



Friends

of the Wichita Public Library

Among Friends

Winter 2015

Enthusiasm about Wichita's proposed Advanced Learning Library continues to grow.

On September 9th, the Wichita Public Library Foundation announced a \$3 million gift from the Dwane L. and Velma Lusk Wallace Charitable Foundation to expand the children's and research (genealogy and local history) areas of the proposed new library. The Foundation also announced a \$250,000 Friends of the Library challenge grant gift to encourage additional contributions to the capital campaign.

On October 6th, the Wichita City Council agreed to modify its contract with GLMV Architects to allow for the additional children's and research space in the final building design and construction documents. Work on these plans is expected to be completed before the end of 2015.

The design of the proposed new library will be a two story building. The first floor will include the children's pavilion for infants through elementary aged children,



Architect drawing of the exterior of the proposed Advanced Learning Library

a teen center for middle and high school students, a digital pavilion where customers can receive technology assistance through individual tutoring or group classes, multiple small group

meeting spaces, fiction, music and film collections and a conference center with a meeting room large enough to hold over 300 people or dividable to allow for three concurrent smaller meetings. The

conference center will also serve as the building's storm shelter.

The second floor will house all adult non-fiction, genealogy and local history materials as well as additional small group meeting spaces and an outdoor reading terrace. Public computers will be available in all areas of the building.

Other amenities of the proposed building include a drive-up returns and pick up window, an outdoor programming space for children, dedicated parking and improved access to the public transit system.



Interior view of the proposed Advanced Learning Library.



2015 Holiday Sale

Thursday, December 3 – 10:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 4 – 10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Central Library Auditorium

- * Holiday books and music
- * Books drawn from a variety of genres
- * Gift books, humor and more!



Books sales are worth the time and commitment

The people of Wichita and surrounding area donate generously to the Friends. Donated books come in at a steady rate; the majority have been read once or twice and are in good condition. Numerous genres and subjects provide an interesting shopping experience at the yearly sales.

The Friends of the Library Fall Sale was a great success. Twenty-six volunteers gave 288 hours of work setting up, helping during the sale and cleaning up. Using \$21.64 an hour (data from Independent Sector, a leadership network for nonprofits) to compute the value of their effort, the volunteers contributed \$6,400. Hundreds of books were sold to loyal readers..

This year the Friends have raised over \$12,000 though sales.

Annual Spring Sale-\$6,000

- Second Beach Read Paperback Sale at the Riverfest-
- \$600 selling over 2400 paperbacks
- July Hardback Fiction Sale-\$1,200
- Annual Fall Sale-\$4,500
- Holiday Sale-December 3rd and 4th – Come join us to make this the best year ever!



UPCOMING

Book Sales 2016

April 20-23, 2016

Annual Spring Sale

Central Library Auditorium, 3rd floor

June 4, 2016

Riverfest Beach Read Bag Sale

Central Library Patio

September 21-24, 2016

Annual Fall Sale

Central Library Auditorium, 3rd floor

December 9-10, 2016

Holiday Sale

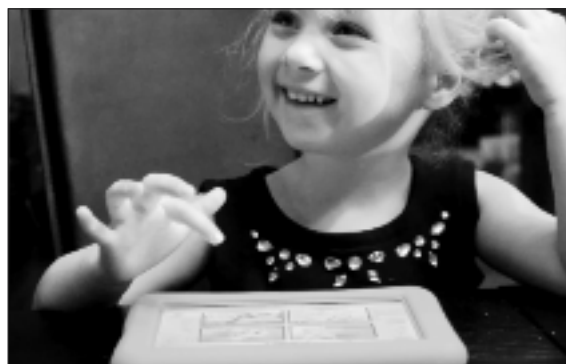
Central Library Auditorium, 3rd floor



Each month, at least one half of the proceeds of the Friends of the Library Used Bookstore are forwarded to the Library.

What happens to that money? So many great things!

- Friends funds support the purchase of library materials. During the past five years, the Library's Blu-Ray, children's Playaway and Launchpad collections were all created with Friends funds. The Library's motor manual collection – already one of the best public library collections in the nation – was enhanced with a Friends materials grant. These dollars also help to purchase extra copies of bestsellers in order to reduce the waiting time for these most heavily requested items.
- Friends funds support library programming. Have you participated in the Big Read Wichita? Friends funds help with the costs of special events such as the 2011 visit of author Tim O'Brien and this year's visit from Luis Alberto Urrea. Kansas Reads to Preschoolers programs, winter reading programs for adults and summer reading programs for children have benefitted from programs made possible by the Friends.
- Friends funds support library volunteerism. The Friends of the Library make the Teen Volunteer program possible. Each year approximately 150 youth



Using Launchpad brings smiles to the faces of children.

receive skills training while helping the library with summer reading program activities.

- Friends funds support training. Members of the Library and Friends of the Library boards of directors have received advocacy training and access to United for Libraries, a support organization for library friends, foundations and trustees. Inservice training for library staff and volunteers has also been made possible by Friends funding.
- Friends funds support special needs. After a generation's worth of hugs from children visiting the Central Library children's room, Cecily the giraffe's fur was entirely worn off in several places. The Friends helped to bring Mo, a new giraffe, to the library as a greeter to a new generation of children. The Friends also purchased wheelchairs and rollators (rolling walkers with baskets and seats) to facilitate library visits for people with mobility issues.

Thank you Friends of the Library for supporting Library customers through these many purchases!

FRIENDS HELP TO “LAUNCH” WICHITA CHILDREN INTO THE DIGITAL WORLD!

The start of the 2015 school year was also the beginning of a wonderful new opportunity for young learners in our community thanks to a financial contribution by the Friends of the Wichita Public Library.

The Wichita Public Library acquired more than 100 gaming tablets called Playaway Launchpads. These Launchpads are touchscreen tablets, like iPads or Kindle, that are preloaded with various learning activities, games and read-along stories. The tablets are designed for children ages 3-11, but each individual Launchpad tablet is designed for a narrow age range so that each child will experience games and learning challenges that are appropriate

for his or her developmental stage. Also, each tablet is focused on a particular learning goal such as math, language, creativity or critical thinking.

Launchpads can be checked out at any Wichita Public Library and can be borrowed for a two-week period. Because each tablet is preloaded with fun and educational programs, there is no need for internet connection for children to play. These tablets provide a unique opportunity for children who might not have touchscreen devices in their home or internet connection. As the world's adaptation to new technology continues to grow, these Launchpads can help bridge the digital

divide to those who don't have the same advantages as others.

The Library was able to purchase these Launchpads with the financial help of the Friends of the Wichita Public Library. Your membership fee, donations and book purchases have allowed us to provide the Library with the funds to provide such worthy opportunities as this. So next time you stop in the Library, take a peek into the Children's section to see the bright orange Launchpad boxes that your generous contributions helped to provide. However, don't be surprised if none are there. These tablets have quickly become very popular among our youngest patrons so they don't stay on the shelf very long!

Retail Sales Committee sorts and sorts

The Retail Sales Committee of the Friends was established in 2013. Responsible for the used bookstore and book sales, the committee, chaired by Steve Cloud, meets monthly. Recently the committee made decisions about process, order, organization and volunteers in the basement.

Books are processed five days a week, Monday through Friday, by volunteers. Following guidelines about condition, date, sale possibility, etc., the volunteer accepts, sorts and designates placement of books. The sorter for the day sorts first for the book store, secondly for internet sales and then for book sales and Better World Books. Sorting is both a science and an art. Individual interests, book knowledge, organizational skills and desire for order has improved the basement work. "Who is Grace Livingston Hill and who put her books aside?" and have improved the order and organization of the basement. Veteran sorters are Fred Rondholz and Steve Cloud; new sorters are Jim Thomson, Joyce Suellentrop, and Bob Ciski.

IMPROVING THE PROCESS

Retail Sales Committee members have been working in the book store for several weeks. Limited shelf space, uncertainty of donations, changing popularity of authors and books, sales fluctuation and desire to improve the store led to reassessment and reorganization of the store.

- An ongoing process, the work has led to several changes and further changes may come.
- More frequent stocking; at least three times a week, sometimes daily, new books are brought up from the basement.
- New categories include African-American literature; philosophy and thought; mythology; essays and memoirs.

- DIY books - several categories- home repair, quilting, cooking, antiques, crafts, gardening, sewing, home décor, woodworking and knitting are shelved separately but in one shelf unit.

- Children and teen books were moved to lower shelves.

- When appropriate, blended classification is done. For example, a biography of Renoir will be in the art section as will art reference books like Dictionary of American Art.

- Within the biography section, books about the Presidents are separated.

- As you come in the door, the shelves of first shelf unit hold New Fiction, New Non Fiction and Of Local Interest. Selections are changed frequently.

- Specials are offered in a variety of ways. For example, WWII books are put together and noted as such. Bundles are offered. Two Ann Rice bundles sold as did a Sherlock Holmes. Bundles on the shelf now include: P.D. James; Agatha Christie and the Royal Family.

- Fiction, Mystery, Science Fiction, Westerns, Romance are shelved separately in the same shelf unit to the back.

- Questions and comments can be given to the volunteer; they will be recorded in a notebook and a response will follow.



Bob Ciski sorts on Thursday

Gail Fisher recognized by Friends of Kansas Libraries

Congratulations to Gail Fisher - recipient of the Friends of Kansas Libraries Individual Friend Award for 2015. Gail demonstrated strong leadership in the library community serving 9 years on the Wichita Friends of the Library Board - over 2½ years as president.

During that time, Gail brought new energy to the book store by initiating new, efficient strategies to increase sales. She led the multi-year Geek the Library campaign to increase community awareness for the library. With this campaign, Gail helped to introduce new people to the importance of the library.

Gail encouraged our Friends to make use of social media as a way to connect with the community and organization members. These are now standard tools used to communicate membership news when needed.

Gail is a vocal proponent of projects that help the library while bringing attention to the Friends of the Library. These initiatives

have varied from grants to help buy additional copies of the most requested bestsellers to underwriting for Kansas Reads to Preschoolers, support for summer reading and Big Read Wichita programs. Each of these has been important to the work of the Library.

Friends made an early contribution to the capital campaign for the new library during Gail's final year as Friends' President. With her leadership, Friends was able to make a \$250,000 donation to the campaign.

Gail currently works two shifts in the bookstore each month. Even though her term of service will end in December, we hope that her involvement continues with her good work as a bookstore volunteer.

Many thanks and kudos go to Gail for her spirited leadership and passion for our Library and the Friends of the Wichita Public Library.

Thank You

JULIE CORNETT started stocking the bookstore in 2014. Six years' experience as a bookstore and book sales volunteer helped her as she spent 20-25 hours a week bringing books from the basement to the shelves in the bookstore. She retired this fall. The Friends thank her for her work as an energetic and enthusiastic volunteer.

After serving for several years, **KRISTIAN STROM** left the board in May, 2015. He continues to sell selected books on-line for the Friends. The Friends thank him for his work as board member, directing book sales, helping with book donations and serving as 1st vice-president.

LIZ KENNEDY, chair of the Membership Committee, left the board when she moved to Portland this fall. With her innovative ideas, membership in the Friends has grown to 1200. We thank Liz for her passion for libraries, books, and reading.

STEPHANIE HUFF recently left the Friends Board but did not leave the library. She is the new Marketing and Communications Manager for the Wichita Public Library. As a board member, her social networking skills helped the Friends maintain an online presence. We wish her well with her new job.

30 Years of Shorts in Wichita

In 2016, Wichita Public Library will celebrate the 30th anniversary of one of our most popular programs: the screening of the Academy Award-nominated short films. The program was started by former Art, Music & Video librarian Sondra Koontz in 1986, created through connections that she had to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. For the first two decades of the program, Wichita was one of the only places outside of New York and Los Angeles where these films could be viewed by people outside the Academy.

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the program, Wichita Public Library will be hosting some special events leading up to the screening of the short films. These programs include: a spotlight on local filmmakers including Leif Jonker, Rod Pocowatchit, and Paul Klusman, and a smartphone movie making class. There will also be several short film retrospectives featuring favorite winners and nominees.

The official 30th Anniversary screening of the short films will begin on February 20th, 2016 with an all day screening at the Orpheum Theater. The films will be shown at branch libraries throughout the week, and the final showing will be held at the 21st Street Warren Theater on February 27th.

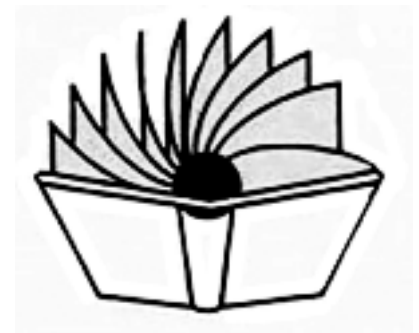
I recently found out through the Library's newsletter that my paternal grandmother, Sara Norcross Jones, served on the first board of the Wichita Public Library 100 years ago. I was young when she passed away but do remember many times with her. She definitely influenced my love of books and reading. I have many books that belonged to my grandparents in my library.

When I was asked to serve as membership Chair for the Friends, I felt it was my legacy to do so in memory of my grandmother. It is an exciting time with the 100 year celebration and the new library. I am a retired elementary school librarian; as a member of the Friends, I will donate my time and talents to its activities. I challenge you to join the Friends if you are not a member now and investigate ways you can participate. If you are a member, thank you, and I look forward to seeing you in the library and at the Friends events.

*Sally Hayes
Friends Membership Committee Chair*

Friends of Kansas Libraries (FoKL)

After serving two years as vice-president, Judy Burgess was recently elected president of FoKL for 2016. Judy is currently president of Wichita Friends. Sally Hayes, Wichita Friends board member, is also a board member for FoKL. 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.





Friends of the Wichita Public Library
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Wichita, KS 67202

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Public Library Facebook page.



Become a Friend at www.wichitalibraryfriends.org

FRIENDS OF THE WICHITA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mission Statement

Friends of the Wichita Public Library, a
volunteer non-profit organization,
provides support, service and advocacy
for the
Library. These goals are achieved
through:

- Fundraising for essential Library materials, programs, and services not supplied by normal budget resources,
- Underwriting of costs incurred by the Library for volunteer recognition and management,
- Promotion of public support for the use of the Library and,
- Education of members, elected officials, and the general public on library issues.

If you are not already a member of the
Friends of the Wichita Public Library,
we hope you'll join!

Pick up a Friends brochure at any Wichita library or go to
WICHITALIBRARYFRIENDS.ORG
and click on
BECOME A FRIEND

BOARD OF DIRECTORS of the Friends of the Wichita Public Library

Judy Burgess	Sally Hayes	Carolyn Russell
Steve Cloud	Ken Lee	Vikki Jo Stewart
Gail Fisher	Sharon Leimkuhl	Joyce Suellentrop
Janet Fowler	Larry Romine	Marge Zakoura-Vaughan

Bookstore Hours

Monday 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. • Tuesday-Saturday 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.