

FRIENDS' QUARTERLY  
Spring/Summer 1980

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Friends*

The newsletter of The Friends of Kentucky Libraries, Inc.

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124 North Ashland Avenue  
Lexington 40502

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457 Breckinridge  
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have been busy on behalf of the Friends this spring. In March I helped form a chapter in Larue County and in May, a chapter in Anderson County. Both chapters seem to have able and enthusiastic leadership and I can only assume that they will provide valuable additional support for their respective libraries. As an example, the Anderson County chapter has set as one of its initial concerns the fiscal needs of the library and is going to lobby at the forthcoming budget hearing.

I have also participated on three regional panels following up on the White House Conference on Library and Information Services, and at which the Kentucky delegation attempted to bring to each of the library regions in the state a report on the proceedings of the meeting in Washington last November. There are many areas of concern which were discussed at that exciting national meeting and many of them should concern us as Friends of our local libraries--especially the need for adequate funding in this era of exploding information availability. I see this as one of our immediate challenges. A second, and equally important facet of the task of each chapter, will be to spread the word about what its library does--to increase the public awareness level of the community. I have labelled this aspect of the Friends role as PR--not public relations, but rather PAUL REVERING it. I see a tremendous amount of work to be done in this regard.

Summer is upon us and many of us will be away on vacation during this time. In part, mine will be a busman's holiday. I have been invited to talk to a group of Friends and librarians in southern Maine, where we spend our vacation. I am sure it will be an enjoyable evening. I always liked talking about what we have accomplished, and I am sure that I will be able to exchange some worthwhile ideas--what we do in Kentucky for what they do Down East.

Have a good summer and keep supporting your library.

William J. Leffler

## FROM THE EDITOR

On May 1, Mary Ann Brown from Friends of Bourbon County Library and Ann Arvin, Jessamine County, were leaders of a sharing session for Friends groups/members in the Bluegrass Region. Many good ideas developed from the meeting. I was impressed with the fact that these two women represented Friends groups that are very different in organization and project priorities, but that both groups worked beautifully to complement their libraries' strengths and to fill their libraries' needs. They perfectly illustrated the fact that a Friends group should be anything it's needed to be.

Friends of Bourbon County Library seems to spend most of its time working on projects initiated by the librarian who uses her Friends volunteers primarily for fundraising. According to Mrs. Brown, most special programs are handled by library staff, but, since the library frequently finds itself in financial need, the Friends work to meet those needs. Some of their fundraising projects have been a book sale, a style show, and a tasting fair. (For me the tasting fair was a new idea, but several groups represented at the meeting had sponsored them successfully. Essentially, the method is to have volunteers bring dishes for visitors to sample. Recipe cards can then be purchased for the individual dishes or, in some cases, Friends groups have sold small cookbooks including all the dishes. This can be as simple or elaborate as the group wishes. One group did desserts while another served two or three examples of literally everything from soup to nuts.)

A very important thing that Mary Ann Brown mentioned was the fact that publicity about the library and Friends activities has to be "constant". She showed many fine examples of printed materials used in Bourbon County. The goal of their publicity is to continually illustrate the importance of the library. She said, "If you want a good Friends group, you have to make members feel that they are part of something important."

Ann Arvin from Friends of Jessamine County Library described her group as being self motivated. While one of their top priorities is fundraising, they also initiate many programs of their own for the library--children's library tours which are done in a treasure hunt format; young adult film series with free drinks donated by MacDonald's; overdue book return boxes in the banks; most recently a day-long quilting workshop and display which was a great success.

Following Mrs. Brown's and Mrs. Arvin's presentations, the group discussed several common problems: how to get non-users of the library involved, what to do about serious discipline problems which arise among children and teenagers at Friends programs, how to get community officials to show an interest in the library, how to get local newspapers to print more news from the library, ways Friends groups can influence legislation. Almost any one of these could be a topic for an entire meeting.

Several other good ideas were shared:

1. A good nucleus for a Friends group can often be organized among the parents of storyhour children.

2. In many communities, Lions Clubs have donated money for large print library books as part of their program to aid the visually handicapped.
3. One of the best ways to spread the word about a library event is to provide a flier for every child to be distributed through the public schools.
4. If your group is thinking of selling book bags with a library logo or slogan, one company to consider is

M and M Bags  
PO Box 283  
Bellingham, Washington 98225

Meetings like this are important. Seven counties participated; the discussion was lively, and lots of important information was exchanged. The Bluegrass Regional Librarians Association is to be commended for organizing such a program.

Friends of Kentucky Libraries would like to see more of this kind of thing. If you or your Friends group would like to have a time for informal sharing prior to the FKL business meeting at the KLA convention, please write Carol Baughman, 457 Breckinridge, Frankfort 40601. You might also wish to include topics in which you are interested so we can invite appropriate discussion leaders. If there is enough response we will try to organize a meeting.

Carol H. Baughman

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#### FKL ANNUAL MEETING

Friends of Kentucky Libraries will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, October 16 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Louisville. At noon we will join the Kentucky Library Trustees Association for a luncheon featuring Dr. J.M. Miller of Western Kentucky University. Dr. Miller is a poet and teacher who will speak on Kentucky literature with emphasis on Jesse Stuart. His program will also include some readings. Prior to the luncheon, FKL will have its business meeting at which scholarships and grants for library equipment purchases will be presented. Detailed information about making reservations for these meetings will be available in the next FRIENDS' QUARTERLY.

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#### NOMINATIONS FOR FKL BOARD

You are invited to submit letters offering nominations for the Board of Friends of Kentucky Libraries. Please include the name, address, and description of the nominee's involvement with her/his local library and/or Friends group. FKL wants to make its board more representative of its membership and to find people who will be able to give some time and expertise to strengthen our organization. Send these letters to

Rabbi William J. Leffler  
124 North Ashland Avenue  
Lexington, Kentucky 40502

## PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

Is your Friends group ready to sponsor a project that is not fundraising? Is your priority arts programming? Would your group like to sponsor an arts program featuring something that is not available locally? Are you hoping your program will reach groups that are not currently being served? If your answer is "yes" to these questions, then you might want to seek program aid from the Kentucky Arts Commission.

In a recent interview Nash Cox, Director of the Kentucky Arts Commission, outlined ways Friends groups and libraries can take advantage of her agency's offerings.

Each year KAC accepts grant proposals for seed money for arts programs. Funding goes to community groups which seek to strengthen and enlarge audiences for the arts. "Kentucky Arts Commission: Abbreviated Guide to Programs" says "The following criteria are considered in making grant awards:

- Excellence of project and participating artists
- Serving a need not already being served in the geographical area
- Sound fiscal and administrative procedures
- Ability of organization to stimulate interest, especially with new audiences
- Capacity of organization to raise funds from other sources
- Indication of good planning for the needs of the organization and audience
- A clear and carefully estimated budget for the project

How do libraries and their Friends groups fit into this picture? For example, Lexington Public Library has received a KAC grant for an ongoing series of arts events at the library. They matched the grant with supplies, donated materials, as well as funds, in-house equipment, planning expertise, etc. Food and lodging for artists, admission fees to workshops or events, office space, administrative time are also considered in-kind income of the sponsoring agency when it comes to matching. Film series are another type of program for which KAC grants have been used. These series are very popular with library groups and can be of special benefit to communities without theaters.

Ms. Cox says that KAC encourages co-operative sponsorship of programs. She thinks libraries can offer a special link between arts groups and members of the community. For instance, does your community have an art club that could work with your Friends group to bring a workshop and exhibit by a special artist or craftsman to your community? The strengths of both organizations could be utilized--the technical expertise of the art club combined with the space, equipment and informational support of the library would doubtless attract a much greater audience to an event of this kind than if one group tried to go it alone. An example of this kind of thing is provided by Calloway County Library. Murray State University has a writing workshop staff that will be providing readings and programs at the library as well as on campus. They will be much more accessible to the community at the library. Surely many more citizens will opt for the convenience of the library for these programs, not to mention the built-in audience of patrons who would be more likely to attend sessions at the library.

If you would like information on grant applications, aid for planning your program or completing your application, deadlines (May 1 and November 1) write for a copy of "Information for Filling Out Kentucky Arts Commission Application Forms" and "Kentucky Arts Commission - Grant Application". These two pages are probably the simplest grant application you will ever see. Contact:

Anne Ogden  
Kentucky Arts Commission  
302 Wilkinson Street  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601  
502-564-3757

Lest you think you have to write a proposal to get services from the KAC, consider booking one of their traveling exhibits. Many of you are already familiar with these, but soon new exhibits will be available: photodocumentation of Henry Moore sculpture, photodocumentation of two folk art shows by Skip Taylor, and an exhibit of poetry and graphics. These exhibits can be booked through the Kentucky Department of Library and Archives by contacting Barbara Cardwell.

The KAC also sponsors various artists' residencies. Currently there is one engagement still to be booked for the "poet in rural libraries". This program has been very successful in the past. If your community has an "artist in the schools" s/he will be available to give programs for your library group.

KAC also provides technical assistance for groups planning programs, purchasing art services, equipment or supplies, planning gallery space as part of a building program, etc. They can be your consultants for people and resources in the art world.

Friends groups/libraries should consider the KAC their one-stop resource for arts programs. KAC staff is knowledgeable, helpful, and really anxious to fulfill their goal of developing a growing audience for the arts in Kentucky. Your group can help KAC fulfill this goal and enhance its own program potential at the same time. Do not hesitate to ask them for help.

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#### GRANTS FOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

Again this year, FKL is fortunate to be able to offer grants for equipment purchases to needy libraries. A committee of FKL is currently working on a new application procedure for the grants which will total \$5,000. Information about how to apply will soon be sent to all libraries as well as to the regional offices. In the meantime, librarians are encouraged to be researching catalogues and planning to make applications.

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#### FKL BOARD MEETING

The Board of Friends of Kentucky Libraries will meet on Tuesday, September 23, 10 AM, in the music room of Kentucky Department of Library and Archives in Frankfort. Preparations will be made for the annual meeting in October. This meeting is open to the public.

## BRIGHT IDEAS

At a recent FKL Board meeting, Tom Dale, president of Friends of Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library in Glasgow, displayed their Friends scrapbook. It provided an excellent history of their group, its organization, programs, fundraising projects, membership drive, etc. It included newspaper clippings, brochures, samples of various types of publicity materials, photographs, and notes of all kinds. A scrapbook like this would be invaluable to every library and Friends group.

Cash in on the stamp collecting craze--get your librarian and your Friends members to save foreign stamps, American commemoratives, and those of high denominations. They can be used in various ways--sold at book sales or flea markets, used to promote interest in stamp collecting or a stamp club, given as prizes at programs, used for displays. FKL President Bill Leffler thought of this one day at his public library when in the trash he spied an Ulverscroft Large Print Books carton covered with beautiful stamps from England.

Friends Quarterly wants to share your BRIGHT IDEAS. Please send them to

Carol H. Baughman  
457 Breckinridge  
Frankfort 40601

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## SCHOLARSHIPS

At the business meeting on October 16, FKL will present its scholarships. To be eligible one must be employed by a public library in Kentucky and must be currently working to complete a library science degree. The applicant should write a letter giving a description of his/her educational and work backgrounds, professional plans, and other information s/he deems pertinent. A statement of how much money is needed and for what it will be spent must be part of the application. Letters should be sent before the September 15 deadline to

Carolyn D. Green  
FKL Scholarships  
PO Box 62  
Falmouth 41040

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## SPEAKERS COMMITTEE

In order to aid public libraries organizing Friends groups, several members of the FKL Board have formed a speakers committee. The list on the following page includes those who have volunteered to make themselves available to address groups on how to get a Friends organization started on the right track. These are people who have all had valuable experience. Feel free to contact one or more of them, with special consideration to those nearest you.

## FKL SPEAKERS COMMITTEE

Tom Dale, President of Friends  
James Hyatt, Librarian  
Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library  
107 West College Street  
Glasgow 42141

Margaret Willis  
130 West State Street  
Frankfort 40601

Mrs. Charles Mallisee  
R.R. 4  
Leitchfield 42754

Mrs. William M. Toby  
PO Box 117, Lebanon Street  
Campbellsville 42718

Mrs. N.S. McLellan  
1108 Choctaw Trail  
Georgetown 40324

Mrs. Hallie Day Blackburn  
R.R. 1  
Dry Ridge 41035

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## FKL SURVEY

Very shortly a survey will be sent to each library. It will contain simple questions to help FKL collect information about libraries and Friends groups throughout the state. It will take very little time to complete, and it will come with a post paid return envelope. Please do not ignore this questionnaire. It is the only way FKL has of keeping its information and mailing list current. Thank you in advance for helping us with this project.

Friends Quarterly  
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Ky. Dept. of Library & Archives  
Box 537  
Frankfort, Ky. 40601