



# Morton-James Public Library

## March 2023

### Upcoming Events:

#### Rainbow Story Time

Wednesday, March 1 10:00 AM

#### Chess Club

Every Thursday 4:30-6:00 PM

#### Humanities Nebraska Program How Chocolate Twice Conquered the American Continent

Thursday, March 2 7:00 PM

#### Library Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 8 4:00 PM

#### Youth St. Patrick's Day Party

Saturday, March 11 10:00AM

#### Let's get moving Story Time

Wednesday, March 15 10:00 AM

#### Evening Book Club

Wednesday, March 15 5:30 PM

#### Jerry Barlow Concert

Sunday, March 19 2:00 PM

#### Book Club

Tuesday, March 21 2:00 PM

#### Spring Fling Teen Dance

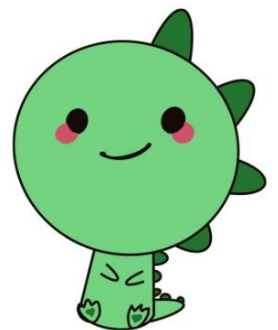
Friday, March 24 6:00-7:30 PM



*"Life is March weather, savage and  
serene in one hour."*

*— Ralph Waldo Emerson*

*Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day*

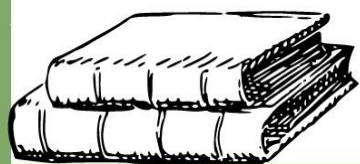


Morton-James Public Library

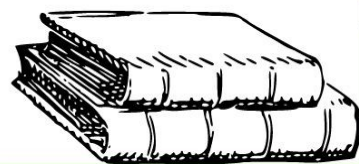
923 1st Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410

402-873-5609 | [mortonjameslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:mortonjameslibrary@gmail.com)

[www.morton-jamespubliclibrary.com](http://www.morton-jamespubliclibrary.com)



# Book Clubs



You are invited to join the Morton-James Public Library Book Club!

Book Club meets the 3rd Tuesday at 2:00 PM or the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30 of every month.

The titles are available in either print or CD, or may also be available as ebook or audiobook through Libby.

## Day Book Club

Tuesday, March 21 @ 2:00 PM

### A Single Thread by Tracy Chevalier



1932. After the Great War took both her beloved brother and her fiancé, Violet Speedwell has become a "surplus woman," one of a generation doomed to a life of spinsterhood after the war killed so many young men. Yet Violet cannot reconcile herself to a life spent caring for her grieving, embittered mother. After countless meals of boiled eggs and dry toast, she saves enough to move out of her mother's place and into the town of Winchester, home to one of England's grandest cathedrals. There, Violet is drawn into a society of broderers--women who embroider kneelers for the Cathedral, carrying on a centuries-long tradition of bringing comfort to worshippers.

Violet finds support and community in the group, fulfillment in the work they create, and even a growing friendship with the vivacious Gilda. But when forces threaten her new independence and another war appears on the horizon, Violet must fight to put down roots in a place where women aren't expected to grow.

Book Club is currently meeting in person!  
Zoom is an option for members who would like to join the group from a remote location.  
Monthly Book Club details will be emailed and posted on Facebook.

## Evening Book Club

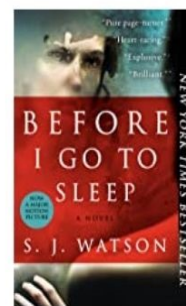
Wednesday, March 15 @ 5:30 PM

### Before I go to Sleep by S.J. Watson

Memories define us. So what if you lost yours every time you went to sleep? And the one person you trust may be telling you only half the story. Welcome to Christine's life. Every morning, she awakens beside a stranger in an unfamiliar bed. She sees a middle-aged face in the bathroom mirror that she does not recognize. And every morning, the man patiently explains that he is Ben, her husband, that she is forty-seven-years-old, and that an accident long ago damaged her ability to remember.

In place of memories Christine has a handful of pictures, a whiteboard in the kitchen, and a journal, hidden in a closet. Inside its pages, the damaged woman has begun meticulously recording her daily events--sessions with Dr. Nash, snippets of information that Ben shares, flashes of her former self that briefly, miraculously appear.

But as the pages accumulate, inconsistencies begin to emerge, raising disturbing questions that Christine is determined to find answers to. And the more she pieces together the shards of her broken life, the closer she gets to the truth . . . and the more terrifying and deadly it is.





# RAINBOW STORY TIME!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1  
10:00 AM

**We just might find a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow!**  
**Stories, sign language, and craft at the Library!**  
**Ages 2-6, families welcome!**



Join us in the Kimmel Gallery  
March 3-30 to view art during  
regular library hours from  
local Youth Artists!

The March exhibit showcases artwork from  
Nebraska City High School  
and Lourdes Central Catholic Schools



# Saint Patrick's Day Youth Party

Join us on  
**Saturday, March 11 @ 10:00 AM**  
for a craft and a snack.  
**All ages and families welcome!**  
**Free to attend no registration.**



# LET'S GET MOVING STORY TIME!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15  
10:00 AM



**Show off your dance moves at this Story Time!**  
**Stories, sign language, and dancing at the Library!**  
**Ages 2-6, families welcome!**

**PRESERVING THE PAST...SERVING THE FUTURE**  
**MORTON-JAMES PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 125<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF SERVICE**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OCTOBER, 2021 TO SEPTEMBER, 2022**

The impact of Covid-19 continued to impact the Library and its community. The staff continued to serve the public with in-person services and filling reserve requests through the catalog, and over the phone. When the public was ready, they again returned to enjoy Morton-James Public Library and all that it offers.

Overall, statistically our reports show that we experienced solid increases in most categories.

These categories include Library Visitors and Guests; Circulation; Members; New Library Cards; Amount saved; Reference questions answered and Volunteer Hours/Volunteer Value.

Further analysis is that some categories exceeded 2019-20 pre-Covid reported statistics. These included the Visitor Count; Wi-fi use; Number of Programs and exhibits; Attendance for programs and exhibits; New Library Cards and Amount saved by the patrons.

The Board and staff's efforts paid off and the 125th Anniversary year will go down in the record books as a comeback season. We did not let the Pandemic beat us.

#### **Library visitors and guests**

- Visitors: 26,716
- Wifi use: 14,146
- Website visits: 10,591
- Programs and exhibits: 299
- Attendance for programs and exhibits: 6959
- Tech center usage: 1569

#### **Library collection**

- Total items in collection: 53,490 (includes books, DVDs, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers, microfilm, and telescopes)
- Circulation: 40,751
- Items added to collection: 2723
- Items deleted from collection: 3704\*

\*Objective criteria were used in making weeding decisions, such as publication date, circulation history and physical condition of the resource. Statistics on weeding are reported by the Library in the Nebraska Library Association's Public Libraries Survey. This process often leads to higher circulation of materials and is needed to make sure the collection stays current, vital and attractive to patrons.

#### **Library members**

- Members: 2398
- New library cards: 317
- Amount saved: \$534,870

#### **Library services**

- Reference questions answered: 8,596
- Genealogy requests answered: 21
- Items delivered to homebound patrons: 385
- Interlibrary loan items borrowed: 193
- Interlibrary loan items loaned: 232
- Volunteer hours served: 365.75
- Volunteer hours value per hour: \$29.95\*
- Volunteer hours served total value: \$10,954.21

There was a rate change on volunteer service through Independent Sector, up to \$29.95 (from \$28.54 from the year before). Thank you to all our volunteers.

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**MORTON-JAMES PUBLIC LIBRARY'S 125<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF SERVICE**  
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**Library expenses**

Salaries and benefits	394,223.51
Utilities	24,745.02
Repairs/maintenance	14,670.50
Contract supplies/services	8,751.66
Capital improvements	17,484.93
Library materials	45,702.57
Electronic subscriptions	6,554.66
Computer	6,060.50
Donation purchases	9,179.23
Endowment purchases	40,513.06
*Grant purchases	6,196.84
Other expenses	14,083.87
Aid purchases	821.51
Loan payment	51,815.77
Total expenditures	640,803.63

**Library revenue\***

Nebraska Library Commission state aid	1494.00
Library fees and fines*	3,851.95
Miscellaneous book sales	22.49
Library donations	12,306.52
Library endowments	40,150.55
Library grants	5,757.20
Total revenue	69,499.71

\*As of May 18, 2021, in the prior fiscal year, MJPL went fine free regarding late fees.  
Fees will still be assessed on damaged or lost materials. Non-resident card fees are still collected.

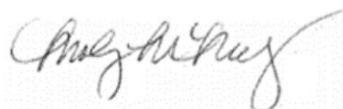
**Thank you** to our donors and Board Members who made Individual, Lifetime, Annual, Designated, Undesignated, Building Preservation Fund or Memorial donations to Morton-James Public Library during Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Thank you for your continued support.

MJPL's Grace Moller Endowment fund supported:

- Dollywood Imagination Library project
- StoryWalk project
- Databases: Lynda.com, Ancestry Library Edition, Mango Languages Newsbank and World Book

Affidavit of the Morton-James Public Library Board

The members of the Morton-James Public Library Board, affirm that the information and facts contained in the Library's fiscal year 2021-2022 Annual Report are true and correct to the best of our knowledge.



**Molly McNeely, Board President**

### Library Board

- President: Molly McNeely
- Nikki Johnson
- Sue Little
- Claudette Wielechowski
- Teresa Fields

### Library Staff FY 2021-2022

- Donna S. Kruse, Director
- Louan Beard, Assistant Director (thru 11/22)
- Chelsea Foust, Assistant Director (12/22-)
- Amanda Winkler, Youth Services Manager
- Tom Boeche, Cataloging
- Denise Davis, Reference Librarian
- Brenda Knickman, Interlibrary Loan

# Humanities Nebraska Program



## Jose Fransico Garcia

HOW CHOCOLATE TWICE  
CONQUERED THE AMERICAN  
CONTINENT: A DELICIOUSLY  
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

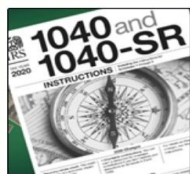
Thursday, March 2

7:00 PM



The tale begins with 2000 year old murals depicting the uses for chocolate and continues to the present time witnessing the allure and power chocolate continues to have on human society. Garcia shares the history of cacao and discusses its value as a worldwide commodity.

*This program was made possible through MJPL's Harry and Grace Moller Endowment.*



## AARP Tax Preparation

The Library has basic federal tax forms available for pick up at both entrances.

Tax-Aide sites opened early in February.  
\*MJPL is not a site this year\*

[aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp\\_taxaide/locators.html](http://aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/locators.html)  
Or dial 211 from your cell phone

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and virtual tax assistance to anyone, free of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low to moderate income. Tax-Aide volunteers are located in Omaha and Lincoln areas. Use the link above to sign up for an appointment

**Library staff are unable to assist with tax preparation.**

## Be a 2023 Morton-James Public Library Sponsor!

Annual sponsor donations will be used to fund Summer Programs for children and teens, special adult programs and educational exhibits. Fill out the form below and return it to the Library with your donation. Your support of the Library is always appreciated!

### Morton-James Public Library Annual Sponsor Form

Thank you for supporting your Library!

- ☐ \$10 Novel  
☐ \$20 Notable

- ☐ \$25 Classic  
☐ \$50 Best Seller

- ☐ \$100 Award Winning  
OR

- ☐ \$500 Lifetime Gift

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Remit Check To: Morton-James Public Library  
923 1st Corso Nebraska City, NE 68410

Individual gifts of more than \$500 will be recognized on the donor wall located in the Grace Moller Technology Center.

## 2023 Morton-James Public Library Sponsors

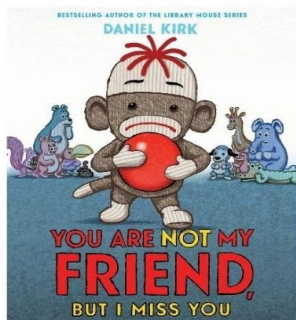
### Lifetime Sponsors:

Nancy Baragary      Jim & Mary Callen  
Carol Crook          Tim & Linda Engel  
Gary & Martha Schaffer  
Sue & Mike Little      Ruth McMaster  
Helen Lundak  
David & Darcy Carpenter

### 2023 Annual Sponsors:

Sandy Juilfs	Claudette Wielechowski
Nichi & John Barton	Judy & Mitch Krenk
Mary Causgrove	Britt & Heidi Rosane
Sharon Hersemann	Karen Moody
Jacquelyn Kraenow	John & Teresa Schlorholtz
Dave & Sandy Silcox	David & Connie Sackles
Jerry & Suzi Martin	Roger & Cheryl Hill
Todd & Theresa Smith	Paul & Mary Stevenson

*In Memory of Karen Tilson*



## New Title @ Our StoryWalk®

Take a trip to **Steinhart Park** to read the story  
"You are not my Friend, but I miss you" by Daniel Kirk  
in our StoryWalk®



The StoryWalk® is located on the side of the park with the tennis courts. It begins at the pedestrian bridge and ends at the stone cabin.

# Jerry Barlow

**Sunday, March 19 2:00pm**



Jerry Barlow a virtuoso guitarist and an extraordinary storyteller. He brings his musical renditions to life by relating stories about the history, legend and humor behind the music. He also sings a bit – sometimes in Gaelic.



*This program was made possible through MJPL's Harry and Grace Moller Endowment.*

## Words from a Patron visit...

### Remembering why I became a Librarian



My hometown library sits at the corner of 10th Street and 1st Corso in Nebraska City, but it also resides prominently in my memories of childhood. It is where I first met Tom Sawyer, Robin Hood, The Boxcar Children, Henry Huggins, and later Carl Sandburg, John Steinbeck, George Orwell, and where I would ultimately fall in love with reading.

On almost all of my visits to the library I would spend some time admiring two wooden sailing ships situated high on a shelf, safely beyond my reach. Their sails were permanently billowing. These ships captured my imagination. To my ten-year-old mind there was something magical about them, almost mystical. I imagined launching them in a stream with with me in charge of a crew of small sailors. It has been 68 years since I was ten years old.

The library has nearly doubled in size, with a beautiful addition that perfectly matches the original architecture. The library's interior layout has changed a number of times over the years. The ships I found so enchanting disappeared long ago. That is, until I mentioned them to library director Donna Kruse this week. After I described the ships to her, and told how they had captured my imagination, she conducted a short search.

After a couple of trips to the library attic, Donna located them. Thank you, Donna. Your kindness and extra effort made an old man as happy as a ten-year-old!

# The Harry and Grace Moller Library Endowment Fund & Morton-James Public Library Present

## Who Is Eligible?

Children under the age of five  
in Nebraska City

## What Are My Responsibilities?

1. Be a resident of Nebraska City
2. Submit an official registration form, completely filled out by the authorized adult.
3. Notify Morton-James Public Library any time your address changes. Books are mailed to the address listed on the account. Note: If the child's address changes, you must contact your friends at the address on this brochure in order to continue receiving books.
4. Read with your child and have fun!

## When Will I Receive Books?

Eight to ten weeks after your registration form has been received, books will begin arriving at your home and will continue until your child turns five or you move out of the covered area.



## What Is It?

Each month a new, carefully selected book will be mailed in your child's name directly to your home. The first book is always the children's classic *The Little Engine That Could™*. Best of all it is a FREE GIFT to your child through our partnership with local organizations! There is no cost or obligation to your family.

Sign up your child today! Simply fill out the form below and mail to:  
Morton-James Public Library  
923 1st Corso  
Nebraska City, Ne 68410  
(402)873-5609

## Dolly Parton's Library Official Registration Form

1st Preschool child's FULL Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sex: M F Phone \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Preschool child's FULL Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Sex: M F Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Adult Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

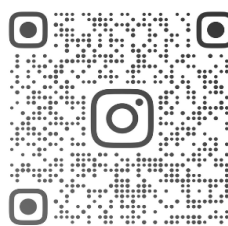
I hereby explicitly consent to allow the Dollywood Foundation, Inc. to use the information provided herein for the purposes of participating in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library book gifting program. To measure the benefits of this program we may create datasets with the information provided herein and share them with research and educational advancement partners. You agree to review our full Terms & Conditions and Privacy Policy by visiting [imaginationlibrary.com](http://imaginationlibrary.com). By signing and submitting this form you expressly consent to the terms set forth herein.

Signature of Authorized Adult \_\_\_\_\_

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Group Code: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

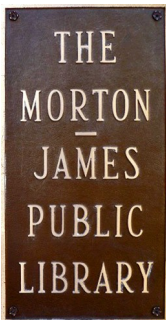
## We are now on Instagram!!!

• Use the QR  
Code to  
• Follow us! •



MORTONJAMESPUBLICLIBRARY





**MORTON-JAMES  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
923 1st CORSO  
NEBRASKA CITY, NE 68410  
Phone: 402-873-5609  
Email: [mortonjameslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:mortonjameslibrary@gmail.com)  
Website address:  
[www.morton-jamespubliclibrary.com](http://www.morton-jamespubliclibrary.com)  
[facebook.com/mortonjameslibrary](https://facebook.com/mortonjameslibrary)

## Library Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9 AM to 6 PM

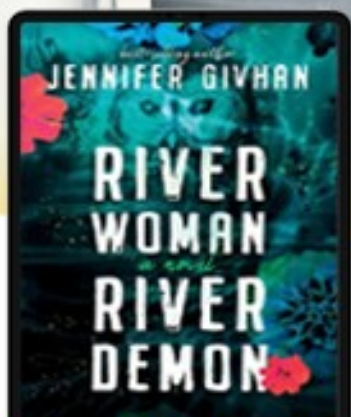
Friday: 9 AM to 5 PM

Saturday : 9 AM to 1 PM

CLOSED Sunday



World  
Poetry Day  
March 21



March 1-15, 2023



**Libby.**  
The library reading app

## Nebraska City



## CHESS CLUB

All ages and Skill  
levels welcome!

THURSDAYS  
4:30 PM  
KIMMEL  
GALLERY

For information  
contact  
Kyle Madison  
Text: 712-520-0859

Email:

[kylemadison2009@hotmail.com](mailto:kylemadison2009@hotmail.com)