

friends of kansas LIBRARIES

Assist - Support - Educate

FoKL POINT Newsletter — May/June 2024

Friends of Olathe Public Library Wins Outstanding Friends Group Award

The Friends of the Olathe Public Library were named Outstanding Friends Group for 2024 in recognition of their hard work, creativity, and resourcefulness.

Their nomination said: “The Friends of OPL have taken on many changes in the last five years. The Olathe Library opened the new Indian Creek Library in 2019 and included a Friends bookstore in the building. The Friends met for months setting up policies and procedures before the bookstore opened. The library sells donated books and materials as well as some library weeded items - all for \$2 or less. Sales have risen every year and some customers come every day to see what is new. Sales in 2024 reached a record level - over \$5,000 for just one month.

“During Covid, the Friends pivoted and offered a Grab Bag of Books sale, where customers could order \$5 bags of books online, indicating their preferred genre. Customers would pull up and have the bags of books delivered to their

vehicle. The Friends made \$4,500 with this fundraiser.

“The Friends have a weekend book sale four times a year and average \$6,200 in sales at each event. Nothing is priced over \$1 at the sales.

“Their signature fundraiser each year is the Novel Tea event. They have an author speaker, serve tea foods, and have local organizations set tables according to a theme. This year, tickets for the event to hear David Von Drehle speak about his book, *The Book of*

Charlie, sold out in ten minutes. Funds raised at this event provide scholarships for high school library volunteers.

“The Friends give materials to many local organizations, including schools, senior centers, hospitals, and other non-profit organizations. They provided a \$75,000 grant to the Olathe Library to pay for a new mobile outreach vehicle. They provide many grants each year for summer reading programs for all ages, family program days like Star Wars Day and Winterfest, bilingual baby board books for new parents, and movie licenses for the library.”



Outstanding Individual Friend Awards

Congratulations to the four winners of *Outstanding Individual Friend Awards* for 2024. FoKL salutes your dedication, leadership, and good old-fashioned roll-up-your-sleeves and get-the-job-done attitudes. All of you are truly inspiring to your Friends groups, your libraries, and your communities.

Gretta Kontas Friends of the Salina Public Library

Gretta is the current president of Friends of the Salina Public Library and has been involved in the group for many years. She has been a volunteer and innovator with the group's book sales, represents the Friends at library and community



outreach events, and is currently involved with SPL's capital campaign committee.

Her nominators say Gretta, ". . . has proven herself to be a true cheerleader of libraries, and we are extremely fortunate to have her support at Salina Public Library."

David Fritzlen Friends of Winfield Public Library

David was nominated by the Friends of WPL in recognition of his outstanding work managing the group's book sales. He is also appreciated for his work with community groups and organizations, including the Winfield Veterans Home, retirement communities, and prison outreach, all of whom benefit from the books and other materials he delivers.

His nominators say, "David has provided countless hours of expertise and energy to managing our book sales and has built connections with community members to think of the library when they want to donate books."



Erik Bailey Friends of the Baldwin Library

Erik has served on the Board of Directors at Baldwin City Public Library since 2021 and has volunteered as book sale coordinator since 2022.

His contribution to the library includes more than the time and physical labor he spends on the book sale. He is also acknowledged as an energetic booster of library and community spirit. His nominators say, "Erik deserves to be recognized for this award not only for the work he does but for the outstanding person he is at heart."



Bev Sunderman Friends of the Morrill Public Library

Bev has been a creative, hard-working library volunteer for many years, serving on the MPL Board of Trustees and Friends of the Library Board, and is currently a member of the NEKLS executive board. Among other contributions, she has brought her creative skills to fundraising projects such as the Library's Spring Tea and a popular basket raffle, and her grant-writing skills to help the library get new computers. Her nominators say, "Her passion to see our library succeed is unparalleled. Public libraries need strong voices to lift them up in the community, and we are lucky to have Bev in our corner."



2024 Challenge Grant Awards



FoKL Challenge Grants provide matching funds to help Friends groups launch new projects that support their local libraries.

Congratulations to the following grant winners:

Bonner Spring Friends of the Library

- requested funds to

purchase equipment to enhance library programs for patrons of all ages, including a lectern with a side shelf and keyboard tray for presentations, a smart TV, and a monster puppet.

Friends of the Wamego Public Library - will purchase a feather flag with the Friends logo to be used at functions at the library and around the community to promote the Friends organization and the library.

Friends of Oskaloosa Library - will expand and modernize the existing children's and young adult areas of the library through the addition of new shelving around the room above the height of the existing shelves.

Friends of Ida Long Goodman Memorial Library (St. John) - to expand the capabilities of the library's "Digi Lab" project through the addition of a digital video converter, VHS/DVD player, and slide/negative player.

Library Leadership Group (Hamilton County Library) - to purchase appliances to create a kitchenette in the library's Program Room to enable cooking and serving food on-site, enriching the library's current programs for youth and adults, as well as providing new opportunities for creative food and cooking programs.



No First Friday with Friends programs in June or July. Watch for our next event at www.fokl.net!

Focus on Friends Friends of Baldwin Public Library Plant Sale

The Friends of Baldwin Public Library held their annual Mother's Day Weekend Plant Sale on May 10th and 11th. Two local nurseries, Enright's and Vinland Valley, provided a wonderful array of herbs, vegetables, perennials, and flowering annuals for beds and in hanging baskets. This year the forty large, beautiful hanging baskets sold out in hours as they were snatched up as Mother's Day gifts.



The weather was chamber-of-commerce perfect and an antique auto show on the street adjacent to the library brought in new customers as well as customers from faithful patrons and community.

Friends members managed the sale and helped with set-up and tear-down.

This year the Baldwin Friends Plant Sale made \$1,600 in sales and \$1,400 in new and renewed memberships.



Focus on Friends Regional Friends of the Library Meeting

Friends from nine area libraries met at the Haysville Community Library for a Regional Friends Meeting on May 1, 2024. Libraries represented include: Andover, Augusta, Derby, El Dorado, Goddard, Haysville, Mulvane, Park City, and Winfield, as well as FoKL Board members Judy Burgess and Sheryl Erickson.



The group was welcomed by Haysville Friends President, Klyda Fall, who introduced Ken Bell, Haysville Community Library Director, to provide opening remarks. Bell talked about the “interesting times” we live in and the importance of libraries remaining resilient and providing resources for their communities.

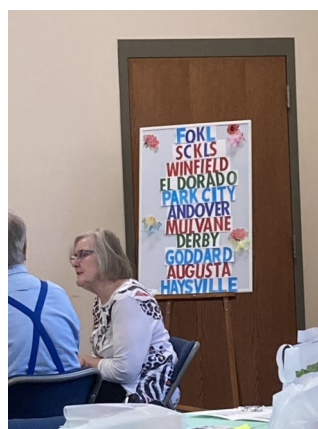
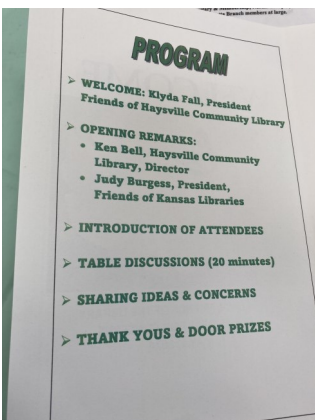
Judy Burgess, FoKL President, spoke about library advocacy. She shared how a “library snapshot” can be found online and how it can be used to highlight the library’s accomplishments when advocating for it’s continued support. For fun, Judy asked a few library related trivia questions and gave FoKL tote bags to the winners. She concluded her remarks inviting those present to join FoKL’s *First Fridays with Friends* zoom events, read the FoKL Point Newsletter, and to stay in touch using the FoKL website. FoKL informational cards were provided at each place.

The event highlight was to forge useful connections for learning and growth through sharing ideas among the various Friends groups. Participants were given time to talk in small groups at their tables to share ideas unique to their libraries and ask questions. When the table groups later shared their ideas with the larger group, it was apparent that everyone spent some time thinking about enhancing membership and fundraising, and gathering ideas for Friends new activities.

Questions that were posed by participants included:

- What “other” things do you have in your library for check out?
- Besides book sales, how does your Friends group raise money?
- What are some of the outreach programming provided by your library/Friends?

Wonderful light refreshments were served. The event ended with door prize drawings of plants, coffee mugs, FoKL tote bags, and FoKL license bags. Everyone present received a door prize!



Focus on Friends

Friends of the Salina Public Library Scholarships

The recipients of the 2024 Joe McKenzie Scholarships were awarded May 14th at the Salina Friends of the Public Library annual meeting. They are Megan Graff and Isabelle Greenemeyer. Each of them received a \$1500.00 Scholarship.

The Friends of the Salina Public Library is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote, support, and enhance the resources of the Salina Public Library and to enrich the educational and cultural life of the community. The organization is proud to offer college scholarships for high school seniors who have volunteered in the Youth Services department of the library and at the Friends used book sales. The scholarships are named in honor of Joe McKenzie, former Library Director who retired in 2017 after 40 years of service.

Megan attends Salina South High School where she is a member of the National Honor Society and the Drama Club. She is currently serving as Student Body President, is active in Scholar's Bowl, and is a Link Leader. She plans to attend Kansas State University where she will major in Mechanical Engineering. She is the daughter of Mikel and Jill Graff.

Isabelle also attends Salina South High School. She is active in Drama Club, Book Club, Forensics, Newspaper, and Scholar's Bowl. Isabelle received a Superintendent's Excellence Award for the Kansas Thespian Festival and Newspaper. Isabelle plans to attend Kansas State University and major in English with the goal of becoming an English teacher. Her parents are Theron and Zoe Greenemeyer.



(Image Courtesy Friends of the Salina Public Library)

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!

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