



Connections

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Great Reads from Great Places Public Voting

Voting is now open for the 2027 Great Reads From Great Places!

Adult Nominees:

- *Brothers No More: A Vietnam Odyssey* by Lee Rebsom
- *Little Sister: A Family Memoir* by Gayle Larson Schuck
- *Tough but Fair: Reformation of a Prison, Memoir of a Warden* by Winston E. Satran

Youth Nominees:

- *The Girl in Lime Green Jeans* by Lindsey Miller
- *Oliver the Owl: The Culinary Pro* by Rayna Jo Zest
- *Sofia's Monster* by Daniel Wolfe



Fill out the form below or send an e-mail to Tammy at tlkruger@nd.gov.

Vote Today!

The Fighting Auditor Exhibit

Submitted by Trevor Martinson

The [Digital Initiatives Department](#) of the North Dakota State Library (NDSL) is excited to announce the opening of another online exhibit called "The Fighting Auditor."

Unlike the [previous exhibits](#) that explore specific topics or events (Book Scandal of 1919, Education Not Politics, the Liberty Memorial Building, and the Scandinavian American Bank), this online exhibit focuses on the life and political career of one individual: Carl R. Kositzky.

Kositzky rose to become a prominent politician in state government during the late 1910s and into the 1920s. He was often at the center of the political battle between the Nonpartisan League (NPL) and the Independent Voters Association (IVA). Because of this, the exhibit primarily uses information and content from NDSL's [Political Prairie Fire](#) digital collection.



The exhibit starts with Kositzky's rise from humble origins. Kositzky, a long-time resident of Bismarck, first entered politics at the county-level in Burleigh County. There, he earned a reputation as a watchdog of public finances. But, he frequently clashed with E. G. Patterson, a powerful and wealthy local politician.

The feuds did not stop there. As he moved up the state political level, the fiery, combative, and outspoken Kositzky was involved in multiple altercations, which is where the "fighting" portion of the exhibit title comes from.

His work ethic and enthusiasm earned the attention of the NPL, and Kositzky became an ally. However, he became disillusioned and was one of the first to criticize the NPL's leaders, and he soon became one of the most vocal adversaries of the NPL. It was open war between Kositzky, his allies, and the NPL. This led to the publication of the "Red Flame," a vicious anti-NPL magazine.

The exhibit tells all these stories and more.

The primary way to navigate the exhibit is to start on the [homepage](#) and then progress through each sub-page under "[The Story](#)" menu in sequential order (using the "Next" and "Previous" buttons at the bottom of each page).

View The Exhibit



Unicorn Chapter Books for Elementary and Middle School

Welcome to the second installment of unicorn books for *Top Picks*! This month's offerings are chapter books for elementary and middle school students. If you have a topic request for *Top Picks*, please email me at tlkruger@nd.gov.

1. *The Unicorn Quest* by Kamila Benko

Publish Date: 2018

Publisher: Bloomsbury

Summary: "Claire had never seen a ladder in a fireplace before."

Claire is the worrisome sister, while Sophie is the brave one. One day, the sisters, with Sophie in the lead, climb a mysterious ladder and end up in the magical land of Arden. Unfortunately, Arden is in turmoil, and the sisters return home to safety. However, one night Sophie goes missing and Claire re-enters this magical kingdom to find her sister! What will she uncover while there? Will Claire discover her own bravery? *The Unicorn Quest* is the first in its series.

Best For: Third through Sixth Grade



[Continue Reading](#)



Little Free... Blockbuster?

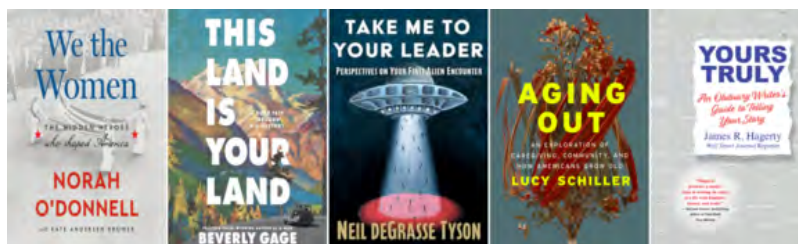
I think most of us are familiar with the Little Free Library concept. You take a book and leave a book. It is an excellent refuge for unwanted reading material, and it keeps your own shelf fresh. The Little Free Library is the best invention since the public library. However, Little Free Libraries have one failing. They contain mostly... books. While this isn't an irredeemable failing, sometimes you want something different. Then out of nowhere appeared the service we didn't know that we needed: [Free Blockbuster](#).

Movie rental stores are nostalgia fuel. Well do I remember the days when my mom would bring home pizza and movies from working in Dickinson, and we would spend days bingeing on [The Secret of Roan Inish](#), [The Mighty Ducks](#), and other glorious '90s titles...but I digress. Streaming services along with a recession brought Blockbuster to its untimely end with bankruptcy in 2010 and ultimately the closure of all stores in 2014. A few franchises were allowed to continue to operate, but the only one still in business is in Bend, OR.

[Continue Reading](#)

New Items At The ND State Library

Nonfiction Books



"We The Women" by Norah O'Donnell; "This Land Is Your Land" by Beverly Gage; "Take Me To Your Leader" by Neil DeGrasse Tyson; "Aging Out" by Lucy Schiller; "Yours Truly" by James R. Hagerty

Fiction Books



"Land" by Maggie O'Farrell; "The Wild Beneath" by Kelly Anderson; "The Story Keeper" by Kelly Rimmer; "Keep Them Close" by David Ellis; "Born to be Killed" by William W. Johnstone



"Talisman" by Stephen King & Peter Straub; "The Country Road Murders" by James Patterson & Mike Lupica; "A Love Most Daring" by Joanna Barker; "Novel Threat" by Traci Hunter Abramson; "Iron Horse" by Robert Vaughan



"The Half Life" by Rachel Beanland; "Abraham" by Jennifer Beckstrand; "Hope Deferred" by Linda Byler; "Miriam's Little Gentleman" by Anne Blackburne; "Double Happiness" by Heather Eng



"Sons of the Texas Star" by Jefferson Glass; "Eyes of Kings" by Chloe Gong; "Betrayal at Blackthorn Park" by Julia Kelly; "Whatever Happened to Lori Lovely?" by Sarah McCoy; "The Last Spirits of Manhattan" by John A. McDermott



"The Brunswick" by Callie Murray; "Home No Matter Where" by Nancy Naigle; "The Women in White" by Sarah Pekkanen; "Rites of the Starling" by Devney Perry; "A Killing At Rimrock" by Richard Prosch



"The Take" by Kelly Yang; "Etna" by Paul Yoon; "Birds of Prey" Edited by Harlan Coben & C.J. Box; "Deceptions" by Jeffery Deaver; "Staged Evidence" by Traci Hunter Abramson

E-Magazines



Vintage Rock; House Beautiful; Log & Timber Home Living; Elle Decor; Successful Farming



Woman's Day; Gridiron; Good Housekeeping; National Geographic Kids; Games World of Puzzles

Nonfiction E-Books



"The Forever Paycheck" by Jean Chatzky; "Lost in Curiosity" by Roberta Kwok; "Situated" by Angela Duckworth; "The Castle" by Jon Ronson; "Too Sensitive" by Sasha Hamdani, MD

Fiction E-Books



"In a Heartbeat" by Ali Novak; "Henry Tudor Must Die" by Jillian Laine; "The Sleeping Sisters" by Jennifer Givhan; "Promise Me Never" by Liv Constantine; "The Boat House" by Fern Michaels



"Heart of Glass" by Jennifer Hillier; "Big Little Truths" by Liane Moriarty; "The Amateur" by Chris Bohjalian; "Hate Me Take Me" by Laura Bishop; "Our Strange Duet" by Erin A. Craig

Nonfiction E-Audiobooks



"Up On Cover Mountain" by Earl Swift; "Honor Thy Mother" by Dr. Sarita T. Lyons; "Crossing the Wine-Dark Sea" by Emily Wilson; "Brain Defenders" by David Perlmutter, MD; "Why You Should Read Children's Books, Even Though You Are So Old and Wise" by Katherine Rundell

Fiction E-Audiobooks



"The Gods Will Sing Our Song" by Autumn Krause; "Never Whistle At Night" edited by Shane Hawk & Theodore C. Van Alst Jr.; "The Secret Dinner" by Raphael Montes; "The Poison Daughter" by Sheila Masterson; "Under Story" by Chloe Benjamin



"Agrippa" by Robert Harris; "God's Country" by William Kent Krueger; "The Butcher Legacy" by Alaina Urquhart; "The Knave and the Moon" by Rachel Gillig; "Hawk & Sparrow" by Ayana Gray



"You'll Be Sorry" by Lisa Gardner; "Time Travel for Beginners" by Jaclyn Moriarty; "The Unknown" by Riley Sager; "The Secrets We Hid" by Karin Slaughter; "Embrace" by Bal Khabra



AI For All Kits

The term "Artificial Intelligence (AI)" gets thrown around daily in our fast-paced world. You may wonder, What is AI? How does it work? Is it safe? EduTech, through the Strengthen ND Creative Community Solutions grant, is excited to bring a beginner friendly AI Roadshow and "edutainment" kit to North Dakota communities. The **AI for All** kit is designed to help North Dakotans of all ages become AI literate through guided exploration of what AI really is, how to use AI safely, and the ethics behind the choices people make with AI.

Open to any librarian, educator, parent, student, or lifelong learner, **AI for All** offers an approachable introduction to artificial intelligence and its growing impact on education, work, and everyday life. Please join us as we showcase the kits that will be available for checkout through the State Library and at our AI for All Roadshow in four locations around North Dakota.

Roadshow locations and times (open-house style):

- Tioga Community Center, October 1, 5:30-7:00 PM
- Minot Public Library, October 2, 3:00-4:45 PM
- Jamestown, Alfred Dickey Library, October 6, 4:00-6:00 PM
- Thompson City Hall, October 7, 4:00-6:00 PM

North Dakota Book and Arts Festival Returns to Jamestown

Submitted by Jennifer Long

Mark your calendars! The North Dakota Book and Arts Festival returns to Jamestown on **Saturday, September 26, from 10:00 AM-5:00 PM** at the Harold Newman Arena (1104 N. University Dr.). Organized by the James River Valley Library System and hosted by the University of Jamestown, this **free** event brings together more than 80 authors and artists from across our state.

Featured voices include two Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa authors whose work illuminates North Dakota's Native history:

Dr. Ramona Klein, a Fort Totten Indian Boarding School survivor turned lifelong educator, who has testified before Congress in support of boarding school truth and healing legislation and now serves as first vice president of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.

Dr. Denise Lajimodiere is North Dakota's first Native American Poet Laureate (2023–2028). She is widely acclaimed for her book *Stringing Rosaries*, which documents the powerful stories and narratives of boarding school survivors. A prolific writer, her poetry collections include *Dragonfly Dance*, *Thunderbird*, *Bitter Tears*, and *His Feathers Were Chains*, and she is also the author of the children's book *Josie Dances*.

Music lovers won't want to miss **Chuck Suchy**, North Dakota's first State Troubadour from Mandan, North Dakota. Known for his prairie ballads, Suchy captures the spirit of the prairies and rural life through folk music that chronicles North Dakota's unique history.

Come celebrate North Dakota's rich literary and artistic traditions!



Disaster Preparedness 101

Submitted by Al Peterson

September is National Preparedness Month and no matter where you live, you are subject to disasters. Natural disasters and man-made disasters affect everyone and cause severe damage and endanger lives. Hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, landslides, wildfires, hot spells, or cold spells are all natural disasters that can be deadly to people and property. Man-made disasters such as terrorism, crime, power outages, famines, or war are just as terrifying as natural disasters. However, your response can be calculated, effective, and decisive. *Preparedness 101* from Universal Class is a comprehensive disaster preparedness course, crafted not just to educate, but to empower. This course is your all-encompassing shield against such uncertainties. It isn't merely surface level; it's a deep dive to help arm yourself with knowledge, foresight, and pragmatic solutions. In this course, you will learn how to assess and recognize threats, develop a robust disaster plan, make sure your finances are in order and the technology you rely on are ready, among many other topics. The reality of life is its unpredictability. Yet, through meticulous preparation, we can transform fear into empowerment and uncertainty into assurance.

You can take *Disaster Preparedness* and other great Universal Class courses at your own pace and on your time. To sign up for this course, click on <https://northdakotastatend.universalclass.com> to get started. Type in the name of the course, *Disaster Preparedness* into the search box and begin feeling more confident knowing you are prepared.

Universal Class

BITS OF TRIVIA

By Stacey Goldade

Library Card Sign Up Month

If you don't have a library card, what are you waiting for? September is Library Card Sign-up month! Did you know that a library card can be considered the most valuable card in your wallet? You can get access to our regular print books, large print books, state documents, STEM kits, book club kits and our lending machines that are scattered across the state. If you haven't tried our [lending machines](#) and they are near you, head over to one to get books for adults and kids, DVDs or even WhaZoodles, which are an audio device for kids. You can also access electronic books through the [Library2Go](#) database, as well as our other online resources, with your library card and password. If we don't have a title you want, you can also use your library card to Interlibrary Loan a book from another library. If you don't want a card in your wallet, we even offer small library cards that go on your keychains! Visit us or go to our [website](#) to fill out a ND State Library card application.



2026 Graphic Novels/Manga

Cooking and Persian-inspired mythology come together in Robert Mgrdich Apelian's gorgeous graphic novel *Fustuk*. Katah is the youngest in a family of talented cooks, all too aware of his lack of ability in the kitchen and the ways in which he's not living up to the legacy of his deceased father. What Katah does have are strange visions and he follows them to a creature called a div who agrees to help his ailing mother in exchange for a meal more delicious than one even his father could make. To that end Katah must team up with his siblings and hopefully stop his family's in-fighting long enough to save them.



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Digital Collection Spotlight

By Trevor Martinson

State Historical Society of North Dakota



The "State Historical Society of North Dakota" collection is the State Archives division's main collection on Digital Horizons. Included are nearly 12,000 items from its photograph, manuscript, film, cataloged publications, and map collections that document the history of the entire state of North Dakota and the Northern Great Plains region.

[View The Collection](#)

New Items Added to Digital Horizons

A highlight of the items added to the various digital collections of the North Dakota State Library.

[North Dakota Histories](#)

- Kintyre, North Dakota: 100 Years



[North Dakota Memories](#)

- A New Front Door to McKenzie County
- Baptism certificate of James Eid, 1911
- Burial of Robert Gore, McKenzie County, N.D., 1945
- C. O. Engdahl, Pioneer, Found Dead in Field [newspaper article, 1924]
- Checks from Watford City, N.D., banks, circa 1910-1929
- Distance view of Medora, N.D., circa 1918-1929
- Distance view of Schafer, N.D., circa 1912
- First Post Office at Arnegard, N.D., circa 1906-1907
- Garrison Dam Closure Ceremony program, 1953
- Invitation to Lewis and Clark Bridge dedication, Williston, N.D., 1927
- Invitation to N.D. State Capitol cornerstone laying, 1932
- Langdon, N.D., boys' basketball team, 1940
- Lincoln Day program, N.D. Legislature, 1909
- Main Street, Arnegard, ND, circa 1911
- McKenzie County Ranger Riders
- New Year's Day menu, Grand Pacific Hotel, Bismarck, N.D., 1909
- North Dakota State Capitol Grounds, 1926
- North Dakota State Capitol, circa 1905
- Portrait of T. Frank Roberts, circa 1947
- Postmaster certificate awarded to H. B. Nelson, 1903
- Sign for the H. B. Nelson general store in Numedahl, N.D.
- Threshing crew, McKenzie County, N.D., 1913
- Verendrye Bridge, McKenzie County, N.D., 1936
- W. J. Robinson hunting license, Schafer, N.D., 1914



[Political Prairie Fire](#)

- Names of legislators who will come to Bismarck in January [newspaper article, 1920]
- Portrait of Thorwald Mostad, circa 1916

[Prairie Recipes](#)

- Favorite Recipes from the Woldford Community
- Mylo Lutheran Church Cookbook

Digital Horizons

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Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian

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www.library.nd.gov

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