



BETWEEN THE PAGES

Plattsmouth Public Library, 401 Ave A, Plattsmouth, NE 68048

Phone 402-296-4154 Fax 402-296-4712

Volume 21 Issue 12

December 2021

Holiday Party Saturday, December 11

Santa, presents, balloons, and face painting combine for a terrific Holiday Party in the



A Visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus



Donna Trout
Balloon Art



Rudi Patudi
Face Painting

library auditorium on Saturday, December 11, 10:00-11:30 am. Santa and Mrs. Claus will talk to the children, hear their Christmas wishes, and hand out presents. Parents may take pictures, if they'd like. Donna Trout will be using her fantastic balloon twisting skills to make balloon art for each child who attends. Children can also have their faces painted by Rudi Patudi. Refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public. No registration is required. All are welcome!

Hand-Painted Ornaments

Come look at these beautifully hand-painted ornaments in our upstairs display case! They are a sight to behold.

On loan from Bonnie Seyfer, these glass ornaments were hand painted from the inside so the colors show on the outside.

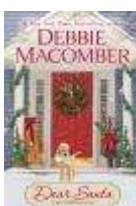
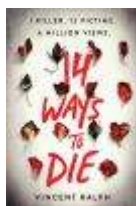
If you have items that you think others would enjoy seeing, please let us know. We try to change the display monthly.



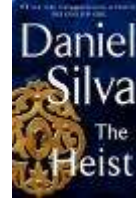
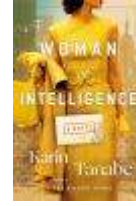
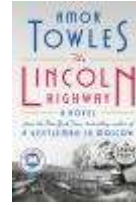
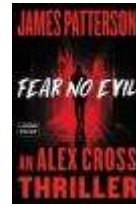
New Items

Fiction

14 ways to die by Ralph, Vincent
 All her little secrets by Morris, Wanda M.
 All the feels by Dade, Olivia
 Autopsy by Cornwell, Patricia Daniels
 The becoming by Roberts, Nora
 Better off dead by Child, Lee
 A calling for Charlie Barnes by Ferris, Joshua
 The Christmas escape by Morgan, Sarah
 The collective by Gaylin, Alison
 Crosshairs by Bradley, Patricia
 The dark hours by Connelly, Michael
 Deadly target by Goddard, Elizabeth
 Dear Santa by Macomber, Debbie
 Dinner on Primrose Hill by Thomas, Jodi
 Dovetail by McQuestion, Karen
 Down the hatch by Beaton, M. C.
 The fastest way to fall by Williams, Denise
 A flicker of light by Powner, Katie
 Forgiving Paris by Kingsbury, Karen
 Game on : tempting twenty-eight by
 Evanovich, Janet
 Go tell the bees that I am gone by Gabaldon,
 Diana
 Heard it in a love song by Garvis Graves,
 Tracey
 The heart by Kerangal, Maylis de
 The hidden child by Fein, Louise
 The house of ashes by Neville, Stuart
 In hot water by Kingsbury, Kate
 Just haven't met you yet by Cousens, Sophie
 The keeper of happy endings by Davis,
 Barbara
 The kindest lie by Johnson, Nancy
 Labyrinth of lies by Hannon, Irene
 The last goodnight by Martin, Kat
 The left-handed twin by Perry, Thomas
 Lightning strike by Krueger, William Kent
 Lights out by Walters, Natalie
 A line to kill by Horowitz, Anthony
 Mercy by Baldacci, David
 The midnight lock by Deaver, Jeffery
 The moonlight child by McQuestion, Karen
 The nameless ones by Connolly, John
 The necklace by Witten, Matthew
 Never fall for your fiancée by Heath, Virginia
 No one will miss her by Rosenfield, Kat
 Once in a lifetime by Monroe, Mary
 Once upon a wardrobe by Henry, Patti
 Callahan
 One last stop by McQuiston, Casey
 Pearl by Malerman, Josh
 Sing you home by Picoult, Jodi



Sleeping bear by Sullivan, Connor
 Sleepless by Hausmann, Romy
 Sleigh bells ring by Thayne, RaeAnne
 Tacos for two by St. Amant, Betsy
 The third victim by Gardner, Lisa
 The vanished days by Kearsley, Susanna
 A Virgin River Christmas by Carr, Robyn
 Well matched by DeLuca, Jen
 Wish you were here by Picoult, Jodi
 Woman in shadow by Parks, Carrie Stuart

**Large Print Fiction**

Better off dead by Child, Lee
 The bookshop of second chances by Fraser,
 Jackie
 The burning by Kellerman, Jonathan
 The butler by Steel, Danielle
 The Christmas wedding guest by Mallery, Susan
 The collective by Gaylin, Alison
 Dear Santa by Macomber, Debbie
 Fear no evil by Patterson, James
 Foul play by Woods, Stuart
 Heard it in a love song by Garvis Graves, Tracey
 The hidden child by Fein, Louise
 An impossible promise by Deveraux, Jude
 The judge's list by Grisham, John
 The last chance library by Sampson, Freya
 The Lincoln highway by Towles, Amor
 The man who died twice by Osman, Richard
 Mercy by Baldacci, David
 The other passenger by Candlish, Louise
 The paper palace by Cowley Heller, Miranda
 Santa cruise by Michaels, Fern
 A woman of intelligence by Tanabe, Karin

Audiobooks

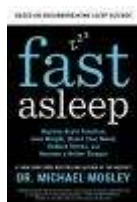
The Apollo murders by Hadfield, Chris
 Better off dead by Child, Lee
 Bird box by Malerman, Josh
 The chase by Evanovich, Janet
 Chasing the Boogeyman by Chizmar, Richard T.
 The dark hours by Connelly, Michael
 Death at Greenway by Rader-Day, Lori
 Forgiving Paris by Kingsbury, Karen
 Friends like these by McCreight, Kimberly
 Game on : tempting twenty-eight by Evanovich,
 Janet
 The heist by Evanovich, Janet
 The judge's list by Grisham, John
 The Lincoln highway by Towles, Amor
 The nameless ones by Connolly, John
 Nice girls by Dang, Catherine
 The party crasher by Kinsella, Sophie

Continued on page 3.

New Items...Continued from page 2.

Non-Fiction

50 years of Rolling stone
 Beckett football card price guide, 2021
 The boys by Howard, Ron
 Complete photography by Gatum, Chris
 Dessert person by Saffitz, Claire
 ER nurses by Patterson, James
 Fast asleep by Mosley, Michael
 How to grill vegetables by Raichlen, Steven
 Instant Pot bible by Weinstein, Bruce
 Irreversible damage by Shrier, Abigail
 Lightning down by Clavin, Thomas
 The Midwest survival guide by Berens, Charlie
 A new take on cake by Byrn, Anne
 Quick & legal will book by Clifford, Denis
 Rebel homemaker by Barrymore, Drew
 The story of my life by Keller, Helen
 To rescue the republic by Baier, Bret
 USA : state by state

**Teen Fiction**

Aurora's end by Kaufman, Amie
 The Corpse Queen by Herrman, Heather M.
 The cost of knowing by Morris, Brittny
 Covet by Wolff, Tracy
 Crave by Wolff, Tracy
 Crush by Wolff, Tracy
 Eyes of the forest by Henry, April
 How we fall apart by Zhao, Katie
 Infinity reaper by Silvera, Adam
 Infinity son by Silvera, Adam
 The outsiders by Hinton, S. E.
 Remedy by Corrigan, Eireann
 They both die at the end by Silvera, Adam
 They wish they were us by Goodman, Jessica
 They'll never catch us by Goodman, Jessica
 The woods are always watching by Perkins, Stephanie

Teen Graphic Novel

Basketful of heads by Hill, Joe
 Between shades of gray by Donkin, Andrew
 Daphne Byrne by Marks, Laura
 Lore Olympus by Smythe, Rachel
 Persona5. Vol. 4 by Murasaki, Hisato
 Sasaki and Miyano. 02 by Harusono, Shou
 Sasaki and Miyano. 04 by Harusono, Shou
 Slaughterhouse-five by North, Ryan

Videos

Arthur Christmas
 Christmas jars : the miracle of one jar
 Christmas town

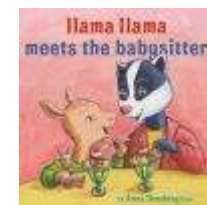
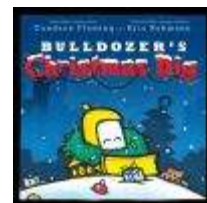
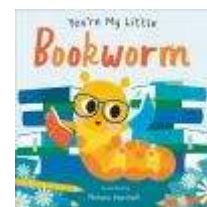
Christmas under the stars
 The crown. The complete fourth season
 Free guy
 In the Heights
 Murdoch mysteries. Seasons 5-8
 Respect
 Six minutes to midnight
 Snake Eyes : G.I. Joe origins
 Stillwater
 The Suicide Squad
 Unlikely angel

**Board Books**

Glow by Forman, Ruth
 Llama Llama numbers by Dewdney, Anna
 Llama Llama red pajama by Dewdney, Anna
 Pig takes a bath by Dahl, Michael
 Where do diggers sleep at night? by Sayres, Brianna Caplan
 You're my little bookworm by Edwards, Nicola

Easy Books

Amy Wu and the perfect bao by Zhang, Kat
 Bear is a bear by Stutzman, Jonathan
 Bulldozer's Christmas dig by Fleming, Candace
 Chez Bob by Shea, Bob
 The dead bird by Brown, Margaret Wise
 Dumplings for Lili by Iwai, Melissa
 Grand Jetel and me by Kent, Allegra
 A house by Henkes, Kevin
 Jan Brett's The nutcracker by Brett, Jan
 Listen up! : train song by Allenby, Victoria
 Little big girl by Keane, Claire
 Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion by Smith, Alex T.
 The littlest yak by Fraser, Lu
 Llama Llama meets the babysitter by Dewdney, Anna
 Mr. Scruff by James, Simon
 My name is Wakawakaloch! by Stiefel, Chana
 New in town by Cornell, Kevin

**Adopt-a-Book**

A line to kill by Horowitz, Anthony
 The nameless ones by Connolly, John
 The necklace by Witten, Matt
 No one will miss her by Rosenfield, Kat

A complete list of new titles can be found on our website, www.plattsmouthlibrary.org, under New Titles.

Plattsmouth, Christmas and Chestnuts

By
Harlan Seyfer, Plattsmouth Main Street Historian



For the past umpteen years, with the exception of the 2020 pandemic year, I have hawked hot, roasted chestnuts during Plattsmouth's Victorian Christmas on Main. Chestnuts have indeed played a part in Plattsmouth's Christmas Past.

The earliest mention in a Plattsmouth newspaper, that I could find, is in the 12 December 1866 issue of the *Nebraska Herald*:

LEARNING SOMETHING — A good joke is told at the expense of a suburban school teacher, who kept after school a youngster who had manifested a great aversion to acquiring additional learning, and in the course of his reprimand, the teacher said:

"Now, James, can you tell me one single thing you have learned since the quarter commenced?"

"Yes. I have learned one thing."

"What is it?"

"Well, I've learned where there is a bully chestnut tree that none of the boys know anything about, and I was going there for nuts if you hadn't kept me after school."

Lame humor aside (the editor thought enough of this witticism to place it on page one), this anecdote shows the local popularity of *Castanea dentate* — the American sweet chestnut. The young gentleman in question had discovered a wild chestnut tree. An arborist, writing a few years later, encouraged chestnut planting. "The chestnut grows rapidly from the seed, and soon bears its sweet nuts; but is especially valuable on account of its rapid, clear, and straight second growth, which springs from the stumps after clearing the land. The chestnut grove is a perpetual investment, with large returns."

By 1872, W.S. West had 20 mature chestnut trees on his farm south of Mynard and was offering seedlings for sale. In November, he was selling chestnuts "ripe for roasting." Three years later, West was advertising "small chestnut trees by the dozen, by the hundred and by the thousand."



Range of American Chestnut, Prior to 1904 Blight

Courtesy American Chestnut Foundation

In the days before refrigeration, preserving the chestnut crop was problematic. Plattsmouth's optimistically named *Nebraska Herald* offered a solution from a correspondent:

I leveled the earth on a plowed field where there was no vegetation to attract mice. On this level spot I strewed a quantity of leaves. On these I deposited my chestnuts, not so close as to touch one another. Over these I deposited more leaf, and, top of the whole, I put some boards to hold them down. Around the border I threw up some dirt and then left them with my blessing. When I examined my treasures, about the twentieth of April, I found them as fresh and hard as ever.

Candied chestnuts (*marrons glacés*) were popular during the 1800s and early 1900s. The *Plattsmouth Journal* published this recipe shortly after the turn of the century:

Marrons glacés are among the delights of the hour. No dinner table is complete without its silver or china basket of chestnuts. And there is nothing

Continued on page 5.

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easier to prepare.

Choose large chestnuts and remove the hard skin; place them in a copper saucepan and cover them with cold water [and] a soup-spoonful of flour to a quart of water; let them cook without boiling, until they are soft. Then peel the nuts and put them into another pan (the same as used for jam-making), and pour over them a thick syrup flavored with vanilla. Cover with paper and let the chestnuts warm on a slow fire, without allowing them to boil. Keep adding syrup as required during evaporation until the syrup has attained thirty-four degrees [Celsius or 93 degrees Fahrenheit]. They are eaten cold.

Needless to say (but I say it anyway), chestnut recipes abound on the Internet.

Despite abundant optimism and sincere efforts, the American chestnut tree did not thrive in Nebraska's cold winters; worse yet, the tree's susceptibility to cold and frost damage was fatal. Thus today, there are few reported American chestnut trees in our state. Hence, the source of American chestnuts was limited to the eastern states – disastrously.

In 1892, the *Plattsmouth Journal* ran a "Profit in Chestnuts" article about a company that planned to raise chestnuts commercially. "We intend," the owner declared, "to go into the culture of mammoth chestnuts on a big scale." Continuing, he stated his company had cut off its chestnut trees a few feet above the ground, the wood being sold to cover expenses. "Now we have the men at work grafting slips from Japanese chestnut trees to the stumps." The plan was to produce large, hybrid chestnuts with the flavor of the sweet American variety.

The scheme backfired. The Japanese chestnut (*Castanea crenata*) brought with it the chestnut blight fungus, which was first discovered in the chestnut trees at the Bronx Zoological Park in 1904. The disease spread quickly. The infection has been called the "greatest tragedy in American forest history." It spread at the rate of approximately 50 miles a year; by 1940 *all* American chestnut trees in its natural range were no longer commercially viable. By the early 1970s, not an acre of the original forest was blight-free. The chestnut had been present in America since the Eocene, about 50 million years ago.

Fortunately, there were isolated pockets of American chestnut that remained unaffected. Genetic breeding is producing blight-resistant trees and, in 1992, "hypoviruses" were introduced to infect the blight fungus and keep it from killing trees by reducing its virulence.

Since 2018, the chestnuts for Victorian Christmas on Main have been supplied by a grower outside Rockport, Illinois. In the early 1950s, an American chestnut that had not been infected with the blight was found in Ohio. Testing proved it was resistant, but not immune, to the blight. Cross-breeding Chinese chestnuts (*Castanea mollissima*) by Dr. Robert Dunstan in North Carolina produced blight-free trees. Seedlings were obtained by our supplier (Chestnut Ridge Farm) in 2001, who began selling the nuts around 2014. Today, Dunstan Chestnut trees are technically known as *Castanea dentata X mollissima*, indicating a hybrid of the American and Chinese chestnut trees.

♪♪ Chestnuts Roasting on An Open Fire ♪♪ – Have a Very Merry Holiday Season!



1923 Photo of American chestnut Tree in Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia

Courtesy Faison & Foster, *Arnoldia*, V72, N2 (2014), p. 19.

PLATTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

GAME
DAYS @ the
LIBRARY



1-3PM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 12, 19, & 26TH

The Library's Xbox 360 and Wii will be set up and available to use in the Auditorium.

Feel Free to bring your own equipment and games too!

CRAFTER-NOON

CRAFTS, GAMES, AND FUN!

Saturday, December 18th

1-3pm

In The Auditorium

Feel Free To Bring Your Own Game Too!



December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Storytime 10-10:30 am	2 Storytime 10-10:30 am	3 Friday Friends 10:00-11:30 am	4 Tech Day 1-3 pm
5 Game Days 1-3pm	6 Woodcarvers Noon-3pm Friends of Library 5pm	7	8 Storytime 10-10:30 am	9 Storytime 10-10:30 am	10	11 Children's Holiday Party 10-11:30 am
12 Game Days 1-3pm	13 Woodcarvers Noon-3pm	14 Bridge Commission 4-5 pm	15 Storytime 10-10:30 am Bingo 1:30 pm	16 Storytime 10-10:30 am	17 Friday Friends 10:00-11:30 am	18 Crafter-noon 1-3pm
19 Game Days 1-3pm	20 Woodcarvers Noon-3pm	21	22 Storytime 10-10:30 am	23 Storytime 10-10:30 am	24 Library Closed	25 Library Closed
26 Game Days 1-3pm	27 Woodcarvers Noon-3pm	28	29 Storytime 10-10:30 am	30 Storytime 10-10:30 am	31 Library Closed	Jan 1 Library Closed

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Library Closed
2 Game Days 1-3 pm	3 Woodcarvers Noon-3 pm	4	5 Storytime 10-10:30 am	6 Storytime 10-10:30 am	7 Friday Friends 10-11:30 am	8 Crafter-noon 1-3 pm
9 Game Days 1-3 pm	10 Woodcarvers Noon-3 pm	11 Bridge Commission 4-5 pm	12 Storytime 10-10:30 am	13 Storytime 10-10:30 am	14	15 Tech Day 1-3 pm
16 Game Days 1-3 pm	17 Woodcarvers Noon-3 pm	18	19 Storytime 10-10:30 am	20 Storytime 10-10:30	21 Friday Friends 10:00-11:30 am	22 Crafter-noon 1-3 pm
23 Game Days 1-3 pm	24 Woodcarvers Noon-3 pm Take & Make Adult Craft	25	26 Storytime 10-10:30 am Paws for Reading 3:30-4:30 pm Library Board 5:30 pm	27 Storytime 10-10:30	28	29 Tech Day 1-3 pm
30 Game Days 1-3 pm	31 Woodcarvers Noon-3 pm					