

How can Friends help during the pandemic?

Ideas to use now and in the New Year

Our world seems to have completely flipped during the pandemic. Many look forward to relief in the New Year, with a new President and a woman Vice President. Others are exhausted dealing with the changes that have occurred since last January. Their daily lives changed as they struggled to stay safe, keep their jobs, feed themselves and their families and keep their homes.

In the midst of all this uncertainty, library staff work hard to remain open. They make every attempt to stay safe and healthy so they can continue to offer necessary services to the public. But County Health Department heads are not the only ones leaving their jobs due to difficult work issues. Library directors are also retiring in large numbers. Many worry about keeping their libraries financially sound. They wonder how their budgets will be affected. Will donations dwindle as local businesses close and tax-payers lose their jobs? Will students and their parents ever feel safe enough to return to the library?

What can Friends groups do to help their libraries, when they can't even meet in person? As early as last May, United for Libraries provided a webinar, "How Foundations and Friends Can Support Their Libraries During COVID." Speaker Jonna Ward, CEO of Seattle Public Library, encouraged viewers to ask, "What can your organization do for your library, that the library needs and we can do?" The first step includes decision-making - determine your purpose, mission, value. Realize the importance of fundraising, advocating, and communicating. Consider partnership, equity, grantmaking and innovation.

Michelle Jeske, City Librarian at the Denver Public Library and President-Elect of United for Libraries, reinforced the importance of having a Mission-Vision, where the goal is to have a strong community where everyone thrives. She encouraged Friends to "ask for funding now!" and to let people know your library is "still here." During the quarantine, they began holding two read-alongs a day.

They focused on strengthening connections. They held a virtual Spring Fever Fantasy Disco asking participants to consider a gift, sold I Love DPL T-shirts and received \$25,000 for community food insecurity assistance.

Ideas, cont'd. on Page 2



**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

From the Friends of Kansas Libraries



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



They used bookmobiles and bicycles to deliver donated materials to sites. Jeske shared the importance of equity, considering differences in language, race and transportation needs for the community. She said it is critical to share these new directions with legislators to advocate stewardship. Let them know libraries “take it seriously” making 3D shields and masks, and offering sewing machine tutorials.

Nancy Morrison of the Palm Springs Library, encouraged talking with the library director. Friends need to know what is needed. Many book sales have been cancelled, but virtual book sales could be considered. She encouraged applying for grants and requesting donations, perhaps for food cards for those in need. Consider what virtual options are available for services such as applying for jobs. If the library’s Summer Reading Funds are frozen, Friends could fund virtual programs and free-streaming.

Karen Pierce, Director of Slippery Rock Community Library in Pennsylvania, revealed 25 percent of their \$68,000 budget is derived from Friends of the Library funds. She said, “my Friends are my friends!” and communicates with them via an e-mail list and posts on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter. Using cards, e-mail, snail-mail, Skype and Zoom, Friends can ask each other, “How are you doing?” and “What’s something I can do for you?” to keep up morale.

Because the library’s book sale was cancelled, the Friends moved it online. They also held a fishing tournament, and sewed 100 masks to sell at \$10 each. In addition, they partnered with the school to provide 150 activity packages two-to-three times a week to students picking up lunches. Pierce believes a tighter Friends team makes sure the library’s needs are met. It meets the needs of the community. Most importantly, libraries are essential for a robust recovery from the pandemic.

How are Friends groups in Kansas raising funds?

FoKL President Amy Brucker posted the following question on our Facebook page, “What’s Your Friends Group Doing for Your Library?” One of the responses concerned a garden that had been created outside the library.

Although Baldwin City Library’s Friends had to cancel their fundraisers this year, a local nursery provided plants interested parties could buy on SignUpGenius. Later they could pick up their purchases at the nursery.

Manhattan Public Library recruited a young man to sell books online. Salina’s Friends members bagged books by genre and held a tremendous outdoor sale, charging \$5 per bag. Their fiction books were labeled by author.



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Has your Friends group been holding book sales?
Are you requesting donations? How do you fundraise?
Let us know, and we’ll share your ideas.

Ideas & FoKL at the KLA conference



In Syracuse, the Hamilton Library Leadership Group (LLG) held a recruitment meeting in September, but avoided a full-blown membership drive. Their goal was to determine what community project they would be able to do in light of the pandemic. They wanted to continue providing VIP meals delivery to seniors.

Left: Due to the cancellation of the annual elementary school Halloween parade, LLG members stuffed 400 Halloween bags with candy to be delivered to the schools.

FoKL Annual Meeting

The FoKL Annual Meeting was held via Zoom on Wednesday, October 28. The meeting opened up with a video to recognize the 2020 Grant and Awards recipients. The video is posted on the FoKL Facebook page and website: www.fokl.net.

FoKL President, Amy Brucker, reflected over the highs and lows of 2020, not sure whether to laugh or cry. Although the board has been unable to meet in person, they have continued meeting monthly over Zoom. She expressed her disappointment in not being able to host the FoKL Luncheon at the KLA conference, especially with a talented Miss Kansas, Annika Wooten, slated to speak. "I look forward to the possibility to be back together, in-person, next fall at conference.

Despite the challenges of a pandemic, Amy highlighted what FoKL was able to accomplish in 2020.

- An active presence at Legislative Day, visiting every representatives' office.
- Awarded 5 Challenge Grants, 2 Outstanding Individual Awards and one very deserving and timely Duane Johnson Award.
- Participated in board development exercises to drive focus and goals;
- Stayed relevant, present, and available to Friends in the state.

The board is ready and focused for 2021, with several tasks already scheduled. We encourage to Friends groups to reach out to use if there is anything we can do help them.

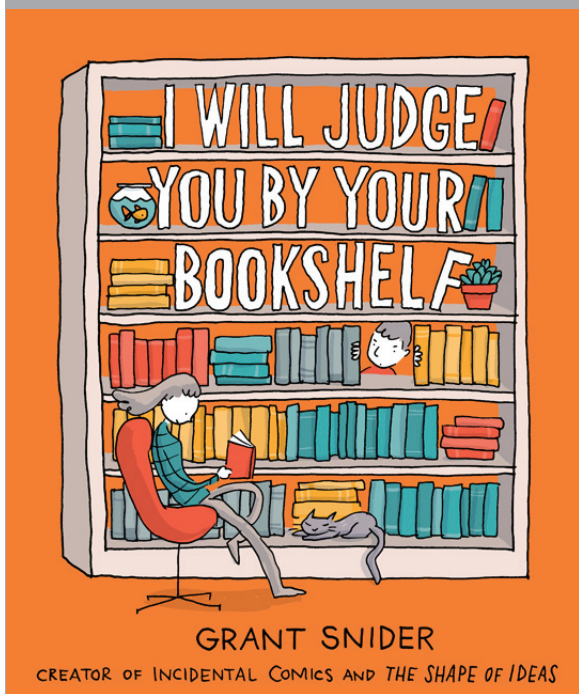
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After Hours Event with Grant Snider

After the completion of the Kansas Library Association Conference, FoKL hosted an After Hours Event with author and illustrator Grant Snider. The Facebook Live event was held on the KLA's Facebook page with attendance open to anyone.



Grant shared fun thoughts and anecdotes, while also guiding participants through the drawing process. Attendees had the opportunity to draw "their" bookshelf, as well as a cartoon based on books. Grant's presentation was a delightful end to a long day of learning.



IN MEMORIAM

Marion Renner was born in Zurich, Rooks County, Kansas. After receiving an undergraduate degree in art, she worked as a fashion illustrator at J.C. Penney's in Wichita. She acquired a Masters Degree in Education at Fort Hays University and taught kindergarten in the Haysville School system for over 30 years. After retirement, Marion traveled the world, made friends wherever she went and often hosted international visitors in her home.

She became a member of the Haysville Public Library Board and helped build a new building. Marion continued working with the Haysville United Methodist Church as president of the women's group, and led fundraisers to help under-served people in her community. Marion was also served as a Friends of Kansas Libraries Executive Board Member. Her many accolades and awards included Haysville Citizen of the Year, FoKL's Volunteer of the Year, and posthumously, FoKL's Duane Johnson Library Leadership Award.



Marion K. Renner
July 12, 1933 - September 7, 2020

Marion's life was marked with determination, creative ability, nurturing and care for the community.

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

Vice-president/Governance Chair, Barb Mathews, Eudora, j54b55@gmail.com

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

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

Immediate Past-president, Judy Burgess, Manhattan, jl6468@icloud.com

Regional Trustees:

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

North Central: open for nominations

Northwest: open for nominations

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

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

South Central: open for nominations

Southwest: open for nominations

Trustees at Large

#1 Carolyn Little, Topeka, little.carolyn67@gmail.com

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

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

#4 open for nominations

#5 Cathy Newland, Silver Lake, 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

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