



Friends CONNECT

www.FriendsKyLibraries.org

**FRIENDS
OF KENTUCKY
LIBRARIES, INC**

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Our Mission

- to advocate for public libraries on the local, state, and national level
- to provide support for the formation and success of local Friends chapters.

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Summer 2014



Come Join us for our Annual Meeting by Mary Lynn Collins

You told us that you liked meeting in conjunction with the Kentucky Book Fair and we listened! The Friends of Kentucky Libraries will hold its annual networking meeting on November 15, 2014 in the Caucus Room, Capital Plaza Hotel in Frankfort. Our meeting will run from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm and should give you some time to visit the Kentucky Book Fair as well—which will be right next door.

We will have updates at the meeting on the lawsuits as well as an update on what to expect in the upcoming session of the Kentucky General Assembly. We will have a special session on how to formulate an effective but brief “parking lot” speech that you can use to advocate for libraries whenever you encounter a legislator or elected official. And we will also have plenty of time for Friends Chapters to network and share.

We are keeping our registration fee at \$15.00 and this will include lunch. More information on the meeting and registration forms will be posted soon on our website: www.friendskylibraries.org

We will also recognize an outstanding individual and an outstanding Friends of the Library chapter at the annual meeting and we are now accepting applications for those awards. Please consider nominating a special friend or your chapter this year. You can find the nomination forms at: <http://friendskylibraries.org/awards.html>

We look forward to talking “libraries” on November 15.
Hope you will join us. **We need you there!**

FKL Supports the “Declaration for the Right to Libraries” by Linda Stith

In the last FKL Newsletter, libraries and Friends chapters were encouraged to begin planning for Fall Meet and Greets. Hopefully, planning is well underway and dates and times have been selected. In this article, a perfect Meet and Greet tie-in is being introduced - the Declaration for the Right to Libraries.

Developed by the American Library Association, the Declaration provides a strong statement communicating the impact of all libraries. It is designed to “build the public will and sustained support for America’s right to libraries of all types.” Signature sheets accompanying the Declaration allow library users and supporters to affirm their right to quality libraries.

In Kentucky, our libraries continue to face challenges such as lawsuits, tight budgets, and diminished resources. The timing is perfect for participating in the Declaration initiative because it offers Kentuckians the opportunity to actively stand up for libraries.

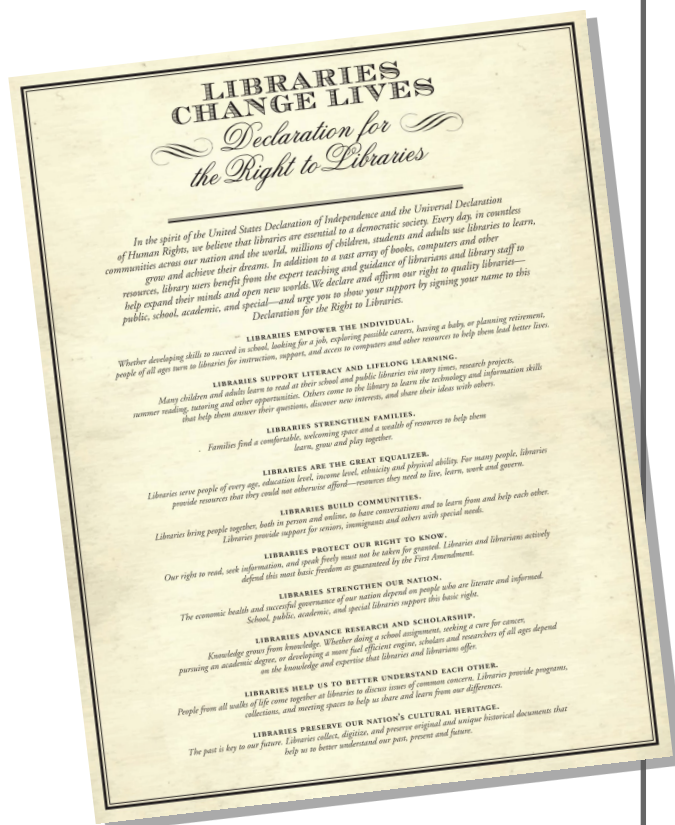
For Meet and Greet planners, the Declaration is a natural tie-in. Asking attendees to sign the document provides an opportunity for them to demonstrate their active support. For those libraries that include a program as part of the Meet and Greet, a reading of the Declaration is a perfect introduction. Asking legislators and local officials in attendance to be among the first to sign is another element.

Many libraries use receptions as a setting for Meet and Greets. Again, the Declaration can be easily incorporated with copies on display and signature sheets available in convenient locations, perhaps at the check-in table or near a library display. Receptions are perfect for informal discussion and mingling and the Declaration provides excellent conversation material.

All libraries are asked to participate in the Declaration initiative, whether hosting a Meet and Greet or not. We are hoping that libraries will begin collecting signatures this fall and continue right up to Library Legislative Day 2015. We want to present thousands of signatures to our Senators and Representatives when visits are made that day. Remember that many points of contact are available for gathering signatures including the circulation desk, library programs both in and out of the library, and the bookmobile. People of all ages are eligible to sign.

Where can you find information on the Declaration? Please visit: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/declaration-right-libraries>. Downloadable materials include the Declaration, signature sheets, and a detailed planning toolkit. For those of you planning to attend the KLA Conference, the Friends table and ALA table will have information.

Again, this project can be tailored to your situation. Please share your plans and ideas with Linda Stith at blueas@aol.com. Do what works best for your library and community and join the effort!!



From the President Mary Lynn Collins

A few years ago, in helping to plan for the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Paul Sawyer Public Library in Frankfort, I did some research on the library's founder, Lilian Lindsey, who it turns out was one determined woman. She came back from a Woman's Club Convention in Mt. Sterling inspired to establish a library here in Frankfort. She quickly convinced her fellow members of the local Woman's Club to take on this challenge and despite poor health, she spent countless hours soliciting funds for a library. She had the ladies of Frankfort shopping estate sales for books; she had children selling pencils for the cause. She eventually got enough books and money to open a library—except she was short of funds to hire a librarian. Not to be deterred, Miss Lindsey enrolled herself in a library school and prepared to be Frankfort's first public librarian. On December 12, 1908, just two years after the Convention in Mt. Sterling, the Frankfort library opened.



This is not an unusual story. Many of the libraries in this state were founded by local Women's Clubs. In light of the lawsuits which threaten most of our libraries, we need the same grit and determination as those women a century ago.

A number of our Friends have asked what can they do to support libraries in today's climate. This newsletter contains information on two very important steps libraries and Friends can take to support libraries: (1) Host a Meet and Greet in your library in the month of October to give elected leaders and candidates an opportunity to be in the library and hear from patrons on what the library means to them; and (2) Incorporate into your Meet and Greet a signing event for the Declaration for the Right to Libraries.

I am very excited about our efforts to get thousands of Kentucky signatures affirming libraries. We hope to present the signatures to our state legislators when we meet with them in February for Legislative Day; we also hope to present the signatures to our congressional delegation during National Library Legislative Day.

I am thinking if Miss Lindsey were alive today, she would have already made a trip up Capital Avenue in Frankfort to get signatures. And she would have her fellow club members and children out on every corner, rallying folks to participate. And so, invoking the memory of Miss Lindsey, I ask that you not only invite your patrons to come into the library to sign the Declaration but that you take this Declaration out into your community—to Farmers Markets, to schools, to meetings of local civic groups such as Rotary and Kiwanis—wherever folks are gathered.

(For more information on Meet and Greets and the Declaration see p 2)

Kentucky Book Fair Welcomes Friends

Judith Gibbons, Kentucky Book Fair Grants Chair

The Friends of Kentucky Libraries meeting at the Kentucky Book Fair is becoming an annual event. Saturday, November 15 is a perfect time for library Friends to indulge their love for books and reading and support literacy in the Commonwealth. Plan to spend some time browsing before or after the meeting. Greet the authors. Attend a program. Chat with fellow readers. This is also a great opportunity to find choice reads for the long winter ahead or Holiday gifts. You will be in good company.

The state friends and the Kentucky Book Fair have much in common. Like the Friends, we see the value of investing in education, literacy and imagination. "Librarians and library supporters have always been an integral part of this rich Kentucky literary tradition," said Kentucky Book Fair Manager, Connie Crowe.

Since the Book Fair's inception in 1981, more than \$350,000 in grants has been awarded to school, academic and public libraries. Each year about 4,000 people attend the event, which attracts nearly 200 authors who autograph and sell copies of their latest books, resulting in approximately \$125,000 in gross sales.

For 33 years, the Kentucky Book Fair has stayed true to the mission:

- Honoring the profession of writing in the form of a one day celebration
- Providing a venue for authors to meet the reading public
- Raising funds through the sale of books and donating the profits to libraries throughout the

Commonwealth

Kentucky Book Fair Inc., a nonprofit organization, was founded to coordinate the event, with proceeds supporting Kentucky's libraries. The 33rd annual event is Saturday, Nov. 15, from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at the Frankfort Convention Center.

For more details, visit www.kybookfair.blogspot.com. New information will be posted throughout the fall. We look forward to having you join us on November 15.



NEWS FROM THE FIELD : Local Friends Chapter Supports Summer Reading Program

Boyle County Public Library's Summer Reading Recap Written by Jen Boutin & Beth Goode

DANVILLE, Ky, August 27, 2014 – The Boyle County Public Library had an amazing turnout for their 2014 Summer Reading Program (SRP) -- “Fizz, Boom, READ!” for kids, “Spark a Reaction” for teens, and “Literary Elements” for adults. The summer started off with a Kick-Off Party that included inflatables for the kids to enjoy, free hot dogs provided by Sonic, and a visit from Pete-the-Cat. Over 600 participants registered for summer reading, and over 2,700 people attended the free, entertaining, and educational programs offered at the Library throughout the summer.

Programs for children included Ronald McDonald, Animal Tales, Fun with Science, Hooked on Science, Magician Doug Doolin, and Sam the Stuntologist. These programs were generously funded by the **FRIENDS** of the Library. Special lunchtime programs, science labs, and book clubs were also held. Summer Reading Program events for adults and teens included a Solar Telescope, a Physics Petting Zoo, and a program about the History of Apollo 11 & the Lunar Landing. Teens enjoyed Salt-Dough Jewelry making and Upcycle Clock Creation craft classes. Book discussion groups were available for both teens and adults. Working with Community Partners brought in additional programs like The Science Behind Felting (Shaker Village), a Regency-era Medical Reenactment with Albert Roberts (McDowell House Museum), and a Camp Cooking class (Boyle County Cooperative Extension).

Summer Reading Outreach: Fueling the Mind Program

This summer the Library also participated in a special grant-funded outreach program called Fueling the Mind. Through this program, they were able to travel to eight locations throughout Danville/Boyle County each week over the course of seven weeks, reaching 1,725 participants. Children were able to receive a special summer reading library card that they could use on location to check-out books. The Library circulated 3,200 books through the program and gave away over 1,600 books to the children.

The **FRIENDS** of the Library were instrumental in many of the Summer Reading Program events, both in-house and in the community. They provided funding and materials for many in-house Summer Reading programs and they sponsored Ruth Ann Fogle, an author/speaker/actor who performed a skit at the eight Outreach locations. Her program taught the students the importance of the words “engage,” “educate,” and “empower.” **FRIENDS** also provided financial support for the books and rewards throughout the summer. Every child was able to choose their very own book to keep at the end of the program. Participating children were also able to choose prizes at the end of the program. Prizes included stickers, headphones, cups, lanyards, wallets, toys, and other Summer Reading Program-themed items.

The Boyle County Public Library serves the city of Danville and the surrounding communities, and is actively committed to enriching the lives of its patrons. The library is located at 307 West Broadway in Danville, KY.



Welcome New Board Member Susan Phelps

Susan retired from the Department of Corrections as the first female Probation and Parole Assistant Supervisor for District 10. She was also the first female officer for Laurel/Knox Counties and served as a team member of the 27th Judicial Drug Court Program. She is a recipient of the Department's Achievement Award and Commissioner's Award. During her career in state government, Susan was employed as Communications Director for the KY House of Representatives' Republican Leadership and Caucus. She was active in Network for Women in State Government, where she was past treasurer and vice president of public relations. She is a graduate of Morehead State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism with a minor in English. Upon graduation, she worked both as a reporter for a daily newspaper and a news director for a radio station. Susan has been an active member of Friends of the Laurel County Public Library for eight years. As a board member, she recently finished a term as President and is now serving as Treasurer. Susan also assists with the annual United Way of Laurel County auction.



Susan Phelps (term expires 12/31/2015)



10 Statements about Libraries (From the Declaration for the Right to Libraries)

- Libraries Empower the Individual
- Libraries Support Literacy and Lifelong Learning
- Libraries Strengthen Families
- Libraries Are the Great Equalizer
- Libraries Build Communities
- Libraries Protect Our Right to Know
- Libraries Strengthen Our Nation
- Libraries Advance Research and Scholarship
- Libraries Help Us to Better Understand Each Other
- Libraries Preserve Our Nation's Cultural Heritage

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Hit the donate button!

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