

friends of kansas LIBRARIES

Assist - Support - Educate

FoKL POINT Newsletter — March/April 2024

FoKL Presents

START-UP SUCCESS STORY:

Q & A with Cardinal Friends of the Wetmore Library

JOIN US ON ZOOM

9 AM CENTRAL



Get inspired! Join us **Friday, April 5 at 9 AM Central** for *First Friday with Friends* featuring a Q & A session with Cardinal Friends of the Wetmore Library, a newly formed Friends group. Topics will include the group's organization and planning process, recruitment of board members, promotions, and activities.

Join Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88484969231>

 **Date Due April 1st**

FoKL Grant Applications and Award Nominations

-  **Outstanding Individual Friend Award**
For that shining star in your group!
-  **Outstanding Group Award**
Because you accomplish so much together!
-  **Challenge Grants**
Up to \$500 matching funds for your next great idea!

Applications and info at www.fokl.net

National Library Week: Your Turn to be a Social Influencer

How is your Friends group celebrating National Library Week (April 7-13)? Have you planned to deliver some special treats to your library staff on *National Library Workers Day* (April 9) or to send a message to your representatives on *Take Action for Libraries Day* (April 11)?

You can also use Library Week as an opportunity to step out and become a social media influencer on behalf of your library. What? Me?? Definitely yes! Your voice as an individual will carry a powerful message to friends, family, and the community in support of the library, and you don't even have to do a TikTok dance! Here are some ideas:



- A short snappy post is best. Just a few sentences with a detail or two about what the library means to you. For example, "It's National Library Week so I want to give a shout out to our great librarians! They always remember my favorite authors and let me know when a new book is coming out." or "We have such a terrific library. Their home-deliveries made a big difference to Mom while she was recuperating." Make it warm, personal, and specific.
- A photograph or video will get more social media attention, so think about taking a selfie in front of the library or in the stacks. If that feels uncomfortable, take a good pic of your library or that pile of borrowed books on your end-table.
- Post on your favorite social site, then sit back and enjoy the likes, thumbs-up, and comments. And don't forget to tag your library and librarians. Your public support will give the staff a real boost.

Did you enjoy being an influencer? If so, don't just confine your library-related social media posts to National Library Week. You can make a difference by sharing information about your volunteer work or special programs from time to time. While showing the impact the library has on your community, you'll also be encouraging your followers to get involved, too.

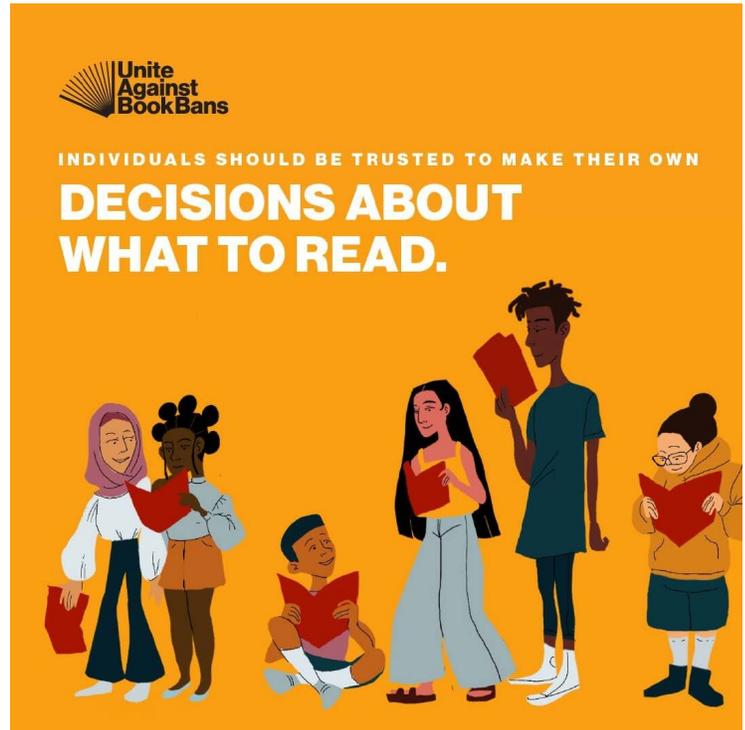
Book Challenges

The American Library Association has reported increasing numbers of book challenges in the past year. Although a majority of challenges were in schools and school libraries, public libraries are also feeling significant effects. As a member of your Friends of the Library group, it's important to learn about this issue, including what is happening in your community, your library's policies for book challenges, and what you can do individually and as part of your Friends group to support your library and staff.

Presentation: America's Public Libraries: Upholding Your Right to Read

Tabitha Hogan, Director, Winfield Public Library gave an informative presentation on book challenges at FoKL's First Friday event on March 1. The discussion included information about:

- The historical background of censorship and court rulings, and an overview of current state legislative challenges.
- Why reading challenged books is the first part of advocacy.
- How adding diverse books in a classroom increased student reading scores and amount of time reading.
- Why it is important for library advocates to examine their own biases regarding book selection.
- Tools to help librarians, parents, and advocates review challenged materials in advance of public conversations.
- Ways library policies can help parents who are concerned about their children's reading.
- The issue of sequestering challenged books in separate collections.



• Book Challenge Resources for Your Friends Group

United for Libraries provides a useful tool called ***Challenges to Materials and Programs: The Role of Friends of the Library*** that would be an excellent discussion starter for your next Friends group meeting.

Invite your director to join the conversation so you can learn about your library's policies on book challenges and how your Friends group can be supportive to your staff and board members.

[Download the free PDF here.](#)

Other recommended resources:

- Book "Dangerous Ideas" by Eric Berkowitz
- The American Library Association's "[Library Bill of Rights](#)"
- ALA's [Unite Against Book Bans](#) website is loaded with information, including guides for attending public meetings, news updates, social media graphics (see above), and a free download of their [32-page action toolkit](#) for organizations and individuals.

Focus on Friends - Spring Fundraisers

Haysville Friends Spring into Action!

The Friends of Haysville Library are a creative, active group with an eye on promoting community connections as well as raising funds and awareness of their library.

One of their most popular annual fundraisers is the Pi(e) Day sale on March 14. The group takes pre-orders for whole pies for \$15, and also sells by the slice on Pi Day for \$3.14 (although slice buyers usually round-up to \$5.00 or more). This year's sale coincided with voting held in the Library's community room, so the extra foot traffic was a boost for sales. People coming in to vote could purchase pie and tea or coffee to eat there or take home in a to-go container.

Some of the pies are donated by talented local bakers and the remainder are sourced from Spears Restaurant and Pie Shop in Wichita. One home baker's lemon meringue pies are extremely popular and always sell out.

This year's Pi(e) Day event was enhanced by having local authors Kyra Croninger, Emma Carpenter, Anna St. John, and Starla Criser on hand for book sales and book signing.



Pi(e) Day

Thursday, 3/14 from 10 am - 3 pm
(or earlier if we sell out)

We will have whole pies for sale or enjoy a slice of pie. These pies will be homemade or from Spears. Slices will be a bargain price of \$3.14. Please stop by, enjoy your pie and support the Haysville Library.

4 local authors (including ANNA ST. JOHN) will be signing and selling their books. Early voting for the Presidential Preference Primary will be going on the same day.



The Friends of Haysville Library also sponsor Children's Spring Book Sale, which runs from March 27th through April 7th. For \$5, the child receives a new book and their choice of a fuzzy stuffed animal, dinosaur, or bunny ear headband. Many of the sale books are donated by local merchants and other donors.

The group stays active throughout the year with projects including a January Ham and Beans Potluck, hosting the Chamber of Commerce's April Luncheon, taking part in Haysville's Fall Festival, and much, much more.



Friends member Klyda Fall said, "All our board members are worker bees. We have a creative group and we work well together." Hats off to Haysville Friends for being so involved in your library and community.

Friends of Louisburg Library - More Than a Book Sale!

The Louisburg Friends book sale on March 22-23 featured much more than just books. Shoppers also found games, puzzles, and vintage cake pans.



The Friends have added games and puzzles to their list of requested donations for the sale because they have seen that book lovers enjoy that sort of engagement in addition to their reading.

Among the offerings is also a collection of autographed books that have been donated to the library by the authors

The Louisburg Friends are a revitalized group that is looking toward the future strength of their library. Friends member LeAnn Sanders said, "We are lifelong learners who love our library. It is a safe spot for our children and families to be, and we want to show how important the library is for all of us."

Friends of the Salina Public Library Fifty Cent Sale

The Friends of the Salina Public Library held a “Fifty Cent Sale” March 16, 2024 from 10AM to 4PM. All of the books, CD's, DVD's, VHS tapes, and other items were priced at 50 cents. Most items were left from other sales or were library withdrawals.



When the sale opened at 10, the library staff was amazed at the line of people entering the library. The Friends, working downstairs, were amazed and awed by the number of people coming down the steps to attend the sale. It was the largest number of people the volunteers and staff had ever seen attending an inside event at the library, with an estimated 200+ people in the initial mass of patrons.

Soon they realized the room was filled with people shoulder to shoulder, and there was no room for those still waiting to enter. People started leaving and said they would return a little

later in hopes some of the crowd had left.

The Friends report that business was brisk all day and that "lull" which usually happens in the afternoon, didn't happen. More books were added to the tables all day long.

“The profit was terrific for these 20 tables of items, most of which normally would have been headed for recycling,” say the Friends. “This sale may be the start of a yearly tradition!”



What is new and interesting in your Friends group? Let us share your Friends news with other groups and libraries around the state in FoKL Point. Send news items to susanwalkerbryant@gmail.com

Contact us!

Friends of Kansas Libraries
c/o Bonner Springs City Library
201 N Nettleton Ave
Bonner Springs, KS 66012
friendsofkansaslibraries@gmail.com

Copyright © 2024 Friends of Kansas Libraries. All rights reserved.