

# Odell Nebraska Library

## Monthly Newsletter

### Upcoming

#### January 2026

\*Community Coffee: Friday, Jan. 2 @ 10 am  
 \*Healthy Laundry Program - Sunday, January 18 @ 4 pm.  
 \*Book Club Discussion - Monday, January 26 @ 6 pm

#### February 2026

\*Community Coffee: Friday, Jan. 2 @ 10 am  
 \*Book Club: Mon., Feb. 23 @ 6 pm  
 \*\*Israel Awakening Program Saturday February 28 @ 5 pm

### Hours

Monday: 9 a - 11 a & 3-5 p  
 Tuesdays: 9 a -11 a & 3-8 p  
 Wednesdays: 9-11 a  
 Thursdays: 9 a -11 a & 3-8 p  
 Fridays: 9-11 a  
 Saturdays: 10 a - noon

### Find Us:

[odellnebraskapubliclibrary.com](http://odellnebraskapubliclibrary.com).  
 Facebook: Odell Nebraska Library  
 Instagram:  
[odellnebraskapubliclibrary](http://odellnebraskapubliclibrary)

Need a space for a meeting or small gathering? Contact us!

[odellnebraskapubliclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:odellnebraskapubliclibrary@gmail.com)  
 (402)239-5810

### Book Donations

Our Library shelves are very full! If you have books to donate, text photos of them to 402-239-5810. We can let you know if we can take them! Books that we don't have space for are donated to the Habitat for Humanity or Burwood Books.

### Welcome to the New Year!

2025 was an eventful year at the Odell Nebraska Library. We finished our Restoration Project, thanks to the help of all the generous people, companies, organizations, and volunteers who supported us in so many ways, including financially. Our first day officially open was Tuesday, February 18, with our Open House on Sunday, March 8. We were open a total of 1,314 hours, 24 hours/week during the school year and 28 hours/week doing the summer. We have 18 volunteers covering those hours plus six other volunteers to sub and help with summer programs. The special programs we hosted were: Railroads in Gage County, Perennial Gardening, Jesse James in Nebraska, Coping with Anxiety, Food 4 Hope, Ghost towns of Gage County, MOSAIC, & CASA. We hosted a Wine & Charcuterie fundraiser and a NativiTea Christmas Open House. We ended the year with a Volunteer Appreciation meal at DJKs. For the kids, our library hosted 2 Bugs programs, a Manners Program, 11 Preschool story hours, and eight Elementary story hours. We had visits from a HS class, Gage County Leadership group, and a sorority group from the PEO. Meetings are held at our library by the Ultra 33 team, and the Odell Cookies 4H Club. A community coffee group meets on the 1st Friday of each month. Our book club read ten books and met ten times in 2025. We had the honor of a couple visits from the Beatrice Daily Sun and one from Pure Nebraska. All this keeps going with the help of our Library Board who meet each month. We currently have 12 Friends of the Library and are thankful for all of the other donations we receive!

### Healthy Laundry

How to Transform your laundry routine to eliminate dyes and perfumes

Program by Kim Wiltulski from Clean Slate Soap

**Sunday, January 18, 2026**  
**4:00 pm**

**Odell Nebraska Library**

**Join us! No Charge! Refreshments provided**  
**RSVP to 402-239-5810 or stop in the library to sign up!**

### Upcoming Program

We will be hosting a program on Sunday, January 18 @ 4 pm. PLEASE join us as Kim Wiltulski, from Clean Slate Soap discusses how to make your laundry "cleaner & clearer"

### Smartphones Simplified

2nd Mondays of each month  
**STARTING IN JANUARY!**  
 Odell Nebraska Library  
 5:30-6:30 pm

**Join us for an hour each month if you need some tips and info on using your Smartphone**  
 We will cover 1 or 2 topics an evening, keeping it simple

January 12	April 13
February 16	May 11
March 16	June 8



**Text 402-239-5810 if you can join us!**  
**Let us know if you have an iPhone or an Android!**  
 No refreshments provided on these evenings.  
 Water & Coffee available.  
 Feel free to bring a snack or drink with you.

**No charge**

### Israel Awakening

Program by Jill Duis

**Saturday, February 28**  
**Odell Nebraska Library**  
**5:00 pm**

**NO CHARGE! Refreshments Provided**  
**Please text 402-239-5810 or come into the Library to sign up!**

### Monthly Program

Join us on the 2nd Monday of each month for a simple workshop on smartphones. We will cover 1-2 topics an evening to keep it simple and understandable. PLEASE RSVP as we need to know if you have an iPhone or Android. 402-239-5810

## Volunteer Spotlight

Amanda McKinney volunteers at the library four hours a month + board meetings and programs. Amanda's favorite part about volunteering at the library is knowing that it is providing a valuable service to the community and the seeing the enjoyment people take when they're visiting the library.



In her free time Amanda enjoys gardening, knitting, reading. She enjoys dystopian fiction, and recently read the "World Made by Hand" series by Howard Kuntzler and thoroughly enjoyed it. About the library, Amanda says, "the best thing is that is an inviting space where all are welcome!"



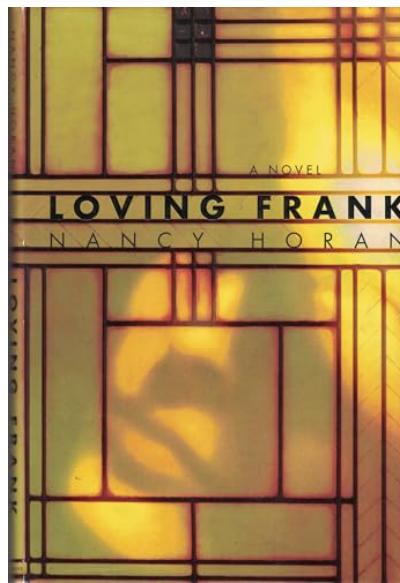
[Friends of the Library or Donate](#)



[Amazon Wish List](#)

**The Odell Nebraska Library Book Club** meets to discuss the month's Book Club selection on the 4th Monday of each month at 6 pm.

Join in anytime!



## February

### Book Club Selection:

Our discussion of Owen Meany will be at the end of January, but then our next read is "Loving Frank" by Nancy Horan - if you want to start reading and join us on Monday, February 23 @ 6 pm

"Loving Frank" by Nancy Horan is a well-researched historical fiction novel. Historic Fiction is my favorite genre and FLWright is by far my favorite architect. I have been to see 25 of his houses, 1 church, and two buildings after falling in love with his designs while studying architecture at UNL. Anytime I have stood outside, and especially toured the interiors of his structures, I have been deeply moved. He was a genius without a doubt. However, his personal life was far from picture perfect. He was a confident, dare I say, arrogant, man.

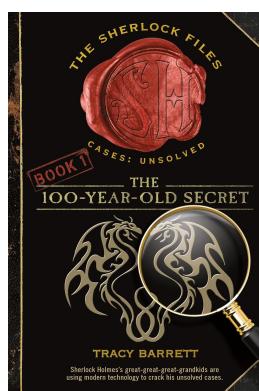
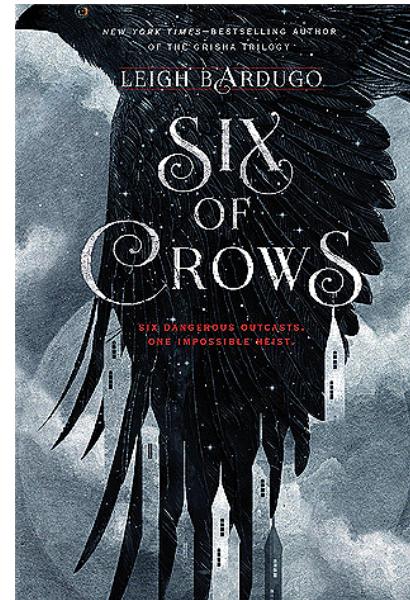
This book we will be reading vividly recounts the scandalous 1900s love affair he had with one of his client's wives, Mamah Borthwick Cheney. The book focuses on her quest for intellectual and personal freedom against societal constraints, exploring themes of love, sacrifice, feminism, and the consequences of defying convention through the eyes of its passionate, flawed protagonists.

I loved the book and have read or listened to it three times. It is available on Libby in reading format, or we have plenty of copies at the Odell Library!  
Review by Joyce Kostal

### January Featured Young Adult Book

#### **Six of Crows** by Leigh Bardugo

Looking for a fantasy book to add some excitement to your winter? Check out Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo. This Young Adult fantasy novel centers on a ring of criminals brought together by a grand heist. As the story unfolds, they begin to realize that more than just money is at stake. The plot is enticing, but what really stands out are the characters and their relationships to one another. Each one has many flaws, but the reader can't help but fall in love with this band of criminals. This book is a good fit for anyone who likes character driven novels and doesn't mind learning about a world different from reality. This book is part of a duology. Technically, there is a series tied to it as well, but you do not have to read those books to enjoy Six of Crows. Review by Melina Kostal



### January Featured Children's Book

The 100-Year Old Secret written in 2010 by Tracy Barrett, is a treasure waiting for someone to read. This book was on the Reading Classics list in about 2012 and is a favorite of any kids of mysteries. Siblings Xena and Xander Holmes just moved into a new home in London and find out they are direct descendants of Sherlock Holmes. They are trying to solve a case he couldn't - one centered around a missing painting and how it has been safely hidden all of these years. If you are a parent, think about checking this book out for your kids! Then treat them to the next three in the series!