



Flickertale

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It's a Wrap for 2024's Great Reads from Great Places!

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

May 6th saw the last (seasonal) event for the Center for the Book's *Great Reads from Great Places*. Our North Dakota authors were Lindsey Undlin and Jill Kandel.

A Little About Lindsey

Lindsey Undlin, currently a junior in high school, published *Spiral*. *Spiral* is the second installment in the *Priders* series and follows the ordeals of high school basketball player, Cali Horn. This fictional young adult novel is a murder mystery, with plenty of high school drama and sports knowledge thrown in!

Lindsey visited Carrington City Library, Williston Community Library, North Star Public School (Cando), and Hettinger Public School. She spoke about her experiences with writing and publishing, as well as told why she will most likely be a crazy cat lady as she gets older. Audiences, of all ages, asked questions, and Lindsey both gave away books as door prizes and offered books for sale.

A Little About Jill

Jill Kandel published *The Clean Daughter*. This hybrid memoir tackles Jill's experiences with being married to a man from the Netherlands – she is from Valley City, N.D. – as well as her father-in-law's experiences during WWII and his decision to go through with euthanasia.

Jill visited Washburn Public Library, Mayville Public Library, Cando Community Library, and Lake Region College (Devils Lake). She spoke of the process of getting a book published, as well as the therapeutic nature of writing itself. She also highly recommended interested writers join or create writers groups. These little communities of creatives help one another become better at the craft of writing! Jill finished her tour by conducting a short writers' workshop at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library: *Adding Creativity to Memoir Writing*.

A Note of Thanks

NDSL would like to thank our authors, the Library of Congress, participating libraries, and the readers (and writers) who came to these presentations. *Great Reads from Great Places* is a fantastic program that helps highlight talent and dedication we have right here in North Dakota!



Talking Book Update

Discovery Newsletter (Spring 2025)

The newest issue of the Talking Book Program's Discovery newsletter is now available on the website. This issue includes information and updates about Talking Books, BARD, National Library Service, and more.

For more information about the Talking Book Program or to sign up for this service, visit <https://www.library.nd.gov/TBgeneralinfo>.

If you would like to receive the newest issues in your inbox right away, subscribe at <https://forms.office.com/g/4jpRs6bZNk>.



Spring 2025 Issue

Free STAR Net Webinar

Connecting Communities: Building Impactful STEM Engagement

May 15th (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM)

Join STAR Net and The Avarna Group for a free interactive virtual training designed for library staff and informal educators who create STEM exhibits and programming. Explore practical strategies to deepen community engagement, foster trust with the audiences you serve, and how to co-create meaningful and relevant STEM learning experiences. Learn from real-world case studies, connect with peers, and walk away with actionable tools to bring your STEM initiatives to life.

Register

Adding Creativity to Memoir Writing Workshop

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

Jill Kandel, author of *The Clean Daughter: A Cross-Continental Memoir* and *So Many Africas: Six Years in a Zambian Village*, led a writers' workshop at Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library on May 6th.



Jill spoke about her books, while giving tips and tricks about writing creative and interesting-holding memoirs. She read excerpts from her titles to show as examples. The crowd included both memoir writers by their own choosing and those whose children and grandchildren were asking questions about family history.

Continue Reading

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

[T-Mobile Hometown Grants](#)

Deadline: June 30, 2025

T-Mobile is committing up to \$25 million through 2026 to support small towns, villages, and territories across America by funding community projects to jumpstart projects and build stronger communities. The T-Mobile Hometown Grants program funds projects to build, rebuild, or refresh community spaces that help foster local connections in your town. Projects should be shovel-ready, physical builds or improvements that can be completed within 12 months of receiving Hometown Grants funding.

[Little Free Library - Impact Grant Program](#)

Deadline: Ongoing

Through the Impact Library Program, Little Free Library provides free book exchanges where they can have a meaningful impact in the United States and Canada. The program aims to strengthen community ties, inspire readers, expand easy book access, positively influence literacy outcomes, and make Little Free Libraries available in high-need areas.



Cozy Mysteries

The weather is warming up and the school year is winding down. May seems like a good time to focus on titles that have a little whimsy, kooky characters, and a bit of whodunit. As such, this month's theme is cozy mysteries!

What are Cozy Mysteries?

What defines a cozy mystery does vary a bit between individuals. However, cozy mysteries typically possess these qualities:

1. They do not give gruesome details,
2. They are set in small towns or areas that are off the beaten path, and
3. They highly focus on character development and the relationships between characters.

Suggested Titles

Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone by Benjamin Stevenson

Publish Date: 2023

Publisher: Mariner Books

Summary: Readers join Ernest Cunningham, Ern or Ernie for short, as he navigates murders during a family reunion at a ski resort. Ernie is a writer of how-to-write books. He closely follows [Ronald Knox' 10 Commandments of Detective Fiction](#) through this novel. While classic whodunit elements are certainly present, this book also comes with a lot of humor and shows just how complicated family dynamics can be!

Best For: Adults



[Continue Reading](#)

Niche Academy Highlight

by Al Peterson

A couple of new tutorials have been uploaded to the Niche Academy: The North Dakota Library Academy. From the staff at the North Dakota State Library, we added April's webinars to Niche as new tutorials.

Category: [NDSL Summer Reading Workshop Archive](#)

New Tutorial: [Summer Reading Workshop 2025: Color Our World](#)

Summer Reading Workshop 2025: Color Our World is a review of the 2025 Collaborative Summer Library Reading manual as well as a discussion on using Beanstack to track readers' progress and how the State Library is partnering with the Bank of North Dakota to promote the Summer Reading program.

Category: [Youth and Children's Library Programming](#)

New Tutorial: [Bank of North Dakota College SAVE Summer Reading Champions](#)

You'll also find it embedded in the Summer Reading Workshop tutorial.

Category: [Automation](#), [Cataloging](#), [Collection Development](#), [De-selection](#), [Shelving](#)

New Tutorial: [Weeding: Either You Like it or You Don't](#)

Category: [Academic Libraries](#)

New Sub-Category: [A.I. in Academic Libraries](#)

New Tutorial: [Niche Academy Webinar – GenAI in the Research and Publication Process](#)

Category: [Library Boards](#), [Friends Groups and Volunteers](#)

New Sub-Category: [Working with Volunteers](#)

New Tutorial: [How to Get Volunteers](#)

[Niche Academy](#)

Digital Delight

Class of 1925, Harvey, North Dakota



Digital Horizons



Starting a Podcast: Part 4 - Equipment and Software

Part 4 of this series on starting a library podcast is about equipment and software.

Podcasts can be done at a relatively low cost. If you are conducting a solo podcast, all you need is a cell phone and a podcast app. The sound may not be great, though, so you'll probably want to purchase a decent low-cost external microphone that you can plug into a computer. If you are interviewing someone or if there are co-hosts, you might want to use a video platform, such as Zoom or Teams, to record the conversation.



A lot of the episodes that the State Library does for the Pathways Through the Prairie podcast are through Microsoft Teams meetings. The quality of the sound is based on the microphone at each location, so that is something to consider.

Continue Reading

Color Our Universe: Hands-On Astronomy for Summer Reading Programs

May 21 (5:00 PM - 6:30 PM)

Find out how astronomers use color and filters to learn about our universe. Using only printed materials and your cell phone, explore how filters work and how astronomers use representational color to better understand objects they observe. This simple, hands-on activity can provide minutes or an hour of exploration, depending on its use. You don't have to be an expert in astronomy to ask the right questions and guide patrons on their journey of understanding light and color.



Register

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www.library.nd.gov

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

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