



Friends Of Kentucky Libraries

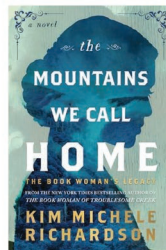
Dedicated Volunteers Supporting
Libraries Across the State



A New Kentucky Story is Coming My Kentucky Moonlight School



Book Signing
with Kim Michele
Richardson



Save the Date

Join KDLA for the official launch of
My Kentucky Moonlight School by Kim Michele Richardson.

Tuesday, August 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
300 Coffee Tree Road, Frankfort, KY

RSVP through Eventbrite

Meet the Author

This special event will
feature a celebration of
Kentucky's literary heritage,
archival displays connected
to the story and a chance
to meet the author,
Kim Michele Richardson
in person.



Sponsored by the
Friends of Kentucky Libraries

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- KDLA's Kentucky Author Event
- Friends Chapter Spotlight
- Friends Chapter Events
- FOKL Grants & Awards
- Annual Meeting
- Supporting FOKL

For more info, visit www.friendskylibraries.org

Summer 2026

Our Friends in Henry County

This month, we're pleased to feature the Friends of Henry County Public Library (FHCPL) in Eminence, Kentucky. Henry County Public Library serves a community of about 15,600 residents in the North Central Region.

With FOKL's support of a \$500 grant, FHCPL hosted a **"Meet Friends with Friends"** networking and learning luncheon in April among Friends groups in nearby rural counties.

This forum for conversation fostered sharing ideas, building a support network and energizing Friends members.

Interactive activities focused on "what works" experiences and shared concerns. This activity gave Friends members the opportunity to connect with other Friends Chapters in area counties who share the same interests. Attendees came away with ideas about fundraising, increasing memberships and the importance of having a vibrant Friends group to support their library. The program was a resounding success for casual networking, learning, and fun!



McCreary County Public Library (MCPL) Celebrates their 50th Anniversary

On May 21, 2026, MCPL Library Director, Grady Wilson, along with honored guests and staff celebrated the library's 50th Anniversary. Whitney Roark, the President of the Friends of MCPL gave a speech reflecting the importance of library services in the community and Friends supporting their efforts. Sharing this speech provides the authenticity of the importance of Friends working with our libraries.

Here's Whitney's speech, "It's an honor to speak about the Friends of the McCreary County Public Library, a group that may be young in years but already mighty in impact.

The Friends organization began in 2022 — and while that makes us relatively new compared to the library's 50 year history, we hope we've already shown how deeply committed we are to supporting literacy, families, and the future of McCreary County.

One of our proudest accomplishments has been helping bring the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to our community. Without the Friends' dedication — and without the state's 50% funding match — this program simply could not have started here. Today, hundreds of children receive free, high quality books every month because our community believed they deserved that opportunity.

But the importance of the library isn't something I learned as an adult. It's something that shaped me from the time I was a child.



Growing up, the library was one of the few free places my mom could take my sisters and me. We didn't go on vacations. We didn't have big summer trips. My dad was self-employed and taking off for a few days just wasn't an option. But we did have the summer reading program — and we looked forward to it every single year.

It felt like our own adventure, right here at home.

And I will never forget the excitement of seeing Mrs. Peggy pull into our driveway with the Bookmobile. **That wasn't just a van full of books. That was magic arriving on four wheels.**

There was one book in particular — *Ruby the Copycat*. My sisters and I loved it so much that one day, Mrs. Peggy handed us the Bookmobile's copy to keep. To this day, I'm still not sure whether she officially retired it from circulation... or whether she bought a brand new copy just so she could give us the old one.

Though, deep down, I think I know the answer. That's the kind of love and care the library poured into kids like us.

Now, all these years later, I'm a mother myself. And I get to watch my daughter experience that same joy — the thrill of choosing her own books, the smile on her face when she runs in and sees Mrs.

Holly every Thursday evening for story time. Seeing the library through her eyes has reminded me just how special this place truly is.

It's a full circle moment I treasure.

That's why the Friends of the Library matter so deeply in a community like ours. We work to ensure that every child — no matter their family's income, no matter where they live — has access to books, learning, and the joy of reading. We support the library so it can continue being the safe, welcoming, transformative place it has been for generations".



Friends of Grayson County Public Library “How-to-Festival”

The Friends of Grayson County Public Library hosted the “How-to-Festival” at the Grayson County Public Library on Saturday, June 20, 2026. Local experts were given the opportunity to share their knowledge and connect with their neighbors, while community members explored a new skill, discovered a hobby, or simply gained a deeper appreciation for the effort that goes into a craft. Participants enjoyed free hands-on classes ranging from floral arranging, origami, woodworking, chair yoga, and how to make a delicious Benedictine. There was something for everyone. The library is a hub for learning and community building in Grayson County, and no event brought those two ideas together like the “How-to-Festival”.



Visit www.friendskylibraries.org for the latest updates!

Summer 2026

2026 FOKL Grant Winners

FOKL is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2026 Friends Chapter Grants. These grants reflect our commitment to helping Friends groups grow, innovate, and serve their communities. This year brought another record number of submissions, making the Grant Committee's decisions both exciting and exceptionally challenging. Thank you to every Friends Chapter that applied — your dedication to Kentucky's libraries is inspiring.

2026 Grant Recipients (listed alphabetically)

Friends of Crittenden County Public Library
Friends of Hardin County Public Library
Hopkins County–Madisonville Friends of the Library Group
Friends of Johnson County Public
Corbin Friends of the Library
Friends of McCreary County Public Library
Friends of the Taylor County Public Library

\$500 \$500
\$500 \$500
\$500 \$500

Friends of
Kentucky Libraries



Celebrating Excellence Across Kentucky 2026 Outstanding Volunteer, Small Chapter, and Large Chapter Awards

Each year, the Friends of Kentucky Libraries (FOKL) celebrates the dedication, creativity, and impact of Friends volunteers and chapters across the Commonwealth.

These awards honor the individuals and groups whose service strengthens their libraries and enriches their communities.

Award applications were sent out July 1 and are due August 15, 2026. To be eligible for awards, you must be a member of FOKL.

This year, FOKL will present monetary awards and certificates to recognize exceptional service:

\$50 Award Each for Outstanding Volunteer in two categories: less than 100 Friends and greater than 100 Friends Chapters.

\$100 Award Each for Outstanding Small and Large Chapters.

Winners will be notified and awards will be given at the FOKL annual meeting in October.



For more info, visit www.friendskylibraries.org

Summer 2026

Save the Date!

FOKL's **annual meeting**

will be held on

Saturday, October 10, 2026

at the

Central Kentucky Ag/Expo Center

678 Wallace Wilkinson Blvd. (Hwy 127)

Liberty, KY.

Look for emailed details in August!



Supporting Friends of Kentucky Libraries

FOKL memberships and sponsorships
make all our work possible.

Your support fuels programs like statewide networking events,
and grants that help Friends groups thrive.

Together, we can ensure Kentucky's libraries remain vibrant,
welcoming, and essential for generations.

Please visit <https://friendskylibraries.org> to support
FOKL and help strengthen Kentucky libraries now.

**DONATE
TODAY**



For assistance, email us at:
contact@FriendsKYLibraries.org

Memberships in FOKL Make Us Stronger

Becoming a member strengthens FOKL's ability
to support Friends Chapters statewide—
helping new groups get started, revitalizing existing ones,
and advancing KDLA initiatives.

Membership also makes possible the grants we offer for
501(c)(3) filing and for programs that grow and strengthen
Chapters, as well as our annual awards recognizing
outstanding Friends volunteers and Chapters.

***“The only thing better than a library
is a library with Friends.”***

-Anonymous

Email us at
contact@

FriendsKYLibraries.org

**We want to
hear from you!**

For questions, comments
or assistance, contact us at:

**Friends Of
Kentucky Libraries**

P.O.Box 537
Frankfort, KY 40602-0537

Or:

Patti Jensen, President
contact@FriendsKYLibraries.org

For more info, visit www.friendskylibraries.org

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