**WINTER MUSIC SERIES**

The Winter Music Series, held at the Congregational Church, begins on **Sunday, January 12** at 1:30 p.m. with Nicole Lamartine and Jeff Selden performing an eclectic range of music for voice and guitar.

Lusk’s own “Crooners” will present a concert on **Sunday, February 9** at 1:30 p.m., featuring a variety of American standards and pop music. The Crooners are directed by Randy Hills and feature (from top) Kaela Lundstrom, Carla Stroh, Polly Johnson, Carmen Boussu and Becky Freeman.

Local musician Ross Diercks will appear in concert on **Sunday, March 22** performing a variety of original songs as well as many favorites at 1:30 p.m. Diercks has entertained audiences throughout Wyoming and the surrounding area and has also written, “Wyoming,” which debuted at the unveiling of the Chief Washakie statue at the University of Wyoming.

The winter music series concludes on **Sunday, April 19** at 1:30 p.m. with “Baroque Favorites Featuring Violin, with Spring Time Music from East Asia” performed by violist and harpist Dave Shaul and Dr. Stephen Hoffman, organist-in-residence at the University of Wyoming.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

This winter the library is hosting a new series “Around the World” beginning on **Thursday, January 30** at 6 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to travel to Greece with Tina Kitras-Seaman. Kitras-Seaman recently spent time touring Athens, Greece to see the Acropolis, the Oracle of Delphi, and the Island of Santorini also known as Thira. Tina will share pictures and other cultural information about her journey.

In August, three Niobrara County natives embarked on the trip of a lifetime. Chrisanna Lund, Jaynee Hanson, and Tammy Schrader spent nine days traveling the country of Peru. The trio backpacked 37 miles over four days on the original Inca Trail to Machu Picchu. Chrisanna will talk about her experience as well as show pictures of her journey at the library on **Tuesday, February 25** at 6 p.m.

Larry Orr has artifacts as well as images to share from his extended stay in Antarctica on **Tuesday, March 24**. Larry worked in Antarctica for four seasons during 1983–1987. He served as Admin Coordinator for the National Science Foundation office at McMurdo Station, coordinating science programs with civilian, military, and scientific members. Additionally, he scheduled and coordinated all helicopter flights and assisted planning for ski-equipped C-130 aircraft.

Rounding out the series will be a visit to Australia with Leslie Stewart. Leslie spent October in Australia visiting all but one of its eight states, including Uluru (previously known as Ayer’s Rock) in the Northern Territory, the Great Barrier Reef in Queensland, and Tasmania. She will share images and information about Australian travel on **Tuesday, April 14** at 6 p.m.

Library programs and events are free and open to the public.

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Edward Jones Financial Advisor Ryan Yung will share several informational presentations about investing at the library this winter. On **Thursday, January 16** “Rules of the Road” will provide participants with 10 principles for sound investing. The workshop is from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Beginning **Thursday, February 13** a 4-class series will begin with “Foundations of Investing” followed by “Stocks: The Nuts & Bolts” on **February 27**, “An Investor’s Tour of Mutual Funds” will be presented on **March 12** and on **March 26** the series will conclude with “Focus on Fixed Income.” Participants will receive a workbook to follow along through the series. Watch for more information.

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**WYLDcat Mobile** (BLUEcloud Mobile™) is a new app for Android and iOS. **WYLDcat Mobile** can be found by searching WYLDcat, Wyoming Libraries, or WYLD in your app store.


**WINTER BOOK AND FILM SERIES—WE THE PEOPLE**

**Book Discussion Series**

The 2020 winter book discussion series “We the People” explores our country’s founding through the United States Constitution and the Electoral College. The first book Plain, Honest Men: the Making of the Constitution by Richard Beeman will be discussed on Monday, February 3 at 6 p.m. Delegates met in Philadelphia to design a radically new form of government in May 1787; historian Richard Beeman captures the dynamic of the debate and the characters of the men who labored that historic summer. Virtually all of the issues in dispute—the extent of presidential power, the nature of federalism, and, most explosive of all, the role of slavery—have continued to provoke conflict throughout our nation’s history. This unprecedented book takes readers behind the scenes to show how the world’s most enduring constitution was forged through conflict, compromise, and fragile consensus. **Documents of Revolution** will be discussed on Monday, March 2 at 6 p.m. Readings will include parts of the United States founding documents, some of which include the US Constitution, Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers and the Bill of Rights. Rounding out the series will be Why We Need the Electoral College by Tara Ross on Monday, April 6 at 6 p.m. Tara Ross explains why the Founders established the Electoral College and why they thought it vital to the Constitution. She also discusses why the Electoral College was meant to be more important than the popular vote and how the Electoral College prevents political crises after tight elections and why it doesn’t favor one party over the other. Another point of discussion is why the states are the driving force behind presidential elections and how efforts to centralize the process have led to divisiveness and discontent as well as why the Electoral College is inappropriately labeled a “relic of slavery.” Every four years, the controversy is renewed: Should we keep the Electoral College?

Barb Baker returns to lead the book discussion series; call (307) 334-3490 or stop by the library to register and pick up the first book in the series.

**Dinner & Movie Series**

The winter dinner & movie series “We the People” also explores the Constitution and Electoral College. It’s November 2004 in New Mexico - Bud is a slacker with one good thing in his life, his engaging fifth-grade daughter Molly. Swing Vote, which is showing on Monday, January 27, is set on Election Day and Bud is supposed to meet his daughter at the polling place. When he doesn’t show, she sneaks a ballot and is supposed to meet his daughter at the polling place. It turns out that New Mexico’s electoral votes will decide the contest, and it’s tied with one vote needing recasting - Bud’s. The world’s media and both presidential candidates, including the current president, descend on Bud in anticipation of his revote in two weeks. Can the clueless Bud, even with the help of Molly and a local TV reporter, handle this responsibility?

**Advis & Consent** will be featured on Monday, February 24 at 6 p.m. Robert Leffingwell is the president's nominee for Secretary of State. Prior to his approval, he must go through a Senate investigation to determine if he's qualified. Leading the Senate committee is idealistic Senator Brig Anderson, who soon finds himself unprepared for the opposition and political dirt that's revealed, including Leffingwell's past affiliations with a Communist organization. When Leffingwell testifies about his political leanings, he proves his innocence. Later however, Anderson learns that he lied under oath and asks to withdraw Leffingwell from consideration, especially after the young senator and his wife begin receiving blackmail threats about a skeleton in his own closet.

**Amistad** will be featured on Monday, March 30 at 6 p.m. Amistad is the name of a slave ship travelling from Cuba to the U.S. in 1839. It is carrying a cargo of Africans who have been sold into slavery in Cuba, taken on board, and chained in the cargo hold of the ship. As the ship is crossing from Cuba to the U.S., Cinque, who was a tribal leader in Africa, leads a mutiny and takes over the ship. They continue to sail, hoping to find their way back to Africa. Instead, they are misdirected, and when they reach the United States, they are imprisoned as runaway slaves. They don't speak a word of English, and it seems like they are doomed to die for killing their captors when an abolitionist lawyer decides to take their case, arguing that they were free citizens of another country and not slaves at all. The case finally gets to the Supreme Court, where John Quincy Adams makes an impassioned and eloquent plea for their release. The defense and the prosecution have rested and the jury is filing into the jury room to decide if a young man is guilty or innocent of murdering his father in 12 Angry Men which concludes the series on Monday, April 27 at 6 p.m. What begins as an open-and-shut case of murder soon becomes a detective story that presents a succession of clues creating doubt, and a mini-drama of each of the jurors’ prejudices and preconceptions about the trial, the accused, and each other. The film stars Henry Fonda and was nominated for several academy awards.

Chadron State College's Deane Tucker, PhD will return to lead the film discussions. Library programs are free and open to the public. A light meal will be available.

**ERNEST HEMINGWAY BOOK CHOSEN AS ONE BOOK WYOMING**

The Wyoming State Library and Wyoming Humanities have selected Ernest Hemingway’s first short story collection **In Our Time** as 2019’s One Book Wyoming. A discussion will be held at the Niobrara County Library on Monday, May 4 at 6 p.m. Books will be available to borrow during the month of April.

The great 20th century writer Ernest Hemingway had many connections to Wyoming. He completed his novel **A Farewell to Arms** near Sheridan in 1928, and would use his interactions with Sheridan residents for his short story “Wine of Wyoming.” This collection connects to a number of different topics—World War I, fatherhood and family, war’s impact on soldiers, humans’ relationship with nature—and is sure to appeal to many.
ALCOHOL INK PAINTING

Join local artists, Karen Titchener and Pat Pfaffenheuser on Wednesday, February 19 at 5:30 p.m. to learn about and experiment with painting with Alcohol ink paint. Alcohol inks are brightly colored dye-based paints that are most often used in creating free-flowing textures and some consider fool-proof. This could be the artistic medium for you! Alcohol ink works best on nonporous surfaces and different surfaces will be used in the class. Call the library at (307) 334-3490 to register for this class.

STARTING A BUSINESS WITH $5,000 OR LESS

Always dreamed of starting a business? Starting a business can be very exciting, but going into debt isn’t. This workshop on Wednesday, January 22 will dive into several business ideas you can start for $5,000 or less. This will be an interactive two hours and when you leave you will have a good understanding if entrepreneurship is for you. The free workshop will be held from 5-7 p.m. and will cover many areas of business ownership and provide resources for more information. Debbie Gorski, Waldo Smith and Jonathan Howdeshell of the Wyoming Women’s Business Center will present. It is hosted by the Niobrara County Library and funded in part by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development Grant, and through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Area Artists Featured

During the month of February, Redbird Rose Photography and Allison Williams will be featured at the library. Allison enjoys capturing daily ranch life as well as families, seniors, and newborns. She likes to work the angles and has an eye for detail. A reception with the artist will be held on Wednesday, February 5 at 5 p.m.

Scott Ramsey will be featured during the month of March. Scott has worked for UPS for 25 years and spent most of his UPS career delivering in Niobrara county. Ramsey started photography in high school and then pursued photography further in college. He enjoys most fields of photography, but his favorite is sports photography. A reception with the artist will be held on Tuesday, March 10 at 5 p.m.

Dalton Larson will be featured at a reception with the artist on Wednesday, April 1 at 5 p.m. and his photography will hang throughout April. Dalton is a junior at Niobrara County High School and developed his love of photography after working with Lisa Shaw in 4-H.

READING IS FUN

The Friends of the Library will host three Reading Is FUN (RIF) programs this year with the help of local FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) members. The literacy-based series is suitable for preschool through 6th grade children. Each child will also select his/her very own book to keep!

The first event will be on Wednesday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m. and feature a skit based on Jan Brett’s The Mitten. It’s all about Disney on Friday, February 14 at 1:30 p.m. at the library. A concert featuring vocalist Alicia Roberts will be on tap. Children will enjoy singing along to all of their Disney favorites. Alicia Roberts is a vocalist and Casper native who holds a Master’s of Music and has performed in a variety of locations around the US and throughout Europe.

Australia will be the focus during the RIF program on Wednesday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. Wonders Down Under is a multifaceted performance and Paul presents audiences with a unique look at the wonderful Aussie character through an exciting blending of stories, songs, poetry, drama, dance and the didgeridoo.

Author Reid Lance Rosenthal Visits Library

Reid Lance Rosenthal will discuss his books during a lunch event on Tuesday, March 31 at noon. Rosenthal is the author of Threads West, an Americana series with the fifth novel due out in March. Threads West begins in 1854 with the first of five, richly textured, complex generations of unforgettable, multicultural characters. The separate lives of these men and women from Europe and America are drawn to a common destiny that beckons from the wild and remote flanks of the American West. The series includes the released novels: Threads West, Maps of Fate, Uncompahgre and Moccasin Tracks.

Reid is a fourth generation land and cattleman. His cowboy heart and poet’s pen captures the spirit of the western landscape and its influence on generations of its settlers. His devotion to wild and remote places and to the people—both past and present—who leave their legend and footprint upon America and the American West is the inspiration and descriptive underpinning of all of his writing. Plan now to attend!
WINTER AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

This winter’s afterschool program for grades K-2 will feature the books of Jan Brett with their mischievous animal antics and adventures. Come along for adventures with Bo the armadillo, Comet the cat, and Hedgie the hedgehog. The series begins on Tuesday, January 14 and continues through Tuesday, March 3 and will be held from 3:35 to 4:45 on Tuesday afternoons.

Thursdays, beginning January 9, children in the third through sixth grades will investigate the world of Fables and Fairy Tales. Exploration of the differences between these two highly entertaining topics will be accompanied with fun crafts based on the themes. The program continues through February 27.

Call (307) 334-3490 or stop by to register your children as space is limited. The programs will be held from 3:35 to 4:45 p.m. If you are interested in bringing snacks or supplies, please indicate when registering.

TEEN BOOK AND MOVIE DISCUSSION

PG-13 @ the Library, a teen movie, book and activity group kicks off on Wednesday, January 29 with the movie Maze Runner at 3:45 p.m. In the Maze Runner, Thomas is deposited in a community of boys after his memory is erased, soon learning they're all trapped in a maze that will require him to join forces with fellow "runners" for a shot at escape. The program will end at 6 p.m. The book Running Out of Time by Margaret Peterson Haddix will be available to pick up and discussions are planned for February 5 and 12 from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. In Running Out of Time, Jessie lives with her family in the frontier village of Clifton, Indiana. When diphtheria strikes the village and the children of Clifton start dying, Jessie’s mother sends her on a dangerous mission to bring back help. But beyond the walls of Clifton, Jessie discovers a world even more alien and threatening than she could have imagined and soon finds her own life in jeopardy. Can she get help before the children of Clifton, and Jessie herself, run out of time?