

# NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS

# BIG READ



Managed by Arts Midwest

[arts.gov/neabigread](http://arts.gov/neabigread)

A county-wide celebration featuring nature exploration, science activities, performances, lectures, book discussions and more hosted by 54 community organizations.

## March 1–April 30

One book, 75 events based on  
“Lab Girl” by Hope Jahren

[www.llcc.edu/nea-big-read-sangamon-county](http://www.llcc.edu/nea-big-read-sangamon-county)



*NEA Big Read: Sangamon County presented by*



**Academy of Lifelong Learning**

Lincoln Land Community College



Springfield's Public Library



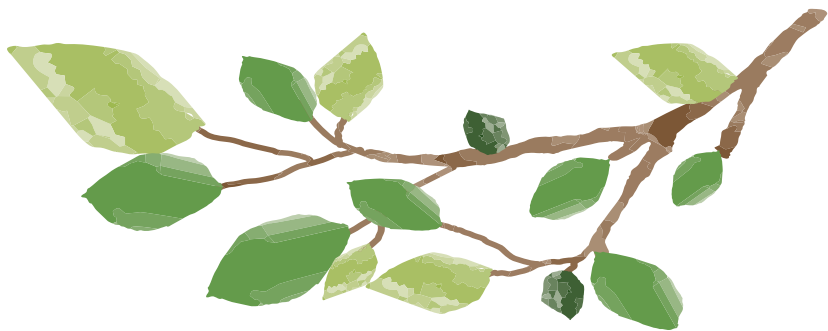
**Lincoln Land  
Community College**

*The NEA presents NEA Big Read in partnership with Arts Midwest.*

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## ABOUT THE NEA BIG READ: SANGAMON COUNTY

A program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read aims to broaden our understanding of our world, communities and ourselves through sharing the joy of a good book. The Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land Community College is one of 84 organizations nationwide that received this grant to host an NEA Big Read in their community. The amount awarded is \$15,000. The NEA Big Read: Sangamon County will focus on Hope Jahren's science memoir "Lab Girl."

The Academy of Lifelong Learning and many community partners have developed over 75 fun and educational community-wide book discussions, speakers, interactive programs and arts presentations inspired by the book's themes taking place March-April 2021.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

NEA Big Read: Sangamon County will focus on "Lab Girl," an award-winning autobiography of Hope Jahren, a Minnesota native who overcame gender stereotypes in science to become one of the world's leading geobiologists. Jahren's memoir tells the story of a young woman who finds friendship in odd places, battles bipolar disorder, perseveres through setbacks and becomes a respected scientist and passionate observer of the natural world.



"Science has taught me that everything is more complicated than we first assume, and that being able to derive happiness from discovery is a recipe for a beautiful life."—from "Lab Girl" (p. 29)

"Lab Girl" is a nature lover's story about digging in dirt and discovering new things about old growth. It's a scientist's story about running experiments, waiting and wondering, asking for funds and fending off doubt. It's a Midwesterner's story of moving south, east and west and noticing the differences. It's a girl's story

about growing up to be what she wants to be. And it's a woman's story about fighting stereotypes, sacrificing, feeling vulnerable, trusting in friendship, getting sick, getting help, finding love, and writing it all down. "I used to pray to be made stronger," Jahren writes in "Lab Girl." "Now I pray to be made grateful." (p. 256)

## GET YOUR FREE COPY OF THE BOOK

Over 1,000 copies of "Lab Girl" (2016) by Hope Jahren are available for free and can be picked up from several distribution points and checked out from your local library. Visit [www.llcc.edu/nea-big-read-sangamon-county](http://www.llcc.edu/nea-big-read-sangamon-county) to find out where to get your copy.



**March 2**

**"Reading Science,  
Reading Together"**

**KATHRYN HARRIS**

2020 State Journal-Register  
First Citizen Award winner  
and retired librarian



**March 25**

**"The Power of Curiosity"**

**EMILY GRASLIE**

Host of "Prehistoric Road Trip"  
on PBS; Creator of YouTube's  
"The Brain Scoop"



**April 17**

**Keynote Address**

**HOPE JAHREN**

Author of "Lab Girl"

## EVENTS

Join us for Arts & Crafts, Book Discussions, Nature & Science Activities and Panels & Presentations. Visit [www.llcc.edu/nea-big-read-sangamon-county](http://www.llcc.edu/nea-big-read-sangamon-county) for a complete list of event and registration details, book discussion questions, and a youth reading list.

## March 2021

**Book Club and Garden Glove Kits  
hosted by Sherman Public Library  
District**

TBD

**Poets & Painters 2021 hosted by  
Springfield Poets and Writers**

1/1/2021-3/1/2021

**LLCC Nature Walk Virtual hosted by  
Lincoln Land Community College  
Library**

3/1/2021 and thereafter

**Stay Crafty hosted by Chatham Area  
Public Library**

Mondays in March: March 1, 8, 15, & 22

**Kathryn Harris, "Reading Science,  
Reading Together" hosted by the  
Academy of Lifelong Learning at  
Lincoln Land Community College**

3/2/2021, 10-11 a.m.

**Today's Topic: A Female Family Affair  
... Do Strong Women Beget Strong  
Women? hosted by the Academy of  
Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land  
Community College**

3/3/2021, 10-11 a.m.

**Reader's Theater of "Lab Girl" hosted  
by Illinois Women in Leadership**

3/4/2021, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Day Book Club hosted by Rochester  
Public Library**

3/5/2021, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Maple Syrup Demonstration hosted by Lincoln Memorial Garden**

3/6/2021, 1-1:45 p.m.

**The Kitchen as a Lab (with Dr. Leslie Smith and Dr. Stacy Sattovia) hosted by Southern Illinois University School of Medicine**

3/8/2021, 4-5 p.m.

**Virtual Scavenger Hunt (with Barra Madden and Megan Miner) hosted by Southern Illinois University School of Medicine**

3/8/2021, 5-6 p.m.

**“Lab Girl” Book Club (with Katie Lincoln) hosted by Southern Illinois University School of Medicine**

3/9/2021, 5-6 p.m.

**Community Garden/Plant a Tree (with Morgan Watts) hosted by Southern Illinois University School of Medicine**

3/10/2021, 5-6 p.m.

**Virtual Laboratory Tour (with Dr. Andrea Braundmeier) hosted by Southern Illinois University School of Medicine**

3/11/2021, 4-5 p.m.

**Art Exhibit (with Dr. Nana Cudjoe and Dr. Vidhya Prakash) hosted by Southern Illinois University School of Medicine**

3/11/2021, 5-6 p.m.

**Bring Your Own Book Club: Women in STEM hosted by Lincoln Library**

3/11/2021, 7-8 p.m.

**Nature Decoupage Flower Pot hosted by Springfield Civic Garden Club in partnership with Washington Park**

3/12/2021, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-3 p.m.  
(Choice of Two Sessions)

**Story Slam, “This is Our Lane!” (with Dr. Susan Hingle and Dr. Christine Todd) hosted by Southern Illinois University School of Medicine**

3/12/2021, 4-5 p.m.

**Tour of Carpenter Park hosted by Friends of the Sangamon Valley**

3/13/2021, 1-3 p.m.

**Branch Transformation with Weaving hosted by Springfield Art Association**

3/13/2021, 3-5:30 p.m.

**Margaret Cross Norton: A Woman Making it in a Man's World hosted by Illinois State Archives**

3/15/2021, 6:30

**Evening Book Club hosted by Rochester Public Library**

3/15/2021, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Garden Glove Kit hosted by Williamsville Public Library and Museum**

3/15/2021-4/15/2021

**Backyard Basics hosted by Williamsville Public Library and Museum**

Workshop will be available from  
3/15/2021-4/15/2021.

**Poets & Painters in Cyberspace hosted by Springfield Poets and Writers**

3/17/2021, 6-8 p.m.

**Amateur Writers Guild: Memoirs  
hosted by Lincoln Library**

3/19/2021, 6-7 p.m.

**African American Science Leaders  
Serving Central Illinois hosted by  
Springfield and Central IL African  
American History Museum**

3/20/2021, 2 p.m.

**Botanical Drawing and Nature  
Journaling hosted by Friends of the  
Sangamon Valley**

3/20/2021, 3-5 p.m.

**LLCC Women in Science hosted by  
Lincoln Land Community College**

3/22/2021, 3:30-4:45 p.m.

**All Booked Up hosted by Chatham  
Area Public Library**

3/22/2021, 7-8 p.m.

**Little Lincoln's Fireside Tales hosted by  
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
and Museum**

3/23/2021, 10-11 a.m.

**Special Guided Tours of the  
Washington Park Botanical Garden  
Open House hosted by Washington  
Park Botanical Garden**

3/24/2021, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Book Lovers hosted by Academy of  
Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land  
Community College**

3/24/2021, 1-2:30 p.m.

**Emily Graslie, "The Power of Curiosity"  
hosted by Lincoln Land Community  
College**

3/25/2021, 6:30 p.m.

**Book Club hosted by Williamsville  
Public Library and Museum**

3/25/2021, 7 p.m.

**Book Talk hosted by Brookens Library,  
University of Illinois Springfield**

3/26/2021, 6-7 p.m.

**Paint from the Words hosted by  
Springfield Art Association**

3/27/2021, 1-3:30 p.m.

**Ethnicity and Character Traits:  
Norwegian-Americans and More  
hosted by Academy of Lifelong  
Learning at Lincoln Land Community  
College**

3/29/2021, 7 p.m.

**Women in Land Use hosted by  
Springfield-Sangamon County  
Regional Planning Commission**

3/30/2021, 5 p.m.

**Botany Behind the Scenes hosted by  
Illinois State Museum**

3/31/2021, 12-1 p.m.

**Panel Discussion hosted by Citizens  
Club in partnership with UIS Center for  
State Policy and Leadership**

3/31/2021, 5:30-7 p.m.

**April 2021**

**No Foolin': Chemistry is Fun! hosted by  
Lincoln Land Community College**

4/1/2021 and thereafter

**Day Book Club hosted by Rochester  
Public Library**

4/2/2021, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Historic Trees of New Salem hosted by Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site**  
4/3/2021, 10-11:30 a.m.

**The World of Annuals hosted by Springfield Civic Garden Club**  
4/5/2021, 9-11 a.m.

**Tips for Starting a Pollinator Garden hosted by University of Illinois Extension**  
4/5/2021, 6-7 p.m.

**Adventure with Birds hosted by Lincoln Library in Partnership with Lincoln Land Community College**  
4/6/2021, 6-7:30 p.m.

**Coal Age Plants of Illinois hosted by Illinois State Museum**  
4/7/2021, 6-7 p.m.

**Talking Book and Braille Service Book Discussion hosted by Illinois State Library**  
4/8/2021, 9:30-11 a.m.

**A Walk Through the Sanctuary: A Bird's Eye View of Spring Migration hosted by Springfield Audubon Society**  
4/8/2021, 5:30-7 p.m.

**Farm to Folk Concert hosted by Illinois Symphony Orchestra**  
4/9/2021, 7:30 p.m. and 4/10/2021, 7 p.m.

**Tour of Carpenter Park: The Difference a Month Makes hosted by Friends of the Sangamon Valley**  
4/10/2021, 1-3 p.m.

**Natural Materials Collage with Paper and Paint hosted by Springfield Art Association**  
4/10/2021, 3-5:30 p.m.

**Leaf Printing Coasters hosted by Springfield Civic Garden Club in partnership with Washington Park**  
4/12/2021, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-3 p.m.  
(Choice of Two Sessions)

**Plant an Illinois Native Tree: Support a Food Chain hosted by City of Springfield Urban Forestry Commission**  
4/14/2021, 6-7 p.m.

**"Lab Girl" Book Discussion hosted by Girard Township Library**  
4/15/2021, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**"Lab Girl" Book Talk hosted by Auburn Public Library District**  
4/16/2021, 5:30-7 p.m.

**Earth Awareness Fair hosted by City of Springfield: Office of Public Works**  
4/17/2021, 10 a.m.

**Author Hope Jahren Keynote hosted by the Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land Community College**  
4/17/2021, 11 a.m.

**Botanical Drawing and Nature Journaling hosted by Friends of the Sangamon Valley**  
4/17/2021, 3-5 p.m.

**Sangamon River Project hosted by Springfield Area Arts Council**  
4/18/2021, 1-3 p.m. (Rain date 4/25/2021)



**Evening Book Club hosted by  
Rochester Public Library**

4/19/2021, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**We, The Readers ... Book Club hosted  
by Lincoln Library in partnership with  
Springfield's League of Women Voters**

4/19/2021, 6:30-8 p.m.

**Virginia Eifert: Springfield Native,  
Prolific Naturalist hosted by Sangamon  
County Historical Society**

4/20/2021, 10-11 a.m.

**Guided Nature and Wildflower Hike  
hosted by Springfield Civic Garden  
Club in partnership with Lincoln  
Memorial Garden**

4/20/2021, 1:30 p.m. (Rain date  
4/27/2021)

**Nature Walk with Tony Rothering  
hosted by Lincoln Library in  
partnership with Lincoln Land  
Community College**

4/20/2021, 5-7 p.m.

**Women's Book Club hosted by West  
Sangamon Public Library**

4/20/2021, 7-8 p.m.

**LLCC Virtual Book Discussion of  
"Lab Girl" hosted by Lincoln Land  
Community College Library**

4/21/2021, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

**Poetry in Cyberspace: The SPW Open  
Mic hosted by Springfield Poets and  
Writers**

4/21/2021, 6-8 p.m.

**An Ambassador For and From the  
Trees: Science Literacy and the Future  
of Our Fragile Planet hosted by  
University of Illinois Springfield**

4/22/2021

**Trees for a Changing Climate hosted by  
Starhill Forest Arboretum**

4/22/2021, 1-3 p.m.

**Struggles for Climate Justice with Dr.  
Brandon Derman hosted by Lincoln  
Library**

4/22/2021, 6:30-8 p.m.

**"Lab Girl" Earth Day Book Discussion  
hosted by Barnes and Noble-  
Springfield**

4/22/2021, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Book Discussion hosted by Petersburg  
Public Library**

4/23/2021, 6-7 p.m.

**Sound Scape hosted by Dominican  
Sisters Jubilee Farm**

4/24/2021, 10-11 a.m.

**Tales of Beatrix Potter: A Children's  
Ballet hosted by Springfield Youth  
Ballet Company**

4/24/2021 or 4/25/2021, TBD

**Flowers & Faeries hosted by  
Springfield Ballet Company**

4/24/2021 or 4/25/2021, TBD

**"Lab Girl" Book Chat hosted by Illinois  
Reading Council**

4/26/2021, 7 p.m.

**Diversity Book Club: "Lab Girl" hosted  
by AAUW Diversity Book Club**

4/26/2021, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Arbor Week Celebration hosted by  
City of Springfield Urban Forestry  
Commission; and Boys and Girls Clubs  
of Central Illinois**

4/27/2021, 3-4 p.m.

**Historic Trees of New Salem hosted by  
Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site**

4/28/2021, 10-11:30 a.m.

**Bees, Birds, Butterflies & Blooms:  
How You Can Be a Hero for Pollinators  
hosted by Kidzeum**

4/28/2021, 6:30 p.m.

**Book Club hosted by Athens Municipal  
Library**

4/29/2021, 6:30 p.m.

## NEA BIG READ: SANGAMON COUNTY PARTNERS

We extend great appreciation to our partnering organizations whose activities help us appreciate the many themes of "Lab Girl."

AAUW Diversity Book Club  
Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
and Museum  
Academy of Lifelong Learning  
Athens Municipal Library  
Auburn Public Library District  
Barnes and Noble  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois  
Chatham Area Public Library  
Citizens Club of Springfield  
City of Springfield Urban Forestry  
Commission  
City of Springfield: Office of Public Works  
Concordia Village  
Divernon Township Library  
Dominican Sisters Jubilee Farm  
Friends of the Sangamon Valley  
Girard Township Library  
Grand Prairie-West Library  
Grow Springfield  
Illinois Reading Council  
Illinois State Archives  
Illinois State Library  
Illinois State Museum  
Illinois Symphony Orchestra  
Illinois Women in Leadership  
Kidzeum  
Lincoln Land Community College  
Lincoln Library  
Lincoln Memorial Garden

Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site  
Music Therapy Connections  
Pawnee Public Library  
Petersburg Public Library  
Prairie Skies Libraries  
Riverton Village Library  
Rochester Public Library  
Sangamon County  
Sangamon County Historical Society  
Sherman Public Library District  
Southern Illinois University School  
of Medicine  
Springfield and Central IL African  
American History Museum  
Springfield Area Arts Council  
Springfield Art Association  
Springfield Audubon Society  
Springfield Ballet Company  
Springfield Civic Garden Club  
Springfield Poets and Writers  
Springfield-Sangamon County Regional  
Planning Commission  
Springfield Youth Ballet Company  
Starhill Forest Arboretum  
Tri-City Public Library District  
University of Illinois Springfield  
Washington Park Botanical Garden  
West Sangamon Public Library  
Williamsville Public Library and Museum



## **Academy of Lifelong Learning**

Lincoln Land Community College

The Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land Community College offers opportunities for anyone ages 50 and over to stay mentally and physically active. Classes and activities are planned and led by members who enjoy meeting interesting friends, sharing ideas, exploring topics of interest, learning from one another and having fun.

For more information email [community.education@llcc.edu](mailto:community.education@llcc.edu) or call 217-786-2432.

