

Journal #4567

from sdc

12.11.19

Tennessee makes community college free for all adults

An Irish school is ditching homework for a month, assigning 'acts of kindness' instead

The world's supply of fresh water is in trouble as mountain ice vanishes

As Water Runs Low, Can Life in the Outback Go On?

EPA Seeking Nominations to the Good Neighbor Environmental Board

EPA Environmental Justice Grants Opportunity is Now Open!

How reading rewires your brain for higher intelligence and empathy

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One Library's Offerings

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The clock is ticking! National Small Business Week Awards are due by January 7

alter-NATIVE: Kitchen

Get a handle on all that holiday packaging



jon klassen

@burstofbeaden

last year in a library in Alaska I read a folk tale in a random book on a random shelf & have been thinking about it since & today i wrote the librarian w/ no book title or author & in 2 hrs i had a scan of the story & cover in my inbox - librarians should be running everything.

Tennessee makes community college free for all adults

money.cnn.com

Governor Bill Haslam is expected to sign a bill that expands...

An Irish school is ditching homework for a month, assigning 'acts of kindness' instead upworthy.com

The world’s supply of fresh water is in trouble as mountain ice vanishes

These high "water towers" provide a huge percentage of global fresh water, but climate change and geopolitical stresses endanger their existence.

Read in National Geographic: <https://apple.news/AMw7qURsxRSeC5S6xBule-Q>

As Water Runs Low, Can Life in the Outback Go On? By LIVIA ALBECK-RIPKA In Australia’s vast interior, rivers and lakes are disappearing. “We’re starting to glimpse what the future is going to be like,” one scientist said.

EPA Seeking Nominations to the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites nominations from a diverse range of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment to its Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB). Nominations will be accepted until vacancies are filled in March 2020.

The GNEB was created in 1992 by the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative Act, Public Law 102-532, 7 USC Section 5404. Implementing authority was delegated to the Administrator of EPA under Executive Order 12916. The GNEB is charged by statute with submitting an annual report to the President on the need for implementation of environmental and infrastructure projects within the states of the United States contiguous to Mexico.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate nominees:

- Background and experiences that would help members contribute to the diversity of perspectives on the committee (e.g., geographic, economic, social, cultural, educational, and other considerations);
- Represents a sector or group that helps to shape border-region environmental policy or represents a group that is affected by border region environmental policy;
- Has extensive professional knowledge and experience with the issues that the GNEB examines (i.e. environmental and infrastructure issues along the U.S.-Mexico border), including the bi-national dimension of these issues;
- Demonstrates senior level experience that will fill a need of the GNEB in bringing a new and relevant dimension to its deliberations;
- Possesses a demonstrated ability to work in a consensus building process with a wide range of representatives from diverse constituencies;
- and the ability to contribute approximately 10 to 15 hours per month to the GNEB’s activities, including face-to-face meetings, conference calls and participation in the development of the GNEB’s annual report to the President and comment letters.

For more details and instructions on how to apply, please review the Federal Register Notice (FRN) at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-11-14/pdf/2019-24745.pdf>

For additional information about the GNEB, please go to: <https://www.epa.gov/faca/gneb>

EPA Environmental Justice Grants Opportunity is Now Open!

2020 Request for Applications

Full Application Due Date: Friday, February 7, 2020 by 11:59 PM Eastern Time

The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program provides funding to support community-based organizations in their efforts to collaborate and partner with local stakeholder groups (e.g., local businesses and industry, local government, medical service providers, and academia) as they develop and implement community-driven solutions that address environmental and/or public health issues for underserved communities. The EJCPS program will award approximately \$1.2 million nationwide for this competitive opportunity. EPA anticipates issuing 10 awards (1 per EPA region) of up to \$120,000 each. These awards are for two-year projects.

See additional details at: [FY20 EJCPS RFA webpage](#)

Informational Pre-Application Assistance Calls: Potential applicants are invited to participate in conference calls with EPA to address questions about the EJCPS Program and this solicitation. For dial-in information and a list of the conference call dates and times, please visit the [FY20 EJCPS RFA webpage](#).

Is my organization eligible?

Eligible entities for this opportunity are as follows:

- incorporated non-profit organizations—including, but not limited to, community-based organizations, environmental justice networks, faith-based organizations and those affiliated with religious institutions
- federally recognized tribal governments—including Alaska Native Villages; OR
- tribal organizations

If your organization is NOT eligible, we encourage partnering with eligible entities on an EJSG project. See the RFP for more information.

How can I apply?

Click the link below to go directly to the EJCPS program website to access the full RFA, including instructions on applying through Grants.gov: [FY20 EJCPS RFA webpage](#)

FEEDBACK REQUESTED - The number of required forms for EPA grant applicants has increased. The EJ program is working to reduce the number of forms to reduce

the burden on EJ applicants. If you're interested in applying and support decreasing the number of forms, please send a short email to Sheila Lewis at Lewis.Sheila@epa.gov briefly stating how additional requirements and forms could impact your organization.



[How reading rewires your brain for higher intelligence and empathy](#) bigthink.com

“The difference between technology and slavery is that slaves are fully aware that they are not free” -- Nassim Nicholas Taleb

“It is not necessary to conceal anything from a public insensible to contradiction and narcotized by technological diversions.” -- Neil Postman

More GrantStation

National Opportunities

[Support for Out-of-School Programs for Middle Schoolers Nationwide](#)

The Aim High grant program, funded by the New York Life Foundation and administered by the Afterschool Alliance, supports out-of-school programs serving middle school youth nationwide.

[Services for Americans and Canadians With Spinal Cord Injuries Funded](#)

The Craig H. Neilsen Foundation is dedicated to supporting both programs and scientific research to improve the quality of life for those affected by and living with spinal cord injury.

Science Teachers in the U.S. and Canada Eligible for Lab Makeovers

The Shell Science Lab Challenge, administered by the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA), recognizes outstanding middle and high school programs in the United States and Canada for their exemplary approaches to science lab instruction.

Grants Promote Social Change in the U.S., Haiti, and Mexico

The Peace Development Fund believes that the change in values needed to establish a more just and peaceful world can come about only if it is strongly rooted in local communities that recognize the importance of building movements to create systemic social change.

Regional Opportunities

Rural Communities in Idaho and Montana Supported

The Steele-Reese Foundation is dedicated to addressing the unique challenges of rural living and to helping people build healthy, successful, and sustainable communities.

Funds for Healthcare Improvement Efforts in DC and Maryland

The Qlarant Foundation is dedicated to enhancing healthcare in Maryland and Washington, DC, through measurable outcome improvement projects.

Grants Strengthen Youth Development and Early Childhood Programs in Minnesota

The Sheltering Arms Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations in Minnesota that benefit children and families who have the least access to resources.

Support for Services Aiding Underserved Hawaiians

Friends of Hawaii Charities provides support to nonprofit organizations and public agencies that benefit women, children, youth, the elderly, and the needy in Hawaii.

Federal Opportunities

Environmental Education Supported

The Environmental Education Grants Program supports education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment.

Funds Support Service Dogs for Veterans and Service Members

The Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program seeks to help service members and veterans by supporting organizations committed to advancing the service dog industry through continued learning, innovative training programs, and superior industry standards.

One Library's Offerings

Children's programs

Pajama Storytime • Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

Books, stories, and songs for the whole family to enjoy. Pajamas are encouraged!

Toddler Time • Wednesdays at 10:15 and 11:00 am

Songs, active rhymes, and stories for ages 18 months to 3 years. Wednesday mornings, upstairs. Space is limited, please arrive early.

Baby Bounce • Thursdays at 10:15 am
Play, sing, & rhyme with your baby, from birth to 18 months!

PAWS to Read • Mondays, December 2 & 16, 3:00-4:30 pm
Practice reading to very special visitors in the library -- Banni the dog, and her handler Janet!

Banni is a friendly, gentle, highly-trained service dog who patiently listens to kids as they read out loud. Bring your own books, or choose from the library shelves.

LEGO Mania • Friday, December 6, 3:30-5:00 pm
Design, build, and explore with thousands of LEGOs. Come play!

Movie Matinee: Dora and the Lost City of Gold • Wednesday, December 11 at 3:00 pm
Relax at the library while watching this animated Disney Pixar movie! Rated G.

Holiday Ornament Craft, Saturday, December 14, 4:00 pm
Make your own holiday decorations out of modeling clay, glitter glue, and sequins! All materials will be provided; best for ages 3 and up.

Teen programs

DIY: Jewelry-Making for Teens • Wednesday, December 4 at 2:30 pm
In this fun, free, hands-on workshop, artists from the Rock Paper Scissors Collective <<http://rpscollective.org/>> will guide you in creating your own beautiful jewelry. Great for gifts! All workshop supplies are provided.

Winter Origami Bookmarks • Saturday, December 7, 1:00-2:00 pm
Join us for afternoon crafts in the TeenZone! We'll make winter themed bookmarks. All materials provided. For youth ages 12 to 18.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting • Saturday, December 14, 11:00 am-12:00 pm
Do you need a voice? Want to be heard? Then join Teen Advisory Board!

Come share your ideas and help us plan programs and events for teens. The Teen Advisory Board meets the second Saturday of each month. For more information, please call Rebekah Eppley at (510) 482-7844 or email reppley@oaklandlibrary.org.

Teen Scape Radio Workshop • Wednesday, December 18, 2:30-4:30 pm
Do you like podcast radio? How about listening to or creating your own music?
This event is for tweens and teens ages 10-18 years old.

Game Day Thursdays, 3:30-5:00 pm
Are you a gamer? Looking for a place to chill and chat with others about games? Play the latest Xbox 360 and Wii-U videogames! For tweens & teens! Age 10-18.
Snacks are provided. Get your free food!

Adult programs

Lawyers in the Library • Tuesday, December 3, 6:00-8:00 p
Lawyers in the Library offers free legal information and referral. If further legal help is required, people are referred to other agencies. Sessions are popular and subject to change. Please call in advance to confirm before coming to the library. This is a free session.

ESL Conversation Club • Saturdays, December 7 & 21, 4:00-5:00 pm

Our English as a Second Language Club offers a respectful, welcoming space for adult learners to practice their English conversation skills. We'll provide prompts each week to get the conversation started.

Tai Chi Chih - Joy through Movement, Mondays, December 2, 16 & 30 from 10:15-11:45 am

A form of qigong, Tai Chi Chih is a moving meditation consisting of twenty easy-to-learn, accessible movements. Tai Chi gathers, circulates, and balances the chi or energy of the body with the intention of bringing stillness and calm in the midst of activity. Sitting or standing, the movements are practiced with softness and continuity and can release tension, negativity, and stress. Open to youth and elders and those in between! Join us for one or several or all of the classes on Monday mornings.

Book Discussion Group • Wednesday, December 11, 6:00-7:30 pm

Join us for some spirited discussion about fiction and nonfiction books. Please call the branch for upcoming titles. Book group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Writing from the Body • Wednesday, December 18, 6:30-7:30pm

This four session writing workshop will focus on writing from the body. Prompts will be given during each session. Whether you're writing fiction, creative nonfiction or memoir the prompts will be designed to help you generate ideas. There will be time at the end of each session to share your writing with others if you wish, but the emphasis will be on writing and creating together rather than critique. Beginning writers are welcome. You don't need to attend all four sessions -- come to one or come to them all!

Creative Crafts for Adults: 3-D Collage • Saturday, December 28, 2:00-4:00 pm

Join us for drop-in art activities to inspire creativity, play with materials and learn new skills. This month we'll transform simple materials like cardboard, paint, multi-colored buttons and other found objects into works of art. You are always welcome to bring your own project to work on. Workshops take place on the fourth Saturday of the month. All materials provided.

Computer and e-book help, Fridays, 1:00-3:00 pm and Saturdays, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Get computer help with resumes, email, job searching, new technologies and more. Please call to make an appointment.

[Shane Ridley-Stevens](#)

Day 1 of the 10-day **Performer/Artist Challenge**:

Every day, select an image from a day in the life of a performer/artist - a photo from a day when you felt like a badass, or a memorable moment you've had during a performance/show, and post it without a single explanation, then nominate somebody to the challenge.

That's 10 days, 10 performance photos, 10 nominations, and 0 explanations. Be active,... [See More](#)



The clock is ticking! National Small Business Week Awards are due by January 7, 2020

Are you a small business owner with an amazing success story to tell? If so, submit your nomination today for the SBA's National Small Business Week Awards.

"Winning the Nevada SBA 2019 Minority Business of the year gives me a credibility factor when I meet prospective customers," Boss Oroke owner of BB Mechanical, LLC.

The Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) (*note: most states have an equivalent office*) is actively seeking nominations for its statewide 2020 Small Business Awards. The honorees in the following categories will be recognized by the SBA during a premier celebratory event to be held during National Small Business Week in May 2020.

- Nevada Small Business Person of the Year
- Nevada Small Business Exporter of the Year
- Nevada Young Entrepreneur of the Year (under 30 by 6/1/20)
- Nevada Micro-Enterprise Person of the Year (5 employees or fewer)
- Nevada Minority Owned Business of the Year
- Nevada Woman Owned Business of the Year
- Nevada Family Owned Business of the Year
- Nevada Veteran Owned Business of the Year
- Nevada Rural Business of the Year
- Nevada Legacy Business of the Year (25+ years in business)
- Entrepreneurial Spirit Award

For over 50 years, National Small Business Week has recognized the outstanding achievements of America's small businesses for their contributions to their local communities, and to our nation's economy. We are proud to share the stories and testimonials of prior SBA winners. Read below to learn more about their SBA Award experience and how to apply.

Debbie Banko CEO of LINK Technologies, Nevada SBA 2019 8(a) graduate of year and Nevada SBA 2005 SBA Women's Owned Business winner said, *"being an SBA Award winner adds to the credibility of my company and it is included in the promotional materials."*

Individuals may not be nominated for more than one Small Business Week (SBW) 2020 award category. Those who have received a small business award in the past five years will not be eligible.

Don't be shy, we want you to brag. Tell us your story for a chance to receive one of the nation's highest honors for small business achievement.

How to Apply:

The deadline for submitting a nomination package is Tuesday, January 7, 2020. Eligibility guidelines are available on the Nevada SBA's website www.sba.gov/nv or via e-mail to NVDO@sba.gov.

Nomination packages can be faxed to: 202-481-0785 or emailed to NVDO@sba.gov

For more information call 702-388-6611

Complete the Awards Nomination Contact form:

[Nevada SBA 2020 Awards Nomination Initial Contact Form](#). This will allow the District Office to contact the nominee and begin the process.



In the new *Independent Lens* web series [alter-NATIVE: Kitchen](#), see how cooking connects **three innovative Native chefs** to their own histories, and what they, in turn, can teach others, with mouth-watering delicacies--from wild rice bowls and sumac duck confit to poke and imu-cooked kalua pig, to honey Lakota popcorn

alter-NATIVE: Kitchen

- [Independent Lens](#)
- 6 videos

Purveyors of America's Indigenous foods are forging a resurgence of native dishes that satisfy a new generation hungry for insight and culinary delight. Meet three talented young Indigenous chefs--Brian Yazzie, a Navajo/Diné chef originally fro...

[Play all](#)

[How This Navajo Chef Brings His Native Food Traditions Back](#) by [Independent Lens](#)

[5:31](#)

What Native Elders Think About Indigenous Cooking by Independent Lens	5:49
Why This Young Hawaiian Chef Still Cooks Underground by Independent Lens	6:07
Are There Too Many Cooks in This Hawaiian Kitchen? by Independent Lens	5:46
What Is “Pre-Colonial” Cooking? by Independent Lens	5:09
What a Six Course, Gourmet Native American Meal Looks Like by Independent Lens	8:09

Get A Handle On All That Holiday Packaging

Well, Next Level Recyclers – we’re in the thick of it.

Between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day, Americans generate [25% more waste](#) per week than normal.

That’s ~ 5 million tons of extra waste during the 2019 holidays.

We can change that, though. Through some creative recycling and gift-giving ideas, we can help divert some of that waste from our landfills.

Use what you’ve got .

1. Reuse ribbons and bows from last year. Bonus points if they already perfectly fit your gift box!
2. Make the package part of the gift. [Get inspired](#) to use a basket, blanket or another component when giving gifts.
3. Plan out a treasure hunt to find gifts instead of wrapping it up. The little ones will love this, and it gives you a little peace during the hectic holidays.

Get someone started

1. Make recycling easy to find for guests at your holiday party, from dishware to packaging and everything in-between.
2. Include rechargeable batteries with electronic gifts – it’s one less item that will end up in the landfill.
3. Give the gift of knowledge – share [the NLR newsletter](#) with someone that is looking to take their recycling habits to the next level!

Look for special recycling opportunities

1. Live Christmas trees may be collected and turned to mulch in your area. Check with your local waste collector about pickup.
2. Big box stores [like Best Buy](#) might recycle your old electronics. Out with the old and slow, in with the new and speedy!
3. Look for extra pick up days, specialty drop off locations and other recycling events in your area

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Quick Links to Find Recycling

- [Corrugated cardboard \(search by zip\)](#)
- [Foam packaging](#)
- [Plastic #5](#)
- [Plastic films](#)
- [Old electronics](#)

Together, we can make a world of difference, and kick off this new year right! (*Grammar police recommend “correctly”, “properly”, “in the right way”, etc.*)