

## WINNERS: Awards and Challenge Grants

### Outstanding applications and nominations!

All our lives changed significantly since our previous newsletter. We hope you have all been safe while waiting for positive outcomes in our state. The FoKL board members maintained the original April 1 deadline for award and grant applications. We appreciate those who took the time to apply and we have good news for all of them.

One Outstanding Individual Award winner, Joetta Branch, is a member of the **Haysville Friends of the Library**. She was nominated by longtime member Marion Renner, who had the following information to share with us. "Joetta Branch has always been an enthusiastic library user and has been a Friends member for years. In the past she has always had to manage between her job, the church and the library.



*Haysville Community Library*

"Since retiring, she has devoted more time to the Friends of the Library activities.

She has actively participated in each activity, leading some events. She has become more active in the summer reading program, developing activities for the children, such as painting, sculpting, tie-dying, knitting and stepping stones. The stepping stones proved to be so popular she had to include adult stepping stone classes. She is always thinking of ideas that will attract all ages. Three years ago, she joined the Friends Executive board, and has been a major influence there."

*Winners, cont'd. on Page 2*

### CONGRATULATIONS to all our winners

*We're sure this year's pandemic will provide some outstanding stories about how your Friends group members were able to help their library. Be sure to keep some notes and save them for next year's Award & Grant applications!*

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, [pleasinlib@ckt.net](mailto:pleasinlib@ckt.net)



# Winners, cont'd.

In addition, we also congratulate **Friends of Rossville Library** volunteer Harold Couchman for his Outstanding Individual Award. Harold was nominated by the Rossville Community Library's Director Christi McKenzie. When she became the new director of the library, she soon made the acquaintance of Harold Couchman and Charie Broughton. Their support for her was generous, their warm friendship and encouraging words just what she needed. She admitted, "As a new director, the role can be overwhelming trying to balance the day-to-day challenges and surprises with implementing new ideas and changes."



*Rossville Community Library*

Harold suffered a stroke in spring 2019, and was moved to a retirement facility in Manhattan. He was sorely missed at the library. Due to his desire to serve at the library and relieve boredom in his new home, Charie asked if there were projects with which Harold might assist. While children who visited the library loved storytime crafts, Christi was unable to prepare them at work. Harold agreed to cutout the pieces necessary to provide the crafts. Though he was unaware the amount of time this would involve, he got the projects ready in advance. Charie assisted by transferring the materials to and from the library.

Whether the projects involved five pieces each for 80 students, or a project for only 12 children, the pieces were cut out perfectly, counted, and sorted in plastic bags. This earned him the nickname, "Harold the Great Cutter," and his dedication to helping others assisted not only Christi, but made many children happy. Christi agrees "Harold is an inspiration to all of us to never stop making a better community for our youth."

Congratulations, Joetta and Harold! A check for \$50 will be sent to the Friends groups in your honor.

## Challenge Grant winners

**Friends of Council Grove Public Library** had many good reasons to request Challenge Grant funds. Their Friends group holds only one fundraiser a year, their Annual Book Sale. Funds raised help the library with projects beyond the limits of its budget. The application requested funds to help enhance their meeting room with the addition of a stove/oven combination.



This added feature would provide meal options during Friends group meetings and book-sorting days. It will allow library staff to hold all-day activities with youth, featuring a nice lunch or pizza-making. It alleviates Friends members, many of whom are older and must

*Winners, cont'd. on Page 3*

*Council Grove Public Library*

# Winners, cont'd.

carry in crockpots full of soup, to prepare the soups and chili for the annual Veterans' lunch served in the library. They also hope it would increase the number of groups who could utilize the room for monthly meetings, and make it possible to host breakfasts or luncheons to benefit the library.

Library staff invites members of Morris County to use the meeting room for any purpose other than selling items. Regular DAR meetings, Bunco groups, groups needing an area to review scholarship awards, occasional birthday parties and 4H meetings are currently held there. The hope is addition of the stove and oven would encourage more people join the Friends group.

The **Friends of Council Grove Public Library** will receive a \$500 Challenge Grant toward the purchase of the appliance for their meeting room. Congratulations!



*Derby Public Library*

**Friends of the Derby Public Library** will match the \$500 grant FoKL awarded them to help fund a novel program for their patrons. Derby Public Library's Senior Youth Services Assistant Tisha Swindle, impressed the FoKL board with her well-written application. She wrote, "Families living in poverty cannot always afford to take advantage of the attractions, events, and activities a community has to offer. This lack of experience has a ripple effect into their education and future potential. Public libraries are in a unique position to offer a simple solution to the problem by creating a Community Pass Program.

Community Museum Pass Programs allow families the opportunity to create lasting memories and educational experiences for their children."

These programs allow patrons to borrow a family pass to local area museums and attractions. By removing the financial barrier,

The goal is to provide passes to seven area attractions and museums before the start of this summer, but to also expand the program in the future to include passes to additional nearby locations. Tisha finalized her nomination by writing, "Every child deserves access to the museums and attractions that a community hosts. Although it may look like a child is simply walking through the zoo or diving into a pool, they are actively learning through experience. Museums and attractions provide a multi-disciplinary literacy opportunity. Children are exposed to new vocabulary words, in-depth comprehension, and more, all while having fun."

**Friends of Lansing Community Library** will received a Challenge Grant of \$250 to use toward the remodel of the library's circulation area. Friends President James Fricke indicated the goal is to, "increase efficiency of staff work area; increase space for patrons in the main library area; and improve line of sight and visibility of bathrooms from circulation area." The grant "will assist in supporting workplace efficiency and safety of both staff and patrons in Lansing Community Library."

*Winners, cont'd. on Page 4*



*Kingman Carnegie Library*

**Friends of the Kingman Carnegie Library** requested a Challenge Grant Award to aid in providing after-school activities for children visiting their library. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the library became a local “hang out” for many after-school children. An average afternoon saw 12-to-15 children, and the number doubled during the summer months. A weekly Perler bead activity was provided, and attendance grew over the past two years. Its popularity prompted brainstorming for more craft or activity ideas.

The library’s goal is to purchase more “kits” for children of all ages to enjoy. These “makerspace boxes” would provide activities that are low maintenance for librarians. The kits would be rotated every afternoon. Many of the materials purchased are in addition to craft supplies currently owned by the library.

The boxes could provide children with an outlet to express creativity that does not involve computers or other electronic resources.

It is the hope of the Friends that receipt of the grant for kits will help increase the mental functioning of students of all ages. Items selected will encourage younger children to play and have fun. Directions included with the boxes will guide students in determining the kind of crafts they can make. Limitations of the library’s size and rural location prevent space for a large makerspace. Many of the purchased kits will allow crafts the students can make and take home. They can also be adapted for attendance of various numbers of children. The Friends received a Challenge Grant Award of \$150.

The final Challenge Grant goes to:

Ida Long Goodman Memorial Library celebrated its 50th anniversary in December 2019. Part of the celebration was demonstration of their Victrola by playing records donated by a local patron. These record titles must be recorded and catalogued for the library’s inventory and insurance records. Due to limited library staff, a volunteer from the **Friends of the Ida Long Goodman Memorial Library** would transcribe the records and enter them in a computer.

FoKL awarded the Friends a Challenge Grant of \$100 toward the stipend of the volunteer doing this important task.

# 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, Amy Brucker, Syracuse, [director@syracuselibrary.info](mailto:director@syracuselibrary.info)

Vice-president/Governance Chair, Barb Mathews, Eudora, [j54b55@gmail.com](mailto:j54b55@gmail.com)

Secretary/ Newsletter Editor, Wendy Morlan, Pleasanton, [pleaslinlib@ckt.net](mailto:pleaslinlib@ckt.net)

Treasurer/Finance Chair, Laura Carroll, Basehor, [lcarrroll@basehorlibrary.org](mailto:lcarrroll@basehorlibrary.org)

Immediate Past-president, Judy Burgess, Manhattan, [jl6468@icloud.com](mailto:jl6468@icloud.com)

### **Regional Trustees:**

Northeast: Laura Carroll, Basehor, [lcarrroll@basehorlibrary.org](mailto:lcarrroll@basehorlibrary.org)

North Central: open for nominations

Northwest: open for nominations

Central: Janet Schmidt, Membership, Salina, [janfraser@usa.net](mailto:janfraser@usa.net)

Southeast: Marilyn VonSoosten, Girard, [von\\_farm@ckt.net](mailto:von_farm@ckt.net)

South Central: open for nominations

Southwest: open for nominations

### **Trustees at Large**

#1 Carolyn Little, Topeka, [little.carolyn67@gmail.com](mailto:little.carolyn67@gmail.com)

#2 Brenda Hough, Lawrence, [bckhough@gmail.com](mailto:bckhough@gmail.com)

#3 Pat Brune, Wyandotte, [plbrune@gmail.com](mailto:plbrune@gmail.com)

#4 open for nominations

#5 Cathy Newland, Silver Lake, [newland.cathy@gmail.com](mailto:newland.cathy@gmail.com)

#6 open for nominations

### **Special Board Members:**

United for Libraries Liaison: vacant; Kansas Library Association contact: Amy Brucker; Kansas Library Trustee Association (KLTA) Liaison: vacant; FoKL Website Administrator: Pat Brune

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