



NLA Executive Board

Holli Dugan
President

nlapresident@nebraskalibraries.org

Tammi Thiem
President - Elect

nlapresidentelect@nebraskalibraries.org

Kelly Warehime
Secretary

nlasecretary@nebraskalibraries.org

Anneka Ramirez
Treasurer

nlatreasurer@nebraskalibraries.org

Emily Nimsakont
Past President

nlapastpresident@nebraskalibraries.org

Ginger Jelinek
Executive Director

nlaexecutivedirector@nebraskalibraries.org

HAPPY NEBRASKA LIBRARY WEEK!

by Shelby Janke Brodersen, NLA Communications Chair

Thank you to every library and their staff for submitting your programs and events for Nebraska Library Week! In addition to the programs you've planned in your own community to celebrate libraries, you're invited to these two virtual events that capture what libraries stand for:

Advocacy: Intellectual Freedom as a Brand with Jamie

LaRue Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 2:00 p.m. CST

During a time of rising challenges, libraries have a choice: duck and cover, or step into the light. James LaRue, a longtime public librarian and former executive director of ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom, will talk about some strategies to turn crisis into opportunity.

Tosca Lee presents: How Libraries and Authors Can

Work Together Thursday, Nov. 16 at 12:00 p.m. CST

The Honorary Chair of NLW will discuss the importance of libraries to authors wanting to share about their own works, books that influenced them, and their love of writing. Authors and libraries promote human creativity, and Tosca will discuss how to seamlessly create meaningful events for readers and writers.

NEBRASKA 20 23 LIBRARY WEEK

MON NOV 13TH	TUE NOV 14TH	WED NOV 15TH	THU NOV 16TH	FRI NOV 17TH	SAT NOV 18TH
<p>2024-25 Golden Sower nominees announced! 10 a.m. CST @ NLA Golden Sower Facebook page</p> <p>Technology and Libraries w/ Nebraska Library Commission 2 p.m. CST on Zoom</p>	<p>Professional and Career Development w/ Nebraska Library Commission 2 p.m. CST on Zoom</p>	<p>Librarians & Lattes 10 a.m. CST @ Verdigre Public Library</p> <p>Jamie LaRue: Advocacy - Intellectual Freedom as a Brand 2 p.m. CST on Zoom</p>	<p>NLA Annual Business Meeting 11 a.m. CST on Zoom</p> <p>Tosca Lee presents: How Authors & Libraries Can Work Together 12 p.m. CST on Zoom</p>	<p>American Library Association & You 2 p.m. CST on Zoom</p>	<p>Library Tour 11 a.m. CST @ Grand Island Public Library</p> <p>Library Tour 2 p.m. CST @ Hastings Public Library</p> <p>LIBRARY PROM! 6 p.m. CST @ Hastings Auditorium</p>

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



James LaRue is the director of the Garfield County (CO) Public Library District. His new book is "On Censorship: A Public Librarian Examines Cancel Culture in the US." From January of 2016 to November of 2018, he was director of the Freedom to Read Foundation, and ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom. He has written, spoken, and consulted extensively on intellectual freedom issues, leadership and organizational development, community engagement, and the future of libraries.

Tosca Lee is the award-winning, New York Times bestselling author of *The Line Between*, *The Progeny*, *Firstborn*, *Iscaiot*, *The Legend of Sheba*, *Demon: A Memoir*, *Havah: The Story of Eve*, and the *Books of Mortals* series with New York Times bestseller Ted Dekker. Tosca received her B.A. from Smith College and lives in Nebraska with her husband, three of four children still at home, and her 160-lb. German Shepherd, Timber.



gather during

NEBRASKA

**20
23**

LIBRARY WEEK

**LIBRA-
RIANS &
LATTES**

**PRE-
PROM
LIBRARY
TOURS**

**LINCOLN: Mon., November 6 at 11 a.m. CST
The Mill @ Telegraph (330 S 21st St)**

Join us for a celebratory coffee after Governor Pillen signs the proclamation for Nebraska Library Week! Photos will be taken at 10:30 at the Capitol.

**VERDIGRE: Wed., November 15 at 10 a.m. CST
Verdigre Public Library (101 E. 3rd Ave.)**

Honor the retirement of Niobrara Library Director Esther Nielsen at a coffee reception in Verdigre. Congratulations and thank you for your service, Esther!



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 IN CENTRAL NE

In the area for Library Prom? In addition to checking out area attractions, you're invited to two guided public library tours nearby:

**Grand Island Public Library: 11 a.m. CST
1124 W 2nd St., Grand Island, NE**
Donuts and coffee provided!

**Hastings Public Library: 2 p.m. CST
314 N Denver Ave., Hastings, NE**

An Evening of Elegance

NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:
LIBRARY PROM

SAVE YOUR SEAT AT LIBRARY PROM!

One thing you can do right now to support library advocacy efforts in Nebraska is purchasing a ticket (or table!) to Library Prom on Saturday, November 18 in Hastings. All proceeds will benefit the Nebraska Library Association's Advocacy Committee's fight against censorship in Nebraska. Below are three ways you can support this event:

\$350

Reserved table for 8 includes souvenir glasses and drink tickets for eight guests

\$35

General Admission Plus includes 2 drink tickets and 1 souvenir glass

\$25

General Admission

Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be available. Tickets and more information can be found [here](#), including area attractions and an agenda. See you on the dance floor!



NEBRASKA 2023 LIBRARY WEEK



13

Technology and Libraries

Facilitator - Amanda Sweet
2:00-3:00 PM CST

[REGISTER HERE](#)

14

Professional and Career Development

Facilitator - Christa Porter
2:00-3:00 PM CST

[REGISTER HERE](#)

15

Advocacy: Intellectual Freedom As A Brand

Presenter - [Jamie La'Rue](#)
2:00-3:30 PM CST

[REGISTER HERE](#)

\$15 Fee for Non-NLA Members

16

Local Authors and Collaborative Programming

Presenter - [Tosca Lee](#)
12:00 -1:00 PM CST

[REGISTER HERE](#)

17

American Library Association and You

Presenters - Brenda Ealey & Traci Glass
2:00-3:00 PM CST

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Register at nebraskalibraries.org

an interview with TOSCA LEE

Honorary Chair of Nebraska Library Week 2023



Get to know Nebraska author (and library lover) Tosca Lee, this year's Honorary Chair for Nebraska Library Week! Tosca is the author of 12 novels, including three series and most recently, *The Long March Home* with co-author Marcus Brotherton. She resides near Fremont with her family.

NLA: What kinds of books do you write?

TL: I write to walk in others' shoes, in other times, in other places. To remind readers—and myself—that we're not alone. I write everything from WWII historical (my latest, *The Long March Home*), ancient/biblical historical, dystopian, and suspense/thrillers.

NLA: From youth to adulthood, can you shout-out some Nebraska libraries that have specifically shaped your reading and writing? Which libraries in Nebraska do you have fond memories of?

TL: ***Gere Library in Lincoln*** was my home library growing up. In grade school I used to ride my bike there, spend hours in the stacks, and ride home with a tote bag precariously dangling from each handlebar. During high school (I attended ***Lincoln East High***, which has a library I also loved), I did

homework at Gere's carrolls. Many years later in 2013 I sat along the same bank of windows in a carroll making the final pass through the proof pages of my seventh novel, *The Legend of Sheba*. I live south of ***Fremont*** now, but still like to visit Gere when I'm in Lincoln.

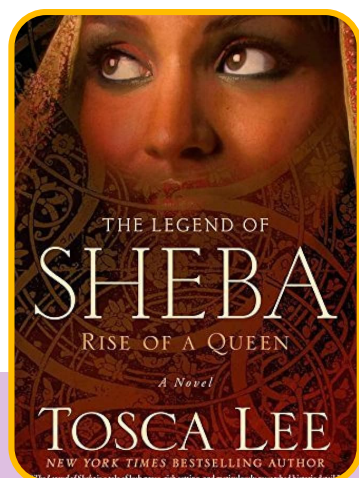
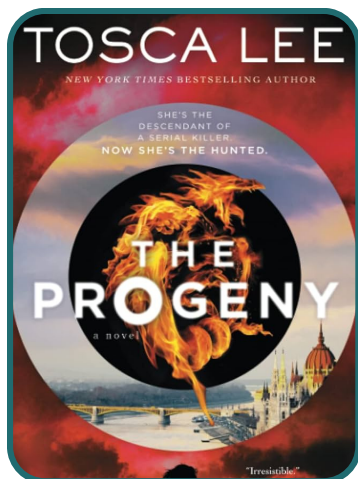
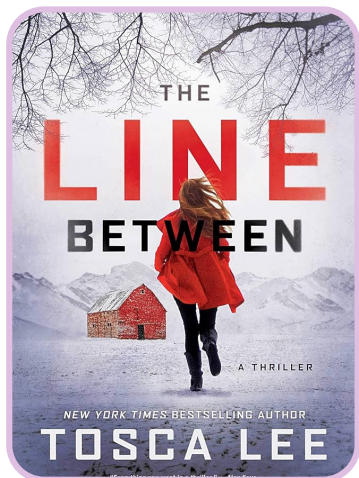
Today I've had the privilege of visiting many of Nebraska's libraries throughout the state to talk about books and writing. Every time, I marvel at the resources available to our communities—from libraries of things to maker centers, to amazing programming for all ages in Nebraska's libraries. Each one is so unique—I loved visiting the Nebraska Room in the vault of the ***Valley, NE library***, which used to be a bank. I am in constant admiration of the resources available through our libraries and the creative innovation of our devoted librarians.

NLA: We just celebrated Banned Books Week in a time where books are being challenged across the nation, and Nebraska is no exception. Do you have a favorite banned book? Have any of your books been challenged before?

TL: I've occasionally heard that **one of my books has been challenged**. While it's frustrating, I figure it's a sign it's at least causing conversations. I have many favorites among banned and challenged books: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, *Harry Potter*, *The Hate U Give*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Of Mice and Men*... I know there are others but those are the ones that immediately come to mind. We read some of these in school even and they were important conversation starters.

NLA: What brings you hope for the future of Nebraska libraries, young authors, and lifelong readers?

TL: The fact that we have conversations like these. That libraries and their patrons can band together to advocate for all voices. That we can continue to innovate and support these important, safe community centers where all are welcome and important resources are available to all. **I am so proud and impressed with our community libraries**. As an author, I hope to see libraries continue to offer programs and advocacy for human creativity as AI becomes the topic of so many conversations, and that we continue to support the human experience in every form of art.



NLA: What has your favorite book been this year? What are you reading right now?

TL: Haha, this is always a hard one for me because I am fortunate to call so many amazing and prolific authors "friend." This year my TBR pile includes books by **Nebraska authors** such as Sean Doolittle's *Device Free Weekend*, Lydia Kang's *Star Wars Cataclysm*, Alex Kava's *Fallen Creed*. Other favorites I've recently read include Alex Finlay's *What Have We Done*, Aimie K. Runyan's *A Bakery in Paris*, and Sadeqa Johnson's *House of Eve*.

As an author I like to revisit favorites like Anne Lamott's classic *Bird by Bird* and Stephen King's *On Writing* every few years and I have longtime favorites I visit over and over through the years, such as Anita Diamant's *The Red Tent*.

page 07



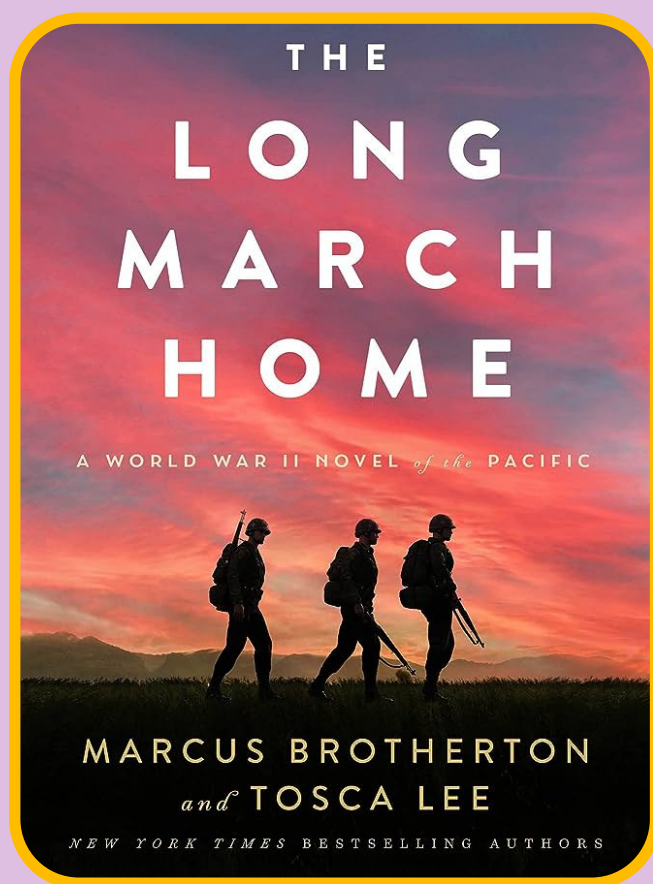
NLA: Can you tell us about your new book, *The Long March Home*?

TL: It's a coming-of-age tale of friendship, sacrifice, and the power of hope about three best friends serving in the Philippines during WWII, inspired by true stories and is the product of 12 years of work with my coauthor, Marcus Brotherton. ***We wrote it without a contract, not knowing if or when or where it would ever sell.*** Today we are so grateful to have it out and in the hands of readers, for its three starred reviews from Library Journal, Publishers Weekly and Booklist, and the personal stories we receive from family members of those who, like our characters, served in the South Pacific during WWII.

Jimmy Propfield joined the army for two reasons: to get out of Mobile, Alabama, with his best friends Hank and Billy and to forget his high school sweetheart, Claire.

Life in the Philippines seems like paradise--until the morning of December 8, 1941, when news comes from Manila: Imperial Japan has bombed Pearl Harbor. Within hours, the teenage friends are plunged into war as enemy warplanes attack Luzon, beginning a battle for control of the Pacific theater that will culminate with a last stand on the Bataan Peninsula and end with the largest surrender of American troops in history.

What follows will become known as one of the worst atrocities in modern warfare: the Bataan Death March. With no hope of rescue, the three friends vow to make it back home together. But the ordeal is only the beginning of their nearly four-year fight to survive.



NLA: What was the co-writing process like with your co-author, Marcus Brotherton?

TL: Every co-authoring process is different, but in this case, Marcus had been working on the story for seven years between other projects before he called me around 2017 to see if I wanted to co-author with him. When I said yes, he did something very rare that I'm not sure you'll hear happening between two authors often: he handed over his drafts and essentially said to go do what I felt was right. After a deep dive into the research, I started reworking, adding new material to, and restructuring the manuscript.



CITIZENS SPEAK AGAINST CENSORSHIP

We Need Your Voice

Are you a book reader and library lover, an intellectual freedom advocate, or an ally for the LGBTQ+ community? Perhaps you are all three! If so, the Nebraska Library Association Advocacy Committee would love to train you to have informed conversations about book challenges and bans, speak at public meetings where books are being challenged, or write persuasive letters in support of the freedom to read.

We'll provide templates and other resources for speakers and writers and connect you with other citizen advocates. There's no commitment if public speaking isn't your thing. Just come, bring a friend, drink coffee and support libraries!

We'll discuss:

Why are book challenges and bans increasing across the country?

The current situation in Nebraska

How to frame persuasive arguments

JOIN US!

Saturday, Oct. 28
Saturday, Nov. 11

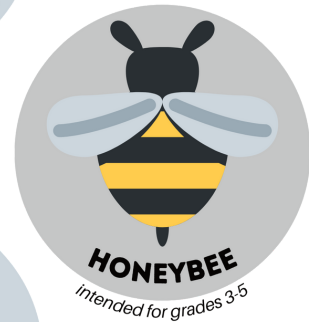
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

The Mill
2021 Transformation Dr #1350, Lincoln, NE 68508

SAVE THE DATE!

THE 2024-25 GOLDEN SOWER
NOMINEES WILL BE ANNOUNCED
ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT
10 A.M. CST IN HONOR OF
NEBRASKA LIBRARY WEEK!

Follow the Nebraska Golden Sower Award on Facebook to celebrate the newly nominated titles as soon as they're announced.



GOLDEN SOWER MANUAL 2023-2024

The Golden Sower Committee is excited to present this schoolyear's manual for the 2023-24 nominees! The manual includes activities, vocabulary exercises, and discussion questions for all thirty titles that are nominated for the Golden Sower Award. The manual can be purchased in two ways:

TEACHERS PAY TEACHERS:

Educators, parents/guardians, and homeschool instructors may purchase the manual for \$15 on Teachers Pay Teachers. All proceeds go toward the Golden Sower Committee's operation and events such as the Virtual Award Party.

SCHOOL DISTRICT PURCHASE:

For \$100, schools can purchase a shareable digital copy of the manual from the Nebraska Golden Sower online store. A digital file will be sent to your school email which can be uploaded to a shared drive.

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.

Tiny & Mighty Interest Group

Next meeting:

Tues., Nov. 21, 2023 at 10 a.m. CDT
nlatiny&mighty@nebraskalibraries.org

Have news you'd like to share? Send an email to nlacommunications@nebraskalibraries.org for submission to the NLA newsletter and social media.

Join the Communications Committee!

Do you enjoy graphic design, social media strategy, and fostering engagement? The Communications Committee needs your help to bring NLA's messaging and events to the next level. Email Shelby for more information!

Run for something!

Make a difference in Nebraska's library landscape by running for an elected officer position. Nominations are now being accepted for 2024!

Follow NLA!



CONTACT INFO

Board Representatives

MPLA Councilor

Michael Straatmann

nla-mpla@nebraskalibraries.org

AFCON Representative

Wyatt Packard

nla-afcon@nebraskalibraries.org

ALA Councilor

Brenda Ealey

nla-ala@nebraskalibraries.org

Committee Chairs

Advocacy - Deb Robertson

nlaadvocacy@nebraskalibraries.org

Auditing - Amy Dissmeyer

nlaauditing@nebraskalibraries.org

By-Laws & Handbook - Lane Gibson

nlabylaws-handbook@nebraskalibraries.org

Communications - Shelby Brodersen

nlacomunications@nebraskalibraries.org

Elections - Emily Nimsakont

nlaelections@nebraskalibraries.org

Finance - Emily Nimsakont

nlafinance@nebraskalibraries.org

Professional Development - Tammi Thiem

nlaprofdev@nebraskalibraries.org

Scholarship & Awards - Lisa Mount

nlascholarships@nebraskalibraries.org

Round Table Chairs

Intellectual Freedom (IF)

Cal Harman

nlaif@nebraskalibraries.org

New Members

Lacey Partlow

nlanmrt@nebraskalibraries.org

Technical Services

Michael Straatmann

nlatsrt@nebraskalibraries.org

Section Chairs

College & University

Cali Biaggi

nlacandu@nebraskalibraries.org

Public Library & Trustee

Debbie Aden

nlaplts@nebraskalibraries.org

School, Children's & Young Peoples

OPEN

nlascyp@nebraskalibraries.org

Interest Groups

Tiny & Mighty

Joy Kyhn

nlatiny&mighty@nebraskalibraries.org

Diversity

Lane Gibson

nladiversity@nebraskalibraries.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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