



The KY Library Friends Connection

www.friendskylibraries.org

I Believe in Public Libraries

Wow! This year has gone by so fast! The Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc. worked this year to build a strong foundation. I am proud to report that this Board accomplished its goals: (1) we have a budget; (2) an Access membership data base was created; (3) we directly communicate with our members through a quarterly digital newsletter, *The KY Library Friends Connection*; and (4) our web site has been totally rebuilt. We increased both the number of locations where Meet & Greets were held and the number of attendees. We participated in the Library Legislative Day. In addition, we created the Outstanding Friends Chapter Award and the Outstanding Friend Award, and established grants in support of the Kentucky Sister Library Project.

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Annual Meeting

I hope to see each of you at the Annual Meeting. Everyone is invited – it is on April 12 at 11:00 a.m. CDT at the Holiday Inn University in Bowling Green, and there is no charge to attend. The KPLA luncheon will follow at 12:00 noon, for which there is a \$30 charge. Make your reservations at www.kpla.org.

The Annual Meeting's agenda is full. We will elect new Board members and officers. The inaugural awards will be given to the Outstanding Friend and the Outstanding Friends Chapter, and we will award grants to the Kentucky Sister Libraries Project. Joy Stryzek and Mary Nell Thomas, Friends from the Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library in Glasgow, will present the program on Theme Book Clubs.

Call your Legislators Now

The Kentucky General Assembly is in session. The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives has a budget request for library construction grants for 23 libraries and to restore bookmobile funding. Please contact your legislators and ask them to fund the library construction grants and to restore bookmobile funding. You can reach your legislator by calling 1-800-372-7181. Ask for your legislator by name.

Written by Friends for Friends

This newsletter teaches you about a Theme Book Club (Joy Stryzek, Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library Friends, Glasgow), instructs you on how to sell your books for a higher price on the Internet (Joe Williams, Lexington Public Library) and gives you an idea of what to do with leftover books (Sally Lackner, Oldham County Public Library). The Scott County Friends (Theo Leverenz) and the Friends of the William B. Harlan Memorial Library (Jim Stoops, Tompkinsville) give you an overview of their activities, plus you get a glimpse of our incoming President and President-Elect on the road in Logan County.

Thank you to all for your many kindnesses and help this year. I believe in public libraries.

Cathy Cravens Snell
President

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TEA ON TUESDAY

By

Joy Stryzek-President of the Friends of the Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library



The concept for a themed book group started with two highly successful programs at the Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library based around tea: “Tea around the World” and “A Victorian Christmas Tea.” The teas were a collaboration between Martha Nell Thomas, Head of Outreach Services and Programs, and me.

Ten months after the tea programs, while Martha Nell and I were discussing the success of the teas, a new idea emerged. As our ideas formed, a new era in book groups for our library developed. We began to fine-tune the concept of a themed book group. Our vision was to have a casual book group where we sipped tea at tablecloth-covered tables and shared a brief description of a book related to the theme of the month. An added dimension was sharing a memento representing the theme - such as an apron one’s Grandmother wore – for the food theme. Further discussion brought out the idea of twisting the themes and thinking out of the box as a fun challenge to hear how each person interpreted the theme. We decided to meet the third Tuesday of the month and thus the name, Tea on Tuesday.

The rules for our Tea on Tuesday group are very loose. A participant may choose fiction or non-fiction; this could include reading a book or a magazine or even watching a DVD, as long as the theme can be justified. At the book group meeting, each member fills out a card listing the title, author, and a brief description. These cards are used to select the order in which members explain their books, to create a list of books which is emailed to all members of the group, and to provide a drawing for door prizes. Everyone is encouraged to submit theme ideas into our centerpiece teapot. Examples of past themes are peace, sex, dreams, slavery, paradise, laugh out loud, water, and driver; and in our future are absurd & eccentric, loveable rogue, maps & legends, you can’t judge a book by its cover, left hand and shoes.

I believe the themed book group concept is successful because a) members hear about a variety of books at each meeting; b) they are free to choose any genre related to the theme; c) they aren’t pressured to over-analyze a book; and d) tea is relaxing. We decorate for each month and try to create a fun atmosphere while attempting to conclude in an hour.

Themed book groups can be successful for any age group because the group decides the themes. So dust off a few folding chairs, gather some friends together and start a themed book group today!

If you have any questions about themed book groups feel free to contact:
Joy Stryzek-President of the Friends of the Library - Plantladi@gmail.com
Martha Nell Thomas, Head of Programs and Outreach- MNTTHOMAS@glasgow-ky.com

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E-SALES

By

Joe B. Williams, Ed. D.

Friends of the Lexington KY Public Library



Public libraries are recipients of tens of thousands of book every day of the week. When librarians open the door for the day they will often find a box or several plastic bags of books that seem to have appeared out of nowhere. Sometimes a sticky note is attached providing the name of the donor, but other times there is no indication of the source. Some of the books will be in pristine condition but often these gifts have been resurrected from damp basements or overheated attics in which inquisitive critters from the outside had discovered a wonderful place to nest.

As the anxious librarian explores the depth of the gift container she will often discover an odoriferous array of dust, mildew, and silverfish, as well as a multitude of pungent scents left by previous nestlings within the debris, etc.

The thought of this is repugnant to most of us, but it gets worse. Picture a house left vacant for almost ten years in which two scholarly individuals had resided until they became wards of

the state and the house was abandoned. Problems developed following their passing and the house remained vacant for several years. During this period the house was invaded by several families of squirrels and the roof began to leak. Once legalities were settled, the realtor in charge of disposing of the property called the Friends Book Cellar to inquire if we were interested in a “few” garbage bags of books.

After sorting through 25 very large plastic bags, we found a number of keepers, an unpublished manuscript about a well-known East Kentucky mountain school and hundreds of other books, most of which were so badly damaged they had to be recycled. Only four garbage bags were salvageable for possible resale.

And then the unthinkable occurred. One of the family members asked that the books be returned!

I told her we had recycled most of the books but had some left over so she loaded her car with the remainder. She was upset that the books had been recycled but understood the circumstances. I was very grateful for her understanding.

While this is an unusual case, it is mentioned so that you can be prepared to graciously accept all donations that ever come your way.

Individual donations come in a variety of forms – 25 years of *National Geographic*, a complete set of *Encyclopedia Britannica*, lots of children’s books, a few Readers’ Digest Condensed Books, record and tape players, sheet music, a thin little publication of lyrics written by the Everly Brothers, etc. The little 16-page publication about the Everly Brothers was checked on bookfinder.com and, despite coffee stains, sold on e-Bay for \$465! Most of us would have tossed out this little promotion piece mailed from a Lexington radio station to a person in Flemingsburg in about 1955, but one of our volunteers decided to check out its value. Playing detective can be fun and very productive.

Many collector gems can be found in these donations and yes, even library discards, that prove to be worth hundreds of dollars if only someone will volunteer to do some simple research and then attempt to sell them electronically. But it takes some careful planning and dedication to be successful. We have found that any item listed for \$14 or more stands a very good chance of bringing us substantially more money.

We began electronic sales about 2002 using a volunteer to research the item and then market it. Keep in mind that even some of the least desirable items can be of value. Our volunteers don brown cotton gloves when they began sorting donations that may be covered with grime and dust. The books are shelved according to classification. Those that show potential for on-line selling are researched via bookfinder.com. If the value is \$14 or more they are passed to the on-line person for listing with e-Bay or Amazon.com.

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When a listed item has reached an acceptable bid, the item is then packed with a copy of the invoice, and shipped to the buyer. There is work involved, usually one person working in isolation sitting at a computer from day to day, away from other volunteers. Some knowledge of postal regulations is required. The customer pays all shipping and handling fees. Generally the best and safest exchange system is Pay Pal but you can set up a credit card account as well.

Suggested supplies and equipment must include a computer hooked to the internet, postage scales, adequate storage shelves for pending sales and inventory, a shipping label machine, a digital camera for posting items for sale, and perhaps a book describing how to sell on e-Bay and Amazon.

Should you decide to try selling online, be very sure that your volunteer is thoroughly familiar with proper procedures for this method. Do not forget to charge for Kentucky Sales and Use Tax. Just because you are operating a non-profit business this does not mean you are exempt for collecting the use tax! Our annual sales tax bill is more than \$14,000 for in-store and online sales.

Don't limit yourself to selling just books. Try sheet music, vinyl and single records, games, collector dolls, collector toys, and even some old imported fabrics. You will be amazed you at what people collect. One of our donations was a nice coffee book of pictures taken in Maine. Research revealed it was an out of print limited edition several years ago. It was sold to a collector in the New England for \$475. Set a goal for your sales – say \$100 for the first month – and raise it to \$500 within six months. Then you can plan for \$1,000 to \$5,000 per month. It can be done!

We once received a complete collection of Louie Lamour books bound in leather. They were sent to a collector in Holland for more than \$400. We displayed them in our book store for several weeks and then decided to try e-Bay. It worked. A recent sale was made in the UK. The customer was concerned about when the shipment would arrive. Delivery took less than two weeks and he received the three different packages on three consecutive days. Even he was surprised. Friends Book Cellar has customers all around the around the globe.

Selling online can be a successful experience if you work at it. It is not a game – it is a business that will help you to raise money for your public library. Try it. I think you'll be amazed at your success.



Mary Lynn Collins and Lance Ferris meet with Logan County Friends on January 6, 2012.

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Books into ART

By Sally Lackner, Oldham County Friends of the Library

This is a story about a Friends group, a fiber art group and a county art group coming together to make a wonderful art exhibit!

Our Friends group is from Oldham County and is a relatively new one. The group consists of many people from the county that love libraries and love books. When we first decided to start a Friends group, we thought establishing one would be easy but we found out that would not be the case when we struggled for months trying to find our focus. Finally, a majority of us were in agreement as to how to proceed and to celebrate we decided to have our first official book sale!

We asked several sources for their used books and one great source was the Oldham County community. We had boxes of books delivered to us. One book donation was a large one. It was one donation consisting of sixteen boxes of paperback romance novels. We were thrilled and surprised at the size of the donation.

We had a wonderful first ever book sale. It was in late November, 2010. It was quite successful even though we only had about three weeks to plan and organize it.

Even though we knew that the romance genre is a popular one, we were not able to sell all of the books that were donated...not even close. After the sale we gave away a lot of them, had special sales of them in our Friends resale bookstore in the Main Library in LaGrange, selling them at times at ten or twenty for \$1.00. But still they remained, a lot of them.



So I had an idea. I am a member of the Friends of Oldham County Public Libraries and also a member of a fiber art group in Louisville, Louisville Area Fiber and Textile Artists (LAFTA). Since the books were made of paper (a fiber), why not have some fiber artists make something with the books? I first approached the LAFTA Executive Board and asked them if they would be interested in having the membership submit art pieces for an “art challenge.” They said “Yes!” and the challenges were due at the November, 2011 LAFTA meeting. The main rule was that the art piece had to contain the paperback books that each artist was given, whether it be the pages or the covers or both.

When the meeting time came, over eighteen members brought in pieces of art. The items were wonderful; all types of different mediums were used. There were collages, bowls, boxes, dolls, baskets, all types of things...and even a shirt! It was a wonderful meeting as we all admired the pieces and talked about how each of us had used the books to create our own work of art.

After seeing these pieces, several of us thought that we should have an exhibit of some sort so that others would be able to see them; they were that unusual, fun and interesting. Since I had been the one to introduce the idea to LAFTA, I tried to think of a good place to have such an exhibit. LaGrange in Oldham County, KY (where the Friends group is located) seemed a perfect place to have the exhibit. In downtown LaGrange there is an art gallery, Gallery 104, and they are connected to the AAOC, the Arts Association of Oldham County. I first talked to the Executive Director, Kathy Dowling and she seemed excited about it. Then I talked to the AAOC Executive Board, and they, too, seemed excited about it. So, we now had a showplace for our “Paperback Romance Novel Art Challenge”.

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Our art exhibit opened on February 7 in the Luecke Room in Gallery 104 in LaGrange, KY and it closed on March 10, 2012. We had an Opening Reception on February 10. The reception was wonderful as we had many of the artists attend, most of which live in Jefferson County (Louisville) and many people from the LaGrange community came to view the exhibit also. The response from all the people viewing the exhibit has been very favorable. Most just love what has been created with the paperback books. Another wonderful thing that has happened has been the cooperation and collaboration of the two art groups, LAFTA and AAOC.

This was the first time Gallery 104 has welcomed another art group into its gallery. It has been a great thing to see two art groups work together for a single show. I would like to thank a lot of people for this endeavor, The Friends of Oldham County Public Libraries, the members of LAFTA, the members of AAOC, Kathy Dowling, Executive Director of Gallery 104 and especially Joanne Weis, the chair of creating LAFTA's art exhibits. Without the cooperation of all of these people and these groups, this exhibit would not have been possible.

Gallery 104 website: <http://www.gallery104.org/index.html>
LAFTA website: <http://laftalouisville.org/>



FRIENDS OF LOCAL LIBRARIES: A LOOK AT SMALLER RURAL LIBRARIES

By Jim Stoops
Friend of the Wm. B. Harlan Library
Trustee of the Wm. B. Harlan Library

As all who are associated with libraries know, this is a time of budget cuts for libraries that are already in dire straits financially. In addition, there are libraries being sued because of tax rate increases. It does not paint a pretty picture for our libraries. But because of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries Inc. and our local Friends Groups there is still hope.

I am speaking from a perspective of a small rural library. Our Friends Group has a membership of 25 with a core group of 10, and to me it is amazing what this group accomplishes. It is not all monetary; it also includes pitching in anytime volunteers are needed. The Friends of the Wm. B. Harlan Library has been in existence for 5 years now and one of our very first projects was replacing an outside book return and having one installed through the wall of our library, saving books and trips outside for the staff. We managed to do this with limited funds by asking community leaders and the local trade school for help.

Since that time, our small group has helped financially with Summer Reading Programs, After School Programs, and Christmas parties and so on, not only financially but by being there to help the staff. No matter the size of the Library, or the size of the Friends group, or the size of the budget, there is always a way to help. We do book sales, plan on having a magic show in April with a magician from the Lexington area, and work at the Watermelon Festival. We have painted walls, helped finance new computer desks, anything the library needs. The library trustees have had a plaque made to thank the Friends for all their help. This is something we are very proud of because it shows appreciation for what we do. There are not many places that people from the community can come and read the newest books, check out the latest movies, do research, use computers and enjoy the peace and quiet of a library.

I hope the Library will always be a part of our community and I hope that our Friends will continue to be able to help, encourage, and provide support for our Library. We must remember that things are never missed until they're gone, so let's all make sure we do all we can to keep books in peoples' hands for many years to come.

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Scott County Friends Support Many Activities

By Theo Leverenz
Friends of the Scott County Public Library

The Friends of the Scott County Public Library is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization serving as a support group for the library. Since its founding in 1975, the Friends have provided much-needed volunteer staffing; purchased and donated materials, furnishings and equipment for the library; and provided a wide variety of programming, especially for the children's library.

Friends have worked with other libraries and with the State on legislative issues, and have provided valuable public relations assistance to keep the public informed about new acquisitions and technology. Friends have also served as an extension into the community, spearheading many collaborative projects and partnerships.

The Friends are active in many diverse ways. They:

- Provide materials, furnishings and equipment for the library
- Sponsor programs, especially in the children's area
- Lobby state legislators on library matters
- Provide public relations for the library
- Inform the public on library activities
- Collaborate with other Kentucky libraries for the mutual good
- Collaborate with other local groups for the good of the community
- Promote public involvement in the library
- Raise money through book sales and special projects.
- Support the GED Graduation Project
- Support the Students for Success Project
- Provide books for the Georgetown Readiness Center
- Provide books to the Ed Davis Learning Center and Center of Town
- Place children's books in Georgetown Hospital

Promoting literacy in our community is one of our ongoing priorities. The Friend's "Celebrate with Books" project strives to put a book in the hands of every child in the county who might otherwise not have that opportunity.

The Friends support activities of the Scott County Public Library:

- Sponsorship of "Staff Appreciation" day during the National Library Week
- Summer Reading Program activities
- Children's "Fun Friday's" during the summer months

Members are kept informed by a monthly newsletter which includes the library's program and activities calendar.

Friends Board Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Conference Room at the Scott County Public Library. Come visit us!

