



Springfield's Public Library

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[www.lincolnlibrary.info](http://www.lincolnlibrary.info)

Rochelle Hartman, Director

FOUNDED 1936



LINCOLN MEMORIAL  
GARDEN

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## Lincoln Library unveils permanent StoryWalk® installation at Lincoln Memorial Garden as finale to NEA Big Read

Springfield, IL- On Friday, April 30th at 10a.m Lincoln Library will unveil a permanently installed StoryWalk® at Lincoln Memorial Garden as the finale of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read: Sangamon County. StoryWalk® is a library outreach, educational activity that places a children's story along a popular walking route in communities to promote reading and outdoor physical activity for kids and families. It will be installed on the paved walking path near the Nature Center and will be fully accessible.

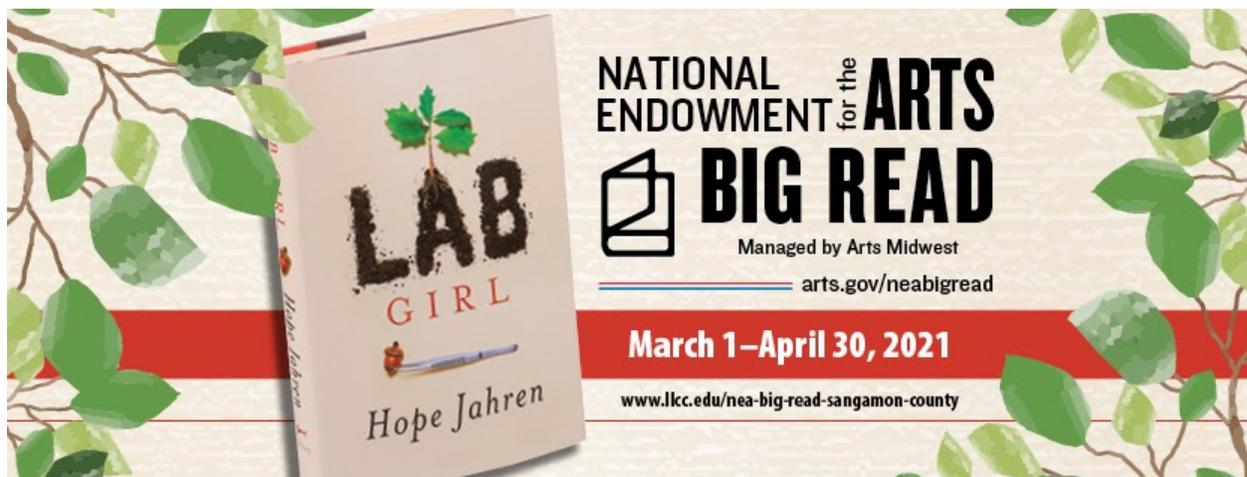
"StoryWalk combines three things that all kids need—fresh air, engagement with nature, and early literacy exposure," said Lincoln Library Director, Rochelle Hartman, "Each month, families will be able to experience a new story presented in 16 permanently-installed StoryWalk holders. Families can stroll along a short, paved, accessible path and read an entire story while enjoying the beauty of nature. We're delighted to extend the reach of the library outside of our building and into this treasured landmark."

The first book will be *Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa*, by Jeanette Winter.

"This paved path is surrounded by beautiful wildflowers all spring and summer, it will be a perfect place for kids and families to read a story about the outdoors and nature and then head off into the trails," said Executive Director of Lincoln Memorial Garden, Joel Horwedel.

StoryWalk® was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT with the help of Rachel Senechal, a librarian at Kellogg-Hubbard Library. They have been installed in 50 states and 13 countries. The StoryWalk installation was assembled locally at FastSigns.

The NEA Big Read: Sangamon County is presented by the Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lincoln Land Community College in partnership with the Lincoln Library. It wraps up over 45 local community organizations and over 75 free events which took place between March 1-April 30. Big Read is designed to broaden understanding of our world, our communities and ourselves through the joy of sharing one book. This year's selection, "Lab Girl" is 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. Her 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.



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