

# friends of kansas LIBRARIES

Assist - Support - Educate

FoKL POINT Newsletter — February 2024

## Grant and Award Deadline — April 1st

### FoKL Challenge Grants



FoKL Challenge Grants provide up to \$500 in matching funds for your next great idea. We know you have been eager to launch an exciting new project that will help your Friends group support your local library. FoKL can help!

To be considered, the Friends group must:

- Submit a completed and signed application by April 1st ([click for 2024 Grant Application Form](#))
- Be a current [member](#) of FoKL (Friends group or library)
- Agree to recognize funds received from FoKL in library publicity (social media, signage, etc)
- Submit a Challenge Grant Report to FoKL no later than October 1st of the current year

Our February *First Friday with Friends* event focused on 2024 FoKL Challenge Grant applications. [View the Zoom session and learn how to strengthen your application for success.](#)

### Outstanding Individual Friend Award



FoKL's Outstanding Individual Award is a great way to thank and honor a Friends volunteer who goes above and beyond to make your Library and community a better place. The winner(s) receive a \$50 cash award given in their name to their Friends group and will be honored during the FoKL session of the KLA Conference in October.

To be considered for the Outstanding Individual Award, the nominated person:

- Must be a member of their library's Friends group and the group must be a [member](#) of FoKL
- Must not have received an award in the previous 3 years
- Must be nominated by April 1st

Click for the [2024 Outstanding Individual Nomination Form](#) and to view [previous award winners](#).

### Outstanding Group Award



This award recognizes Friends groups that provide exemplary service to their library by acting as advocates, raising funds, sponsoring programs and events, and hosting book sales. The winning group(s) will receive a \$100 cash award and be honored during the FoKL session of the KLA Conference in October.

To be considered for the award, the nominated group:

- Must be a current [member](#) of FoKL
- Must not have received a Friends Group Award in the previous 3 years
- Must be nominated by April 1st

Click for the [2024 Outstanding Group Nomination Form](#) and [previous winners](#).



# Focus on Friends



## Sweet Fundraising Idea in Iola

Life was sweet at the Iola Friends of the Library annual EVERYTHING CHOCOLATE VALENTINE'S DAY SALE!

The event has been held for 7 years, and features a wide variety of donated homemade candy and confections, cookies, cakes, fudge, pies, and chocolate, of course! They added chocolate-dipped strawberries to the array about 3 years ago, which organizers say have become “a very huge part of our sales.”



The group asks members of the community to make and donate confections which are brought in on the 13th. Volunteers

wrap and prepare the items for display that evening and ready the room for the sale.

Friends members staff the sale, which runs all day on the 14th. “This is one of our biggest fundraisers each year,” they say.

## Valley Center Friends Awarded Grant

Congratulations to the Friends of the Valley Center Public Library for receiving a \$2,500 grant from *Menocause: Ignite Valley Center*. *Menocause* is a men’s club created to promote and support local community projects and organizations. The grant monies will be used by the VC Library to purchase new Playaway Launchpads.



Pictured are (L to R) Rob Hammel (Menocause), Terry Foster (Friends of the VC Library), and Tim Van Scyoc (Menocause)

## Valentine’s Display Brightens Abilene Friends Book Sale Room

The Friends of the Abilene Library keep their book sale room fresh and inviting with seasonal decorations, like this inviting Valentine themed display created by volunteer Mary Jo Miles.

Friends President, Sarah Geiger, says their Book Sale Room is located in a dedicated space in the library and is available during regular library hours. “We have a loyal community who both shop and donate books.”

Several Friends members volunteer regularly throughout the year to sort books and refresh displays. Books that don’t sell quickly will often find a home after being moved to the sale room’s “free shelf.”

The group also hosts two large book sales annually in May and November.



What is new and interesting in your Friends group? Share your Friends news with other groups and libraries around the state in FoKL Point. Send news items to [susanwalkerbryant@gmail.com](mailto:susanwalkerbryant@gmail.com)

## First Friday with Friends

Rising to the challenge:  
how to be an advocate  
for intellectual freedom

JOIN  
US ON  
ZOOM



**Friday,  
March 1  
9AM Central**

First Friday With Friends is a monthly gathering of Friends groups, members, librarians, and all who love libraries on the First Friday at 9:00AM Central (8:00AM Mountain) via Zoom.

The March session will feature an interesting and timely presentation by Tabitha Hogan, Director of the Winfield Public Library, about book challenges for libraries.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88484969231>

## FoKL Membership

FoKL membership provides a supportive network for learning, sharing, and connecting with others throughout Kansas who value Libraries! Click below to join or renew for 2024, or visit us at [www.fokl.net](http://www.fokl.net).

Click for  
Membership Form



**PLAN AHEAD**

**HELP CELEBRATE**

**NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**

National Library Week 2024 will be celebrated April 7th through April 13th. Ask your library director how your Friends group can support the library with publicity or events that week.



**SIGN UP!**

Do your Friends members receive the FoKL Point newsletter? Friends groups, Library volunteers, Librarians, and Library Lovers everywhere can subscribe at this link:

<https://www.fokl.net/subscribe-to-fokl-point-newsletter/>

## Contact us!

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