

Celebrating Library Joy Week: NDLA and NDSL Launch Weeklong Statewide Library Celebration

The North Dakota Library Association (NDLA) and the North Dakota State Library are excited to announce the inaugural collaborative initiative of Library Joy Week. This statewide library celebration will take place February 1-7, 2026, to coincide with "Take Your Child to the Library Day" on February 7. North Dakota libraries and residents are invited to share the joy that libraries inspire every day.

Throughout the week, libraries of all sizes are encouraged to host programs, events, and activities that showcase the moments of library joy that take place every day in your libraries.

"Libraries are much more than buildings filled with books; they are the heart of our communities where discovery and connection happen every day," says State Librarian Mary Soucie. "Library Joy Week is our way of shining a light on those small, transformative experiences—whether it's a child discovering their first favorite story or someone mastering a new skill. We are thrilled to partner with NDLA to celebrate the vibrant spirit of North Dakota's libraries."



"We are so excited to have the State Library join us in promoting this new initiative and help everyone discover their own spark of curiosity, discovery, and connection," added Jason Bedsaul, President of the North Dakota Library Association. "I'm excited to see all the events and activities that our libraries have planned for this event and for NDLA to be able to help contribute to the joy our libraries bring to their communities, campuses, and schools."

North Dakota residents are invited to participate by attending local library programs, sharing your favorite library memories, and by visiting the library to explore all the wonderful things that are offered.

This event aims to foster a deeper appreciation for the wonderful resources and services the libraries provide and the joyful moments they create for people of all ages.

More details will be shared with libraries and the public in the coming weeks. Let's celebrate the stories, spaces, and people that make our libraries so special. Join us in creating and sharing your own moments of library joy!

[Learn More](#)

Beanstack Reading Challenges

January 2026 brings two major Beanstack Challenges!

Read With Benny

January 1, 2026 - January 31, 2026

Ages: All

This January, we are partnering with Steps to Literacy to welcome all libraries across North America to join our winter reading challenge, which features our very own Benny the Bean! Participants will earn fun, Benny-themed badges for logging their reading and completing activities. So, grab a book and join Benny for an unforgettable reading adventure!



40 Books

January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026

Ages: All

Explore different genres in this 40 Books (Genre) Reading Challenge. Log your reading in Beanstack and complete activities to earn new badges.



[Beanstack](#)

Help Decide North Dakota's Next "I Voted" Sticker

Submitted by North Dakota Office of the Secretary of State

The North Dakota Secretary of State's "I Voted" More Than Just a Sticker contest is down to five finalists—and now it's time for North Dakotans to help decide the winning design!

When someone wears an "I Voted" sticker to work, the grocery store, or to pick up their kids, they're inspiring others. It's a 2-inch declaration that says, "I matter, my voice counts, and I'm part of something bigger than myself."

Go to sos.nd.gov/stickervote by January 23 to vote for your favorite sticker. The winning design will be announced in March 2026 and will debut at the polls during the 2026 Primary Election on June 9.

[Vote Today](#)



New Items At The ND State Library

Fiction E-Books



"In Your Dreams" by Sarah Adams; "The Rest of Our Lives" by Ben Markovits; "We Who Will Die" by Stacia Stark; "You Can Scream" by Rebecca Zanetti; "The Little Sushi Chef Betrayed" by Ty Hutchinson



"Love in Plane Sight" by Lauren Connolly; "The Bird Watcher" by Jacquelyn Mitchard; "Tailored Realities" by Brandon Sanderson; "Dark Sisters" by Kristi DeMeester; "Code Blue" by Fern Michaels



"I, Medusa" by Ayana Gray; "Spasm" by Robin Cook; "The Heir Apparent" by Rebecca Armitage; "Trail Rides & Starry Eyes" by Katrina Emmel; "Wings of Fire: Talons of Power" by Tui T. Sutherland

Nonfiction E-Books



"The Sea Captain's Wife" by Tilar J. Mazzeo; "The Six Loves of James I" by Gareth Russell; "Family of Spies" by Christine Kuehn; "The American Revolution" by Geoffrey C. Ward & Ken Burns; "Simply More" by Cynthia Erivo

Fiction E-Audiobooks



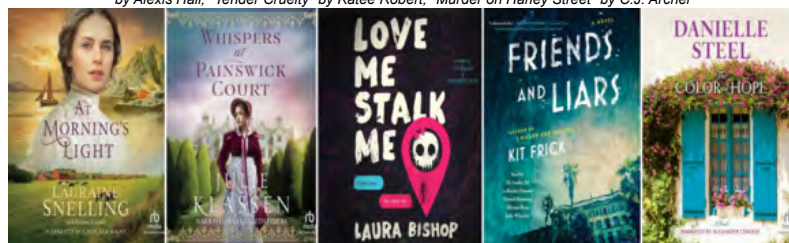
"Bug Hollow" by Michelle Huneven; "Pictures of Him" by Clare Leslie Hall; "The Accidental Rewrite" by Milly Johnson; "The Time Hop Coffee Shop" by Phaedra Patrick; "The Dark is Descending" by Chloe C. Peñaranda



"The Bridesmaid" by Cate Quinn; "The Silent Companions" by Laura Purcell; "Shield of Sparrows" by Devney Perry; "Everyone in the Group Chat Dies" by L. M. Chilton; "City of Smoke and Brimstone" by Kayla Edwards

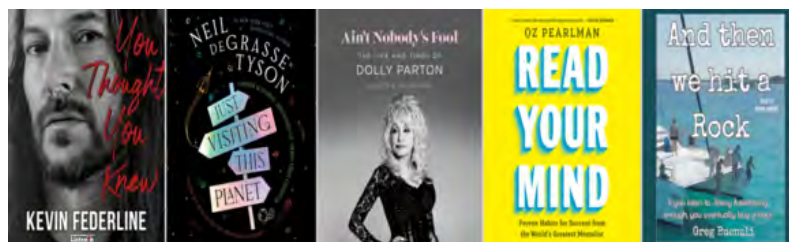


"Daughter of Genoa" by Kat Devereaux; "A Weekend on Allyson Island" by Susannah B. Lewis; "Audrey Lane Stirs the Pot" by Alexis Hall; "Tender Cruelty" by Katee Robert; "Murder on Harley Street" by C.J. Archer



"At Morning's Light" by Lauraine Snelling; "Whispers at Painswick Court" by Julie Klassen; "Love Me Stalk Me" by Laura Bishop; "Friends and Liars" by Kit Frick; "The Color of Hope" by Danielle Steel

Nonfiction E-Audiobooks



"You Thought You Knew" by Kevin Federline; "Just Visiting This Planet" by Neil DeGrasse Tyson; "Ain't Nobody's Fool" by Martha Ackmann; "Read Your Mind" by Oz Pearlman; "And Then We Hit a Rock" by Greg Buzenli

Fiction Books



"Bug Hollow" by Michelle Huneven; "Pictures of Him" by Clare Leslie Hall; "The Accidental Rewrite" by Milly Johnson; "The Time Hop Coffee Shop" by Phaedra Patrick; "The Dark is Descending" by Chloe C. Penaranda



"Blonde Dust" by Tatiana De Rosnay; "The Radio Hour" by Victoria Purman; "The Literati" by Susan Coll; "Dead Broke, Colorado" by William W. Johnstone; "Robert B. Parker's Showdown" by Mike Lupica



"Evil Bones" by Kathy Reichs; "Long Ride to Buffalo" by Robert Vaughan; "Tom Clancy's Executive Power" by Andrews & Wilson; "Stuart Woods' Blown Away" by Brett Battles; "Christmas in Wisconsin" by Linda Byler



"The French Kitchen" by Kristy Cambron; "Moderation" by Elaine Castillo; "The Bitter End Birding Society" by Amanda Cox; "The Cowboy's Wedding Proposal" by Melinda Curtis; "Culpability" by Bruce Holsinger



"An Amish Marriage Agreement" by Patrice Lewis; "Secrets of Her Amish Heart" by Cathy Liggett; "The Amish Nanny's Secret" by Amy Lillard; "His Amish Christmas Surprise" by Virginia Wise; "Her Secret Amish Admirer" by Beth Wiseman

Nonfiction Books



"Library 2035" edited by Sandra Hirsh; "To Rescue the American Spirit" by Bret Baier; "In the Arena" by David S. Brown; "Running Deep" by Tom Clavin; "A Walk in the Park" by Kevin Fedarko

Book Club Kit

"Rebel Daughter" by Lori Banov Kaufmann

Esther dreams of so much more than the marriage her parents have arranged to a prosperous silversmith. Always curious and eager to explore, she must accept the burden of being the dutiful daughter. Yet she is torn between her family responsibilities and her own desires. Meanwhile, the growing turmoil threatens to tear apart not only her beloved city, Jerusalem, but also her own family. As the streets turn into a bloody battleground between rebels and Romans, Esther's journey becomes one of survival. She remains fiercely devoted to her family, and braves famine, siege, and slavery to protect those she loves. This emotional and impassioned saga, based on real characters and meticulous research, seamlessly blends the fascinating story of the Jewish people with a timeless protagonist determined to take charge of her own life against all odds.



This kit includes ten books, a discussion guide, and a sign-in sheet.

[Reserve Today](#)

The Art of Setting Goals

Submitted by Al Peterson

We've all done it. We all have made a New Year's resolution to change a behavior or develop a new habit or make some significant change in our life only to give up on it, sometimes almost immediately after making it. That doesn't mean we are failures or losers; we may have just set ourselves up for failure by not setting a realistic goal or not setting a goal at all. Goals are the compasses that guide our decisions and actions. They provide purpose, direction, and a sense of accomplishment when achieved. The act of setting goals is not merely a task. It's an art and science that directly influences our happiness, success, and personal fulfillment. If you are looking to set up goals you want to achieve in the new year, then Universal Class can help. *The Art of Setting Goals* is a 15-lesson course that is designed to empower your understanding of the multifaceted world of goal setting. Each module of this course is interspersed with real-life examples, interactive polls, and assignments designed to provide hands-on experience. By weaving theory with practice, the course ensures that learners don't just understand the "how" but also the "why" behind each concept.

So, if you're eager to elevate your goal-setting game, to steer your life's ship with more purpose and precision, take this course. Discover what's possible and how your goals can become your successes.

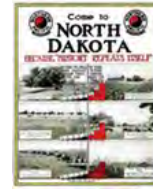
As always, Universal Class courses are self-paced and taken at your convenience on your own time. To sign up for this course and other great Universal Class courses, click on <https://northdakotastatend.universalclass.com/> to get started. Search *The Art of the Goal* in the search box and get started on making the changes you want by starting off with goals.

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

- Along the Trails of Yesterday: A Story of McIntosh County
- Checklist of North Dakota post offices, 1850-1982
- Come to North Dakota because history repeats itself



North Dakota Memories

- After Effects of "Flu" Fatal [newspaper article, 1921]
- Biggest German War Piece on View at Capitol [news article, 1925]
- Break Ground for Memorial Building Here [news article, 1920]
- Ed Sager Died from Being Kicked by Horse [news article, 1918]
- Lightning Claim Second Victim in Young Milnor Boy [news article, 1918]
- New Salem High School graduation portraits (1923-1975)
- Scorecard for Hebron vs. New Salem boys' basketball game, 1968
- Slope County Farmer Makes More From Coyotes Than From His Wheat [news article, 1922]



Political Prairie Fire

- Bismarck man, endorsed by Nonpartisans, new Auditor [news article, 1916]
- Crowd Cheers When Auditor Riddles Tax Laws and League's Bill for Newspaper Trust [news article, 1919]
- Decks Cleared for Farmers' Program [news article, 1919]
- Faces of and facts about some of the newly arrived Republican candidates for the state offices [news article, 1916]
- Gunderson Will Succeed Prater in Land Office [news article, 1919]
- Incumbents in State Job are Loath to Quit [news article, 1919]
- Jury Divides Over Guilt of State Spanker [news article, 1920]
- Kositzky Assaults Newspaper Man [news article, 1919]
- Legislature is Continuing Its Fight on Langer [news article, 1919]
- Nonpartisan League ticket, N.D., March 1918
- Prater Gets an Ultimatum [news article, 1919]
- Prater Named as State Land Commissioner [news article, 1921]
- Report of the N.D. State Auditor, (1918-1922)
- Report of the N.D. Workmen's Compensation Bureau (1920-1923)
- Workmen's Compensation Bureau law, 1919-12



Digital Horizons

Connections is a monthly publication of the North Dakota State Library

Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian

This publication is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Grant to States Program as administered by the North Dakota State Library

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www.library.nd.gov

To submit content ideas/articles for a future issue of Connections, please contact BreAnne at ndsipa@nd.gov.

Times referenced are Central Time.

Some of these resources and programs are funded under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

