

# friends of kansas LIBRARIES

Assist - Support - Educate

FoKL POINT Newsletter — February/March 2025

Grant and Award Deadline — April 1st

## FoKL Challenge Grants



What exciting idea does your Friends group have up its sleeve? FoKL can help! Our Challenge Grants provide up to \$500 in matching funds for a project that will help your Friends group support your local library.

To be considered, the Friends group must:

- Submit a completed and signed application by April 1st ([click for the Challenge Grant Application Form](#)).
- Be a current [member](#) of FoKL (Friends group or library).
- Agree to recognize funds received from FoKL in library publicity (social media, signage, etc).
- Submit a Challenge Grant Report to FoKL no later than October 1st of the current year.

## Outstanding Individual Friend Award

FoKL's Outstanding Individual Award is a way to thank and honor a Friends volunteer who always goes that extra mile to make your library and community a better place. The winner(s) receive a \$50 cash award given in their name to their Friends group.



To be considered for the Outstanding Individual Award, the nominated person:

- Must be a member of their library's Friends group and the group must be a [member](#) of FoKL.
- Must not have received an award in the previous 3 years.
- Must be nominated by April 1st.

Click for the [Outstanding Individual Nomination Form](#) and to view [previous award winners](#).



## Outstanding Group Award

This award recognizes Friends groups that provide exemplary service to their library by acting as advocates, raising funds, sponsoring programs and events, and hosting book sales.

The winning group(s) will receive a \$100 cash award.

To be considered for the award, the nominated group:

- Must be a current [member](#) of FoKL.
- Must not have received a Friends Group Award in the previous 3 years.
- Must be nominated by April 1st.

Click for the [Outstanding Group Nomination Form](#) and [previous winners](#).

# FoKL Membership

FoKL membership provides your library and Friends group with a supportive network for learning, sharing, and connecting with others throughout Kansas who value Libraries! Click at right to join or renew for 2025, or visit us at [www.fokl.net](http://www.fokl.net).

Click for  
Membership Form



## Baldwin City Public Library — Counter Mural

The Baldwin City Public Library has unveiled a counter mural that was sponsored in part by a \$1,000 gift from the Friends of Baldwin Library.

Baldwin Friend and FoKL board member Barb Mathews said, "Two local Girl Scout troops helped paint the mural. Every day we receive wonderful comments from our patrons and library visitors. Many comment about a particular title among the books featured in the mural as one of their favorites."

The mural artist said:

*My name is Katee Smith, owner of the Barefoot Builder LLC. I live in rural Baldwin City and love to be involved in my community. I especially love sharing my skills as a woodworker and artist with those around me.*

*When I heard about the mural for the library, I knew I had to submit an idea. I thought about the Kansas City Library and how it looks like a giant row of books and knew I wanted to follow along those lines, but incorporating wood as the base. The idea started with only a few large books, then, once accepted, it morphed into the 35 books that are there now. (continued at right)*

*The Library Board and Staff gave me a list of the book titles they chose, and I went from there. I found the most colorful book spines of each title I could, adding in some darker ones for contrast.*

*Once I had those figured out, I knew I wanted to add texture by carving in the details to make it more fun. I cut and routed each board, then drew on and carved the details in.*

*The local Girl Scout Troops have a Painting Badge they work on that includes "paint a mural" as*

*the final step, so I knew I wanted to get them involved. I asked Troops #3735 and #4025 to help paint the base coats of paint on the books after they were carved. Then I went in and added the details and titles. Getting the girls involved in this community project they could enjoy seeing and taking pride in helping was so fun! I was also able to get my own children involved, which makes it even more meaningful for us, because we love the library!*

*I'm so grateful I had the opportunity to create such a vibrant piece of artwork for all to enjoy for years to come.*



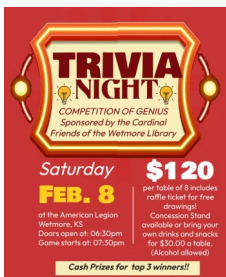


## Iola Valentine Fundraiser

The Iola Public Library had great success with their annual Valentine's Day "Everything Chocolate" fundraiser, bringing in \$200 more than last year. The librarians said patrons were lined up at the door ready to come in as soon as the sale started. As always, the most popular item is the chocolate covered strawberries. This year's sale also included a raffle of two donated mini-quilts.



## Wetmore Friends Trivia Night



The Cardinal Friends in Wetmore know how to throw a great community party and fundraiser with another well-attended Trivia Night.

The group charged \$120 for a table of 8, with cash prizes for the top three winning teams.

The table purchase included raffle tickets for the drawing later in the evening, and attendees could also purchase additional tickets. The Friends were able to secure nearly 30 sponsors for event.

There was a concession stand available, but the group also gave the option for groups to bring their own drinks and snacks for \$30 a table. A professional photographer was on hand to record the evening and also take pictures of the groups in a photo booth area. Looks like fun.



## Coffeyville "Taste of Soup" Event

The Coffeyville community had a warm winter gathering on January 30th with their "Taste of Soup" fundraiser! The event was organized by the Coffeyville Public Library Foundation with proceeds going in support of the Foundation and the Coffeyville Dolly Parton Imagination Library.



Attendees enjoyed an array of 26 different soups made by volunteers as well as a selection of delicious baked goods in the bake sale.

Librarian Matt Gibson said over 200 people attended the event. The bake sale sold out, and all but about 2 pints of soup was sold. What a great way to spend a winter day!



## Winfield Author Event

Winfield Public Library held its second "Celebrate Local Authors" event on February 1st.

The event started with a panel discussion featuring Winfield authors that was moderated by Seth Bate, author of *Winfield's Walnut Valley Festival* — a 2023 KS Notable book. The panel explored a range of publishing options and author experiences. Authors were available for visits, book sales and signings.

Winfield Friend Sheryl Erickson said, "While not technically a Friends event the WPL Friends were asked to provide refreshments so it was 'friend'ly."



## Louisburg Friends Love their Library!



The Louisburg Library celebrated “Library Lovers Month” in a big way this year.

The Friends created bookmarks that say “Love My Louisburg Library” that were distributed at the library and at businesses throughout the community. The bookmarks are doubly useful because they can be presented at the Friends March book sale for a nice discount on purchases.

The Friends also had yard signs that Louisburg residents could have placed in their yards from February 14 through March 14.



### First Friday with Friends

Join the Zoom meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88484969231>

## GROW YOUR FRIENDS GROUP

SUCCESS STORIES AND  
IDEAS YOU CAN USE FROM...

FRIENDS OF  
LOUISBURG LIBRARY

FRIDAY, MARCH 7  
9 AM CENTRAL

JOIN US  
ON ZOOM



First Friday With Friends

## Book Review: *The Good, the Great, and the Unfriendly: A Librarian's Guide to Working with Friends Groups* by Sally Gardner Reed

Don't let the “unfriendly” title scare you off – this short book is packed full of information that would be useful not only to library directors, but also for volunteers thinking of starting a Friends group, for flourishing well-established Friends groups, and for groups going through hard times. Written in a conversational, easy-to-read style, this is a book you can read straight through or head straight to the chapters that apply to your library and Friends group.

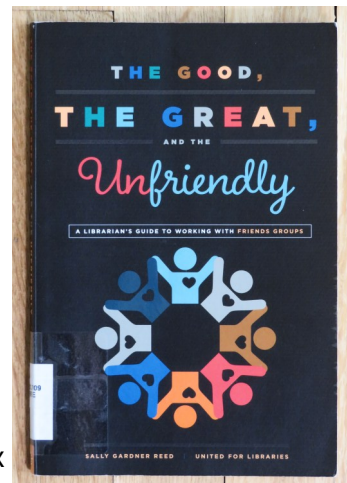
The book begins by outlining the nuts and bolts for establishing a new Friends group. It includes information about how to create a solid organizational structure and effectively launch it in your community. The appendix provides helpful resources such as a sample memorandum of understanding and gift acceptance policy, and a chart showing a clear comparison of the differing roles of the director, trustees, and the Friends group.

Other topics covered include recruiting new (and younger) volunteers, increasing membership, increasing the Friends role as library advocates, and a discussion of library Foundations. A positive side of the book is that it addresses issues for academic Friends groups as well as public.

And yes, there is that “unfriendly” chapter that covers situations when the Friends and library are not working in harmony. While this section seems to be chiefly written for an audience of library directors, it would also be useful to help a Friends group to evaluate its own functioning.

The last half of the book is called “Ideas to Steal” and has dozens of real-world examples of successful membership projects, fundraising events, programs, and advocacy initiatives.

The book is available to borrow through interlibrary loan and for purchase through the [ALA online bookstore](#).



## Contact us!

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