



# Seward Memorial Library News

## Mystery and Intrigue in Seward

Seward Memorial Library will host an evening with Seward Area Chamber of Commerce director Pat Coldiron as she presents "Mystery and Intrigue in Seward" on Tuesday, October 5. Pat will share interesting stories from Seward's local history beginning at 7 p.m. Come and learn about what our community was discussing several decades ago, and be prepared for some surprises. Refreshments will be served during this one-hour program. Everyone is welcome. This program is in connection with the 2010 *All Seward Reads Together* title *Down River* by John Hart.

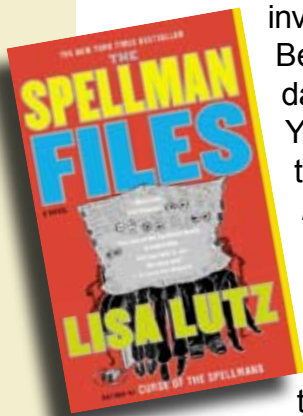
## The More Kooky Than Spooky Halloween Magic Show

Children of all ages are invited to attend a fun-filled magic show on Sunday, October 24 at 1:30 p.m. Magician Adam White of Lincoln will be performing in the Seward Civic Center Auditorium. Families are welcome to "The More Kooky Than Spooky Halloween Show." We request that children who have not attended school yet be accompanied by an adult. This 45-minute non-stop comedy show includes non-scary magic as well as plenty of audience participation. Registration is not required, but seating is limited. Contact us at 643-3318 if you have any questions.



## Book Clubs Meet Together

Anyone interested in learning about the Book Clubs which meet at Seward Memorial Library is invited to join the all club night Wednesday, October 20 at 7 p.m. The New York Times Bestsellers Book Club, the Mid-day Mysteries Book Club and the Young at Heart Book Club will meet together to discuss *The Spellman Files* by Lisa Lutz. The humorous adventures of a young female private investigator, Izzy Spellman, will be the focus of the evening. Visitors are welcome to attend the one-hour event.



**Seward Memorial Library**  
**233 South Fifth Street**  
**Seward, NE 68434**  
**402-643-3318**

[www.sewardlibrary.org](http://www.sewardlibrary.org)

September 2010

## New Bins for Holiday Readers

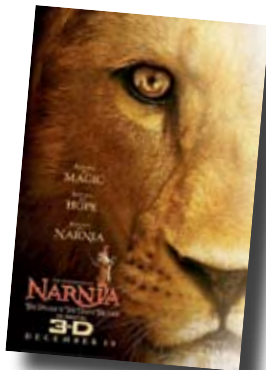
Are you looking for a Thanksgiving book for your child or several Christmas stories for your classroom and dreading the hunt through the hundreds of books in the children's area? The staff at Seward Memorial Library has made your search much more convenient. Plastic bins were purchased and recently added to the Children's Reading Room. Picture books featuring special celebrations have been pulled from the collection and separated into holidays. Each bin is clearly labeled with a representative picture and located on the lower shelves of the north and south walls. Now Christmas reading material will be easily located as well as books for six other special times of the year. We hope this change makes browsing easier but we also suggest that patrons be considerate and remember to share the collection with others.



## Books Are Going to the Big Screen

Several popular books will soon be coming to local theatres as feature length films. Movies based on the following books will be available for viewing:

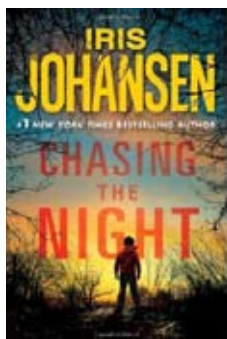
| Title   | Author         | Release Date |
|---|----------------|--------------|
| <i>Legends of the Guardians: Owls of Ga'Hoole</i>       | Kathryn Lasky  | Sept. 2010   |
| <i>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows part 1</i>      | J. K. Rowling  | Nov. 2010    |
| <i>Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader</i> | C. S. Lewis    | Dec. 2010    |
| <i>Gulliver's Travels</i>                               | Jonathan Swift | Dec. 2010    |
| <i>True Grit</i>  | Charles Portis | Dec. 2010    |



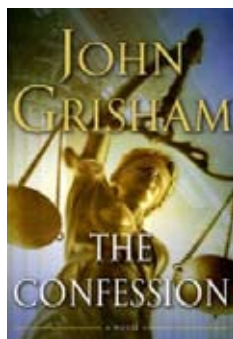
**A library is...**

"...the theme park of your imagination. Play!"  
— Bebe Moore Campbell

## New Books Coming Soon



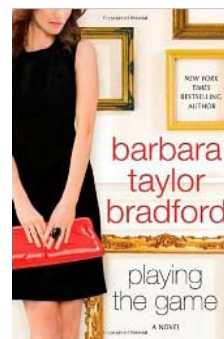
*Chasing the Night*  
by Iris Johansen



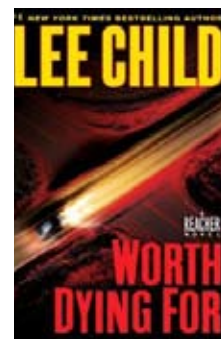
*The Confession*  
by John Grisham



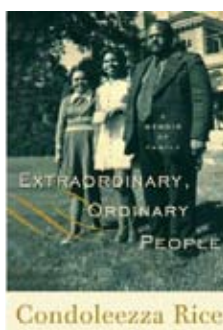
*In the Company of Others*  
by Jan Karon



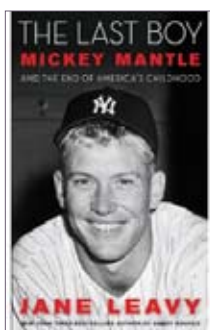
*Playing the Game*  
by Barbara Taylor Bradford



*Worth Dying For*  
by Lee Child



*Extraordinary, Ordinary People*  
by Condoleezza Rice



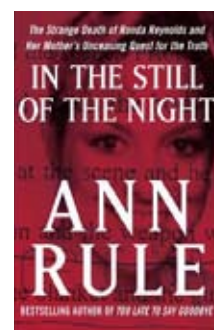
*The Last Boy*  
by Jane Levy



*Barefoot Contessa: How Easy is That?*  
by Ina Garten



*Great Migrations*  
by K.M. Kostyal



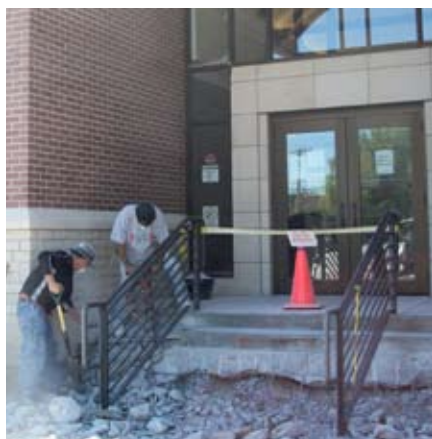
*In the Still of the Night*  
by Ann Rule

### More Fiction Titles Coming Soon:

*The Brave* by Nicholas Evans  
*Christmas Odyssey* by Anne Perry  
*Coming Back* by Marcia Muller  
*Djibouti* by Elmore Leonard  
*Painted Ladies* by Robert B. Parker  
*The Reversal* by Michael Connelly  
*Valcourt Heiress* by Catherine Coulter

*Against All Things Ending* by Stephen Donaldson  
*American Assassin* by Vince Flynn  
*Deja Vu* by Fern Michaels  
*Our Kind of Traitor* by John Le Carre'  
*Promise Me* by Richard Evans  
*Unlocked* by Karen Kingsbury  
*The Charming Quirks of Others* by Alexander McCall Smith

## Stairs Need Replacing



Yellow tape and barricades greeted patrons who wanted to enter the east library doors in September. Rough winter weather conditions contributed to the deterioration of the steps. The entrance now has new cement work. Hopefully patrons will not be inconvenienced for this reason again and can safely enjoy using the 5th Street entrance.

### A library is...

"...the first step of a thousand journeys, portal to a thousand worlds." — Orson Scott Card

## Free Computer Classes @ the Library

The library is offering free computer classes. You must register for classes either at the circulation desk in the library, by calling the library at 643-3318 or you can use the online registration on the library website: [www.sewardlibrary.org](http://www.sewardlibrary.org). (A full schedule is available in the library or online.)

### Mondays, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

**Oct. 4**  
**Basic Home Computer Maintenance Tips**  
Learn how to keep your computer in good condition by defragmenting, updating, organizing, clearing files and protecting.

**Oct. 11**  
**Facebook**  
Connect with friends (both old and new) on the social networking site Facebook. Learn how to create a profile, find friends and more.

**Oct. 18**  
**Spreadsheets 1**  
Learn the basics of how to use Microsoft Excel for making a budget and balancing your check-book.

**Oct. 25**  
**Spreadsheets 2**  
Continue working with spreadsheets as you learn about sorting, freezing panes, creating charts and more.

### Thursdays, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

**Sept. 30**  
**Word Processing 4**  
Topics covered include:  
- creating columns  
- making labels

**Oct. 7**  
**Online Organizing**  
Discover online tools for keeping your life organized - schedules, calendars, lists, tips and more!

**Oct. 21**  
**Genealogy Research**  
Discover the HeritageQuest database and other online tools for researching your family history.

**Oct. 28**  
**Digital Photography Basics**  
Acquire some general knowledge about taking and working with digital photographs.



## Seward Memorial Library Will Host Basket Bonanza

Do your holiday shopping at the library in November! Friends of Seward Library will host a silent auction throughout the month. Local businesses and others provide baskets that are displayed in the library. In the past up to 25 merchants donated unique baskets, each representative of their business. We anticipate a nice selection of possible gifts. Bidding takes place during library hours and will end on November 30 at 6:00 p.m. The money raised goes to the Friends of Seward Library. Stop in and browse, and consider including a basket among your holiday gifts.



# BASKET BONANZA

**A library is...**

"...a place in town where you can always find a great book and a public bathroom." — Diane de Groat

## The Lightning Thief Book Review by Stephanie Croston

It never hurts to read what the next generation is reading, and when you read Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson series, you might actually learn something in the process. You might think this series is a knock-off of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, but while there are some similarities, they're not really close. *The Lightning Thief*, the first of the five-book series, introduces the reader to 12-year-old Percy Jackson. He has trouble in school and making friends, which isn't entirely his fault. He learns that his father is actually Poseidon, the god of the sea. Most children of the gods, or demigods as they're known, are dyslexic and struggle in school.

Percy's mother takes him to Camp Half-Blood, where he learns more about his heritage and finds out that his friend Grover is really a satyr and is his protector. Before the end of the summer, Percy, Grover and Annabeth Chase, daughter of Athena, are sent on a quest to recover Zeus' master thunderbolt and avert a war between the gods. During the quest, Percy meets a wide variety of "mythical" creatures including Medusa, Charon and Cerberus, not to mention the instructors at Camp Half-Blood Chiron and Dionysus and the gods themselves. And who knew Cerberus likes red rubber balls? And whatever you do, don't confuse Charon, the ferryman on the River Styx, with Chiron, a centaur who also teaches Latin at times.

But *The Lightning Thief* is not just about a boy meeting myths. It's about a boy trying to learn who he is and to grow up, just like any other kid. This kid, though, is half-god. One thing I liked about Riordan's series is the introduction of the gods. I'm sure most of us learned something about Zeus, Poseidon, Hades, Ares and the rest when we were in school. Riordan takes the common knowledge and makes them people we would know if we met them.

He also brings in the Titans, which are not as well known but who are just as important to mythology. Percy himself doesn't manifest any divine characteristics, although he learns he can control water. That makes sense, since his father is the god of the sea. And, as any kid, he makes both friends and enemies among the campers. Clarisse, a daughter of Ares, appears to be a mortal enemy, but Percy's true nemesis comes along later, as predicted by the Oracle.



Riordan keeps the action moving quickly, which makes it hard to put the book down. It's easy reading, as well, but the characters are well drawn. This is the first of a five-book series, and Riordan keeps the development going throughout the books. Each takes place during the summer as Percy grows older. His foes grow stronger as he does, and the stakes get higher. Percy and his friends can't rely on magic or the gods to help them. They have to use their own skills and wits to win the day. It's a good lesson for everyone to learn.

You can learn more about the Percy Jackson series by visit the author's website at [www.rickriordan.com](http://www.rickriordan.com).

*The Lightning Thief* has also been made into a major motion picture. [www.percyjacksonthemovie.com](http://www.percyjacksonthemovie.com)

### A library is...

"...the whisper of eternity." — Marc Gafni

## Gotcha!

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The Library After Hours program recently launched a live-action game with real players and no cards or game boards. Students at Seward High School will be using “Gotcha!” stickers to catch other target students enrolled in the game and to compete for the position of last player remaining. This unique game begins on October 1. The library is supplying rules, stickers, and prizes. No one knows how long this adventure will last, but it is sure to be challenging and exciting for those who are willing to take the risk. Approximately sixty students are signed up to play. Registration for the game ends on September 25. This game may keep kids looking over their shoulders! For more information, visit [www.sewardlibrary.org/gotcha](http://www.sewardlibrary.org/gotcha).



## Find the Library on Facebook ... be a Social Friend

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The Seward Memorial Library has a page on Facebook. When you “Like” this page, you’ll join over 200 other people who stay up to date on what’s happening at the library. We post events, photos, registration reminders, links to the newsletter and helpful tidbits on this popular social networking website. You can join the conversation by commenting on items that the library posts. If you don’t already have a Facebook account or would like to learn more about using it, the library is offering a class on this topic on Monday, October 11 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Please call 643-3318 or visit the library website to register.

Visit [www.facebook.com/sewardlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/sewardlibrary) to join the library on Facebook!



## Mark your calendars!

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Author John Hart will be visiting the Seward Memorial Library on Tuesday, April 12, 2011. Hart has twice been awarded the Edgar Award for mystery writing and has written three novels featured on the New York Times bestsellers list. *The King of Lies*, *The Last Child* and the *All Seward Reads Together* selection, *Down River* are all available at the library.

### A library is...

“...a glass of iced tea on a hot summer day.”  
— Joan Hess