



# FoKL Point

Summer 2011

Friends of Kansas Libraries, Inc.

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## Friends of Kansas Libraries

*Friends of Kansas Libraries is a statewide organization of groups and individual members committed to helping libraries meet the needs 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 articles to FoKL Point, contact:*

**FoKL  
Hutchinson Public Library  
901 N Main St  
Hutchinson, KS 67501**



## I challenge you to be a Friend and a Geek!

*by Sonia Smith, FoKL Board Member at Large*

In the last *FoKL Point*, we learned about **Geek the Library**, a community-based public awareness and education campaign to spread the word about the vital, growing role of public libraries. Libraries face critical funding issues and need to grow an advocacy base.

Here are three recent Geek the Library Facebook posts:

*“Public libraries are not a given. They need your support to survive and to thrive. If you love the library, protect it. Talk about why public libraries matter to you and your community. Your voice will make a difference!”*

*“Do you know how your local library is funded? You might be surprised about the percentage of support that must come from the local community. Educate yourself about library funding and then spread the word!”*

*“What’s your story? Take the time to write down your personal story about what the library means to you and how it has positively affected your life, and send it to your local library. Provide your contact information and encourage them to get in touch. Your story is significant. Not only will it make the library staff’s day, but it could help with marketing efforts and with media queries.”*

If you are a friend of a Kansas library, chances are you already do lend your voice to advocacy for your library. Here’s my challenge for you (actually, a three-part challenge) to do more:

1. **Become a member of Friends of Kansas Libraries**, (or renew your membership). **And make sure your library and friends group are current members too.** FoKL would love to have *all* Kansas Libraries and their friends groups as members. **Note:** If you are a member and your *FoKL Point* was mailed, information about your renewal date is on the mailing label.
2. **Get on Facebook, like Geek the Library, and use the information posted to find ways to do more for your library.** Also like *your* library and/or friends group’s Facebook pages, and like the Friends of Kansas Libraries page. When you see a post that inspires you to share your story about what libraries mean to you, take that opportunity.
3. **Start planning now to apply for a FoKL Challenge Grant.** Last year, **74%** of membership dollars went back to libraries in the form of grants to support library needs. Do you know what’s on your library’s wish list for next year? Work with staff to decide how your available funds can be used as matching dollars for a Challenge Grant.

Need more information? On page 2 there’s a list of FoKL Board members and their contact information. Any of them would be happy to help! Contact your regional member, or an at-large member and find out what you can do as a friend of the library. Now go get your Geek on!

## FoKL Board Members

For more information about starting a Friends group or revitalizing one, contact your Regional Library System, or e-mail your trustee directly. Your trustee can visit your group or help answer your questions.

### Officers:

President, **Sue Blechl**, Emporia  
[blechls@emporialibrary.org](mailto:blechls@emporialibrary.org)  
 Vice-President, **Carolyn Little**, Topeka  
[cslittle07@yahoo.com](mailto:cslittle07@yahoo.com)  
 Secretary, **Cathy Newland**, Emporia  
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 Treasurer, **Tina Stropes**, Hutchinson  
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### Regional Members:

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[Nascarnancy8@yahoo.com](mailto:Nascarnancy8@yahoo.com)  
 N.Central: **Midge Jones**, Manhattan  
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 S.W.: *vacant*  
 S.E.: **Wendy Morlan**, Pleasanton  
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### Members at Large:

#1 **Carol Geary**, Bonner Springs  
[vaughnt@crn.org](mailto:vaughnt@crn.org)  
 #2 **Sonia J. Smith**, Gardner  
[soniajane@netzero.com](mailto:soniajane@netzero.com)  
 Newsletter Editor  
 #3 *vacant*  
 #4 **Margaret Moore**, Greeley  
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[garnettlibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:garnettlibrary@yahoo.com)  
 #6 **Susan Richardson**, Hutchinson  
[susanrichardson@cox.net](mailto:susanrichardson@cox.net)

### State Library Liaison:

**Shannon Roy**, Topeka  
[shanroy@kslib.info](mailto:shanroy@kslib.info)

### Liaison to ALTAFF/Citizens for Libraries

**Marsha Bennett**  
[bennettm@jocolibrary.org](mailto:bennettm@jocolibrary.org)

## Board vacancies

In July, the FoKL Board met at the Lawrence Public Library and talked about some of its goals during the regular meeting. One was to have a full board. As you can see, by looking at the box at left, that there are still yet some vacancies on the board.



If you are interested in representing the Central or Southwest regions, or serving at large, then FoKL needs you! Contact Sue Blechl, or another board member and let FoKL know you are ready to serve.

## Friends of Atchison Library host Author luncheon and raise funds

*by Nancy Keith  
 Northeast Regional FoKL Board member*

The Friends of the Atchison Library (FoAL) hosted an Author Luncheon on Saturday, April 23, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Atchison, Kansas. Author and editor, Thomas Fox Averill, one of the foremost authorities on Kansas Literature was the guest speaker.

Averill's book *What Kansas Means to Me: Twentieth Century Writers on the Sunflower State* was selected as the 2011 Kansas Reads Book of the Year. He dazzled the luncheon guests with tales of Kansas and touted it as one of the finest places to live sighting the state's interesting and diverse climate, landscape, and cultures. Following his lecture, Averill autographed copies of his books. Luncheon guests were pleased with his humorous vignettes and his genuine approachability.

The luncheon was organized by the FoAL Board Members, Atchison Library Director Diana Weaver, and Atchison Library Liaison Christina Jackson. Catered by Albert Valdez of SnowBall, the delicious lunch consisted of turkey wrap or chicken salad croissant, fruit salad, pasta salad and cookies.

Prior to lunch being served, guests were able to bid on silent auction items. Twelve Atchison businesses, organizations and individuals donated items which were organized into unique baskets to aid FoAL fund-raising efforts.

The FoAL Board deemed the event a success with approximately 40 guests attending and \$200 netted from the silent auction.

Congratulations, FoAL, on a great event!

To share your news from the Northeast region, e-mail Nancy. If you're in another region and want to share your friends group's success stories and event ideas, e-mail your region's representative to the FoKL board, or the newsletter editor.

## Ask Freeda B. Frank!



by Carolyn Little  
FoKL Board Vice President

Dear **Freeda B. Frank**:

Do my library and friends of the library group need separate Facebook profiles?

Dear *Social Media Networker*:

Clay Center Carnegie Library Director **Wendy Mitchell** says:

The Friends of the Library had a Facebook page before I came here in August 2010. It's an active group with several yearly fundraisers, and

contributes a lot to our activities. I decided to add the library's Facebook page because the Friends profile was not the best forum for posting job openings, etc.

The Friends page has more "friends" than the library, but we have some mutual friends. I am an administrator for both pages and often add events to both pages. The friends president posts friends specific events and information.

We don't get much feedback but we do get some comments and views. I appreciate that I'm allowed to post directly on the Friends page because it saves time. Sometimes I also post on the friends wall as the library to add information, like a status, or answer a question. We share overlapping information but I think it is necessary to have some separation at times and the more it is posted the more likely people will notice, right?

## Friend of the Year in Bonner Springs

by Carol Geary  
Member at Large, FoKL Board

Friends of the Bonner Springs City Library participated on July 17 in the second anniversary celebration of the new library building by honoring a long time member Edna Stewart as its first ever Friend of the Year.

Grants from FoKL played an important part in two phases of the new building – an initial grant helped fund the "Get Out the Vote" campaign which passed overwhelmingly by 80%.

As the building was being constructed, the Friends sponsored a contest for local artists as well as school art departments to design a stained glass window for the library's Kansas room. A FoKL grant helped pay for the window which depicts items of historical significance in Kansas and especially the Bonner Springs area.

The Friends are also sponsoring

presentations by three Kansas authors:

- Sept. 18 - Thomas Fox Averill
- Oct. 16 - Jeanne Glidewell, a Bonner resident who writes cozy mysteries
- Nov. 20 - Nancy Pickard

The Bonner Friends has been energized by the beautiful new building and now has 60 members.



## Haysville Book Sale

by Marion Renner  
South Central Regional FoKL Board member

Haysville Friends of the Library has opened up a Summer Saturday Book Sale in the little Gazebo.

Every Saturday from 8 to 11 a.m., books, cold drinks and summer shade hats are offered for sale. Each Saturday features a different author or genre. The Gazebo is located just across the street from the Hometown Market, an area where vendors sell home grown products in Haysville.



## New Friends group!

Carolyn Little, FoKL vice president, spoke to ten interested members of the Effingham community on July 20 in the City Council room of Effingham City Building.

She explained what a friends group is and why a friends group would benefit the community and the library. After a question and answer session the group decided to hold an organizational meeting July 27.

Approving by-laws, deciding upon goals, and voting on officers and minimal dues will be some of the meeting's agenda.

Welcome, Friends of Effingham Community Library!

**Left:** Kim Beets, Bonner Springs City Library Director, presents a very surprised Edna Stewart with the first ever Friend of the Year Award.

# FoKL POINT

**Friends of Kansas Libraries, Inc.**

*901 North Main Street  
Hutchinson, KS 67501*

<http://www.fokl.net>

## Outstanding Friends Group recognized at ice cream social

On Thursday, July 21, several hundred people came to a park in Towanda, Kansas, for the annual ice cream social and band concert hosted by library trustees, with help from the Friends of Towanda Library, who provide homemade ice cream and cakes for the event.

Towanda is a town of about 1,500 people.

This year, FoKL President Sue Blechl and South Central's FoKL Board representative Marion Renner attended to recognize the Friends of Towanda Public Library, chosen this year as one of two groups honored by FoKL as an Outstanding Friends Group.

It hosts an annual Monterrey Dinner during the city-wide garage sale, and raises money selling nuts at the annual library book sale. The Friends-organized, bi-annual holiday home tour attracts many from the surrounding area, and increases

awareness of public library services. In 2010, Friends of Towanda Library was instrumental in completing a library automation project, purchasing patron cards, and new circulation and librarian desks. Volunteer tasks range from event assistance to lawn maintenance. Friends members connect the library to the community by being involved in many other civic groups. The members provide the Friends a presence throughout the city. Their faces are recognized by the city council as library supporters during annual budget preparation. As community messengers, Towanda's Friends of the Library make a difference!

At press time, we have just learned that Towanda's Library director, Judy Burris, has passed away. Condolences to her library friends and family.



**Top:** Sue Blechl, FoKL; Judy Burris, Towanda librarian, Judy Van Buskirk, Towanda Friends President.

**Bottom:** More Friends of Towanda Public Library and Sue.