

The Monthly eNewsletter of the  
Nebraska Library Association

[nebraskalibraries.org](http://nebraskalibraries.org)

# NLA

Nebraska Library Association

Educate ● Advocate ● Innovate



## NLA Executive Board

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## APRIL SHOWERS BRING...

by Shelby Brodersen, Communications Chair

Perhaps May is the time of year when library labor comes to fruition:

- School library workers are watching students graduate to new grades (and reading levels) or embarking on their next chapter
- Public library workers are gearing up for summer programming, heavier foot traffic in the library, and possibly extending their hours for greater access and availability
- Academic library workers are helping researchers finalize their projects, cite their sources, and embrace technology to submit their hard work

After a spring full of advocacy work, we're all growing straight into summer where we know things won't necessarily slow down. But the Nebraska Library Association is here to support libraries and library workers, whether our collective focus is on the Legislature or in our local communities.

This month's e-newsletter reflects the hard work that NLA members put in to meet the needs of their colleagues. We invite academic and technical services librarians to work through current challenges together at the [Joint Spring Meeting](#) on May 19. Stuck on Summer Reading? Don't miss the [Summer Reading Crash Course](#) to share or seek advice from colleagues across the state. Stir up excitement with your students by celebrating the [2022-23 Golden Sower Award winners](#) before the end of the school year.

There may be a lot to do, but we get to do it together.

**Open to the  
Challenge:  
Nebraska  
Libraries  
Respond to  
Our Current  
Environment**

# C&U TSRT SPRING MEETING

## TICKETS

**\$5** NLA Member  
ticket

**\$5** NON-NLA  
Member  
ticket

**\$15** Boxed  
lunch

Tickets required to attend programming. Only ONE member ticket per membership can be added to your cart. Additional tickets must be added as "non-members" if purchasing for a group.

**MAY  
19  
2023**

**10AM  
TO  
4PM**

**CENTRAL COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE - COLUMBUS**



4500 63rd Street  
Columbus, NE 68602



REGISTER AND LEARN MORE AT [NEBRASKALIBRARIES.ORG](https://nebraskalibraries.org)

# AND THE WINNERS ARE...!

Over 63,000 votes were cast by Nebraska youth to select the 2022-23 Golden Sower Award winners! The Golden Sower Committee would like to thank every student reader who voted for their favorite titles. These students wouldn't have an enriching and supportive reading environment if it weren't for the educators and librarians who make these books accessible. Without further ado, here are the winners!

## Picture Book Category

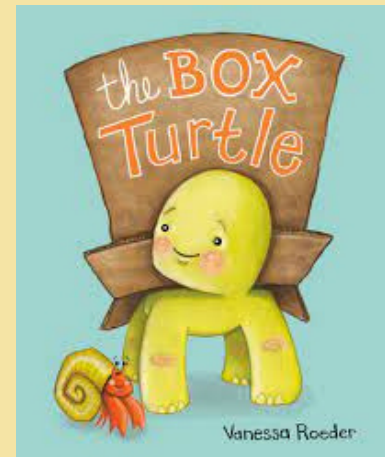
### Honor Books

*This Way, Charlie*  
by Carol Levis and Charles Santoso

*On Account of the Gum*  
by Adam Rex

### Winner!

*The Box Turtle*  
by Vanessa Roeder



## Chapter Book Category

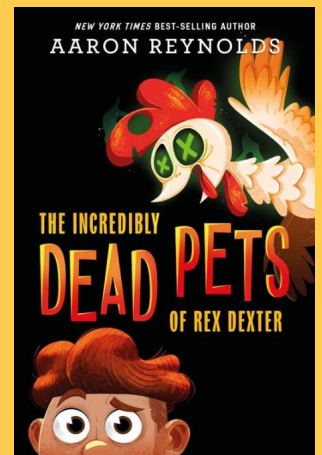
### Honor Books

*Stella* by McCall Hoyle

*Twins* by Varian Johnson and Shannon Wright

### Winner!

*The Incredibly Dead Pets of Rex Dexter*  
by Aaron Reynolds



## Novel Category

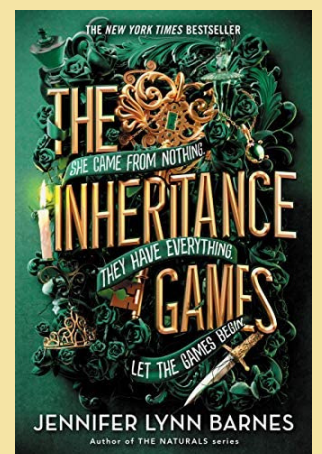
### Honor Books

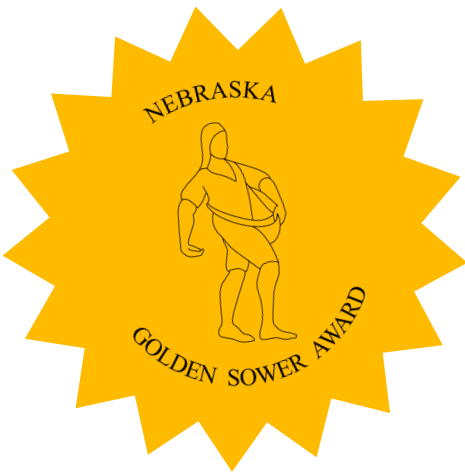
*Unplugged* by Gordon Korman

*Millionaires for the Month* by Stacy McAnulty

### Winner!

*The Inheritance Games*  
by Jennifer Lynn Barnes





# HELP THE GOLDEN SOWER AWARD NAME THE NEW READING LEVEL FOR YOUNG ADULTS!

The Golden Sower Award has added a brand new reading level for Young Adults! Middle- and high-schoolers may vote for what we should name this category [here](#) or by scanning the QR code:



## LITTLE BLUESTEM

Formerly the Picture Book level, the Little Bluestem is intended for grades K-2.



## HONEYBEE

Formerly the Chapter Book level, the Honeybee is intended for grades 3-5.



## MEADOWLARK

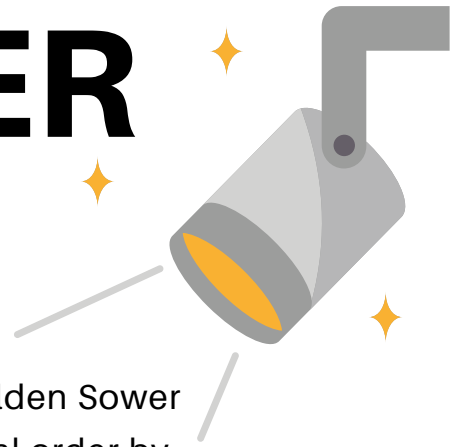
Formerly the Novel level, the Meadowlark is intended for grades 6-8.



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We're adding a NEW level for Young Adults, intended for grades 9-12!

# 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



**Knight Owl**  
by Christopher Denise

A determined Owl builds strength and confidence in this medieval picture book about the real mettle of a hero: wits, humor, and heart.

## Chapter Book



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

Set against the backdrop of World War II, Anna, Edmund, and William are evacuated from London to live in the countryside, bouncing from home to home in search of a permanent family.

## Novel



**Paradise on Fire**  
by Jewell Parker Rhodes

This coming-of-age survival tale follows Addy, whose parents died tragically in a fire, at a summer camp where natural disaster tests her resiliency and courage.



# GOLDEN SOWER IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO WRITE MANUAL PAGES!

Educators — is there a 2023-24 Golden Sower nominee you can't stop raving about? Put your thoughts to paper by helping us create literacy activities for this year's titles!

The Golden Sower manual is published each year on Teachers Pay Teachers. Volunteers like you write vocabulary words, original discussion questions, and puzzles for each nominated title. These manual pages provide resources for educators and librarians across the state who are exploring the Golden Sowers with their students.

Manual pages are due by July 1. Will you help us by volunteering to write a page or two? Email [nlagoldensower@gmail.com](mailto:nlagoldensower@gmail.com) to sign up for your favorite book(s)!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Springfield Memorial Library one of 30 finalists for IMLS Medal!

Congratulations to the library staff and users of Springfield, NE for being the sole Nebraska library up for the 2023 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries that demonstrate significant impact in their communities

Read more [here](#).

## Tiny & Mighty Interest Group

Next meeting:

Tues., May 16, 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

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### **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

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### **New Members**

Laura Hinman

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### **Technical Services**

Michael Straatmann

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## 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](#).



SAVE THE DATE!

# SUMMER READING CRASH COURSE

**Tuesday, May 16, 2023 | Online**

[NEBRASKALIBRARIES.ORG/SURVEY.PHP?ID=38](https://nebraskalibraries.org/survey.php?id=38)

## **GOLDEN SOWER PRINTABLES:**

We invite 6-12 graders and librarians/educators to vote for the Nebraska-themed name of our new Young Adult reading level! Follow these instructions to print off the following postcards to include in your Golden Sower display at the library:

1. Download the May e-newsletter as a PDF.
2. Click "File," then "Print."
  - a. In your printer settings, select **Custom Pages** and type in pages **10-11**.
  - b. Print double sided. It should not matter if it is short-edge or long edge.
3. Cut out the postcards and share with 6-8th graders!

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**MEADOWLARK**  
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**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**  
We're adding a NEW level for Young Adults, intended for grades 9-12! Vote for the name you like best using the QR code on the back of this card.



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# WE NEED YOUR HELP NAMING THE BRAND NEW NEBRASKA GOLDEN SOWER CATEGORY FOR YOUNG ADULTS!

Teens, cast your vote for your favorite Nebraska-themed category name below! This category is intended for grades 9-12.



Scan the QR code with your camera app, or head to [goldensower.org](https://goldensower.org) to vote. The options are...

- Bald Eagle
- Mountain Lion
- Painted Turtle
- Sandhill Crane
- White-tailed Deer
- Young Adult



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