

friends of kansas LIBRARIES

Assist - Support - Educate

FoKL POINT Newsletter — February 2026

Grant and Award Deadline — April 1st

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. Additionally, the winner will be honored statewide through FoKL's social media and newsletter.

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 be nominated by April 1st.

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

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 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)
- Make a Challenge Grant Report to FoKL no later than October 1st of the current year

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. Additionally, the winner will be honored statewide through FoKL's social media and newsletter.

To be considered for the award, the nominated group:

- Must be a current [member](#) of FoKL
- Must be nominated by April 1st

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



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First Friday with Friends *The Art of Gathering* - For Friends Groups

Friends groups gather to plan programs, raise funds, advocate for libraries, and support events. Over time, these meetings, work sessions, and programs can become routine, with the same formats and voices shaping each gathering.

Drawing on Priya Parker's *The Art of Gathering*, this session, facilitated by Brenda Hough (TSCPL) and Dan Alexander (NEKLS), will explore how Friends groups can design gatherings with intention. We'll look at how purpose, structure, and small design choices can transform routine meetings and work sessions into meaningful, energizing experiences.

Participants will reflect on Friends group gatherings and personal gatherings, and leave with practical ideas they can use right away. Join us on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88484969231>.

First Friday with Friends

**THE ART OF GATHERING —
FOR FRIENDS GROUPS**

**Brenda Hough (TSCPL) &
Dan Alexander (NEKLS)**

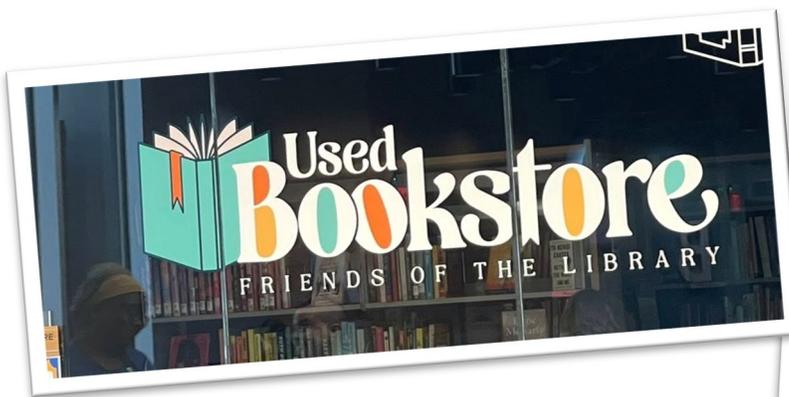


**FRIDAY,
MARCH 6
@ 9AM**

*Join us on
Zoom!*

Friends of Wichita Public Library

In celebration of Wichita Public Library's 150th anniversary, members of the Friends of the Wichita Public Library (FWPL) joined library staff and supporters at a Wichita City Council meeting on February 2, for a proclamation recognizing the library system as a vital hub for the community. FWPL plans to help with a variety of programs and host some special events that have been designed to celebrate the anniversary throughout the year.



New signage for the FWPL bookstore was unveiled on February 6. Designed by a FWPL volunteer, Nicole Shobe, the window cling differentiates the space that is located inside the Advanced Learning Library. The colorful design makes it easier to locate the bookstore and has been well received by library patrons, staff and volunteers.



USED BOOK SALE

MARCH 6
PREVIEW SALE - 5 TO 6:30 PM
Limited to FWPL members.
Memberships may be purchased at
the event or at
wichitalibraryfriends.org.

MARCH 7
PUBLIC SALE - 10 AM TO 2 PM
Buy a new FWPL bag for \$5 and fill it for
another \$5. Or bring your used FWPL bag
and fill it for \$5.

Advanced Learning Library
711 W 2nd Street - Wichita



FWPL board member, Susan Dyer, recently added a blog to the FWPL website where profiles of Board members and volunteers are being uploaded several times a month. Photos and blog links are also being posted on the Facebook page to drive more traffic to the website. The blog has been a positive way to share more information about upcoming events and special membership offers.

The next FWPL book sale is Saturday, March 7 from 10am - 2pm at the Advanced Learning Library (711 W. 2nd Street), with a special Preview Sale for members on Friday, March 6 from 5 - 6:30 pm. Memberships can be purchased at the event or online at wichitalibraryfriends.org.

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 2026, or visit us at www.fokl.net.

Click for
Membership Form



Friends of Baldwin Host Book Fair for Grownups

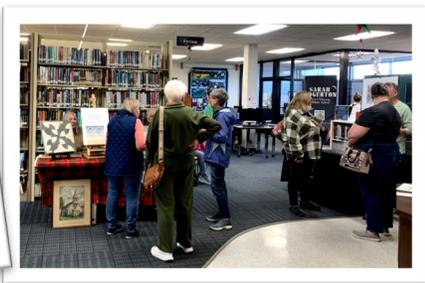
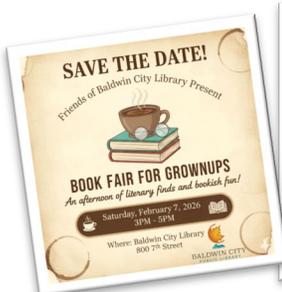
Friends of Baldwin Library held their first **Book Fair for Grownups** on February 6th. It was billed as an afternoon of “Literary Finds and Bookish Fun.”



The event included:

- a silent auction and book-themed treasures from local artists in the community room
- refreshments provided by the local high school's culinary team
- a scavenger hunt and presentations from a local historian and author in the Kansas History room
- local and regional authors sharing and selling their books in the main library area
- and a Friends table selling t-shirts and wrapped “blind date with a book” books

Organizers say, “We were very pleased with our initial book fair and plan to make it an annual fundraiser and library/community event.”



“Souper” Fundraisers

Osage City Public Library held a chili and cinnamon roll feed on February 6 at the High School Basketball game. The event was a fundraiser for the Summer Library program.



OSAGE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
CHILI & CINNAMON ROLL FEED
Friday, February 6
Osage City High School Basketball Game
Starting at 4:30 PM and going until we run out
Fundraiser for Summer Library

The **Coffeyville Library** had a special addition to their *Taste of Soup* fundraiser when local Coffeyville Community College Instructor Michael DeRosa handcrafted and donated a limited number of ceramic bowls specifically to benefit the library. Attendees could purchase a



handmade bowl for \$25 and fill it with their choice of soup during the event. The fundraiser also included an Imagination Library Bake Sale so attendees could purchase dessert to eat in or take home.

Contact us!

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