



FRIENDS OF KANSAS LIBRARIES

Awards and Challenge Grants

During the FoKL Board's April meeting, members deliberated over excellent candidates for our annual awards and grants. **Outstanding Individual Award** nominees were Diane James of Pittsburg, David Fritzlen and Jeanette Nichols of Winfield, Diane Mulanax of Derby and Martha Price of Girard. The award was given to **Diane James**, who will receive a \$50 cash award to her local Friends organization and a recognition certificate. She was nominated by Pittsburg Public Library Director Bev Clarkson, who shared that Diane has been a member of Friends of Pittsburg Public Library for ten years. During that time, Diane served several times as a board member and officer of the group. Bev wrote it was Diane's role as Book Sale Chairperson

where Diane truly made her mark. Since 2009, Diane has served as Book Sale Chair or Co-Chair. This position requires hundreds of hours of preparation each year. Weekly visits to the library to stock shelves for the Friend's ongoing book sale as well as sorting and preparing items for two large sales indicate Diane's commitment to the position she accepted. Bev estimated Diane has donated 3,100 hours to these tasks over the past ten years.

Kansas Poet Laureate slated as this year's FoKL luncheon speaker



Huascar and the humanities have fans – the message of the reception June 13 to congratulate 2019-2021 Kansas Poet Laureate. The Poet Laureate promotes the humanities as a public resource for all Kansans.

Diane's dedication to her position included working smarter, not harder. She helped Friends members start an eBay account to reach a wider audience. Previously unsold textbooks now bring premium prices online. In addition, Diane created a sorting system that streamlines the book sale process. She transformed the library meeting room into a

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Friends of Kansas Libraries is a statewide organization of groups and individual members committed to helping libraries meet the need and expectations of their communities. It can provide startup 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 more information or to submit newsletter articles, please contact: Wendy Morlan, editor, Pleasanton Lincoln Library, P.O. Box 101, Pleasanton, KS 66075, pleaslinlib@ckt.net



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genuine bookshop each year — visually appealing and easy to navigate for customers. Diane also created work schedules and recruits volunteers for each slot.

Best of all, she made working the book sales an enjoyable experience for volunteers, stocking workstations with supplies and extras — like candy and bottles of water. Due to Diane's efforts the Friends of the Library has given a total of \$102,441 to the library over the last ten years. The donations funded a great portion of the library's programs each year — including the entire summer reading program of over 100 programs for all ages.

The FoKL Board is happy to acknowledge the incredible work Diane James has done for the Pittsburg Public Library!

Outstanding Friends Group nominees were Friends of the Morrill Public Library in Hiawatha, and Friends of the Wamego Public Library in Wamego. This year's winning organization was the **Friends of Morrill Library**. They will receive a \$100 cash award and a recognition certificate. The Morrill Public Library Staff and Trustees nominated their Friends group. The nomination reported through contributions, membership dues and funds from the sale of used books, the Friends supported a wide variety of programs and services above and beyond the library's budget. The motivated, cheerful group could always be counted on to show up when there was work to do.

In 2018, the Friends ventured into the world of grant writing and were quite successful. They received grants from the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska. This provided funds to purchase eight new patron computers and a laptop. They received a grant from the Ruth and Roger Wolfe Charitable Trust for a 2019 makerspace program for 5th-7th grade students. Efforts continued this year, with a Humanities Kansas award for \$300 for a Speakers Bureau event in April.

Their Annual Membership Drive kicked off during a community Expo hosted by the local KNZA-FM radio station. For the first time, the Friends staffed a table at the Expo to promote library activities and they were able to sign up many new Friends members. The event, in addition to their annual letter, and a newly added basket raffle netted \$4,481, a 61 percent increase from the previous year.

The library's concert and art show, "Synchronicity: A Journey of Music and Art," held at the Hiawatha High School auditorium in April 2018 was a very successful fundraiser. Its initial expenses were covered by the Friends, who also volunteered during the event.

In addition, the Friends purchased books to be distributed to families during Toddler Story Time. They supported Kansas Reads to Preschoolers at the library and in the community, the Summer Reading Program, 1000 Books Before Kindergarten and Books for Babies. Congratulations to the Friends of Morrill Public Library for a successful year!

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The FoKL Board's discussion of **Challenge Grant** nominees was lengthy, but decisions were finally made.

Rossville Friends of the Library were awarded their request for \$500. Their goal was to create a welcoming, innovative and flexible space for teens. The dedicated space will create an environment that unites them with other young adults the minute they enter the library. It connects them to library resources while engaging them in social activities, discovery and learning. The space will allow a safe place for teens to hang out together as a community, while increasing teen engagement and membership to the library. Connecting them to the library will expand their knowledge of the world community as well as grow a deeper understanding of their own community.

The Manhattan Library Association was also awarded their requested amount of \$500 to purchase board books for their Books for Babies program. They have been developing the program in partnership with USD 383 and the local Birth and Women's Center. Their goals are: 1) To welcome new babies and encourage parents to develop a habit of reading to their child and engage in early literacy activities beginning at birth, and 2) To encourage use of the public library with information about the free resources and programs for babies and families.

Friends of the Morrill Public Library was granted the amount of \$250 they requested. The goal of their project was to update and improve the appearance of the library's website, print materials and social media presence in order to: increase visibility and awareness of Library program and services; increase visibility and awareness of the Friends of the Library activities; update the library's image; enhance fundraising efforts of Library Trustees and Friends of the Library. The grant will allow them to retain a professional photographer to take original photographs of the library building before and after their upcoming renovation. In addition, the photographer will take photos of Library staff, Friends members, and during selected special events throughout the year. These original photographs will be used for the library's website, newsletter and social media outlets.

Winners of these grants agreed to complete a report form regarding their projects and return it to FoKL no later than February 1, 2020.

Congratulations to these supportive Friends organizations!

We encourage your Friends group to apply for these grants and awards next year. All award nominations and grant applications are due by April 1, 2020.

Friends of the Library donates book to local library



From left, Debbie Bosomworth, Ciri George, June Anderson and Terra Coons of the White City Friends of the Library.

Members of the White City Friends of the Library presented the book, "Fond Memories of Rural Schools, Northwest Morris County, Kansas" to the White City Library. The book chronicles the stories and people who attended rural schools in Northwest Morris County through written memories and photographs. Dean Hettenbach began the journey of compiling the stories of those who attended and taught in the small rural schools. The Friends of the Library continued the project with the help of historian Roger Diekmann. The Friends members are grateful to those who submitted their personal stories, and to their generous sponsors:

Tri-County Telephone, Bank of the Flint Hills, Friends of Kansas Libraries and the Council Grove Area Foundation. The book has been published and is available for sale. Contact June Anderson at 785-349-2800, to inquire about obtaining a copy.

Community collaboration benefits library

Beck-Bookman Library received community support from their local grocery store, Cecil K's. The store asked for applications from community charitable groups and selected the library to be the recipient for March. The store supported the library by offering shoppers a way to provide food for the event. Customers chose to donate the cost of grocery items for a library event planned for May. If more than the amount of food is purchased, the library will have credit to use as they need it. This marketing technique benefits not only the library, but the grocery store as well. It netted \$4,000 for their May event! The community has also been very supportive of the library, helping through gifts with furnishings and other updates.

Membership Report

At FoKL's May 16 board meeting, Membership Chair Janet Schmidt reported that FoKL had a total of 97 memberships. They include: Best Friend 4, Bookworm 4, Individual 28, Group 48, Library 12. *Have you sent in your membership dues for 2019?*

FoKL Board Members honor inspiring women

At a recent FoKL board meeting, President Judy Burgess asked what woman, other than our mothers, most inspired us during our lives. Past President Carolyn Little began the round by telling us it was her high school government/political science teacher who taught her students to respect democracy.

At-large #1 member Barb Matthews said her high school literature teacher, Miss Lucas, taught students to think analytically, and sharpen their critical thinking skills. Treasurer Laura Carroll shared that she had been inspired by former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Despite life-long trials, she redefined the role of First Lady. Laura recommended Roosevelt's book "Tomorrow is Now."

New board member Pat Brune felt that former Wyandotte, Kansas Mayor Carol Maranovich was a strong influence on her, for her strength to stand up to machine politics. Maranovich also helped procure the Kansas Speedway during her tenure in the 1990s and early 2000s. Awards & Grants Committee Chair Amy Brucker holds her great aunt in high esteem. She taught Amy how to treat people, and her door was always open. Amy learned how to be a good, supportive wife.

Secretary Wendy Morlan's inspiration is Ann Curry, whom she met in 2009. Curry is just as she appears on her PBS series "We'll Meet Again," intently listening to her interviewees. She makes one feel as though they are the only person in the room, even if surrounded by a crowd. North Central Kansas Representative Carolyn Elliott looked up to her supervisor when she worked as a secretary at a hospital. The supervisor taught her how to work on a personal computer, supported her effort to transcribe a five-inch notebook of procedures, and later became her friend.

FoKL Vice President Cathy Newland honored her Caldwell, Kansas minister's wife, Bula Staub. She added Freda Cink and Pat Gaunce to her list of women she admired. Membership Chair Jan Schmidt was inspired by Civil War-era nurses, Mary Ann Bickerdyke (aka Mother Mary), and Julia Dent Grant, wife of Ulysses. Both endured hardships tending wounded soldiers on battlefields during the Civil War. Mary Ann was an advocate for soldiers, helping improve medical facilities on battlefields by establishing over 300 field hospitals and campaigning for needed medical supplies, clothing, soaps, etc. She was a favorite of both General Grant and General Sherman because of her dedication to wounded soldiers and her demand for cleanliness in field hospitals. If she wanted dairy and fresh meat for the soldiers, they made sure they were there for her. After the war, Mary Ann moved to Salina and ran a hotel. She wrote back east to various hospitals and friends, urging them to inform veterans land was available for homesteading. It was said she helped hundreds of veterans obtain land and apply for their pensions. She died in Russell County, Kansas, in 1901 at the age of 84.

Another new board member from southeast Kansas, Marilyn VonSoosten, named her mother as her inspiration. A teacher in her teens, Marilyn's mother also attended college when few women did. President Judy Burgess cited Malala Yousafzai. She said Malala's strength and perseverance allow this amazing young woman to inspire people to lead better lives.

FoKL BOARD MEMBERS

We call on you to be part of FoKL

Serving on the Board of Friends of Kansas Libraries offers “priceless” rewards. Our board members meet with enthusiastic and creative Friends throughout the state. Though volunteering takes time, it offers much satisfaction. Can you be a library advocate? Are you enthusiastic in your volunteer efforts? Are you willing to be part of a creative team that shapes the future of a statewide organization? Please note vacancies on the list below.

Officers:

President, Judy Burgess, Manhattan, jlb6468@sbcglobal.net

Vice-president/Governance Chair, Cathy Newland, Silver Lake, newland.cathy@gmail.com

Secretary/ Newsletter Editor, Wendy Morlan, Pleasanton, pleaslinlib@ckt.net

Treasurer/Finance Chair, Laura Carroll, Basehor, lc Carroll@basehorlibrary.org

Immediate Past-president, Carolyn Little, Topeka, little.carolyn67@gmail.com

Regional Trustees:

Northeast: Laura Carroll, Basehor, lc Carroll@basehorlibrary.org

North Central: Carolyn Elliott, Manhattan, csb.elliott@gmail.com

Northwest: Vacant

Central: Janet Schmidt, Membership, Salina, janfraser@usa.net

Southeast: Marilyn VonSoosten, Girard, von_farm@ckt.net

South Central: Vacant

Southwest: Amy Brucker, Syracuse, director@syracuselibrary.info

Trustees at Large

#1 Barb Mathews, Eudora, j54b55@gmail.com

#2 Brenda Hough, Lawrence, bckhough@gmail.com

#3 Pat Brune, Wynadotte, plbrune@gmail.com

#4 Vacant

#5 Vacant

#6 Vacant

Special Board Members:

United for Libraries Liaison: vacant; Kansas Library Association contact: Judy Burgess; Kansas Library Trustee Association (KLTA) Liaison: vacant; FoKL Website Administrator: Carolyn Little

FoKL, c/o Basehor Community Library, 1400 158th St., Basehor, KS 66007