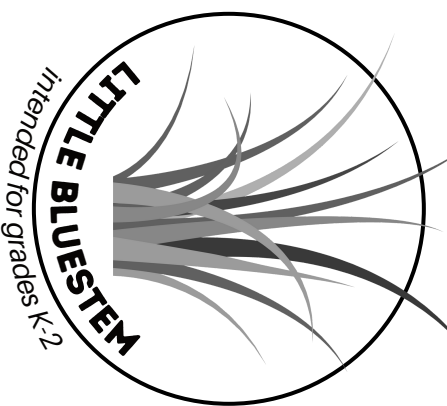
*Something's Wrong! A Bear, a*  
*Hare, and Some Underwear*

Jory John

*Time for Bed, Old House*

Janet Costa Bates

[www.goldensower.org](http://www.goldensower.org)



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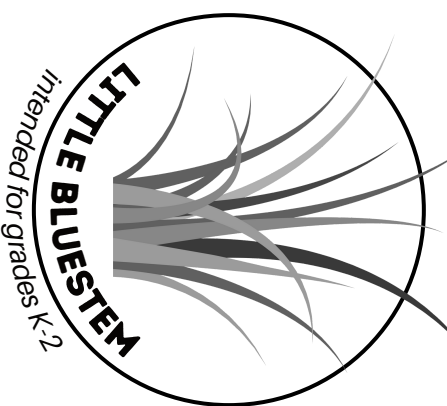
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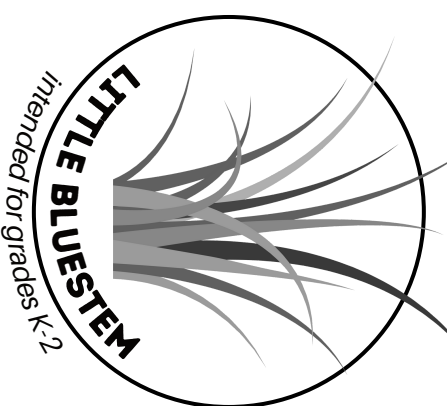
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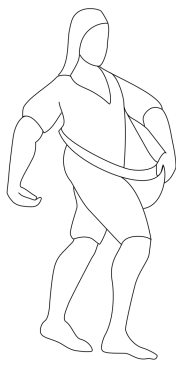
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2023-24 nominees



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Honeybee category

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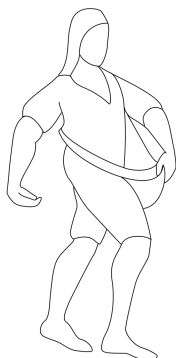
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2023-24 nominees



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**Across the Desert**  
Dusti Bowling

**A Duet for Home**  
Karina Yan Glaser

**Imaginary**  
Lee Bacon & Katy Wu

**One Small Hop**  
Madelyn Rosenberg

**A Place to Hang the Moon**  
Kate Albus

**Rez Dogs** Joseph Bruchac

**Six Feet Below Zero** Ena Jones

**Time Villains** Victor Piñeiro

**What Comes Next** Rob Buyea

**Willodeen**  
Katherine Applegate



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# Golden

2023-24 nominees



# Sower

Meadowlark category

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2023-24 nominees



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Meadowlark category

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2023-24 nominees



# Sower

Meadowlark category

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# Golden

2023-24 nominees



# Sower

Meadowlark category

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Alone Megan E. Freeman

*Amari and the Night Brothers*

B. B. Alston

*Daughter of the Deep*

Rick Riordan

*Fallout: Spies, Superbombs,*

*and the Ultimate Cold War*

*Showdown* Steve Sheinkin

*Paradise On Fire*

Jewell Parker Rhodes

*The Shape of Thunder*

Jasmine Warga

*Starfish* Lisa Fipps

*Ten Thousand Tries*

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*Too Bright to See* Kyle Lukoff

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Host a Librarians & Libations Happy Hour in your community!

Want to host an NLA happy hour in your part of the state? Contact the Communications Committee and we will help you advertise!



Email [nlacommunications@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlacommunications@nebraskalibraries.org).

## Tiny & Mighty Interest Group

Next meeting:

Tues., July 18, 2023 at 10 a.m. CDT  
[nlatiny&mighty@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlatiny&mighty@nebraskalibraries.org)

## Save the Date: 2024 Conference

Mark your calendars! The 2024 Nebraska Library Association Conference will be held in Kearney, NE on October 2 through October 4.

## The Diversity Interest Group is seeking members!

Want to make an impactful difference affecting equity in the Nebraska Library Association? [Join the Diversity Interest Group](#) and help guide its strategic goals.

Sign up [here](#).

Follow NLA!



# CONTACT INFO

## Board Representatives

### **MPLA Councilor**

Michael Straatmann

[nla-mpla@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nla-mpla@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **AFCON Representative**

Wyatt Packard

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### **ALA Councilor**

Brenda Ealey

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## Committee Chairs

### **Advocacy** - Deb Robertson

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### **Auditing** - Amy Dissmeyer

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### **By-Laws & Handbook** - Lane Gibson

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### **Communications** - Shelby Brodersen

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### **Elections** - Emily Nimsakont

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### **Finance** - Emily Nimsakont

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### **Professional Development** - Tammi Thiem

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### **Scholarship & Awards** - Lisa Mount

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## Round Table Chairs

### **Intellectual Freedom (IF)**

Cal Harman

[nlaif@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaif@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **New Members**

Laura Hinman

[nlanmrt@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlanmrt@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **Technical Services**

Michael Straatmann

[nlatsrt@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlatsrt@nebraskalibraries.org)

## Section Chairs

### **College & University**

Cali Biaggi

[nlacandu@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlacandu@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **Public Library & Trustee**

Debbie Aden

[nlaplts@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlaplts@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **School, Children's & Young Peoples**

OPEN

[nlascyp@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlascyp@nebraskalibraries.org)

## Interest Groups

### **Tiny & Mighty**

Rebecca McCorkindale

[nlatiny&mighty@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nlatiny&mighty@nebraskalibraries.org)

### **Diversity**

Lane Gibson

[nladiversity@nebraskalibraries.org](mailto:nladiversity@nebraskalibraries.org)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Interested in committee leadership? Contact [Holly](#).