

Awards and Challenge Grant Winners

2021 brings support and recognition to FoKL groups

During the April 19 meeting of the FoKL Board, members had the privilege of reviewing many deserving applications for Awards and Grants. Please read on to discover the winners.

Challenge Grant Awards

Friends of the Belleville Library (CKLS) will receive \$500, with funding from the Joan Furhman Memorial. These funds will be used to add needed shades to the library's 6 foot by 32 foot windows. The shades will help protect books, shelving and the reading area from sunlight. Purchased and installed locally they can be operated remotely. This option was chosen due to the lack of hazardous strings that children might play with.

Friends of Jetmore Library (SWKLS) will receive a grant of \$250.00 to help spark a sense of community around their Little Sidewalk Library project. The project offers a unique way of sharing that allows the Friends to combine reading with community service. Their aim is to provide a 24/7 neighborhood book exchange to increase access to books and promote literacy and the love of reading for all ages and backgrounds. Members hope the project will also encourage and inspire traditional library use.

Start-up Grant Winner

Friends of the Frankfort City Library (NCKLS) was formed in Jan. 2020 and just starting to gear up for membership when the pandemic hit. A newspaper article in their local paper notified the community about the opportunity for membership and the library board and librarian were recruiting members. When the library closed, there were few opportunities to gain more members. In anticipation of the library reopening, they hoped to resume their campaign. The FoKL board awarded the fledging organization with a \$150 grant to help fund a newspaper ad, flyers, cookies and tote bags for a recruitment event. Congratulations!

Friends of the Frankfort Library (NCKLS), formed in 2020, will receive a matched grant of \$500. The goal of their project is to enhance and improve furnishings in the children's section of the library. Expenditures include replacing the old wooden table with a new larger table of adjustable height allowing them to use the space for programs with youths of various ages. The table's dry-erase top will make the table serve multiple functions, including their monthly LEGO Club. A new ceiling sign will draw children's attention and help them easily locate the area. More functional seating is planned that allows quiet-time

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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



Awards & Grants, cont'd.

reading and seating for Story Time. Finally, wall decals will make the space more fun and appealing to children.

Friends of the Basehor Library (NEKLS), formed in 1989, will receive a grant of \$250 to help provide the community with access to their library's two Die Cut machines and disks. This allows them to expand the material collections and offerings to Basehor's community organizations and teachers.

Burlingame Friends of the Library (NEKLS), formed in 1993, was awarded \$250 to help them establish a Library of Things and serve patrons in an exciting new way. They plan to purchase items that: are used so infrequently it doesn't make sense for patrons to purchase them; provide an experience they wouldn't have otherwise; give them an opportunity to try something new before purchasing; and include equipment that helps them learn a new skill. The award, in conjunction with funds from the Burlingame Friends, could foster support and donations from the community as well.

Friends of the Wichita Public Library, Inc. (SCKLS) was formed in 1963. They will receive \$250 toward a phased project to increase real-time communication options between customers and staff. Using specialized software, staff will be able to communicate with customers using a web-based chat system or mobile phone text option.

Congratulations to all these Challenge Grant winners!

Outstanding Friends Group Awards

In the population category between 4,001 and 13,000, the winner of the Outstanding Friends Group Award is **Friends of the Winfield Public Library** (SCKLS). This group of 99 members was organized in 1964, and it has not let a global pandemic thwart their enthusiasm and support of their local library. They began 2020 strong as the library hosted the Kansas League of Women Voters 19th Amendment exhibit. Friends members helped set up the exhibit and act as suffragist reenactor hosts as groups of school students toured and participated in learning activities related to the Suffragist Movement and the 19th Amendment.

The annual book sale in mid-March was a big draw for Friends members, as well as the community. The Friday evening members-only night resulted in the addition or renewal of numerous memberships and excited discussion of things to come for the library and Friends support possibilities. Their three-day Friends Book Sale netted \$1,460 in sales to assist in funding library projects.

When the Winfield Public Library (WPL) closed its doors to patrons in late March, plans to provide curbside services began. Friends were invited to pilot the processes and provide feedback to library staff about checkout and pick-up procedures.

April's Friends meeting and program were on the calendar, but shifted to Zoom so they could meet, discuss and learn together. The Friends remained active

Outstanding Friends Groups, cont'd. on Page 3

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.

Outstanding Friends Groups, cont'd.

via Zoom for regular monthly meetings and bimonthly book discussions throughout 2020.

Friends provided funding to assist with the Children, Youth and Adult Summer Reading Programs and monthly Grab and Go Craft projects for several age groups. WPL Friends continued to stock four Little Free Libraries in the community and assist with changing the stories in the Story Walk located in the city park. Within the Friends, the Green Team continued upkeep and care for the landscaping and plant life on the library grounds. Friends of Winfield Public Library will receive a \$100 cash award and a recognition certificate.

“... the Friends of Winfield Public Library would not let a global pandemic keep them from meeting, supporting and enjoying all the Winfield Public Library has to offer and for this reason, they are truly an outstanding group of Friends.”

Patty Wagner, Director, Winfield Public Library

In the population category of 13,000+, the winner of the Outstanding Friends Group Award is **Friends of Johnson County Library**. The organization was organized in 1956 and includes 500 members. The application provided by Shanta Dickerson shared highlights of the staff and supporters' accomplishments through the pandemic:

“I am so proud of our tenacity and resilience demonstrated by our staff and supporters through the pandemic.”

*Shanta Dickerson, Operations Manager,
Friends of Johnson County Library*

They researched and developed a reopening plan. They acquired donated laptops to accommodate remote and hybrid work for all staff. They successfully applied for a first-draw PPP loan in the amount of \$22,126, which has since been fully forgiven. Next, they successfully applied for a second-draw PPP loan in the amount of \$23,420. A successful application for a Small Business Working Capital Grant from the state of

Kansas in the amount of \$20,000 followed. They were also successful in applying for a Johnson County CARES Act Grant for \$10,000. The online sales division was increased, and a new website launched. It features an online shop, making it easier for local customers to support the library through e-commerce. Friends worked in cooperation with Johnson County Library and JCL Foundation staff on a business plan. In addition, a consolidation proposal was made for a vacant library building.

Through the pandemic, staff was fully paid and employed. Hours and modest salaries were not cut to make ends meet. In fact, the decision was made to set a minimum wage of \$15 per hour for all staff. Friends of Johnson County Library will receive a \$100 cash award and a recognition certificate.

Outstanding Individual Award

The winner was selected on the basis of service to the library; advocacy and leadership. Melissa Wilson, Operations Manager of the Friends of Wichita Public Library, wrote the nomination that stood out to the FoKL Board. She shared that the

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Outstanding Individual Award, cont'd.

candidate for the award, **Faye Olson**, has been volunteering with the Friends of the Wichita Public Library for more than 10 years. Faye was named the Melzer Award of Volunteer Excellence in 2017 by the Friends of the Wichita Public Library and the Wichita Public Library (WPL). Her volunteer focus is fulfilling the membership process for the Friends of the WPL. Faye distributes new membership paperwork and membership renewal letters for the organization. With roughly 1,200 Friends members, her work is invaluable.

During 2020, Faye coordinated with the operation manager and the Friends Board as needed to purchase supplies. She also coordinated directly with the print shop to get the materials she needed to keep the Friends Memberships running efficiently. In early 2020, the Friends of WPL started accepting online payments. Faye helped develop the process to assist with fulfilling the online membership forms.

Throughout the year, when all the in-person volunteering ceased because of COVID-19, Faye was able to continue her volunteering in her home. She provided over 300 hours of volunteer time to fulfill the membership orders of the Friends of WPL. Faye will receive a \$50 cash award to her Friends organization and a recognition certificate. Congratulations Faye!

Duane Johnson Award

The Friends of Kansas Libraries Board is proud to announce the winner of the Duane Johnson Award. George Seamon, director of the Northwest Kansas Library System for over 13 years. He will be feted during the FoKL luncheon at this year's Kansas Library Association Conference.

We reached out to Robin Newell, Executive Director of Emporia Public Library, to share her thoughts about this honor. She has worked with George for over four years, since returning to Kansas to work in Emporia, and again becoming involved with the KLA. NWKLS, with George in particular, is the contracted executive director of the KLA. As such he performs all back of the house work for the organization, including tracking and billing membership, finances and conference support.

Robin enjoyed working with George and his staff through the years. She found his counsel and institutional knowledge to be extremely valuable as they worked to update bylaws and other policies of the KLA. "His ability to work with the changing conference venues from Wichita to Overland Park to none at all and then back to Wichita this year has been done with good spirits, a smile and always a helping hand for the conference planning committee," said Robin.



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George shared his own response when hearing he was chosen: “This award, in my opinion, is the most prestigious award in Kansas Libraries. Duane Johnson was a pioneer in Kansas Libraries, and some of the greatest minds associated with our profession, in the state, have won this award. It is humbling to be a part of such an amazing group of individuals.”

FoKL at the KLA Conference

Expanding Boundaries Together
October 27-29, Wichita, Kansas

During the last year, libraries have seen the necessity of adapting to new formats, have changed service delivery methods, and have worked together with community partners to provide new ways of accessing library services. Prospective attendees were encouraged to submit proposals (for breakout sessions, meal events, business meetings, user's groups, all conference events, pre-conference events and panel discussions) that align with this year's theme.

On Wednesday, October 27, the Friends of Kansas Libraries will host an engaging luncheon program with speaker **Annika Wooton**, Miss Kansas 2019-2020.

After the tumultuous chapter we have all lived through, it can be daunting to explore new territory and step out from the comforts on which we have all come to rely. Nobody knows this better than Annika.



She competed for the prestigious title for seven years and served for an additional, unexpected year. Annika is learning, alongside the rest of the world, how to expand life into a new space and establish new boundaries since the chapter with the sparkly crown has closed. She will speak on resilience, taking chances, and choosing to trust yourself. Annika will take you on her journey full of setbacks, victories, and of course - the unknown.

If you weren't able to attend the 2019 KLA Conference in Overland Park, please note we will have our FoKL tote bags for sale at our luncheon venue.

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First Friday with Friends

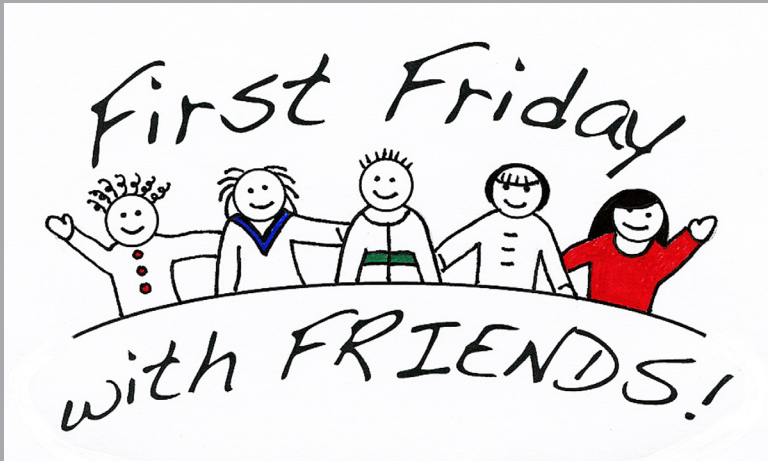
During the January FoKL Board meeting, members began planning how to move forward in 2021, to serve our Friends groups and all Kansas Libraries better. We organized our efforts around Three Words, determined during a previous session with Trustee Pat Brune. Those words: **Assist-Support-Educate** will allow us to focus our energy and accomplish our goals.

With an emphasis on Educate, we held the **First Friday with Friends!** Scheduled as a monthly gathering of Friends Groups, Members, Librarians, and those who love libraries. It will be held the first Friday of each month at 9:00 am Central (8:00 am Mountain). The March 5 online Zoom event **“Friends: How are you doing?”** involved 24 participants, including two from Tennessee. Representing large as well as small libraries, they shared the challenges they face in keeping Friends volunteers engaged as their libraries began to reopen.

Led by moderator Judy Burgess, one participant commented meeting online made it “so much easier to participate.” Another said lockdown created opportunities for her Friends to build collaborative activities with the city. Most agreed it was “extremely important to reconnect.” The random drawing for a FoKL tote was won by Julie Clark. Future meeting topic ideas included membership, online book sales, and working with mental health organizations to support staff and volunteers.

First Friday with Friends! topic on April 2 was **“Back to Business: Keeping Friends Safe.”** May 7 topic was **“Book Sales,”** and the June 4 topic was **“Making Memberships Meaningful.”**

FoKL President Amy Brucker will collect information from these Zoom events to create a First Friday with Friends! page online to add documents and ideas shared by the participants. To receive reminder emails and follow-up materials, email FoKL President Amy Brucker at director@syracuselibrary.info.



Membership Report

At FoKL's May 21 board meeting, Membership Chair Janet Schmidt reported FoKL includes 87 total memberships. Broken down by category, they are:

6 Best Friends, 2 Bookworms, 41 Groups, 26 Individuals, 9 Libraries, 3 Library systems, (CKLS 6, NCKLS 11, NEKLS 35, NWKL 5, SCKLS 10, SEKLS 12, SWKLS 8)

Have you sent your membership dues for 2021?

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

Regional Trustees:

Northeast: Laura Carroll, Basehor, lcarroll@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