

The Good Stuff

The official newsletter of the
North Dakota Library Association

December 2023

The Good Stuff is a quarterly publication produced by The Good Stuff Editorial Committee with contributions from NDLA members

Reminders for The Good Stuff Submission

March 2024 - Feb 1, 2024
June 2024 - May 1, 2024
September 2024 - August 1, 2024

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President's Message



Submitted by **Kerrianne Boetcher**, Ward County Public Library, **NDLA President**

“Librarians save lives: by handing the right book,
at the right time, to a kid in need.”
—Judy Blume

As I reflect back on my year as president, it has been quite the adventure. Our library community joined together this year and rallied along with people outside of our library world. **That was something that was truly amazing to see during a not quite so amazing time.**

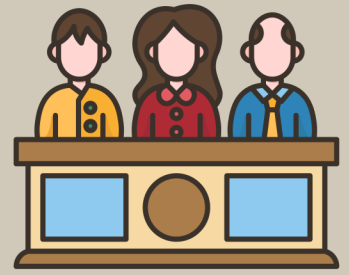
It was great to see so many of you at conference and get a chance to chat with so many people. **Attending a library conference is probably one of my favorite activities** because I love all that you get to see and do. My favorite parts are not necessarily the sessions. Don't get me wrong, I love a good conference session. **My favorite parts are what happens in the evening or during meals.** The talks that you can have during those times and things that you learn have taught me some of the best things about being a librarian.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our next two conferences! **NDLA Annual 2024 will be held in Bismarck, October 2-4**, at the Radisson. **NDLA Annual 2025 will be a tri-conference with the Mountain Plains Library Association and the South Dakota Library Association in Grand Forks, October 1-3.**

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve as your president this past year even with the excitement at the beginning. **I love being able to serve NDLA** and I hope that each of you take the time to consider the ways you can serve NDLA. Reach out to the Executive Board members or current committee members and see what they have to say.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me in any way this year. Thank you to all of our volunteers who have served NDLA over the past year. Thank you all for allowing me this opportunity to serve as your president.

Committee Blotter



Conference Committee

Another Conference season has come to a close. **THANK YOU** for making 2023 an incredible year. If you haven't given us your feedback on the 2023 conference yet, please do so through [this survey](#).

We so value and appreciate your feedback. Thank you for taking the time to share it with us! Next year the conference will be in Bismarck and planning is already underway. If you would like to join the Conference Committee to make next year even BETTER, please [email](#) us to join our crew!

Submission by [Kirsten Henagin](#), Conference Committee Co-Chair

EDI Committee

The EDI committee followed up our joint NLDA presentation with the LGBTQ2S+ Committee with our second quarterly EDI discussion: **“Let’s Talk About It! LGBTQ2S+ Inclusion in the Library.”** Thank you to the attendees for fostering an inspiring and generative conversation! Session notes are available on our [Previous EDI Discussions page](#) on the NDLA website.

We are also extending the deadline for our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Grant to December 3. Apply now to receive funds for EDI-related staff training, collection development, professional development, and more. [More information](#)

Submission by [Zeineb Yousif](#), EDI Committee Chair

LGBTQ2S+ Committee

The LGBTQ2S+ Committee enjoyed our **social at Drekker Brewing in Fargo during the NDLA conference**. Many thanks to all those who attended and shared fellowship!

Our joint Call to Action presentation with the EDI Committee was also a great experience, and we are so grateful to Faye Seidler for co-presenting and sharing her expertise. You can access the PDF for that presentation on our committee's page on the NDLA website. We hope many of you who attended NDLA this year picked up one of the **#Books4All wristbands** that our committee designed and distributed! We have extras, so if you would like more for your libraries, please contact us and we will figure out a way to get those to you.

Lastly, in October several members from the committee - Renee Newton, Hannah Vanorny, and Mariah Ralston - volunteered to **table at the ND LGBTQ+ Summit**, which was held in Bismarck. This was a sold out event, and showcased many different organizations in North Dakota who are working to ensure equity and positive outcomes for the LGBTQ+ community in North Dakota. **This was a great way for our committee to network, and was also very educational.** Throughout the weekend there were excellent panels on many different issues, from fair housing information to youth suicide prevention in ND.

Submission by [Mariah Ralston](#), LGBTQ2S+ Committee Co-Chair

Committee Blotter



Professional Development Committee

This fall, invest in yourself and apply for a professional development grant! The Professional Development Committee is now accepting applications for our 2024 Professional Development Grants.

The committee awards four grants to our members every calendar year:

- NDLA Professional Development Grant
- M. Vivian Hubbard Memorial Bookmobile Grant
- Mike Jaugstetter Memorial Leadership Grant
- Ron Rudser Memorial Continuing Education Grant

Each grant offers up to \$1250 this year, giving members or their organizations the opportunity to take a step forward in developing their goals.

Applications open/available: October 9, 2023

Applications close/unavailable: 11:59 p.m. January 7, 2024

Awardees announced: February 15, 2024

Read the requirements and instructions for each grant carefully. **Current Professional Development Committee members are not eligible to apply for grants.** The 2023 Section Chairs are also ineligible to apply for grants, as they will become members of the Committee in January 2024 and will be voting on the grant awardees.

Submission by **Devon Olson**, Professional Development Committee Co-Chair



Membership Committee

Our **last Happy Lunch of 2023** was held on Nov. 17 and featured trivia organized by Liz Mason. Thanks to all who attended in November or any of these events this year. We hope they provided a casual, welcoming atmosphere for learning about the work of NDLA and meeting colleagues across the state. **Stay tuned for a new Happy Lunch schedule for 2024 after the New Year!**

Submission by **Amanda Walch**, Membership Committee Co-Chair



On the DOCKet

Submitted by **Brian Garrison**, UND Chester Fritz Library



“Aw geez. It’s cold out here.”

Such exclamations might make us feel better for a second or two, but they won’t keep us warm and safe during the cold winter months.

Search for government information on winter weather and there’s a superabundance of advice. Many state and national agencies give **tips about difficult winter weather** when traveling or working outside, like when some of us might be stringing up holiday lights. Despite the critical nature of information that’s available, there isn’t much that native North Dakotans don’t already know or much that’s novel among the various sources of information. A good bet is checking something like NOAA’s [weather.gov](#) for your particular flavor of harsh conditions or winter weather. Many of us spend a lot of time indoors during this season. **Having the right setup for peace-of-mind in our cozy homes can be just as critical as having the right gear outdoors.**

A colleague mentioned recently, “You know NASA has a new streaming service.” NASA+ isn’t exactly new, but it’s launched a new show featuring the James Webb Space Telescope called Other Worlds. **Sometimes, during the winter, North Dakota feels like an “other world.”** NASA is doing a fair amount of research into how to live months on end indoors. The realities of space might be beautiful, stark, and terrifying, but NASA does a wonderful job of showing all the benefits of the space program to the public through its interactive website NASA Home & City. You can explore innovations translated into use for everyday life. If you are interested in exploring NASA’s patents made into consumer products in greater depth, you can explore their database, NASA Spinoff. However, simply adding a few plants to indoors may help improve the appearance and air quality in your home. You might even try creating your own garden. NASA knows a lot about outdoor air quality too.

Although NASA has a streaming service, I couldn’t find a recommendation in any of their documents that one might subscribe to even more streaming services during the winter months to fight boredom or improve mood.

Maybe the best prescription in the end is to go on a brief road trip south.



NDLA Annual 2023

Submitted by **Maddie Cummings**, Lake Region Public Library

Amanda Walch sent out the call to the NDLA Listserv that the New Members Committee's Grassroots Grant was open for 2023 on June 22nd, and I am fairly certain that I had my application in by June 23rd. Granted, I had the lion's share completed from last year, when I was intending to apply but found out the conference was at the same time as a Chris Stapleton concert I had long-standing tickets for, so... you understand.

I was very honored to receive the Grassroots Grant, which covered registration costs for me to attend NDLA Annual in Fargo, October 11-13. In my relatively small library, the budget for professional development is pretty small, and this award ensured I was able to attend this amazing networking opportunity.

I was able to attend the entirety of the **pre-conference session** hosted by the State Library that **focused on policy writing**. It was incredibly informative and applicable to all libraries regardless of size, type, or location. Definitions and examples by our State Librarian Mary Soucie and Patron Services Division Director Steve Hammel were met with thoughtful questions, shared experiences, and, my personal favorite, the occasional quip from Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Director of the Office of Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association. I truly believe I got the most practical application out of this session and brought tons of examples and new perspectives back to my library. The Lake Region Public Library Board just approved our Social Media policy, **something that was not even on my radar until it was brought up at the pre-conference.**

I stopped by the Membership Committee's mixer on Wednesday evening, where I participated in the BookTok discussion with several library workers from libraries across the state. Since I'm 80 years old at heart, I didn't have the stamina to head to Drekker at 10 pm for the LGBTQ2S+ Committee's outing, but I know that it was a hoot and a half.

Thursday was bookended by stirring speakers, beginning with **Deborah Caldwell-Stone's keynote address in the morning**. There were many excellent sessions to choose from on Thursday, and I attended "Remodel Time" hosted by Randi Monley and Aaron Stefanich (NDLA's Librarian of the Year!), the Public Library Section meeting, and "Call to Action from the LGBTQ2S+ and EDI Committees" hosted by Mariah Ralston, Renee Newton, Zeineb Yousif, and Faye Seidler, who is a Fargo-based Suicide Prevention Advocate specializing in LGBTQ2S+ data. The Call to Action was stirring, even with my bias from serving on the LGBTQ2S+ committee. Faye Seidler was engaging, knowledgeable, and passionate about how libraries and society in general can work to support our LGBTQ2S+ youth to help prevent suicide. **Her speech was devastating and hopeful and one of my favorite portions of the entire conference.**



NDLA Annual 2023

Continued...

The moment of the conference that I still find myself thinking about days and weeks later was the **acceptance speech of the Valley City Barnes County Library Board President Hilde Van Gijssel** when she was presented with a Library Champion award. The VCBC Public Library has been through the wringer this year with book challenges and other barriers to support for their library and intellectual freedom in general, and Ms. Van Gijssel gave an impassioned speech that brought me to tears. **If we could all find an advocate like her, we would be in a good place coming into the 2025 legislative session.**

Friday's sessions included a keynote address by Andrea Wang, an overview of the legislative process, and my favorite session of the conference proper: "Forming Relationships with Your Funding Agency" presented by Kerrienne Boetcher, Andrea Placher, Tim Dirks, and Jennifer Jenness. **The intimate setting of particularly engaged audience members and amazing presenters made for a great conversation and sharing of ideas when forming relationships with funding stakeholders, whether it is a city, county, school, university, or a combination of these.** Since taking over as Library Director in February of this year with just one year of experience working in libraries, I am constantly striving to emulate the bigger public libraries in our state, because they are all doing such amazing work and finding library advocates within their funding partners. It was so interesting to see the similarities and differences between these different library types and sizes when it came to forming these crucial relationships.

The other best thing that came out of this year's annual conference was the opportunity to meet with library staff from across the state who are so similar to myself. I know that I often feel isolated not only geographically, but just with the sheer size (or lack thereof) of my library, there are only so many staff members and if your vibes don't match, that can be really hard. I was the only Devils Lake library person to attend NDLA, so just like in middle school, I was nervous about who I was going to eat meals with, sit by during sessions, and generally engage in small talk. It was invigorating to get to spend time with lovely humans from Williston, Jamestown, New Rockford, Grand Forks - you name the place, someone as obnoxious as I am was there and willing to have a conversation. It was just really nice to be able to network personally as well as professionally.

I am very grateful to the NDLA New Members Committee for allowing me the opportunity to attend the annual conference in Fargo. I'm looking forward to next year's conference in Bismarck and hope to see you there!

ALA Report

Submitted by **Mariah Ralston Deragon**, Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library, **ALA Chapter Councilor**



It really was wonderful having **Deborah Caldwell-Stone** and **Jonathan Martin** from ALA in person at NDLA this year. Many thanks to them both for making the trip, sharing their time, and taking such a genuine interest in North Dakota libraries. **I also wanted to say kudos to the conference planning committee and volunteers for a wonderful conference!**

Just a couple reminders: **The LibLearnX Conference is coming up January 19-22, 2024 in Baltimore, MD!** Explore education programs, featured speakers, thought leaders, and additional events at LibLearnX. This is a must-attend learning experience designed for library professionals from all library types and at all career levels. **More information**

Remember to check out the new **Books for All initiative!** ALA is partnering with The New York Public Library (NYPL) to invite libraries, school groups, and readers across the country to participate in Books for All—**a national initiative to help communities learn about and discuss some of the books that are being banned or challenged**, along with ways to take action. Get your free toolkit and learn more **here!**

Look for my weekly ALA Connect Recap for news about free webinars and other ALA happenings! If you would like to contact me, please **email me.**

Thanks all!

MPLA Report

Submission by **Randi Monley**, Minot Public Library, **MPLA Representative**

Mountain Plains Library Association is hiring a Web Master!

About Us:

The Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA) is a twelve-state association of librarians, library paraprofessionals, and friends of libraries. Its purpose is to promote the development of librarians and libraries by providing significant educational and networking opportunities.

Job Description:

MPLA seeks a webmaster to play a critical role in enhancing and maintaining our online presence, ensuring that our website is a valuable resource for our members and the wider community. The webmaster will work closely with our Executive Board and various committees to develop and implement strategies to improve user experience, drive engagement, and promote our mission.

Key Responsibilities:

- Manage and maintain the association's website, ensuring it is up-to-date and user-friendly through uniform fonts, formatting, icons, colors, templates, and layout.
- Post new content and updated and revised material identified or created by the Communications Committee or other MPLA sources.
- Ensure the website is accessible and complies with all relevant web accessibility standards.
- Troubleshoot and resolve website issues and technical glitches promptly.
- Stay up-to-date with the latest web development trends and technologies.
- Provide training and support to staff and volunteers contributing to the website

Additional Duties and Activities:

- Attend Executive Board meetings.
- Serve ex-officio as a non-voting member of the Communications Committee and the Professional Development Committee.
- Serve as a resource to all MPLA committees.
- Advises the Executive Board and the Communications Committee about emerging technologies, applications and additional uses for the web site
- Retains Board Reports posted on the Association web site in electronic format for at least five years.

MPLA Report

Continued...

Qualifications:

- Proven experience as a webmaster or web developer, preferably with interest in library services.
- Proficiency in web development languages and tools, including HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Bootstrap, and content management systems (MODX).
- Strong understanding of web design principles and UX/UI best practices.
- Excellent problem-solving skills and attention to detail.
- Strong communication and collaboration skills.
- A passion for libraries and a commitment to our association's mission.

Compensation:

This is a contract position. The MPLA Webmaster receives an annual stipend of \$1000, subject to evaluation and determination of the Executive Board; free MPLA membership; reimbursement of all travel expenses to in-person MPLA meetings if the MPLA President requests attendance.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates must be located within one of the 12 MPLA member states (Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, or Wyoming). MPLA encourages applications from candidates of all backgrounds and experiences.

For more information about the Mountain Plains Library Association, don't hesitate to contact [Randi Monley](#).



Submit a resume and cover letter outlining qualifications and interest in the position to the MPLA President by December 8, 2023



EDI Corner

Submission from **Karlene Clark**, UND Chester Fritz Library, **NDLA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee Member**

Eye Contact

Many think that it's showing respect to look someone in the eyes when speaking to them. Some think that not looking directly at the person is also a sign of guilt or lying. However, with international and cultural understanding, we need to remember that **not everyone was raised to the expectation of direct contact**. For example, my first experience was working at an indigenous school. No one had taught me that it was a sign of respect for the children not to meet the eyes of an adult!

Likewise, some cultures teach to look at the person's neck, so it seems they are looking in your direction while not being so direct as to meet your eyes. **To meet someone's gaze in these cultures can be seen as a sign of aggression.**

There are also cultures that value a side-by-side communication rather than facing each other. To have both looking out at the same view, they feel it easier to connect to what is being said rather than watching facial expressions.

Next time folks encounter someone that won't look them in the eye, these are just a few of the factors to consider. **How can we challenge ourselves to meet them where their comfort level is?**



"Eye Contact Perception in the West and East: A Cross-Cultural Study"
National Library of Medicine



"Eye Contact and Indigenous Peoples"
Indigenous Corporate Training, Inc.

Click these images for further reading!

Good Stuff Around ND

NDLA Conference Visited by Librarian Barbies



Our job is books! Please enjoy this photo of the crew from around the state that wore "My job is books" shirts on Thursday of the conference in Fargo. (And go see the Barbie movie if you haven't yet - it's delightful!)

This Barbie approves!



UND Chester Fritz Library

The Chester Fritz Library at UND is working hard this year to engage our students, staff, faculty, and wider community in events and activities both inside and outside the library. This fall, the CFL **presented a lecture about the music of the Beatles**, which included a musical performance by students in the music program. To promote this event, the library conducted a photo contest using a backdrop of the famous Abbey Road crosswalk; **the top prize**, awarded to two students dressed in Star Wars Jawa costumes, **was a record player and some vinyl albums**. So far this fall, the CFL has also co-hosted with the school district the showing of a film about teaching literacy, and co-hosted a family fun night for UND students who are veterans.



Good Stuff Around ND

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library

There is a growing movement in Bismarck to infuse our cityscapes with creativity and beauty with local art, and the library is no exception. **The library recently added colorful, inspiring art on the east side windows facing 6th Street.** Local artist Crystal Tretbar created twelve unique art pieces transformed into window coverings conveying the following qualities: **happy, energized, inviting, fun, modern, all ages, universal, and colorful.** The library's Public Information Specialist, **Kevin R. Tengesdal, created two digital art pieces to accompany Tretbar's collection.** This installation not only beautifies the library's exterior and engages the community, but also provides Tretbar and Tengesdal with a platform to showcase their talent.

These thought-provoking and visually captivating art pieces will add character to the modern, urban ambiance of the library building. The art display provides a visual escape and offers a respite for busy pedestrians and drivers, as well as a source of inspiration for those who take the time to appreciate them. The window coverings serve as conversation starters, prompting passersby to discuss and appreciate the art, further enriching the downtown fringe of Bismarck. Library Director Christine Kujawa said, "Anyone passing by on 6th Street will be treated to a visual experience that connects them to not only the library but the community. The window coverings are attractive and engaging works of art that transform the exterior of the library into a vibrant art gallery." The Friends of the Bismarck Public Library is funding this creative project.

Thank you, Friends!



Good Stuff Around ND

Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library



Please stop by the library and see our **newly installed exterior sculpture on the south side of the building facing Avenue A**, funded entirely by the Bismarck Library Foundation.

Library Director Christine Kujawa and staff brainstormed designs for the past couple of years, intending to add a colorful and inviting art piece that aligns with the recently updated exterior siding and library brand. Our **Public Information Specialist, Kevin R. Tengesdal, created the design**, with construction and installation by Mann Signs, Inc. Tengesdal stated, “I was thrilled when Christine asked me to design a sculpture incorporating our library’s logo.

I experimented with a few different ideas before settling on a design that features books soaring through the air to form our logo’s star. It was exhilarating to watch Mann Signs, Inc. install the sculpture and see my 2D vector artwork transformed into a three-dimensional work of art.”

Mann Signs, Inc. owner and president Scott Bina shared that they were happy to be involved in such a unique project, which adds to the welcoming and positive ambiance of the library. Thank you to the Bismarck Library Foundation for funding the construction and installation of this beautiful sculpture, which is available for everyone passing by to enjoy!

Good Stuff Around ND

Grand Forks Public

We're thrilled to share that **Dr. Laura Munski** of Dakota Science Center **has received the prestigious "I Partner With My Public Library Award"** from Let's Move in Libraries.

She is one of only 10 awardees across the nation!

Nominations from library staff explain how Dr. Munski works to bring STEM education to patrons, connects the library to grant funding, collaborates with local STEM educators, and supports the overall STEM learning infrastructure to Grand Forks Public as well as public libraries across North Dakota. "Dr. Munski serves as a collaborator, a connector, a mentor, and a teacher to the GFP library staff," shares Wendy Wendt, Library Director. "Beginning in 2009, Dr. Munski and our Children's Librarian, Aaron Stefanich, collaborated on a STEM project for the library that would be so popular that it continues to this day."



Read the full press release by clicking on the logo

North Dakota in Print

By **Marlene Anderson**, Bismarck State College, Editorial Committee Member

The ABCs of Living: Stories from Birth to Old Age by Jim Dick

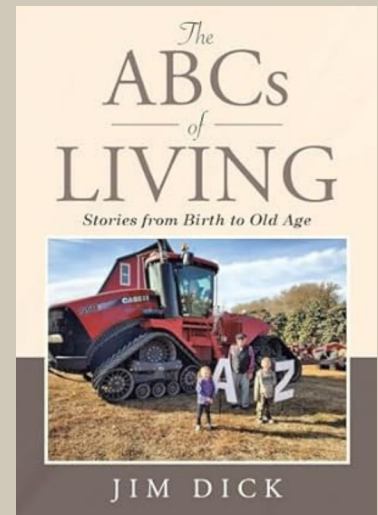
Murrells Inlet, SC: Covenant Books, c2023.

(\$43.95, 388 p., hardcover, ISBN: 9798888514795 \$34.95, pbk, ISBN: 9798888514771;

\$8.99, ebook, ISBN: 9798888514788

Available from [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and [Covenant Books](#)

Jim Dick, a lifelong resident of Englevale (about 48 miles south of Valley City), told the Ransom County Gazette: “It has always been in me to write stories. So, I finally did it.” After writing his book in long hand, the 93-year-old farmer gave it to his daughter, Janna Diggs, who typed the manuscript and submitted it to Covenant Books. Dick’s book is organized around the letters of the alphabet and his sense of humor shines through. The first story is called “Adjust” because “we all know, life is all about adjusting.” As for X, he said, “You’ll have to buy the book to see what we wrote about for the letter X. It wasn’t x-rays or xylophone.” He also wrote “several stories about agriculture .. “including how to get in and out of farming. The surest way to get out of farming is to just die, but that is not the preferred way.”



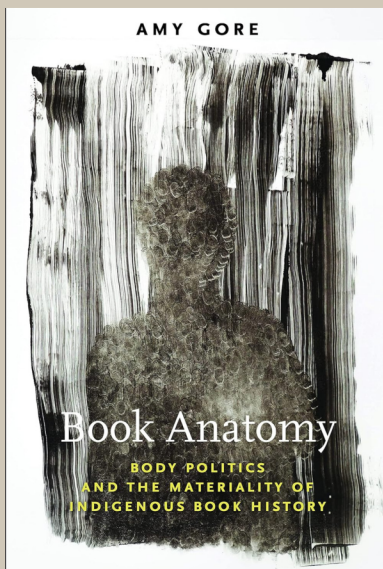
***Book Anatomy: Body Politics and the Materiality of Indigenous Book History* by Amy Gore**

Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, c2023.

Series: Studies in Print Culture and the History of the Book

(\$99, 216 p., hardcover, ISBN: 9781625347503; \$29.95, pbk., 216 p., ISBN: 9781625347497

Available online from [University of Massachusetts Press](#), [Amazon](#) and [Barnes & Noble](#)



This book by Amy Gore, Assistant Professor of English at North Dakota State University, “explores works from John Rolling Ridge, Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, Pretty Shield, and D’Arcy McNickle published between 1854 and 1936.”

In his review, Matt Cohen, author of *The Silence of the Miskito Prince: How Cultural Dialogue was Colonized* (2022), said: “In this eloquently argued study, Gore reveals how Native American authors used not just their words but also book covers, dust jackets, copyright statements, illustrations, and even blank space to contest negative stereotypes and claim a kind of publishing sovereignty over their narratives. This book opens pathways for teachers, students, tribes, and scholars to see Native-authored texts in richer ways.”

North Dakota in Print

Continued ...

***Cherry Street 58493: Stories from Winfield* by the students of Wing Public School,
Wing, North Dakota; L. Jay Reinke, editor/narrator.**

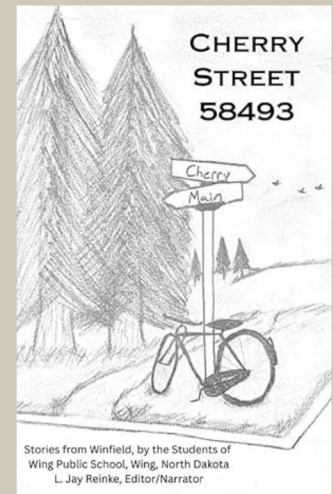
Independently published, c2023.

(\$8.99, 233 p., pbk.)

Available from [Amazon](#)

Cherry Street 58493 is a collection of stories set in the fictional small town of Winfield, North Dakota, in 1966. The fictional stories were written by real North Dakota English students, grades 6-12, from Wing, North Dakota, with the guidance of their real English teacher, Jay Reinke, who narrated and edited the stories for this group project. The students wrote about what they knew and were interested in – everything from a cattle drive to a hunting trip.

[Note: The 58493 zip code used in the title is one digit removed from Wing's actual zip code, 58494).



***A Council of Dolls* by Mona Susan Power**

New York: Mariner Books, c2023.

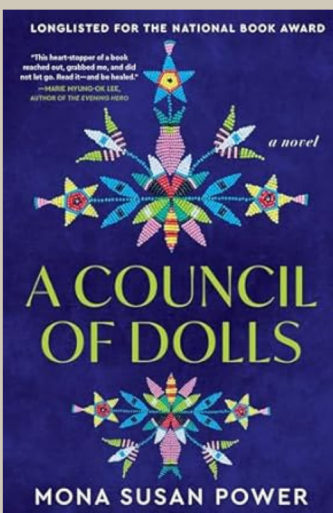
(\$30, 293 p., hardcover, ISBN: 9780063281097

\$12.99, ebook, ISBN: 9780063281110

Available in bookstores and online from [Amazon](#) and [Barnes & Noble](#)

Mona Susan Power, an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, is the author of four books of fiction, including *The Grass Dancer* (c1994, Pen/Hemingway Prize); *Roofwalker* (2004, Milkweed National Fiction Prize); *Sacred Wilderness* (2014, Electa Quinney Award); and her latest, *A Council of Dolls*, which has been longlisted for the 2023 National Book Awards for Fiction. Like *The Grass Dancer*, *A Council of Dolls* spans generations as it tells a story about three Dakhóta women – Sissy, born in 1961; Lillian, born in 1925; and Cora, born in 1888.

In her review, Debra Magpie Earling, author of *The Lost Journals of Sacajewea*, said: “*A Council of Dolls* is resplendent and deeply compelling – a mighty, dazzling whirlwind of powerful storytelling. I wanted to read quickly, but was magnetized by the power of each voice. The stories lift from the page. Prepare to stay up all night. Mona Susan Power is at the height of her literary powers. She can peer into darkness and transform it.”



For more information, visit monasusanpower.com.

North Dakota in Print

Continued...

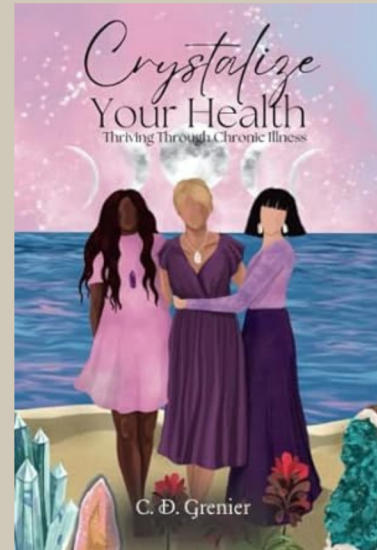
***Crystalize Your Health: Thriving through Chronic Illness* by Crystal Grenier**

Red Three Publishing, LLC, c2023.

(\$14.99, 128 p., pbk.) ISBN: 978-1955683548

Available from [Amazon](#) and [Barnes & Noble](#)

Bottineau author Crystal Grenier is a breast cancer survivor and an advocate for holistic healing and healthy living. She believes that chronic illness doesn't have to be a life sentence and recognizes that what works for one person, may not work for another. Her book, *Crystalize Your Health*, "offers actionable advice from a range of individuals living with a serious medical condition" and more. Visit Grenier's [website](#) for more information.



***A Fire at the Center: Solidarity, Whiteness, and Becoming a Water Protector: A Memoir* by Karen Van Fossan**

Boston: Skinner House Books, c2023.

(\$20, 264 p., pbk.) ISBN: 978-1558969100

Available in local bookstores and online from [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and [Skinner House Books](#)

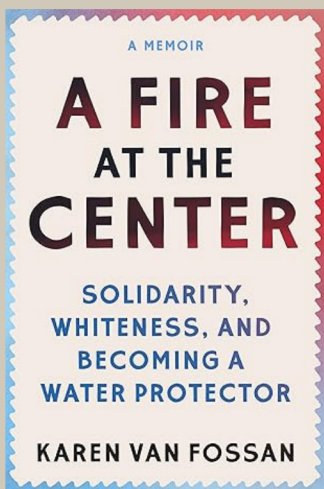
Karen Van Fossan was a minister in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Bismarck-Mandan when she first learned about the Dakota Access Pipeline, the Oceti Sakowin (Sacred Stone) Camp to stop the pipeline, and that the camp would welcome gifts of supplies. She got involved.

This book is a blend of "memoir, history, and cultural critique" that "takes readers behind the scenes of the Dakota Access Pipeline conflict to penitentiaries where prisoners of war have carried the movement onward, to the jail cell where she [Van Fossan] was held for protesting Line 3, to a reimagining of decolonized family constellations, and to moments of collective hope and strength."

Van Fossan has received many accolades and awards for her work, among them: Prairie Peacemaker Award, ND Peace Coalition, 2007; Love Without Fear Award, Abused Adult Resource Center, Bismarck, 2007; Bush Artist Fellowship for playwriting, Archibald Bush Foundation, 2007; Emily Award for excellence in writing for children, UND Children's Writers Conference, 2013; Arc of Justice Award for Advancement of Human Rights in North Dakota, ND Human Rights Coalition, 2013; Courageous Love Award, Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), 2017; and the O. Eugene Pickett Award for exemplifying social justice leadership as a small congregation, UUA, 2018.

Van Fossan's other works include: *Authentic Voices: North Dakota Childhood Sexual Assault and Abuse Survivors* (co-authors, Heather M. Pautz and Tim Hathaway, 2011) and *Authentic Voices: How We Survive* (co-editor, Ronya Hoblit, 2015). She and Bismarck clinical psychologist Kathy Blohm founded 'The Group that Opened the Box' to explore issues facing teens against the backdrop of their Bismarck hometown. Later, they worked with filmmaker Kyja Kristjansson-Nelson to publish the documentary, "*Teen Writes: The Group that Opened the Box*" (2012), which chronicled the teens who formed the creative writing and performance troupe.

Van Fossan now lives in Fargo where she serves as director of [Authentic Ministry](#).



North Dakota in Print

Continued...

***Forever Towards the Sunrise: A Lifetime Lived in the Outdoors* by Jeffrey Miller**

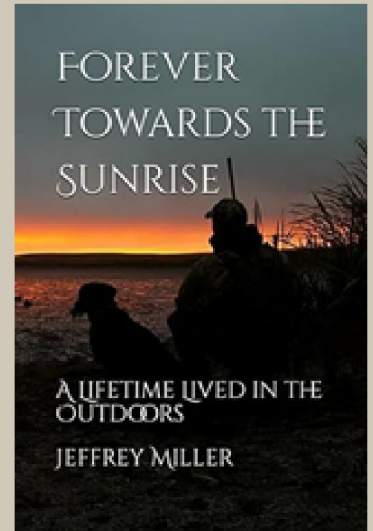
[Kindred, ND]: Cottonwood Bend Publishing, c2023.

(\$21.99, 430 p., pbk. ISBN: 979-8387438233

Available from [Amazon](#)

Jeffrey Miller enjoys the outdoors and being with friends. He is a hunter (with bow and firearm), a fisherman, and has tried his hand at fur trapping. In *Forever Towards the Sunrise*, he shares stories about his outdoor adventures, including the lessons learned, the lifelong memories built, and the friendships strengthened.

Miller has been published in a wide variety of magazines on topics ranging from hunting and fishing to fur trapping and modern homesteading. He also contributes a monthly column, "Musings from Cottonwood Bend," to the Cass County Reporter. Miller and his family live on the banks of the Sheyenne River near Kindred, North Dakota. He also wrote *Klasberg, North Dakota: Collected Stories from the Middle of Nowhere*, c2021.



***God Bumps* by Gail Withey**

Bismarck, ND : Smoky Water Press, c2023.

(\$18, 155 p., pbk. ISBN: 9780982075272

Available from [DakotaBookNet.com](#)



Throughout her life, Gail Withey has heard many "unforgettable true stories about the power of God's love in our everyday lives." In *God Bumps*, she shares 33 of these stories, including her own, "Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Mama Bear." "Some [of the stories] make us stop and think, "Hmmm, what just happened here?" while others are so deep and powerful they shake us to the core."

BSC alum Withey is also the author of *Give It Up* (2014), a children's book about two squirrels who are best friends on their own for the first time. In 2011, she released the album "Lessons" on the independent label Tate Music Group.

The BSC Library hosted a book signing for *God Bumps* on October 25.

North Dakota in Print

Continued...

***Gratitude with Dogs under Stars: New and Collected Poems* by Debra Marquart**

Fargo, ND: NDSU Press, c2023.

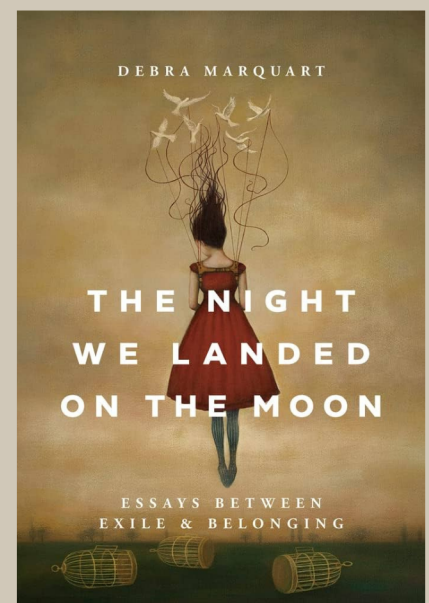
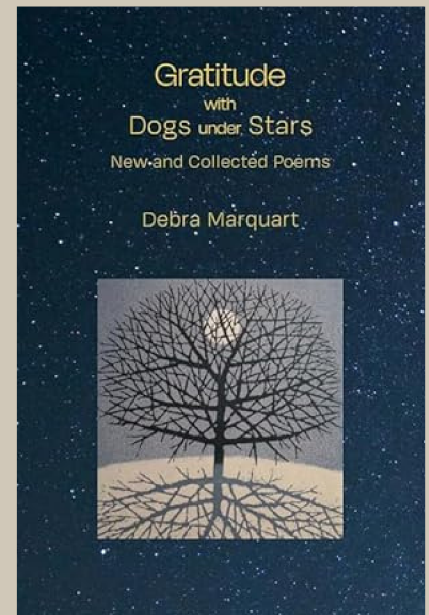
\$24.95, 275 p., pbk. ISBN: 978-1946163608

Available from [Amazon](#), [NDSU Press](#)

Gratitude with Dogs under Stars features Debra Marquart's three collections of lyric poetry plus 21 new poems. In her review, poet Mary Swander wrote: "Debra Marquart's poetry is anchored in her North Dakota roots, yet has the punch of a writer who has left that locale and toured for eight years with a heavy metal band. She looks back on her childhood, her family, her sense of place, not with nostalgia but with a lyricism and wit that take the reader on his own fascinating journey through Americana."

Debra Marquart grew up in North Dakota and is the author of seven books, among them *The Horizontal World: Growing Up Wild in the Middle of Nowhere* (2006), *Small Buried Things: Poems* (2015), and *The Night We Landed on the Moon: Essays Between Exile & Belonging* (2021). Marquart has received numerous grants and awards, including an NEA Fellowship, a PEN USA Award, a New York Times Editors' Choice commendation, Elle Magazine's Elle Lettres Award, and a Poets Laureate Fellowship from the Academy of American Poets (2021). She is a Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts & Sciences and teaches in the MFA Program in Creative Writing and Environment at Iowa State University, as well as the Stonecoast Low-Residency MFA Program at the University of Southern Maine. Marquart serves as Iowa's Poet Laureate and is the Senior Editor of *Flyway: Journal of Writing & Environment*.

For more information, visit debramarquart.com



North Dakota in Print

Continued...

The Joy of German Cookies (vols. 1, 2, 3, & 4) by RMH (Rose Marie H.) Gueldner

J.O.Y. Publishing, 2023.

\$40 for each softcover volume

Available from Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries

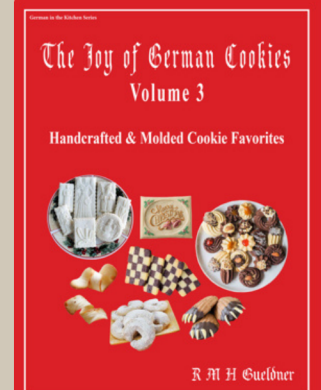
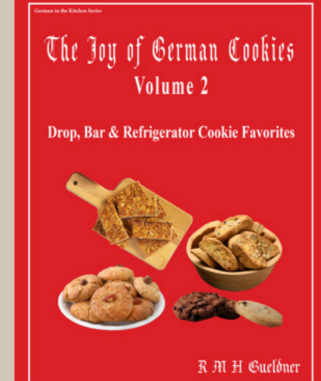
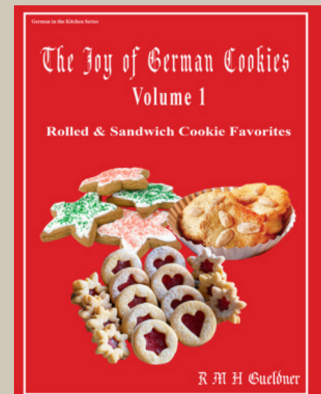
Cookies & more cookies! If you are a cookie monster (or live with one!) these books may satisfy your sweet tooth.

- Vol. 1: Rolled & Sandwich Cookie Favorites (298 p.)
- Vol. 2: Drop, Bar & Refrigerator Cookie Favorites (228 p.)
- Vol. 3: Handcrafted & Molded Cookie Favorites (240 p.)
- Vol. 4: Meringues, Macaroons & More Cookies (188 p.)

Praise

- Rose Marie Gueldner ... has authored an impressive new book series ... Gueldner has worked as an educator, professional cook, journalist, and businesswoman. Her years of foodways research present an encyclopedia of cookie recipes made by home bakers in a variety of German groups. She reminds us that food is history - family history and group history - and that the scents and delights of cookies evoke special memories for all ages. Rose Marie blends her wonderful tastes of baking German cookies with a comprehensive collection of recipes, written clearly for the first-time cookie baker as well as the experienced baker.... Michael M. Miller, Emeritus Director, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries
- *The Joy of German Cookies* series of cookbooks are fabulous! Far more than a collection of recipes, each volume acquaints you with your culture and heritage. You may not know your ancestors by name, but you will recognize your heritage in the cookies they baked! These books are a priceless treasure that you'll want to share with family and friends and pass on to future generations. Feed your heart and your soul and learn about your unique heritage in this marvelous publication! — Bonnie Everhart, Hickory, NC

Guelder also wrote *German Food & Folkways: Heirloom Memories from Europe, South Russia & the Great Plains*. Fargo, ND : Germans from Russian Heritage Collection, North Dakota State University Libraries, c2022.



North Dakota in Print

Continued...

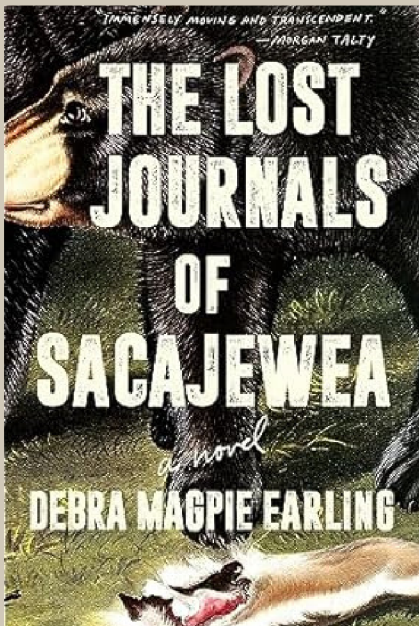
The Lost Journals of Sacajewea: A Novel by Debra Magpie Earling

Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, c2023.

\$26, 264 p., hardcover ISBN: 9781571311450

(pbk. ed. to be released on July 9, 2024)

Available from [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and [Milkweed Editions](#)



If you live in this part of the world, you are familiar with the story of the Lewis & Clark Expedition and the Indian woman, Sacajewea, who went along as a guide. This novel from the author of *Perma Red* “brings this mythologized figure vividly to life, casting unsparing light on the men who brutalized her and recentering Sacajewea as the arbiter of her own history.”

The Lost Journals of Sacajewea has been highly praised. Susan Power, author of *The Grass Dancer* and *A Council of Dolls*, said: “*The Lost Journals of Sacajewea* is a wonder! Earling reclaims Sacajewea from non-Native histories and characterizations and restores the fulness of her being. She unflinchingly depicts the complexities of a girl navigating layers of trauma, yet preserves Sacajewea’s agency and power. Earling’s Sacajewea tells us a new story, closer to the bone. In gorgeous, startling, revelatory prose, the author commands the English language in profound ways, shapes it to her purposes, and designs a new speech. *The Lost Journals of Sacajewea* is a literary masterpiece, a whirlwind of a story that made me shiver in response to its difficult beauty.” The book was named a June 2023 Indie Next Pick; a Motherly Best Book, and a 2023 recommended read by the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, *Millions Most*, and *Library Journal*.

Author Debra Magpie Earling received both a National Endowment for the Arts grant and a Guggenheim Fellowship. She taught at the University of Montana, where she was named professor emeritus in 2021. She is Bitterroot Salish.

“The Lost Journals of Sacajewea is a wonder! Earling reclaims Sacajewea from non-Native histories and characterizations, and restores the fulness of her being. She unflinchingly depicts the complexities of a girl navigating layers of trauma, yet preserves Sacajewea’s agency and power. Earling’s Sacajewea tells us a new story, closer to the bone. In gorgeous, startling, revelatory prose, the author commands the English language in profound ways, shapes it to her purposes, and designs a new speech. This is a literary masterpiece, a whirlwind of a story that made me shiver in response to its difficult beauty.”

—SUSAN POWER, author of *Sacred Wilderness*

“The Lost Journals of Sacajewea is an immensely moving and transcendent work of literature. Debra Magpie Earling masterfully tells a story with prose so determined and so full of light and beauty that it’s impossible to look away. This is a striking, elegant, and impressive work of art that persists in the reader’s mind even after the book has ended.”

—MORGAN TALTY, author of *Night of the Living Rez*

“The Lost Journals of Sacajewea is a masterpiece, not just of historical fiction, but of any genre. This raw and haunting retelling of Sacajewea’s life is a thoroughly illuminating of the legend of the Corps of Discovery, to be sure. But in line after stunning line Earling reveals Sacajewea in an astonishing and heartbreaking fullness. This sublime book will leave you shook and touched at once, on every single page.”

—TED HENDERSON, author of *Fourth of July Creek*

*“Debra Magpie Earling’s gorgeous retelling of Sacajewea’s journey shatters modern-day narrative conventions and documented history. With mesmerizing language and incantatory rhythms, Earling delivers an urgent accounting from the true world in a work that feels more alive than written, alive in a way I didn’t recognize—yet still felt deeply! *The Lost Journals of Sacajewea* is an awakening, a revelation, a devastating triumph, and a literary magic act.”*

—ADRIANNE HARUN, author of *A Man Came Out of a Door in the Mountains*

“If the Olympics awarded medals for feats of the imagination, this book would be good for the Gold. Marvelously dreamed, starkly and poetically told. The story of the Lewis and Clark Expeditions will never be the same.”

—TED KOOSER, author of *Delights and Shadows*

*“Not since James Welch’s monumental *Fool Crow* has such an immersive work of narrative genius risen out of the West. In luminous, image-laden prose, as if by way of elemental reconstitution, Debra Magpie Earling awakens a voice that our American mythology had hoped would stay sleeping, and in so doing unearths *The Lost Journals of Sacajewea*, a harrowing—though ultimately triumphant—once-in-a-generation work of art.”*

—CHRIS DOMBROWSKI, author of *The River You Touch*

milkweed.org



North Dakota in Print

Continued...

Planning for Murder (2022); *Murder at the Library* (2023);
Poisoned by the Book (Forthcoming)

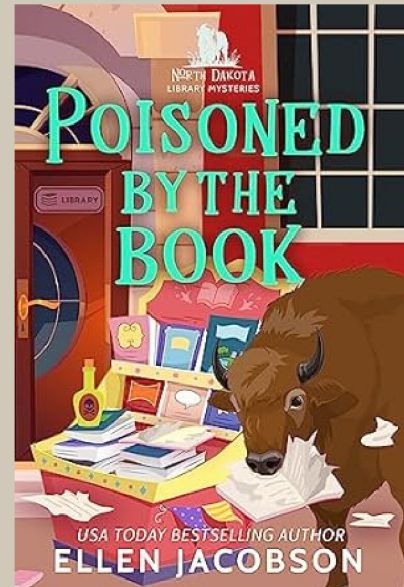
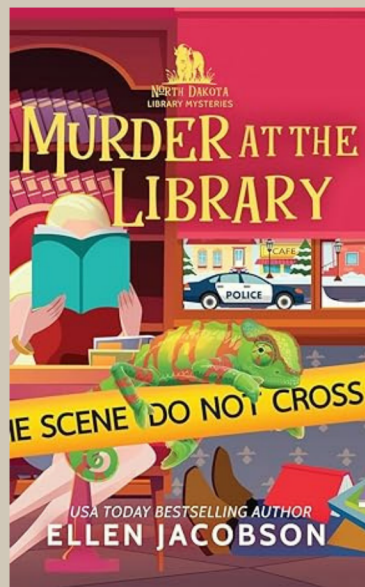
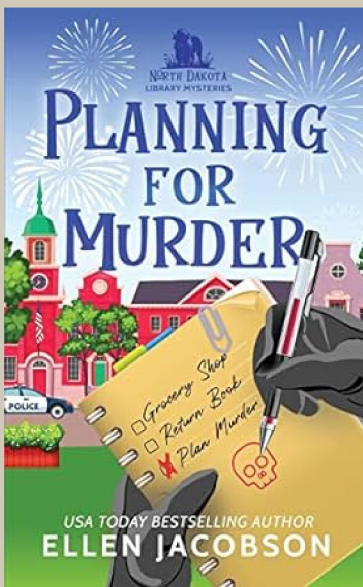
by **Ellen Jacobsen**

North Dakota Library Mysteries series

Available in a variety of formats directly from the author ([Ellen Jacobson Books](#)),
[Amazon](#), and [Barnes & Noble](#)

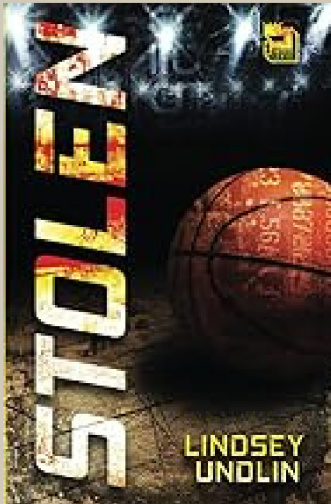
[Ellen Jacobson](#) says, “If you like books with goofy humor and quirky characters, you’re in the right place.” Her new series, North Dakota Library Mysteries, is set in the fictional town of Why, North Dakota, where Thea Olson’s family founded the library in the early 1900s. The library has “always held a special place in her heart,” and after years away, Thea is back in her hometown busy running her own consulting firm, volunteering part-time at the library, and ... sometimes investigating murder most foul!

If you’re wondering about the North Dakota setting, there is a connection. Jacobson’s husband grew up in North Dakota.



North Dakota in Print

Continued...



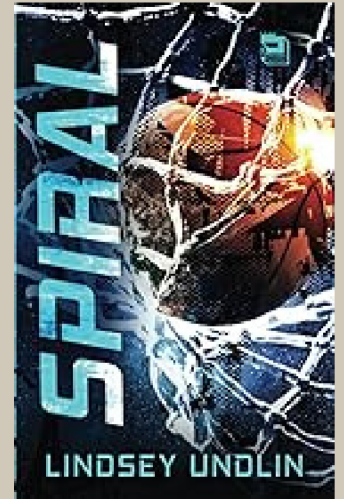
***Stolen* by Lindsey Undlin**

Nashville, TN: W. Brand Publishing, c2022.
(\$33.99, 372 p., hardcover; \$18.99, pbk.; \$6.49, ebook)

and

***Spiral* by Lindsey Undlin**

Nashville, TN: Idun, c2023.
(\$32.99, 376 p., hardcover; \$18.99, pbk.)



Available locally at Main Street Books: Minot;
Ferguson Books: Bismarck, Grand Forks, & West Fargo; and
North Central Electric Cooperative's Bottineau headquarters
Available online from [W. Brand Publishing](#), [Amazon](#), and [Barnes & Noble](#)

In *Stolen*, we meet Cali Horn, the new kid in Swallowsville, North Dakota, AKA “Basketball Central.” Despite its small town qualities, Cali soon learns that “Swallowsville is a town where what you see isn’t always what you get.” The varsity basketball coach is known for her “anything for the win” attitude and it’s hard to know who to trust ... especially after a deadly shooting shuts down a local restaurant.

In *Spiral*, the second book in the Priders series, Cali’s high school struggles continue and now varsity basketball team members are being murdered. Why are they targeted and who is behind it? What is the “truth behind the dark underbelly of this “picture perfect” town?”

Author Lindsey Undlin is a high school sophomore from Mohall. She started writing in fifth grade and published her first book, *Stolen*, in 2022. Her second book in the Priders series, *Spiral*, was released on October 3, 2023, under W. Brand’s Idun fiction genre imprint for YA (young adult) and new adult fiction. The Priders series was inspired by Undlin’s own experiences playing basketball, softball, and volleyball, being part of a team, and general school life. Undlin has plans for more books in the Priders series and two other spin-off series.

North Dakota in Print

Continued...

Welcome to My Kitchen by Verda Tschritter

Linton, ND: Emmons County Record, c2023.

(\$30, 317 pages, softcover)

Available from [Germans from Russia Heritage Collection - NDSU](#)

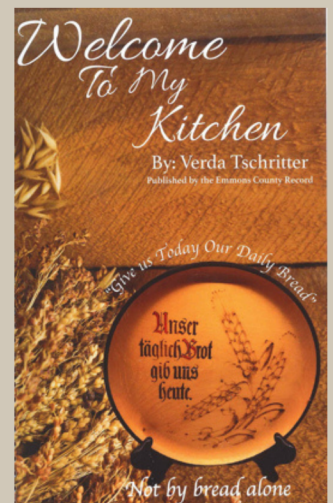
Welcome to My Kitchen is a new cookbook from Verda Tschritter of West Fargo. Tschritter grew up on a farm near Linton and writes a weekly column, "Not by Bread Alone," for the Emmons County Record.

In the introduction, Verda wrote: "I helped prepare foods at a young age, and baked my first cake at age 8 which was a total flop, but that didn't stop my younger siblings from gobbling it up. Recipes can be heritage gifts left behind by those who share them. Among the 350 recipes, there are about 50 that are Germans from Russia, or German recipes from our families, and some are from our traveling in Germany. Every German cook makes their dishes in a little different way and the spelling of the recipe differs. But those who like German food, are most interested in the taste and memories the food creates. Enjoy these recipes and all the others presented in this cookbook."



Some of the many recipes you will find in *Welcome to My Kitchen* are:

- Main dishes – Bereshke, Borscht, Fleischkuchle, Grandma Sophia's Strudels, Halupsy, Kase Knoephla, Knoephla, Potato Soup, Schnupfnudel, Spatzels, Strudels, Wiener Schnitzel
- Side dishes – Beet Salad, Gaukensalat (Cucumber salad), German Fried Potatoes, German Hot Potato Salad, Sauerkraut Side Dish, Red Cabbage
- Desserts – Blachinda, Date & Nut Pfeffernusse, Himmeltorte, Honey Cookies, Kay's Kuchen Bars, Martha's Kuchen, Mocha Nut Bars, Mohnkuchen, Penuche Frosting, Schwarzwaldler Kirschtorte, Wedding Kuchen
- This and That – Watermelon Rind Pickles, Grainy Mustard Sauce



Library Events & Conferences

January 2024

- January - National Braille Literacy Month
- January 4 - World Braille Day
- January 12 - Lake Superior Libraries Unsymposium (in-person), Superior Public Library, Superior, Wisconsin
- January 19-24 - LibLearnX: The Library Learning Experience, Baltimore, Maryland



February 2024

- February - Registration opens for 2024 ALA Annual, - June 27-July 2, San Diego
- February 7 - World Read Aloud Day
- February 15 - Digital Learning Day



March 2024

- March - National Reading Month
- March 2 - Read Across America Day
- March 9-10 - Tucson Festival of Books
- March 16 - Freedom of Information Day (held annually on or around this date)



Special Features

Grand Forks Public

Music & Mocktails

Cheers to the incredible Grand Forks Public Friends for hosting another fabulous Music & Mocktails event! On October 14, **Grand Forks Public transformed into a haven of taste and rhythm** as mixologists from five local restaurants and three nonprofits vied for the coveted title of "Master of the Mocktail." Attendees reveled in sipping inventive mocktails, grooving to live music, and making new friends, all thanks to the hard work and dedication of our amazing Friends.



Halloween Costume Swap

The power of community shines brightly at Grand Forks Public! **Our Halloween Costume Swap brought together 67 participants across three events.** Among them, 43 costumes found new homes, and 23 generous souls donated costumes to share the joy. One touching testimonial speaks volumes: "I'm a single mom of five with limited income. Your Halloween Costume Swap was a lifesaver for me. Thank you!" **Together, we're weaving the fabric of kindness and support in our community.** But the Halloween fun didn't stop there! We hosted a spooktacular array of events, from Storytime Costume Parades to Haunted Stacks for all ages and the thrilling Fright Night for the grown-ups.

IT Director - Retirement and Promotion

After 44 years of dedicated service, **David Haney has stepped into a new chapter of life.** Congratulations on your retirement, Dave! Your wisdom, humor, and kindness will be deeply missed at Grand Forks Public. At the same time, we're excited to announce the **promotion of Bryan King to IT Director.** Bryan has been the library's Senior IT Specialist for nearly ten years and knows our system inside and out. Here's to new beginnings and continued success!





Treasurer's Report

Submission from Aaron Stefanich, Grand Forks Public, **NDLA Treasurer**

Treasurer's Report
As of September 30, 2023 (End of 3rd Quarter)
By Aaron Stefanich, NDLA Treasurer

CHECK BOOK 09/30/2023	Beg. Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	End. Balance
NDLA Funds	\$64,148.65			
Annual Conference 2025	-\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$2,500.00
Annual Conference 2023	\$0.00	\$23,680.00	-\$479.79	\$23,200.21
Book Sales	\$1,116.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,116.32
Dues		\$10,995.00		\$10,995.00
HSIS Partner Account	\$6,969.19			\$6,969.19
Investment Account Transfers		\$0.00	-\$527.93	
Other receipts/disbursements		\$553.03	-\$17,427.36	
NDLA Funds Subtotal		\$35,228.03	-\$18,435.08	\$16,792.95

Check Book Balance 09/30/2023 **\$80,941.60**

MONEY MARKET & CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITS	Beg. Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	End. Balance
NDLA Bank Money Market Ready Cash	\$12,334.39			
Interest		\$2.69		
Deposits		\$0.00		
Transfers		\$0.00	\$0.00	
				\$12,337.08
Professional Development Bank Money Market RC	\$11,217.06			
Interest		\$2.54		
Deposits		\$0.00		
Transfers		\$527.93	\$0.00	
				\$11,747.53
NDLA CD	\$21,843.53			
Interest		\$46.28		
Transfers		\$0.00	\$0.00	
				\$21,889.81
Professional Development CD	\$15,030.51			
Interest		\$0.64		
Transfers		\$0.00	\$0.00	
				\$15,031.15
TOTAL investment accounts	\$60,425.49			\$61,005.57

TOTAL EQUITY 09/30/2023 **\$141,947.17**

Cell: I13
 Comment: \$527.93 transferred to Professional Development account

Cell: H14
 Comment: \$553.03.90 (\$500.00 donation to Linda Albee Memorial Fund, \$28.03 donation to Professional Development, \$25.00 donation to NDLA)

Cell: H29
 Comment: \$527.93 transferred from Checking account

NDLA Executive Board

Voting

President: Kerrienne Boetcher
Ward County Public Library

President-Elect: Tammy Kruger
North Dakota State Library

Past President: Will Martin
Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota

Secretary: Tonya Palmer
Grand Forks Public Library

Treasurer: Aaron Stefanich
Grand Forks Public Library

ALA Councilor: Mariah Ralston
Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library

MPLA Representative: Randi Monley
Minot Public Library

Academic & Special Library Section:
James Murphy
North Dakota State Library

Public Library Section: Morgan Keyser
Williston Public Library

School Library and Youth Services Section:
Jennifer Hess
Fargo Public Schools

Non-Voting

Bylaws and Policy Committee Co-Chairs:
Virginia Bjorness
North Dakota State Historical Society
Kristen Borysewicz
Chester Fritz Library, University of North Dakota

Nomination, Voting, and Election Committee
Chair: BreAnne Meier
North Dakota State Library

Finance Committee Chair: James Murphy
North Dakota State Library

Archivist: Trevor Martinson
North Dakota State Library

Membership Committee Chair: Liz Mason
ODIN

State Librarian: Mary Soucie
North Dakota State Library

Thanks for reading!

Reminder: submissions for the March issue are due by February 1, 2024 to the Good Stuff Editorial committee