

Happy New Year!

We're ringing in some exciting things in the new year, and we hope you'll enjoy them. After a successful 2019 reaching our membership goal, and participating in the Kansas Library Association conference in October, we're ready for some FoKL reveals. Several executive board members were newly elected during the KLA conference, and there are big plans for 2020. You'll see updates to our website, our new logo, FoKL swag on our Facebook page, and more.



This award was presented to Hamilton County Library Director Amy Brucker at the KLA Conference in October.

Our new FoKL Board President made news of her own during the annual KLA Conference in Overland Park. Director of the Hamilton County Library, Amy Brucker, was at the awards ceremony to receive the 2019 Best Small Public Library in Kansas Award on October 24.

The announcement generated excitement not only at the conference, but in her hometown newspaper as well. The Syracuse Journal featured the story on its front page, along with several photos taken at the conference. Journal Editor Marcus Ashlock reported the award was created to recognize a "creative and excellent library service, program or activity in a service community of less than 5,000."

Amy credits her staff's continued efforts to think outside the box to

Award, cont'd. on Page 2

Friends of Kansas Libraries is a statewide organization of groups and individual members committed to helping libraries meet the need 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 newsletter articles, please contact: Wendy Morlan, editor, Pleasanton Lincoln Library, P.O. Box 101, Pleasanton, KS 66075, pleaslinlib@ckt.net



FoKL represented at KLA, cont'd.

help children and adults reach their reading goals. Staff provides many programs to the community, both inside and outside the library. "This honor was achieved through a committed staff, supportive library board and regional system, successful community partnerships, and an amazing community," Brucker said. "We embrace the idea of building community, both inside and outside our walls."

When submitting her library's application for the award, Amy detailed the services her library provides to youth as well as adults. Adult Librarian Caleb Platt coordinates adult programs which include partnering with the Hamilton County VIP Center for monthly events including trivia, movies and a book club. Youth activities are led by Children's Librarian Dallie Vernon and include traditional Story Hour, which rotates among local daycares.

Amy was also selected to present a breakout session at the KLA Conference titled, "10 Reasons Why You Need a Teen Friends Group." Joined by former Hamilton County Library employee and Library Leadership Group (LLG) member, Wyatt Carter, they spoke to a standing room only audience of over 70 in attendance. Much positive feedback was received for what their library accomplishes with the high school students in their community.



Hamilton County Library Director Amy Brucker, center, displays the banner that will hang in the library for the next year. She is flanked by Ashland Public Library Director Cara Vanderree, left, and Kinsley Library Director Joan Weaver, right, whose libraries won the award in 2018 and 2017, respectively.

FoKL at KLA, cont'd. on Page 3

Building Community Partnerships

During the KLA conference in October, FoKL board members Judy Burgess and Barb Mathews were joined by Ashland Public Library Director Cara Vandarree to present a breakout session about Building Community Partnerships. The session's description was Synergy: the cooperation of two or more organizations to produce a combined effort greater than the sum of their separate effects!! Speakers talked about how local Friends groups can form community partnerships to make a greater impact with projects and programs. Examples of existing community projects across the state were shared. Working with partners increases Friends' visibility and leads to membership growth, while at the same time allowing for library advocacy. About 40 attended this lively session.

KCK Public Library Foundation funds attendance

The Kansas City Kansas Public Library Foundation made arrangements to fund the attendance of many staff members from their libraries. They received a lengthy list of thank you messages for their financial assistance. Here are a couple of those messages of appreciation.

Thank you for affording the KCKPL Staff the opportunity to attend the KLA Conference this year. I appreciate the chance to meet with other likeminded professionals to share our goals and aspirations for the library and the community. I was able to learn practical and creative ways to enhance the library experience for the patrons on the Mobile Library. I left the event with a feeling of rejuvenation and enthusiasm for my work! I plan to incorporate that spirit into my everyday projects while providing outreach services in our KCK community. ~ Tina Cervantes- Graham, Mobile Library Associate

As a person who is new to this profession I found this event quite inspiring. I am so glad both our luncheon speaker and our keynote speaker were people of color advocating for diversity in the library system. I believe these things are so crucial for libraries, as a whole, who serve an incredibly diverse population. I also learned a lot of information that I'm excited to apply to our teen programs, specifically teen council. ~ Morgan Nix

Thank you for not only providing my entry fee for the conference, but also providing me the opportunity to enjoy the luncheon provided by Friends of Kansas Libraries. Being a new employee to the KCKPL system, it was wonderful to meet my Youth Services counterparts at our other branches and learn about their programs. I appreciated learning about successful Friends of the Library organizations and the moving poetry recited by our guest speaker, Poet Laureate of Kansas, Huascar Medina. The second session I attended was Ten Reasons Why You Need a Teen Friends Group presented by Amy Brucker and Wyatt Carter from Hamilton County Library. This energetic presentation was an inspiring narrative describing how Amy developed a program to involve the teens in her small town's library. Her teen group started with only 4 members in 2012, and has grown to an impressive 30 members of the Library Leadership Group or LGG as they all refer to it with

FoKL at KLA, cont'd. on Page 4

At FoKL's December 20 board meeting, Membership Chair Janet Schmidt reported she had received 12 membership registrations for 2020 including: 2 Best Friends, 4 Individuals, 4 Groups, and 2 Libraries.

10 REASONS YOU NEED A TEEN FRIENDS GROUP

KANSAS LIBRARY CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 23, 2019

Wednesday's FoKL breakout session at KLA

... I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend the KLA conference this year and to partake in two tasty and healthy lunches. ... I also really liked listening to the Poet Laureate during the FOKL lunch. I've been to the FOKL lunches twice already for the past years and I can say it is always nice to hear about the important work they do as a group. ~ Elena Bonjour

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend KLA. I really appreciate having the opportunity to go and not only learn from other librarians but also to network and talk with other librarians. I have come back from the conference with some interesting ideas for programming. ... Lastly, the lunch was great, especially hearing the Kansas poet laureate speak. It is amazing what talent comes from our own state. ~ Sarah Gil

I also sat in on Ten Reasons Why You Need A Teen Friends Group and while it was interesting and engaging, I did not really learn anything new after all of the time I've spent in the field. I am ALWAYS happy though, to see new YA presenters and to see them pull off successful programs so that was good. I also just loved how she incorporated interviews with some of her ex teen volunteers so that audience members could hear from them directly and see the impact that teen services has on them. ~ Kimberly Patton

Wednesday breakout session attendees

affection and pride. The ten reasons included typical motivations for including teens in library programming, but they could all be summed up as the final one on the list: Opportunity. Working with teens to create meaningful library programming is an opportunity for community enrichment, building relationships, and encouraging the teens in your area to develop skills and confidence that will allow them to make a difference in their world. ~ Liz King



Poet Laureate Huascar Medina at FoKL luncheon



FoKL at KLA, cont'd, & Friends group activities



Photo on left, Board members Jan Schmidt, Salina, and Barb Mathews, Baldwin City, greet attendees at the FoKL booth during the KLA conference in Overland Park.

Photo below, Congratulations to Kandi Wilson, Chanute, winner of FoKL's basket in the KLAEF drawing.



Friends of Belleville Public Library

The Friends were featured in the Belleville Telescope newspaper after entering a float in the town's 100th Anniversary Parade and winning First Place. Congratulations!



Library Leadership Group Hamilton County Library

The LLG's Fall membership drive brought in 38 members. They are excited about the positive changes they can make at the library, including new furniture in the teen area.

Photo on left, Several LLG members, photo on the left, helped the local sheriff's department wrap Toys for Tots in the Syracuse community, just in time for Christmas.

New Year, new logo & FoKL swag!



Friends of Kansas Libraries t-shirt special

If you attended the KLA conference in October or visit our Facebook page, you might have seen members of the FoKL board model t-shirts displaying our new logo. For FoKL shirt orders you can access a direct link at: <https://shop.thegoodsportfanshop.com/fokl/shop/home>. In addition to long- and short-sleeved adult t-shirts, there are youth t-shirts, as well as crewneck sweatshirts and hoodies. The store opens for orders January 6 and closes January 31. Orders will be shipped on February 10.

In addition to shirts, there are fabulous tote bags available for very reasonable prices. For more information or purchase, contact Amy Brucker, director@syracuselibrary.info



We welcome information about your Friends Group activities for our next issue of FoKL Point newsletter.

FoKL BOARD MEMBERS

We call on you to be part of FoKL

Serving on the Board of Friends of Kansas Libraries offers “priceless” rewards. Our board members meet with enthusiastic and creative Friends throughout the state. Though volunteering takes time, it offers much satisfaction. Can you be a library advocate? Are you enthusiastic in your volunteer efforts? Are you willing to be part of a creative team that shapes the future of a statewide organization? Please note vacancies on the list below.

Officers:

President, Amy Brucker, Syracuse, director@syracuselibrary.info
Vice-president/Governance Chair, Barb Mathews, Eudora, j54b55@gmail.com
Secretary/ Newsletter Editor, Wendy Morlan, Pleasanton, pleaslinlib@ckt.net
Treasurer/Finance Chair, Laura Carroll, Basehor, lcarrroll@basehorlibrary.org
Immediate Past-president, Judy Burgess, Manhattan, jl6468@icloud.com

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Northeast: Laura Carroll, Basehor, lcarrroll@basehorlibrary.org
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Northwest: open for nominations
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Southeast: Marilyn VonSoosten, Girard, von_farm@ckt.net
South Central: open for nominations
Southwest: open for nominations

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#1 Carolyn Little, Topeka, little.carolyn67@gmail.com
#2 Brenda Hough, Lawrence, bckhough@gmail.com
#3 Pat Brune, Wyandotte, plbrune@gmail.com
#4 open for nominations
#5 Cathy Newland, Silver Lake, newland.cathy@gmail.com
#6 open for nominations

Special Board Members:

United for Libraries Liaison: vacant; Kansas Library Association contact: Judy Burgess; Kansas Library Trustee Association (KLTA) Liaison: vacant; FoKL Website Administrator: Pat Brune

FoKL, c/o Basehor Community Library, 1400 158th St., Basehor, KS 66007