

Today in EYE-OPENER February 22, 2016

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**1) Read Across America Day March 2nd:** The 19<sup>th</sup> annual **“Read Across America Day”** is March 2. Sponsored by the National Education Association (NEA) **Read Across America Day** is always timed to coincide with author Theodore Geisel’s birthday—more famously known as Dr. Seuss!

From the NEA’s website *“...the National Education Association is building a nation of readers through its signature program Read Across America, motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources. The Seussical celebration will kick off a week of reading across the nation as NEA members gather students, parents, and community members together to share their love of reading...”*

*Dr. Seuss book readathons...green eggs & ham breakfasts...special appearances by The Cat in the Hat...these are just a few programs that libraries are planning. Find these and more programming ideas at the **Read Across America Facebook Fan Page** <http://www.facebook.com/#!/neareadacrossamerica> For Seuss-themed party decorations, visit [www.partycity.com](http://www.partycity.com) And be sure to visit the official home of Dr. Seuss on the web at [Seussville.Com http://www.seussville.com/author.html](http://www.seussville.com/author.html)*

Because **“You’re never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child....”** what will your library do to celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday?

# 2016 TEEN TECH WEEK™

CREATE IT AT   
YOUR LIBRARY!

**2) Teen Tech Week March 6-12:** Special week-long opportunity for YA programming is coming up **March 6-12**—it's **Teen Tech Week**. This is a national initiative sponsored by the **Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)** to ensure that teens are competent and ethical users of technology, especially those that are offered through libraries. **Teen Tech Week** encourages teens to use libraries' non-print resources for education and recreation, and to recognize that librarians are qualified, trusted professionals in the field of information technology.

This year's theme is "**Create It @ Your Library...**" From the **Teen Tech Week** website:  
*"...demonstrate the value your library gives to the community by offering teens a space to extend learning beyond the classroom where they can explore, create and share content. Tailor the theme to show your community exactly how you connect in meaningful ways with teens in order to help them gain STEAM skills..."*

**Teen Tech Week** is an opportunity to promote the library's digital resources and services to help teens succeed in school and prepare for college and 21st century careers. Visit the ALA Online store [www.alastore.ala.org](http://www.alastore.ala.org) to find promotional products. Read more by visiting the **Teen Tech Week** website <http://teentechweek.ning.com>. And as you ramp up plans for **Teen Tech Week @ Your Library**, we'd love to hear what you'll be doing!



**3) Opportunity From Iowa Heritage Digital Collections:** News of this opportunity to digitize local materials comes from **Iowa Heritage Digital Collections**. Barb Corson, Program Director with Specialized Library Services, explains that **Iowa Heritage Digital Collections** is creating two new exhibits through crowdsourcing.

If your library or museum owns either of these:

- Local history and achievements during WWI
- Examples of beautiful or interesting bookplates

Then Barb Corson and staff would love to partner with you. Either of these exhibits will allow your library or museum to add digital items to a shared collection, whether you have many

items or only a few. Don't have a scanner? That's OK too because the **Digital Heritage Project** helps local libraries with digitizing, allowing you to share historical materials with your community and the world. Plus, these projects are done at no cost to your local library or museum.

Learn more about the WWI collection here

<http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/services/ihdcpubproj>

Learn more about the bookplate collection here

<http://www.statelibraryofiowa.org/services/ihdcpubproj2>

And if you'd like to participate in digitizing materials in these two topic areas, you're welcome to contact Barb Corson at [barb.corson@lib.state.ia.us](mailto:barb.corson@lib.state.ia.us) or call 800-248-4483! Thanks to Barb for writing about this opportunity!

**4) Tax Season Help Sheet:** This story is thanks to Louise Alcorn, Technology Service Coordinator with West Des Moines Public Library. Louise developed a handout to distribute to patrons with tax-related questions, available on WDPL website and as a PDF file. Most libraries can identify with the circumstances that prompted Louise to create the handouts: *"...Every year we struggle with 'who has tax forms?' We've come to find out that folks at the Federal building have been referring people to the library for tax forms, which we don't have and neither do many of our neighboring libraries, nor the post offices, nor the banks. Not anymore. Even those agencies that plan to obtain tax forms don't have much, if anything, in hand as yet..."*



So Louise developed a help sheet designed to assist patrons in locating tax forms and tax preparation assistance. Some of the information is local, but much of it is state and national. She adds *"...granted, many more people are now e-filing, but for those who do need paper forms, these help sheets make good pathfinders. 90% of people go home happy with this information provided..."*

Other Iowa libraries are welcome to customize these help sheets with local information. Louise only asks for an attribution, crediting West Des Moines PL for the majority of the content. Find it here <http://www.wdmlibrary.org/research/tax-forms-and-information/> Thanks to Louise for this story!

**5) Meetings / Events This Week:** ***Jumpstart Your Trusteeship***, a 3-part webinar series for boards, continues with **Part 2** tomorrow night **February 23** (6:00-7:30PM) **Part 2** is titled **"Toward Better Board Recruitment"** followed by **Part 3** **"Toward Better Board Meetings"** **March 1st**. **Part 3** is still available for registration in the c.e. catalog. Trustees can register individually

by setting up their own account in the c.e.catalog. Or watch these webinars together as a group. Either way, this **Jumpstart** online series presents a good opportunity for trustee training!

**Friday Tech Focus** is back this **Friday February 26**, online at 9:30AM. **Friday Tech Focus** is a chance to learn about a new tech or web tool and discuss how it could be used in a library setting.

This **Friday** is also **Nebraska's** online conference titled **Big Talk From Small Libraries**. Find more info here <http://nlcblogs.nebraska.gov/bigtalk/>

Finally, a few more national webinars finish out the month. Find the listing and registration details here <http://www.statelibraryofia.org/ld/c-d/continuing-ed/other-conted>

**February 23.** 1:00-2:00PM. *What's New in Women's Fiction* sponsored by Booklist <http://www.booklistonline.com/webinars>

**February 24.** 6:00-7:00PM. *Twig to Tree: Creativity, STEM, and the Connected School Library* sponsored by AASL <http://www.ala.org/aasl/ecollab/upcoming>

**February 25.** 1:00-2:00PM. *Creating a Comprehensive and Engaging Volunteer Training Program* sponsored by VolunteerMatch.org <http://learn.volunteermatch.org/training-topics>

**February 26.** 1:00-2:00PM. *Helping Homeschoolers* sponsored by Colorado State Library <http://cslinsession.cvlites.org/>

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