



# Flickertale

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## CSLP Summer Reading Workshops

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

Are you ready to dig into good reading habits? Registration for Summer Reading Workshops for *Unearth a Story* are live! The following libraries are hosting for 2026:

- Mayville Public Library – February 13 (11:00 AM - 1:30 PM) Lunch will be provided.
- Heart of America Public Library (Rugby) – February 16 (9:00 AM - 11:30 AM)
- Carrington City Library – February 17 (11:00 AM - 1:30 PM) Lunch will be provided.
- Washburn Public Library – February 27 (10:00 AM - 12:30 PM)
- McKenzie County Public Library – March 2 (11:00 AM - 1:30 PM) Lunch will be provided.

Registration closes December 31 at 5:00 PM.

Unable to make it to an in-person training? NDSL will be hosting a Summer Reading webinar on February 18 from 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM. Registration coming soon!

[Register Today](#)



## WordPress Q&A

This interactive Q&A session is focused on all things WordPress! Whether you are just getting started, needing a refresher, or looking to update/enhance your library's existing website, this session is designed to provide guidance, answers to questions, and assistance in making the most of your public library's WordPress website.

This is an opportunity to get real-time support or share experiences. Bring your questions, ideas, and curiosity.

### Upcoming Dates:

- [Tuesday, December 9 \(1:00 PM – 2:00 PM\)](#)
- [Tuesday, January 13 \(1:00 PM – 2:00 PM\)](#)
- [Tuesday, February 10 \(1:00 PM – 2:00 PM\)](#)
- [Tuesday, March 10 \(1:00 PM – 2:00 PM\)](#)
- [Tuesday, April 14 \(1:00 PM – 2:00 PM\)](#)
- [Tuesday, May 12 \(1:00 PM – 2:00 PM\)](#)
- [Tuesday, June 9 \(1:00 PM – 2:00 PM\)](#)

If these dates and times don't work for you or something comes up, book a time to meet one-on-one at <https://bit.ly/LibraryWebsiteSupport>.

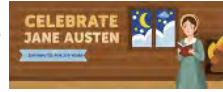
[Register Today](#)

## Beanstack

Submitted by Tammy Kruger

December brings TWO all-ages Beanstack Challenges.

First, as part of our Austen Palooza, the **Celebrating Jane Austen Challenge** runs from November 17th through her birthday on December 16th. Read 250 minutes to celebrate what would have been Jane Austen's 250th birthday and earn Austen-themed badges along the way!



Second, **Reading Wrap-Up**. 2025 is quickly ending. Even if you did not accomplish all your 2025 goals, finish out strong with a reading goal of 300 minutes!



Additionally, NDSL is hosting a Beanstack webinar on December 17 from 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM: **Using Beanstack for Summer Reading and Beyond!** This webinar will go over Beanstack features, the tools available to you through your library's Staff + accounts, how to use Beanstack during Summer Reading, and the Winter Reading Challenge! Register for this webinar at <https://www.library.nd.gov/events/webinar20251217>.

Beanstack

## AI Insights

Submitted by Trevor Martinson

### AI Hallucinations

AI hallucinations both fascinate and alarm me. I find them amusing and frightening at the same time.

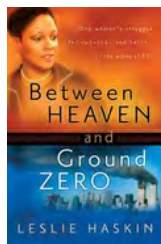
AI, of course, refers to artificial intelligence. Specifically, we're looking at generative AI (or GenAI) systems or tools that use large language models (LLMs). Popular examples include: ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot, Gemini, Grok, Meta AI, Perplexity, etc. That was a lot of terms and abbreviations, but they're not important right now. What is important to remember is that the use of GenAI continues to rise, and these tools are becoming increasingly integrated into our lives.

GenAI has great potential. It can increase efficiency, and it can analyze and process data much faster than humans. GenAI can proofread and provide suggestions to strengthen your writing. GenAI can generate ideas and brainstorm if you're stuck.

Continue Reading

## Kit of the Week

### "Between Heaven and Ground Zero" by Leslie Haskin



A first-person account of a woman working in New York City's World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, and how God rescued her from resulting mental, emotional, and financial problems and gave her a new purpose in life.

This kit includes 10 copies of the book, discussion questions, and a sign-in sheet.

This kit was highlighted in a Library Kits Unboxed. View it at <https://bit.ly/NDSLKitsUnboxed>.

Reserve This Kit

# Silent Book Club

Submitted by Monica Struck

In 2012, two friends met at a wine bar to read together. They both liked books and reading, but they hadn't been able to get a book club to stay together. They decided to remove the most stressful parts of a book club (everyone finding a copy of the same book and discussing it), and the Silent Book Club was born.



The goal of the Silent Book Club organization is to unite book lovers through a mutual love of reading. If you are participating in a silent book club, all you need to do is bring your favorite book to the agreed upon location and read for an hour. Title, format, genre...none of that matters, and there is no requirement to talk about what you're reading. Meetings end with an opportunity to socialize if desired.

This type of low-key gathering is a great way to build community without increasing stress. It's also a good way to lure out the introverts in your service area. There are few who can withstand the lure of light snacks with company that you don't need to interact with if you do not want to.

The Silent Book Club organization does more than provide an organizing umbrella for other Silent Book Clubs. They also organize [Reading Retreats](#). A reading retreat is a curated travel experience complete with sight-seeing (and plenty of time to read). Upcoming trips will take readers to Italy and Hawaii.

It's important to note that Silent Book Club is a trademarked name, and if you want to use that name, you should start an [official chapter](#). If you would rather run your club independent from the Silent Book Club organization, you will need to use a different name (BYOBook Club, Quiet Book Club, etc.). We do have several official chapters scattered around North Dakota. If you think that this is something your community could use, consider adding a Silent Book Club to your programming repertoire!

Silent Book Club



## Is Social Media Use Affecting Reading Skills?

Both adults and young people consume social media daily, but does social media affect young people's brains differently? Does social media use affect learning habits in those whose brains are still developing? The answer to these questions is yes. According to Dr. Omer Awan, *"From adolescents to young adults, social media plays a huge role in shaping cognitive and emotional growth"* (How, 2024).

### Patterns of Teen Social Media Use

A July 2025 fact sheet released by the Pew Research Center provides patterns and trends of social media use in teens ages 13 to 17. Please use the source link to review the information in its entirety. Here are a few highlights:

- YouTube (top used platform)
  - 90% of all U.S. teens reported usage
  - 93% of boys use YouTube, while 87% of girls use the platform
- TikTok
  - 63% of all U.S. teens reported usage
  - 59% of boys use TikTok, while 66% of girls use the platform
- Instagram
  - 61% of all U.S. teens reported usage
  - 56% of boys use TikTok, while 66% of girls use the platform
- SnapChat
  - 55% of all U.S. teens reported usage
  - 53% of boys use TikTok, while 57% of girls use the platform

Continue Reading

## New Items Added to Digital Horizons

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

### [Political Prairie Fire](#)

- Carl R. Kositzky, N.D. Land Commissioner, 1923
- Private Car Lines Escape Taxation [political ad, 1916]
- State Auditor Jorgenson Not to Blame for Neglect of Tax Commission To Assess and Tax Private Car Companies in 1915 [political ad, 1916]
- The "Red Flame" magazine, vol. 1, no. 1-12, 1919-1920
- Townley wants me for president [political cartoon, 1919]



Digital Horizons



## Books That Focus on Persons with Disabilities

International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed annually on December 3. While the day will have passed by the time this article is released, titles about persons with disabilities are highlighted in the December *Shelf Additions*.

According to *National Day Calendar*, more than 1 billion people worldwide, or one out of seven people, live with a disability. People with disabilities represent the largest minority group in the world. You might ask, as I did: *What is considered a disability?*

### Definition and Types

*National Day Calendar* defines disability as a *condition or function that is significantly impaired*. This includes:

- Physical impairment
- Sensory impairment
- Cognitive impairment
- Intellectual impairment
- Mental illness
- Chronic disease

Continue Reading



## Deepen Community Connections with New Bridgebuilding Resources

Public libraries provide spaces where people can connect, learn, and build a shared future. They also play a crucial role in fostering social trust and civic engagement. IREX and the Urban Libraries Council have been partnering with OCLC's WebJunction for several years on [bridgebuilding initiatives](#). Bridgebuilding is defined as creating opportunities for community members to engage across differences in ways that respect identities, foster mutual relationships, seek a common good, and promote a commitment to civic engagement. Bridgebuilding seeks to engage citizens in ways that respect identities, foster mutual relationships, seek a common good, and promote a commitment to civic engagement, thereby contributing to increased social capital and strengthened civic infrastructure, and ultimately, a stronger democracy. The [Bridgebuilding Hub](#) is a collection of free resources to use at your library, including facilitation guides, training videos, and tools for measuring the effectiveness of activities.

More Resources

# LIBRARIES TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES ENGAGEMENT GRANT

A grant offering of the American Library Association



## Library Tidbits

[Divide County Library](#) received the You Make A Difference Award from the ND Health and Human Services. This award recognizes them as a valuable training ground for students with disabilities and for being a supportive inclusive workplace that helps students with disabilities achieve their employment goals.

Leach Public Library has a [Sock Tree](#). All donations will go to the Three Rivers Crisis Center.

The Friends of the Morton Mandan Public Library is hosting [A Novel Approach Silent Auction](#). Bids are open until Saturday, December 6.

Valley City Barnes County Public Library is hosting the second annual ["Libraries are Sweet and Books are My Jam" Market Day Event](#) on Saturday, December 6. This event will feature homemade jams, jellies, sweet treats, and more that will be sold to raise funds for renovate the library's Book Barn.

West Fargo Public Library is hosting their [17th Annual Mitten Tree Drive](#). [Fargo Public Libraries](#) will also have donation trees at all three locations.

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[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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