

# Monday Morning Eye-Opener April 28, 2025

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## MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER

IOWA | State Library of Iowa

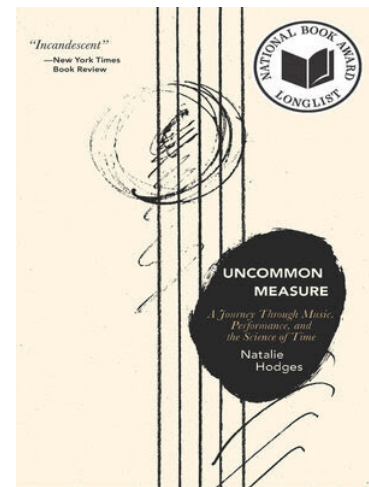
April 28, 2025

### OverDrive's Next Big Library Read

**Uncommon Measure**  
**May 15-29**

OverDrive has announced their next **Big Library Read** title: Uncommon Measure by Natalie Hodges. This book will be available for simultaneous downloads in Ebook and audiobook format from **May 15-29**. Tell your book clubs and promote to your patrons 😊

**Big Library Read** is a global reading program, literally a worldwide digital version of a local book discussion club. Sponsored by OverDrive, this program represents an opportunity to connect your local readers with book lovers around the world as they read and discuss the same book at the same time without wait lists or holds.



#### About Uncommon Measure

From OverDrive's website: "How does time shape consciousness? Do we live in time, or does time live in us? And how does music, with its patterns of rhythm and harmony, inform our experience of time?"

Uncommon Measure explores these questions from the perspective of a young Korean American who dedicated herself to perfecting her art until performance anxiety forced her to give up the dream of becoming a concert solo violinist. Anchoring her story in illuminating research in neuroscience and quantum physics, Hodges traces her own passage through difficult family dynamics, prejudice, and enormous personal expectations to come to terms with the meaning of a life reimagined—one still shaped by classical music but moving toward the freedom of improvisation."

Point your patrons to **Bridges** on **May 15** to download the book and to **The Big Library Read** website at the button below. There's you'll find social media graphics, marketing kit, and a press release to help with local promotion, along with book club discussion questions. And this cool feature: an online discussion board to join this global book group,

sharing your thoughts and your patrons' thoughts about the book. More below ...

## More About Big Library Read

# Libraries Connecting With Farmers Markets



## With Iowa PBS as a Partner

Does your community have a Farmers Market? If you attended the State Library's Summer Reading Summits last month, you heard about a cool summer program from Iowa PBS: it's the Iowa **PBS Farmers Market**.

This is a ready-made program that provides 12 weeks worth of activities that build on everyday literacy learning for children. Materials include program guides, STEM activities, recipes for the whole family to make together, and more.

From the PBS website *"A local farmers market is an exceptional example of a summer learning environment that facilitates many examples of functional literacy. It provides a rich and immersive context for children to learn and practice problem solving skills, social skills, critical and computational thinking, all while encouraging intergenerational exchanges about the food we eat and the trades we need."*

This program really came into its own two years ago thanks to Iowa PBS partnering with Perry Public Library. The program provided recipes, puzzles and brainteasers, guessing games, vegetable samples, STEM activities, as well as \$10.00 for each participating child to spend at the Perry Chamber of Commerce's weekly farmers market. This summer, Iowa PBS is proud to offer this same program to farmers markets in other communities.

And so, PBS encourages libraries to seek out community groups to partner with in bringing the **Iowa PBS Farmers Market Program** to your town this summer. You're welcome to contact Iowa PBS Education Outreach Specialist [Nikki Mullins](#) with questions. Lots more to see at the button below 😊

## Iowa PBS Farmers Market Materials

# Important Reminder:

## AtMail Service Ending This Week

Today, a critical reminder about the State Library's long-standing **AtMail service**. This **Thursday May 1st**, the **AtMail** email service will be discontinued for Iowa's public libraries.

As of last Friday April 25, there are still 18 public libraries on our list that have not reported their plans. Either these 18 libraries need our staff assistance in deciding on a new email provider. Or they've successfully changed email providers but forgot to share their new



email address with us. Either way, [State Library Resource Techs](#) at all District Offices are standing by to talk with you because they need to hear from you.

Discontinuing the **AtMail** service was first announced in August 2024. **AtMail**, the State Library's vendor for email service, has been in place for over 20 years and has been used by 299 public libraries in that time.

Several news bulletins sent to library directors last fall, along several issues of **Monday Morning Eye-Opener**, explained the reasons behind our agency discontinuing this service.

Again, the library resource technicians working with each [District Office](#) are available to help in these final few days. Moreover, we've compiled resources to help through this transition process, as well as an FAQ page on our website at the button below. Please reach out with questions soon—thank you!

### Email Service Transition Resources

## This Week

### Director Roundtables

start rolling out this very week, catch one at Boone Public Library this Thursday May 1st. This is one of 15 dates and locations statewide, find the full listing and registration links at the button below. If you haven't yet registered for a **Director Roundtable** near you, why not do it today? 😊



### Director Roundtables 2025

### Webinar From ILA: Wrestling With Paradox. May 1. Online @ 10:00AM

Free and open to ILA members and non-members alike, this webinar is sponsored by LLAMA—Library Leadership and Management Association, a subdivision of ILA. Elizabeth Hoover deGalvez with Lisbon Public Library will be presenting *Wrestling with Paradox*. Here's more:

*"Do you ever struggle with deciding between two options, both of which have positive and negative sides? For example, should you stringently adhere to the rules or allow for flexibility depending on the circumstances? Focus on working as part of a team or alone? Show ownership or stay in your own lane? Have you felt that you can't win, because both options are imperfect? In this session we'll discuss the underlying paradoxes behind*

*several dilemmas that librarians face and learn about strategies for getting the best of both options, rather than settling for one or the other.”*

**Questions can be directed to David Eckert with Waterloo Public Library.**

[deckert@waterloopubliclibrary.org](mailto:deckert@waterloopubliclibrary.org) **No registration necessary**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://uiowa.zoom.us/j/95704721861?pwd=nnYQINxQ6tlidiN4JHkS8cQSb3Vxio.1>

**Meeting ID: 957 0472 1861**

**Passcode: 687386**

## Monday Morning Eye-Opener

Editor: [Bonnie McKewon](#)



1112 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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