



# Flickertale

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## NOW HIRING



### Library Programming Specialist

Apply by May 25

## Mashed Potato May

Submitted by **Monica Struck**

You might be wondering what on Earth mashed potatoes have to do with the month of May. Is it because potatoes are often planted in May? Is it because the mayo lobby is trying to fight for world potato dominance? If none of these options sound plausible, you'd be right. Mashed Potato May has nothing to do with your favorite creamy, buttery, starchy root vegetable. It has far more to do with your To Be Read (TBR) list.

Mashed Potato Books are books that you have been waiting to read even though you expect to like them (like saving the mashed potatoes on your plate for last). Anything can be a Mashed Potato Book: classics, books by a favorite author, a guilty pleasure series, anything! The point is that you have been saving it for the perfect time, and that time is now: Mashed Potato May!

[Continue Reading](#)

## Digital Collection Spotlight

By Trevor Martinson

### Father William C. Sherman Photograph Collection

The "Father William C. Sherman Photograph Collection" includes thousands of images of houses and other dwellings, barns, sheds and root cellars, as well as interior and domestic architecture of early North Dakota settlers.

Father Sherman and NDSU students identified, researched, and photographed primarily in central and western North Dakota during the 1970s. The diverse architectural styles of many ethnic groups are displayed in these images, including Germans from Russia (southern Ukraine), Ukrainians, Germans from Bohemia, Czechoslovakians, and Germans from the Banat (Hungary). The collection is one of the most comprehensive collections of homestead photographs in North America and worldwide. Father Sherman recently passed away in May after an extensive career as a religious leader, educator, and researcher. This digital collection is provided by the NDSU Libraries Germans from Russia Heritage Collection (GHRC), and it's available for browsing and searching on [Digital Horizons](#).



[Digital Horizons](#)

# Great Reads from Great Places 2026

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

The winners of the North Dakota Center for the Book Great Reads from Great Places have been announced: "July 4, 2026: The Tenacious 10 Celebrate the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence" by Paulette Bullinger and Kevin Kremer and "They Caught Them Sleeping: How Dot Reinvented the Pretzel" by Jeff Kolpack.

Each author will visit four libraries (or schools). If your library is interested in hosting one of these three authors, fill out the survey below; the survey closes on September 16, and visits can begin as early as October.

A little more about the books:

## Youth

**"July 4, 2026: The Tenacious 10 Celebrate the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence" by Paulette Bullinger and Kevin Kremer**

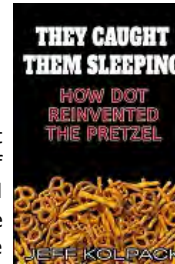
Readers join nine teenagers and their friendly robot -- the Tenacious 10 -- on a historic adventure to celebrate America's 250th birthday! This time, they are traveling to each state capital, showing talking holographs of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. Over the course of three weeks, readers follow their journey, learning our nation's history along the way!



## Adult

**"They Caught Them Sleeping: How Dot Reinvented the Pretzel" by Jeff Kolpack**

This title is a success story of American entrepreneurship! Meet Dorothy Henke, rural North Dakota native. With a combination of determination, steady work-ethic, creativity, and help from friends and family, Dorothy became known as Dot by Americans across the country! Dot's Pretzels were a smash hit and continue to be a favorite today!



[Fill Out The Survey](#)



## Filling the Gap Between Middle Grade and YA

After many years working as middle school librarians, Christina Chatel and Marcia Kochel noticed a lack of books marketed to 12–15-year-old readers. They explain that middle grade titles are often too young for these students, while YA books tend to be too mature.

To address this gap, Chatel and Kochel are advocating for a new publishing category called Young Teen Lit (YTL). This category features high-interest books of action, murder mysteries, horror, sports, romance, and humor with protagonists in grades 8-10. This article presents the First Annual Young Teen Lit Top 10 list, highlighting titles published between 2024-2025. These are the top ten titles Chatel, Kochel, and their middle school students enjoyed the most.



1. [All the Blues in the Sky](#) by Renée Watson (verse fiction for readers 10-14)
2. [Boy 2.0](#) by Tracey Baptiste (Boy 2.0: volume 1; science fiction for readers 9-14)
3. [Bye Forever, I Guess](#) by Jodi Meadows (fiction for readers 10-14)
4. [Dropping Beats](#) by Nathanael Lessore (fiction for readers 12-14)

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## Curated Resources for the United States Semiquincentennial

Submitted by Kathy Cline

In its March 2026 issue, *School Library Journal* featured a section highlighting America 250 resources. The following is a summary of the resources in the article.

### Library of Congress

- [By the People](#) - Volunteer to virtually transcribe digitized materials
- [American Stories: A Reading Road Trip](#) - PBS Books video series
- [Our Shared Heritage: Revolution Crossroads](#) – Use artificial intelligence to locate untold stories from our nation's past

### Podcasts

- [American History Tellers](#)
- [Constitutional](#)
- [Throughline](#)

Continue Reading

## In Other News

North Dakota students in grades 6-12 or are in their first year of college are eligible to apply to be part of the Superintendent's Student Cabinet. Cabinet members meet every three months, serve 18-month terms, and have the opportunity to discuss concerns and shape K-12 education policy. Learn more and apply at <https://rebrand.ly/student-cabinet>

Learn about the 18th century collections included in "The American Revolution in Context" project, the impact of volunteer transcription, and how you can get involved as a volunteer transcriber or host a transcription event at your school or library in the By the People webinar on June 4 (12:00 PM-1:00 PM). Register at <https://www.loc.gov/item/event-421127/?loclr=blogsig>.

## Niche Academy Highlight

by Al Peterson

### What's New in Niche

The North Dakota State Library has wrapped up their 2026 virtual conference. Recording was permitted and these recordings can be found in the Niche Academy until June 5.

If you are reviewing the recordings for a professional development credit through Valley City State University, you will find all the recordings from the conference plus some additional required videos in the School Librarian Resources category in Niche Academy at <https://my.nicheacademy.com/northdakotastatelibrary?category=37675>. In order to view the materials, you will need to sign in to Niche Academy. If you do not have an account, you can sign up for free. The videos must be watched in their entirety to receive credit. For more information about the professional development credit, please contact either Kathy Cline or Tammy Kruger at [ndsl-ld@nd.gov](mailto:ndsl-ld@nd.gov).

If you are not participating in the professional development credit and just want to view the recordings, they will be uploaded to the NDSL Workshops and Conference Archives. To view the materials, you will need to sign in to Niche Academy. If you do not have an account, you can sign up for free.

Professional Development Resources

# ***BITS OF TRIVIA***

By Stacey Goldade

## **North Dakota Library Organizations and Groups**

While this list is not comprehensive, I do hope it explains some of the different library groups, councils, etc. that you may be curious to learn more about.

**CDLN** – Central Dakota Library Network. This is a consortium of school and public libraries in the central area of the state, including Bismarck and Mandan.

**Center for the Book** – This organization is part of the Library of Congress and it promotes reading, libraries and literacy. There are affiliates in each of the 50 states.

**CSLP** – Collaborative Summer Library Program. This nonprofit organization helps public libraries spark a love of reading. They provide themed programs for summer reading programs, so librarians don't have to create programming from scratch every summer.

**IMLS** – Institute of Museum and Library Services. This is the federal branch that deals with libraries and their mission is to advance, support and empower America's museums and libraries.

**Library2Go** – This consortium is for ND libraries that are a part of the Libby (aka Overdrive) ebook platform.

**Minitex** – This organization is located in Minnesota, but they serve libraries in Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota and Wisconsin. They coordinate interlibrary loans, cooperative purchasing, and offer training for libraries, among other services.

**NDLCC** – North Dakota Library Coordinating Council. This group assists in planning and evaluating library services of ND libraries. The council also distributes grant funds.

**ODIN** – Online Dakota Information Network. This group under the University System supports two library consortia in the state. One consortium (state library, public libraries, schools and special libraries) uses Polaris as their circ system and the other (university libraries) uses Alma. ODIN has existed since the 1980s.



## **Award Nominations Needed!**

We are all deserving of all the awards, but if you know of people particularly deserving of the accolades Librarian of the Year or Major Benefactor from our amazing organization, now is the time to nominate them!

Nominations for both awards are due by June 30, 2026.

Letters of nomination should be sent to President-Elect Maddie Sharpe at [president.elect@ndla.info](mailto:president.elect@ndla.info).

If you'd like help drafting a letter, please reach out to the Communications Council at [communications@ndla.info](mailto:communications@ndla.info).

**Librarian of the Year Award**

**Major Benefactor Award**

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# Library Tidbits

Grand Forks Public Library has launched a podcast called [\*The Buzz\*](#), which is recorded inside their new Story Studio. This podcast will feature conversations with library staff about how they found their way into librarianship, what their work looks like behind the scenes, and what's bringing them joy.

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Any mention of services or products in this newsletter does not constitute any endorsement or recommendation. The use of any services or products should be evaluated on an individual basis.

[www.library.nd.gov](http://www.library.nd.gov)

To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of the Flickertale, please contact BreAnne at [ndsipa@nd.gov](mailto:ndsipa@nd.gov).

Times referenced are Central Time.

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