

Gratitude

Submitted by Mary J. Soucie, State Librarian

I've written before about #thankfulnovember that I participate in each year on Facebook. I've greatly scaled back my Facebook and social media in general this year. I'd like to give it up altogether, but it's still the best way to keep in touch with family and friends that are in other states. Although I've been less consistent this year, I've still been posting the things I'm grateful for. I can always find something. There are the big, obvious things like my husband, son, and daughter-in-law; family and friends; the dogs that (thankfully and mostly) bring more joy than chaos into our world; my profession and my position as State Librarian; and the many colleagues that have become dear friends. There are the less obvious things as well: gel pens that don't smear when I write with my left hand; the crunch of leaves underfoot; the first time the fireplace gets turned on for the season; an iced tea from Caribou; and the laughter of a child. I could list many things that I am thankful for.



I have a gratitude text with three other state librarians. We have been texting once a week for three years and have only missed one week. I look forward to Wednesday so much. I always enjoy learning what my colleagues are grateful for and sharing one thing I'm grateful for. This past week, I told my group I had so much gratitude that it was hard to choose one thing. Some weeks, one or more of us can't narrow it to one item. There is something about sharing what you're grateful for with another person that amplifies the gratefulness.

I am grateful for the North Dakota library community. A few of the things that I am thankful for are inspiration, hope, laughter, camaraderie, support, and a shared joy and love of reading and learning, service, and connection.

Even during these tough times that people are experiencing on multiple levels, I believe that focusing on gratitude is the best way to start and end a day. Even in my toughest moments, if I can find one thing, no matter how small, to be thankful for, it will turn the whole situation around. During November and December, we focus on gratitude much easier and more intentionally. At least I do, and I know others in my circle do as well. I encourage you to choose one thing each day to be grateful for and share that with someone. If you'd like, you can email or text it to me. I look forward to hearing about the many ways that people have found to incorporate gratitude and thankfulness into their day, week, month, and year.

Digital Dimension

By Trevor Martinson

Thanksgiving Food

The [Smithsonian website](#) provides an excellent overview of Thanksgiving as a holiday. There is also a [section about food](#). Some food traditions differ across the country, but there are also many commonalities. The Smithsonian lists the staples as turkey, potatoes, squash and pumpkins, corn, and cranberries.

Ever wonder what people ate for Thanksgiving in years past? The State Library's digital collections can help with that! Also, if you have pounds of leftover turkey and need recipe ideas, consult the [Prairie Recipes](#) collection.

In 1897, the North Dakota School for the Deaf (NDSD) in Devils Lake [enjoyed](#) tomato soup, roast turkey, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, boiled onions, corn, pickled pears, pumpkin pie, cheese, candy, and coffee.

Continue Reading



Upcoming Austen Palooza Events

Spill the Tea: Jane Austen Discussion

Monday, December 1 (12:00 PM - 12:45 PM)

Grab your lunch, grab a cup of coffee, or go all out and fancy with a traditional English teatime! Join Monica Struck, BreAnne Meier, and Tammy Kruger, from the North Dakota State Library as they talk all things about Jane Austen. Come discuss your favorite Jane Austen books, your favorite characters, or even your favorite movie/TV adaptation.

Go to <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/24528680264726?p=fHIKFlpHbDNUJenZGZ> on December 1 to join the discussion.

Refusing Mr. Collins: Courtship and Conduct in Pride and Prejudice

Monday, December 1 (7:00 PM - 8:00 PM)

Sarah Faulker received her PhD in English from the University of Washington, where her research focused on British women's writing of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-centuries. She now teaches high school in Seattle, WA, as well as teaches online classes for Humanities North Dakota (soon to be The Study).

Register at <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/904d0e32-8f9c-4aaa-a0e1-f508e0a06f34@2dea0464-da51-4a88-bae2-b3db94bc0c54>

Jane Austen Trivia

Tuesday, December 16 (7:00 PM - 7:45 PM)

Are you ready for some fun? Join Tammy Kruger, Literary Specialist at the North Dakota State Library as we celebrate Jane Austen's birthday with some trivia! Pre-existing knowledge of Jane Austen is not required. If you love Pride and Prejudice, try your hand at trivia!

Register at <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/b531439d-07b5-48c0-99a0-f50ae21d75d1@2dea0464-da51-4a88-bae2-b3db94bc0c54>

[More Information](#)



**EPISODE 34: BEV VILHAUER
WISHEK SCHOOL & PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**HOSTED BY ND STATE
LIBRARIAN MARY SOUCIE**

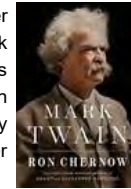
Library Tidbits

The Williston Community Library has unveiled the brand new [Williams County Bookmobile](#)! An official ribbon cutting and public unveiling will take place on Friday, December 5, at 10:00 AM.



2025 New and Upcoming Nonfiction

Renowned biographer Ron Chernow, perhaps best known for his Alexander Hamilton biography that inspired the musical, is back at it again with a brick of a book about one of America's greatest storytellers, Mark Twain. In this eponymous book, Chernow tracks Twain's life from piloting steamboats in Mississippi, writing for a newspaper in the Nevada Territory, finding literary fame in San Francisco, and living in exile in Europe for years, among other events in a life that was just as exciting as the stories he wrote.



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Focus on Libraries: A Discussion with the North Dakota State Library

Wednesday, November 19 (10:00 AM - 11:30 AM)
Thursday, November 20 (6:00 PM - 7:30 PM)
Tuesday, November 25 (1:00 PM - 2:30 PM)
Wednesday, December 3 (10:00 AM - 11:30 AM)
Thursday, December 4 (6:00 PM - 7:30 PM)
Monday, December 15 (1:00 PM - 2:30 PM)



The Nightmare Before Christmas and EDI

I am a big – that might be a slight understatement – fan of Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. For those of you who are not familiar with this animated classic, it follows Jack Skellington, the Pumpkin King of Halloween Town, as he discovers other Holiday-themed towns. After exploring Christmas Town, he decides he must take part in such festivities and become the next Santa Claws! Of course, there are a ton of misunderstandings and mishaps, and one character of Halloween Town, the Frankenstein's monster-like creation, Sally, is the only voice of reason as to why taking over Christmas is a bad idea!

The reason I bring up this film, it also has various book spin-offs, for an EDI article is that *The Nightmare Before Christmas* addresses the importance of appreciating and being respectful of other cultures, as well as finding one's place in society.

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New Book Club Kits



"The Mona Lisa Vanishes" by Nicholas Day; "The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman" by Gennifer Choldenko; "Into the Sunken City" by Dinesh Thiru; "Looking for Smoke" by K. A. Cobell; "Where the Dead Sit Talking" by Brandon Hobson

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

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