

friends of kansas LIBRARIES

Assist - Support - Educate

FoKL POINT Newsletter — April 2026

First Friday with Friends

Unearthing Your Friends Group's Power This Summer

Open Mic Event



**FRIDAY
MAY 1
@ 9AM**

*Join us
on
Zoom!*

First Friday Open Mic Event

As libraries across the state are gearing up for a fun and fantastic summer reading program, many appreciate that Friends groups can be a terrific support team. In addition to providing funding for programs, supplies and prizes, Friends are eager volunteers who can help plan, organize, and carry out a variety of tasks.

How do your Friends participate in your summer reading program? What innovative ideas does your community implement? Come share your experience and creativity at this "open mic" idea-sharing session.

Join us on Zoom on May 1st at 9AM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88484969231>.

Sneak Peek at 2026 Grant and Award Winners

Outstanding Friends Group -

Friends of Towanda Library

Outstanding Individual Friend -

Christy Jones, Frankfort City Library

Challenge Grant Winners -

Friends of Burlingame Community Library

Friends of Frankfort City Library

Friends of Moore Family Library (Grinnell)

Friends of Whitewater Memorial Library

*Watch for details in the
May FoKL Point!*



FoKL held our April Board meeting in Hays. Thank you to the Hays Public Library for hosting us and to Brandon Hines for the interesting tour.

In this issue: • First Friday Event • Focus on Friends • Book Sales, Plant Sales, and More!

Focus on Friends

Riley City Library



April is a busy fundraising month for the Riley City Library community. In addition to the library's Spring Book Sale April 14 - 21, the library is the chosen beneficiary for the community group, Riley Pride, who are hosting a 1 Mile Run/Walk on April 18th. The proceeds from the event will go to the library's Summer Lunch program.

The Run/Walk starts at 4pm with a picnic to follow. The cost is \$15 per person for the run, with their dinner included in fee. Non-participants can join in the fun for a suggested donation of \$5 per person for dinner. The Pride group will serve hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, and drinks.



Burlingame Friends

The Burlingame Friends enjoyed a large turn-out for their March 17 Bingo Night. The group provided a bowl of soup or chili, dessert, bottled water, and two bingo cards for \$12. The event also included a 50/50 raffle and a prize drawing for those dressed to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

On April 21, the Friends will host an open house and author talk at the library, featuring Melinda Hipple.



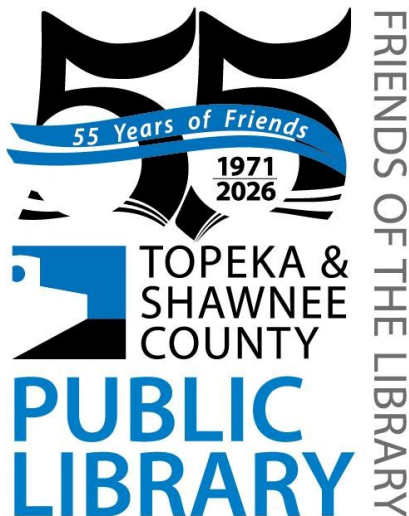
**Burlingame Friends of the Library
OPEN HOUSE & AUTHOR TALK
Tuesday, April 21st, 7pm
Featuring Author Melinda Hipple
Burlingame Community Library
122 West Santa Fe Ave., Burlingame, KS**



"Melinda B Hipple is author of the sci-fi novel Raven, the historical non-fiction novel Home Front, the mystery novel Behind the Mask, and a number of poetry and children's books. She was the winner of the 2014 Moorman Prize for Prose. Her poems and short stories have appeared in numerous print and online publications, including three poems anthologized in First Water: Best of Pirene's Fountain. She travels the world from her home base in Kansas, USA. Find more of her work at melindabhipple.com."



Books will be available for purchase.



Friends of Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library

Congratulations to Friends of Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library who celebrated 55 years of Friendship in March.

Throughout the anniversary week, the group shared milestones and memories in a heartwarming series of Facebook posts. They said:

The Friends of the Library began 55 years ago with a simple mission: support and strengthen the library for the entire community. Since then, generations of volunteers have helped grow programs, collections, and services that benefit readers of all ages. These dedicated community members donate countless hours organizing book sales, planning events, and supporting library programs. Their passion for libraries and literacy makes a lasting difference.

The heart of the Friends of the Library is its volunteers.

Independence Friends

The Friends of Independence Library, G&W Foods, the Independence Community Access Center, and other community organizations came together to provide sack lunches to area youth each day during Spring Break. The volleyball team showed up to make sandwiches (very rapidly according to reports), the community chest donated muffins, and the local



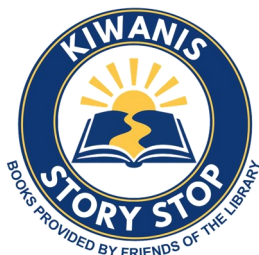
United Methodist Church provided freezer space. FoKL salutes this example of what can be accomplished through community partnerships.

Friends of Basehor Library

The Basehor Friends are collaborating with the Basehor-Linwood Kiwanis Club to provide Story Stop book totes at businesses around Basehor.

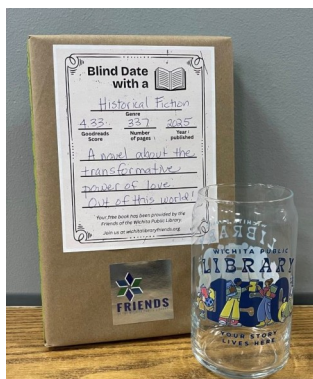
The organizers said, "These story stops are meant to create little moments . . . something fun for kids to discover while visiting local businesses. The goal is to keep the love of reading moving throughout our community."

The Friends of the Basehor Library provided the books for the project.



Wichita Friends

The Wichita Friends hosted a fun get together at the White Crow Cider Company as part of the Library's 150th anniversary celebration. Attendees could grab a commemorative pint glass filled with a delicious beverage for \$15, browse the Friends library merch, and treat themselves to a Blind Date with a Book (\$5-\$20 each).



Organizers said, "We sold out of our special anniversary glasses, so we are ordering more!"

The next pint glass event will be held April 26 from 1-5 pm at Central Standard Brewing in Wichita.



The Andover Friends are an active, enthusiastic group who host a variety of regular programs and special events. Noteworthy activities include:

Declaration 1776 - Andover Library was chosen to display a traveling "Declaration 1776: The Big Bang of Modern Democracy" exhibit from April 18 - May 17. The Friends will be assisting and serving during the opening reception. While the exhibit is on display, they will host a *Patriotic Paint & Sip* event.

First Fridays are a regular gathering for coffee, conversation, and craft projects. In April, the group made bookmarks for the library to distribute during National Library Week.

Regular Programs - the Friends host regular Bingo and Bunco nights. Mahjong has also become very popular, with some level of Mahjong play every week in the designated *Friends Room* in the library. The Friends recently hosted a Chinese New Year Mahjong Night for all levels of play that was well attended by many Mahjong players from the Wichita metro area. Next year's Chinese New Year Mahjong is already scheduled.

Book Sales - the group has a big book sale each fall, and also holds a smaller 1-day book sale that coincides with a Friends sponsored Summer Reading Program during the Petting Zoo.

And more! The group sponsored a *Winter Greens and Blues* event to help learn to combat seasonal mood problems and purchased daylight lamps that are available for check-out from the library. They also hosted a sourdough workshop, participated in the Greater Andover Days festival and Andover Safe Halloween, hosted a birdwatching program, furnished soup tasting during Andover Hometown Christmas, and hosted a couple trivia nights.

Upcoming - The Friends will sponsor *Plants for Birds* on April 29 and is hosting a cookie decorating class this fall.

Contact us!

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Lawrence, KS 66049

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Coffeyville Public Library

Spring Book Sale
April 23-25, 2026 | 9am-5pm

Fundraiser proceeds go to support Summer Reading, STEM Camps, Library Tech, and More!

Books & BLOOMS

FRIENDS BOOK SALE

April 9th 3-7 p.m. - Members Only Sale
April 10th 9 a.m.-5 p.m. - Open to All
April 11th 9 a.m.-4 p.m. - Open to All
April 12th 1 p.m.-3 p.m. - Freewill Donations
\$5 per Bag
50% Member Discount in Store
Individual Memberships Cost \$15/year

Friends of the Library

SPRING BLOOM SALE!
\$20 per 10 inch pots:

- 25 sets of mix of pansies, ornamental kale, and snap dragons
- 25 sets of osteospermum and petunias

They'll be available until sold out. Should arrive around April 1st. We will contact you!

Friends of the Library BOOK SALE

April 6th-11th
9am-6pm Mon-Thurs, 10am-5pm Fri, & Sat. CBRN, Main Floor, 1409 Williams, Great Bend KS 67530

SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY

Proceeds benefit library programming - items for all ages and genres - Cash and Checks accepted

Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale

Members Only*:
Thursday, April 16th 9am-6pm

Public Sale:
Friday, April 17th 9am-6pm
Saturday, April 18th 9am-12pm

Friends of the Library BOOK SALE

Thursday, March 19
3:30pm-6:30pm

Books are also available during regular library hours in the Book Nook located on the main floor.

www.dcpil.info/friends/
Friends of the Library - Dodge City, KS
Dodge City Public Library
1001 N. 2nd Avenue
Dodge City, KS

BOOK SALE

Fri March 27th 9am-6pm
Sat March 28th 9am-6pm

Fox Hall
201 S Broadway St.

DOUGLASS FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL

Plant Sale

APRIL 9-11

THURS 4PM-6PM
FRI 10AM-6PM
SAT 10AM-12 PM

PRE-ORDERS DUE 3/27
RECEIVE A 15% DISCOUNT
FOR A PRE-ORDER FORM
CONTACT FOLDDOUGLASS@GMAIL.COM
STOP BY THE DOUGLASS LIBRARY
SEE ANY DHS STUDENT

DOUGLASS COMMUNITY BUILDING

ASK US ABOUT ORDERING BY THE FLAT OR BASKET
CONTACT FOLDDOUGLASS@GMAIL.COM

Friends of the Baldwin City Library Plant Sale

May 1, 8:00-6:00
May 2, 8:00-12:00
(or sold out)

Hanging baskets, annuals, perennials, herbs, and vegetables

Pop-Up Book Sale!

Come see us at the Belleville Public Library on Friday, April 10th 10:00am-5:00pm and Saturday, April 11th 9:00am-1:00 pm. Come, and pick out your next reading adventures!

Friends of Oberlin Libraries

Oberlin City Library

Used Book Sale

April through May
Free Will Donation at Front Desk
Thank You!

LIBERAL MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOOKSALE

April 21st - April 25th during Library Hours

Tues-Thurs
* Paperbacks \$.50 each * Everything else \$1 each

Fri-Sat
* \$1 per bag of books * \$2 per box of books

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

BOOK SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 2ND
10am-2pm

Friends of the Library Book Sale!

THURS, APRIL 16TH 4:00 - 6:30 PM

FRI, APRIL 17TH 10:00 - 2:00 PM

SAT, APRIL 18TH 10:00 - 2:00 PM

\$2.00 A BAG USING A FRIENDS PROVIDED BAG **\$4.00 A BAG FOR ANYTHING LARGER**

501 N. Neilston Bonner Springs, KS 66012 913-441-0645 www.bonnerlibrary.org

Hello.

My name is Inigo Montoya.

There is a Book Sale at the Valley Center Public Library.

Prepare to Buy.
(April 13-25, open during regular library hours)

Friends of the Library Spring Plant Sale

Friday, April 24, 9AM-6PM and Sat. April 25, 9-sold out!

Wellsville Library Community Room

ANNUAL BOOK SALE

24-26 APRIL
LANSING ACTIVITY CENTER

FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Friends Members Night
\$5 Memberships at the Door

SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
\$5/Sack Day

Cash, Card, and Check Accepted