



# FoKL Point

Summer 2009

Friends of Kansas Libraries, Inc.

Volume 26, Issue 4

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## **Friends of Kansas Libraries**

*Friends of Kansas Libraries is a statewide organization of groups and individual members committed to helping libraries meet the needs and expectations of their communities. It can provide start-up grants to communities establishing new friends groups or having unique program needs and provides technical assistance to local groups upon request. FoKL Point is the official publication of Friends of Kansas Libraries.*

*For further information or to submit articles to FoKL Point, contact,*

*FoKL  
Hutchinson Public Library  
901 N Main St  
Hutchinson, KS 67501*

## **Lincoln Carnegie Library Project is Complete**

**By Deb Ortiz, FLCL President**

Thanks in part to the efforts of the Friends of the Lincoln Carnegie Library, (FLCL) the building and renovation project at the Lincoln facility is complete and the library reopened June 15. The project, begun in April 2008, included the building of an addition to the historic structure and partial renovation of the original building which is on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

The FLCL supported the \$570,000 project by selling tax credits, holding fundraisers and applying for grants. A \$500 grant from FoKL helped the Lincoln group purchase adjustable height tables and 20 stackable chairs for the new meeting room.

In addition, the FLCL has purchased a new oak magazine

display rack, a refrigerator for the meeting room and paid for the construction of the limestone base for the new lighted sign.

A grand opening celebration is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 1 with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 2 p.m. Those attending will be able to see the improvements to the library, which include an elevator, handicapped accessible restroom, reading room, and custom made circulation desk.



## **FOKL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE:**

FoKL Executive Board	Friday, July 17	at 9 a.m. at Junction City
FoKL Executive Com.	Friday, August 21	at 9:30 a.m. via OPAL
FoKL Executive Com.	Friday, Sept. 18	at 9:30 a.m. via OPAL
FoKL Executive Board	Friday, October 16	at 9 a.m. at Haysville

*All minutes from all FoKL Board meetings are available on the FoKL website: [www.fokl.net](http://www.fokl.net).*

## Friends of Kansas Libraries Board of Trustees

For additional information about starting a Friends group or revitalizing your existing Friends group, get in touch with your regional trustee by contacting your Regional Library System or e-mail the trustee directly. Your trustee can visit your group or help answer your questions.

### Officers:

President: **Sue Blechl**, Emporia:  
blechls@emporialibrary.org  
Vice-President, **Carolyn Little**, Topeka:  
cslittle07@yahoo.com  
Secretary, **Connie Mitchell**, Eureka  
carnegie@fox-net.net  
Treasurer: **Tina Stropes**, Hutchinson:  
tstropes@hutchpl.org

### Regional Trustees:

N.E.: **Lisa Farrar Wellman**, Ottawa:  
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N.Central: **Midge Jones**, Manhattan:  
mjonesks@cox.net  
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#4 **Clarice Howard**, Norton:  
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#5 **Andrea Sobba**, Garnett:  
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#6 **Susan Richardson**, Hutchinson:  
susanrichardson@cox.net

### State Library Liaison:

**Shannon Roy**, Topeka

### Newsletter Editor:

**Lisa Farrar Wellman**, Ottawa  
lisa.farrar.wellman@gmail.com

## Kansas Library Conference welcomes the Mountain Plains Library Association April 1-3, 2009 in Wichita By Sue Blechl

The annual state library conference felt like a new experience, due to the co-sponsorship with MPLA and the use of new meeting spaces within the conference facility.

The Trustees/Friends Day was April 1, with the awards luncheon, annual meetings for KLTA (Kansas Library Trustee Association) and FoKL, and a number of programs focusing on advocacy, foundations, fundraising, and collaboration.

FoKL also staffed a booth adjacent to the exhibit area with the theme "Win with Friends." Featuring a wheel of fortune spinner, FoKL board members gave away chocolate, license plates, decks of cards, tote-bags and a grand prize – a \$25 gift card from Barnes & Noble. For the last five years, FoKL has used fun themes and promotions at the annual conference booth to draw attention to its awards, grants and other services. and to sell memberships, tote bags and license plates. It's a fun and valuable way to get our message out to the library community.



**Congratulations!** Jane Hatch (left) received the Duane Johnson Library Leadership Award. Sue Blechl (right), FoKL president, made the presentation.

**Win with Friends!** The group from Haysville Friends of the Library thoroughly enjoyed the FoKL/KLTA celebration luncheon.

(l-r): Kay Brooks, Marion Renner, Betty Cattrell, Johnna Crawford (Friends President), Zoe Burgess, (Library Trustee). *Photos by Gail Fisher*



## Public Librarians Learning to Thrive in Tough Times

By Carolyn Little

Many Friends organizations provide funds for purchases outside the library's budget. This year why not consider sending your library director to the Kansas Library Association Public Library Section's Fall Retreat? Sessions will emphasize a positive approach to tight budgets.

The retreat for public library personnel is in Wichita, October 1-2. Presenters will give timely tips for "no cost and low cost" programming and other suggestions for stretching the library funds. A tour of the new Andover Public Library will provide energy efficient ideas.

The cost for registration is modest, but the opportunity to share ideas and gain insight is invaluable. Registration is at the KLA website, [kansaslibraryassociation.org](http://kansaslibraryassociation.org) at an early bird rate through September 10, 2009. Make a difference to your library staff today and ask how you can help with their expenses for this beneficial event.

### Thank you Nancy, Richard and Harriet

We wish to thank Nancy Keith of Effingham, Richard Brookman of Lakin and Harriet Goff of Belleville for their service on the FoKL Board. Representing the east, west and north parts of Kansas, these three board members were helpful in spreading FoKL's message throughout the state. We wish them well and will always consider them "Friends."

## You're invited to join us

By Marion Renner

The new Haysville Community Library will hold a grand opening at 2 p.m. on July 12. There will be a ribbon cutting, speeches and recognition of dignitaries. The building will be blessed by members of the Osage Tribe, as it was once their land. After touring the new library, guests are invited to a watermelon feed in the historic district, just across the street. The building is built in the Carnegie style, blending in with other structures in the historic district. Everyone is encouraged to attend the grand opening.

## Happy 100th birthday

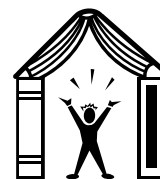
By Clarice Howard



On June 11, Norton Public Library celebrated its 100th year of serving citizens with library service. Approximately 250 children of all ages attended the "Flying debris" show by juggler, Richard Holmgren.

During the afternoon Mark Baker entertained with an Elvis impersonation and some country singing. Displays hosted by Northwest Kansas Library System, Talking Books, the Norton County Historical Society, the Norton Genealogy Society, the Friends and Foundation of Norton Public Library and Tim and Gary Adrian with fossils and Indian relics attracted much interest. Approximately 500 people celebrated. Cake and tea were served to all as well as popcorn to those attending the juggling show. The day ended with a teen party. Librarian Mary Luehrs commented, "It was a wonderful day. I loved every minute of it!"

Build a better library  
with Friends



**Friends of  
Kansas Libraries**

Join or renew your Friends of Kansas Library membership today by filling out the membership form on page 6. The mailing address is:

**FoKL**  
Hutchinson Public Library  
901 N Main St  
Hutchinson, KS 67501

*Check your address label on the back page.  
Your membership will expire on June 30th of  
the year printed on the label.*

## Wamego PL Hopes to Rejuvenate Friends

By Midge Jones

I was invited by the Wamego Public Library director Kim Clark to a meeting on May 27 regarding a Friends group. Kim requested a FoKL kit (with bylaws, constitution, and any helpful materials) for that meeting. Kim said they had an earlier group, called the Book Ends Society, and have \$1000 in savings---they are interested in fixing up their Teens area (decorating, etc.), and are eager to get going.

Only a few people attended the meeting, including Kim, the children's librarian and a trustee. Though the number was small, the group was responsive and I enjoyed being there.

The room was set up with rows of chairs (lecture style), and I thought we'd enjoy a less formal grouping, so we formed a circle and got acquainted, after which I referred to the FoKL forms (How to Start...Constitution, Bylaws) and went over some of the items with them. We had a conversational type of meeting, with ideas from them as well as my talking. They seemed to be favorable about the meeting, which lasted two hours.

The library is attractive, in a former bank building which has been well arranged for its new use. Kim Clark wants to have a teen area decorated to appeal to young adults (they have \$1000 left from their former Book Ends Society), and says that the public schools have extensive libraries of their own, which perhaps lessens the desire of children to come to the library.

More support for the director from board members and volunteers might be helpful. If another meeting is scheduled, the publicity should be done well in advance so that people can clear their calendars.

I thought we had a good start, and I assured Kim that I (and FoKL) will help in every possible way.

## Rossville Friends scoop up members at ice cream social

By Carolyn Little

The Friends ice cream social in Rossville was very well-attended. Twenty five to 30 community members attended and even some guests from the next county joined the fun. They are truly a community library.

The director, Sean Bird, gave a rousing speech about why he thought Rossville Community Library need as Friends group.

Everyone was ready to sign up when he was finished! The best reason he gave to join was to be part of a legacy for the community.

Forty years ago, five women in Rossville made the effort to establish the library. In 1996, they expanded. Now to insure that the library continues to serve community needs, Friends are being recruited.

## Celebrating volunteers

By Sue Blechl

The Johnson County Library (JCL) held its annual Volunteer Celebration on April 17, 2009. With the theme "Hats Off to Volunteers," the event featured a buffet luncheon, entertainment and awards. FoKL President Sue Blechl was on hand to present a FoKL award to Anita Kaiser as she retired from her ten-year position as book sale chair. Her last sale netted over \$78,000. Over 400 volunteers gave their time and expertise to JCL. Volunteers who donated 150 or more hours in 2008 were honored with a book for the JCL collection.



Sean Bird, director of Rossville Community Library

## Farrar Wellman joins FoKL board

Lisa Farrar Wellman will represent northeast Kansas. Lisa began her library career at the age of 15 as a student worker for Stevens County Library in Hugoton. Lisa worked for Myers Library, Ottawa University from 1995 to 2002. She joined Ottawa Library's staff in July of 2002 and worked there until May 2008.

Her responsibilities over the years included everything from Interlibrary Loan to cataloguing to adult programming and grant writing. Lisa is interested in anything related to libraries.

Lisa holds a MLS from Emporia State University but her other professional backdrop is that of writer. Lisa works from home as a freelance writer and serves as the Ottawa school district's grant writer. This career shift allows Lisa the freedom to be with her daughter more. "I love spending time with our zany two-year old, Reagan," says Lisa. "However, I truly miss being part of Kansas libraries so when Carolyn called to ask me to serve on the FoKL board, I was thrilled to say yes."

Lisa will also serve as editor for *FoKL Point*.

## Ask Freeda...



by Sue Blechl, Director,  
Emporia Public Library

Dear Freeda,

Our library is experiencing, like many others, a budget shortfall. As of now, it looks like a two or three percent decrease. Our Friends group wants to help in some way, but we can't make up that amount of funding.

Any suggestions?

Signed ---

Ready, willing and able

Dear Ready,

It's great that you realize that your library is under some stress. I'm sure that the director and the library board would welcome your help. I might suggest that the Friends president or other designated person meet with the director (and perhaps the board

president) to see what impact the shortfall is having, and then look at the Friends' resources (funds, volunteers, etc.) to find a good match of needs and solutions.

While I can't imagine all possible scenarios, I encourage you to think outside the box. Perhaps maintaining the library's landscaping would help, or even cleaning the library. Maybe a special fundraiser is needed so that the library does not have to shorten its hours. Maybe the Friends can buy the new computer that had to be cut from the budget or pay the registration and travel costs for the librarian to attend a workshop. You might also look at the talents and skills of the Friends board and Friends members. Do you have a marketing person, a grant writer, a contractor, a webpage developer?

Now more than ever, there needs to be good communication between the Friends, the director and the trustees. Resources must be directed to the priority areas, as defined by the library. Together the three parties will keep the library as sound and successful as possible.

Hang in there!

--Freeda B. Frank

## Start-up grant group takes off By Clarice Howard

Just over a year ago, a group of ten interested patrons of the Graham County Public Library met to organize a Friends group. One of the first things they did was to apply for a Start-up Grant from the Friends of Kansas Library. With \$150 in hand, they were off and running.

After a membership drive and organizational meeting, they sped into activities.

On June 25 of this year they hosted their second annual Literary, where people are invited to "feed and read." Last year attendees had so much fun they wanted to have it every month instead of once a year. June also marks their second annual book sale.

Several of their activities happen monthly. Once a month they sponsor a writer's group. After school programs feature one craft meeting and one game day.

In addition to volunteer efforts the group has effectively advocated for the library. They provided a luncheon for the Chamber of Commerce to acquaint the members with the library and library activities. They also provided a luncheon for an author visit.

Graham County librarian Mary Allen states, "I don't know how I ever got along without them!" Looking ahead she sees perhaps more fund raising to convert the present garage into a multipurpose room. No matter what the outcome, the Graham County Friends group will be busy working to promote their library to the fullest!

## FoKL Awards and Challenge Grants

Nine Challenge Grants were awarded to public library Friends groups in spring 2009, ranging in amount from \$100 to \$500, for a total of \$2,500. The libraries receiving grants were:

- Lincoln Carnegie Library
- Douglass Public Library
- Pittsburg Public Library
- Perry Lecompton Community Library
- Andover Public Library
- Library District #2 of Linn County-La Cygne
- Kinsley Library
- Graham County Public Library-Hill City
- Bonner Springs Library

We congratulate the Friends groups and look forward to reading reports on the projects funded. Information on Challenge Grants and other FoKL programs can be found at the FoKL webpage <http://www.fokl.net/>.

# FOKL POINT

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## July 1 Membership June 30

*Help Us Help Kansas Libraries. Join today!*

**Dues:** \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$15  
\_\_\_\_\_ Friends' Group \$25  
\_\_\_\_\_ Library \$35

**Contributions:**  
\_\_\_\_\_ Best Friend \$ 50                      \_\_\_\_\_ Carnegie Circle Supporter \$250  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bookworm Benefactor \$100        \_\_\_\_\_ Dewey Donor \$500

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Your financial support of the Friends of Kansas Libraries is an investment on behalf of libraries across the entire state.